UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Newsletter

May 2, 2007

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, May 3, 2007, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Cam Patterson, MD
Professor and Chief
Division of Cardiology

Too Much Too Soon: The Problem of Premature Atherosclerosis

From Divisions

- Free Health Screening Fair from 1 - 6 p.m. on Thurs., May 3, in the Women's Hospital lobby. Learn more about y

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Free Health Screening Fair from 1 - 6 p.m. on Thurs., May 3, in the Women's Hospital lobby. Learn more about your health, including your blood pressure, cholesterol, weight/body mass index and much more. Please complete the State Health Plan's Health Risk Assessment prior to attending the fair. Also stop by the Health and Fitness Fair in the N.C. Children's Hospital lobby from 1 - 4 p.m. on May 3 to learn more about local fitness/wellness centers, self-defense classes, parks and recreation, the move to a tobacco-free health care campus, and more. Occupational Health Services will provide Tdap vaccines at the fair (remember to bring your medical record card to receive the Tdap vaccine).

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

In this month's *Annals on Internal Medicine*, Drs. Myron Cohen, Cynthia Gay and Angela Kashuba led an international group of authors in a comprehensive review of the use of antiretroviral therapy for prevention of transmission of HIV infection (http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/146/8/591).

This article is important for several reasons. First, it is the culmination of more than fifteen years of work at UNC on this topic. UNC investigators have studied the pharmacology of all the available agents with a focus on the use of the agents for HIV prevention as well as individual therapy. UNC faculty are leading clinical trials to determine whether antiretroviral agents taken before exposure (pre-exposure prophylaxis) can prevent HIV acquisition. In addition, Dr. Cohen is the principal investigator of a large, seven-year, multinational NIH trial of "discordant couples" in which the infected person is provided antiviral therapy to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV which so often occurs in these relationships.

In addition, this article offers critical practical advice to UNC health workers. Antiretroviral treatment can also be used to prevent HIV acquisition after occupational or sexual exposure. A large number of animal studies have shown that if antiretroviral therapy is started as soon as possible after HIV exposure (within 72 hours) and continued for 28 days, that the risk of HIV transmission is greatly reduced. The authors emphasize the urgency of the intervention, the important of adherence and the selection of agents that fit resistance patterns in the community.

UNC has one of the top HIV research units in the country. In April, *U.S. News and World Reports* identified UNC as one of the 10 best AIDS Centers in the United States.

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