



## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

**Grand Rounds**  
**Thursday, January 8, 12 Noon - 1 p.m.**  
**Clinic Auditorium**

**M&M Conference:**  
**Neuropathy and Cardiomyopathy of ? Etiology**

**Patricia P. Chang, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Division of Cardiology

**Don A. Gabriel, M.D.**  
Professor  
Division of Hematology/Oncology

**M. Andrew Greganti, M.D.**  
Professor and Vice Chair  
Division of Geriatrics

## FYI

- The Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) has several internal developmental grants available to HIV and related investigators. Application deadlines are in Jan. 2009. For more information, visit the website for the UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, [here](#).
- The Academy of Educators is now seeking nominations from department chairs for new members. The Academy has previously focused on faculty who are significantly involved in the medical student curriculum, and is now expanding membership eligibility to include faculty deeply involved in

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Amanda Nelson, M.D.**, a third-year fellow in the Division of Rheumatology, will receive an American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation Clinical Investigator Fellowship Award for her proposal entitled "A Composite Score of Whole-body Radiographic OA." The two-year award period will begin on July 1, 2009. Dr. Nelson will use radiographic and systemic biomarker data from the Johnston County Osteoarthritis Project to derive a new measure to assess the overall burden of OA.
- Four Medicine residents have had posters accepted in the ACP resident poster

residency education, including UNC Hospitals and all the affiliated AHEC residency programs. If you are interested in being nominated, speak with your department chair, immediate supervisor or the course/clerkship director in your department. Nomination deadline, Jan. 30. Full applications due Feb. 27. Click [here](#) for more information.

- In anticipation of a probable renewal award, SERCEB is issuing two Requests for Proposals in order to be ready to fund these new programs at the start of the next grant cycle, which should be March 1. The [Developmental Projects Program](#) offers investigators up to 2 years of funding for novel and innovative research projects that may lead to new discoveries in the area of emerging infectious diseases and biodefense. The [Career Development Program](#) offers young tenure-track or almost tenure track investigators up to 3 years of funding to focus on research in the area of emerging infectious diseases and biodefense. Proposals for both programs are due Friday, Jan. 9 - this is a deadline extension. See the links for details.
- Landes-Merrimon Lecture and Student Research Day, featuring Chancellor Holden Thorp, presented by the John B. Graham Student Research Society, Wednesday, Jan. 28. Lecture, 12:30-1:30 p.m., 2204 MBRB. Student research presentations, 2-5:30 p.m., MBRB lobby. To add this event to your Outlook calendar, click [here](#).

contest. Their names and presentation titles are as follows: **Seuli Brill, M.D.**, "Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Presenting as Rhabdomyolysis," **James Hawk, M.D.**, "Improving Diabetic Foot Care in Outpatient Internal Medicine Setting: Abstract," **Emily Jenkins, M.S.**, "Outpatient Colonoscopy: Unappreciated Risk," and **Kunwardeep Sohal, M.D.**, "Cocaine-Induced Acute Esophageal Necrosis in a Young Man: A Case Report."

- **Jennifer Stalings, R.D.**, a CDE diabetes educator at Highgate Diabetes Center, has received an American Diabetes Association Patient Care Award. The Patient Care Award is given to individuals committed to providing outstanding patient education and care. These providers go above and beyond to educate patients and families on diabetes management. Dr. Stalings will receive the award at a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 21.
- **Robert Sandler, M.D.**, was recently quoted in a [story](#) on *WCHL* online about the effectiveness of colonoscopies.
- **Cam Patterson, M.D.**, was quoted in *Reuters.com* [article](#) about the prevalence of heart disease-related deaths in the winter.
- **Charles van der Horst, M.D.**, was quoted in an *ABCnews.com* [article](#) about the recent death of HIV/AIDS skeptic, Christine Maggiore.

- **John Buse, M.D.**, was quoted in a *Bloomberg.com* [article](#) about the possible mental function decline of diabetes patients.

#### FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

This week, I would like to speak to you about a couple of issues regarding clinical documentation.

As many of you know, new guidelines from Medicare/CMS will require significant attention to detail on several fronts or we risk being not reimbursed for our care of patients.

One area for reimbursement has to do with decubitus ulcers. This is felt to be a "never" event and if a patient develops a new decubitus ulcer during his/her hospitalization, payment will likely be denied. For this reason it is very important to document any existing decubitus ulcers on admission. Specifically the location and stage of a decubitus ulcer need to be documented on the ED note or H&P or in the first daily progress note along with the fact that it was present on admission. An example would be: "sacral decubitus ulcer, Stage III, present on admission." For coding purposes it has to be documented by the M.D. Coders aren't allowed to use nursing documentation per CMS.

A second important area that is an issue for our patients and their families (but not directly for reimbursement) has to do with death certificates. When a patient expires, the death certificate has to be completed and given to the Office of Medical Information Management within 2 hours. Recent failure to follow this policy resulted in confusion about the location of the body and unnecessary anxiety for the family.

Thank you for being attuned to these issues.

Questions or submissions, contact [sarah\\_perry@med.unc.edu](mailto:sarah_perry@med.unc.edu).