



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, April 26, 2007, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Howard L. McLeod, PharmD

Fred N. Eshelman Distinguished Professor
Director UNC Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized
Therapy

Using the Genome to Optimize Drug Therapy

FROM DIVISIONS

- "[Back Pain in the Workplace](#)," an article by **Nortin M. Hadler**, MD, Professor of Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology, was published in last week's [issue](#) of JAMA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cardiology Grand Rounds lectures. Tues., April 24th at 7:30am in Bondurant Hall Room G100. Dr. **Eric Crespo** will present "Evaluation and Management of Suspected Heparin-induced Thrombocytopenia in Hospitalized Patients: The CATCH Registry" and Dr. **Chad Huggins** will present "Femoral Artery Access." Contact Amy Sharpe at 966-9554 for more information.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

This week I'd like to discuss an always timely topic - communication. As I look towards coming years, I would ask that we again consider if there are ways in which we can improve communication across the department.

Effective communication is always a challenge, especially for a large department such as ours, with over 1000 faculty and staff members. We have diverse interests, but many common issues and I believe that we all share an interest in providing the highest quality of patient care, teaching, and research. At a recent Division Chief meeting, we discussed this topic and questioned why we need to worry about communication at all? For starters, there is no question that we could do a better job with information transfer, from the institution and department to individual department members, and vice versa. In addition, our department has many young faculty members and we need to do all we can to help them in their careers. We may very well have untapped research, teaching or clinical opportunities that we simply don't know about because the communication avenues are not there.

These days, we are bombarded by so many messages that we all feel chained to our email, at least I know I do. We are connected electronically through personal email, listservs, websites, and this newsletter, just to name a few. Simply maintaining an email account can feel like a full-time job, even before we begin our real jobs of teaching, treating patients, and conducting research. We are all

carrying a heavy load, so it's easy to see how difficult it can be to communicate in a meaningful and productive way. To improve this situation I would like to consider some ways we can interact in person as a community. A knee-jerk solution may be to schedule monthly Department of Medicine faculty or staff meetings and ask all to attend, but frankly, I'm not convinced that this would necessarily be a worthwhile investment of our time.

What I'd like most of all in the department is to foster interaction between faculty of different divisions, between junior and senior faculty, and between faculty in medicine and related disciplines. In years past, we have held retreats once or twice a year to focus on faculty issues. At times we have concentrated on one of our missions - research, teaching and clinical care – and at other times on all three, and I'd like to continue having these retreats.

So I am asking for feedback from you, in response to this week's newsletter. We seek your ideas on how we can arrange meaningful faculty retreats and/or meetings so that we can focus our cumulative brainpower on solving the ever-changing challenges that we face. If you have any suggestions as to topic or time (i.e., weekday evening vs. weekend), we encourage you to share those with us. Or if you have different ideas, we'd love to hear those. My goal is to find a way, after some careful thought, to improve how we communicate and put together programs that will be useful in meeting the needs of our faculty.

I'll send out an email to all faculty members with this same message. I'd also like to resume visiting your divisional faculty meetings on a regular basis and encourage you to share your thoughts with me about this. I am optimistic that together we can identify the needs in the department and work towards some viable solutions.

Questions or submissions, contact katie_obrien@med.unc.edu.