



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, February 12, 12 Noon - 1 p.m.
Clinic Auditorium

M&M Conference:
Intravenous Catheter Infections

David J. Weber, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
School of Medicine
Professor of Epidemiology
School of Public Health

Joseph M. Stavas, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Radiology

M. Andrew Greganti, M.D.
Vice Chair, Department of Medicine
Professor, Division of Geriatrics

CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND LECTURES

- Community Service Day and Zollicoffer-Merrimon lecture on Feb. 20. Poster presentations by the Eugene S. Mayer Community Service Honor Society inductees from 12 to 1:30 p.m. in the Women's and Children's Hospital Lobby. Oral presentations by Mayer Society inductees from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Old Clinic Auditorium. Lecture by [Dr. Sandra Harris-Hooker, Ph.D.](#), from 4 - 5 p.m. in the Old Clinic Auditorium. Click [here](#) for more information and to add to your calendar.
- The 4th Annual Triangle Dance Festival

ANNOUNCEMENTS

for AIDS will be held at UNC's Memorial Hall on Sunday, Feb. 15, 5 - 8 p.m. The show includes a variety of dance groups and performers, and its proceeds benefit both local and international groups fighting HIV and AIDS. Advance tickets are \$10. For more information, visit the TDFA's [website](#).

- The 30th Annual UNC Gillings School of Public Health Minority Health Conference, "Our World, Our Community: Building Bridges for Health Equality," will be Friday, Feb. 27, at the Friday Center. The conference will include the 11th Annual William T. Small, Jr. Keynote Lecture, by Barbara Wallace, Ph.D., Professor of Health Education at Columbia University, which will be broadcast live via satellite and the Internet at 2-3:30 p.m. To register to attend or present in person, and for extensive information about the conference, click [here](#).
- The Annual Carl W. Gottschalk Lecture will be on Monday, March 16, 4-5 p.m., in G202 MBRB. Walter F. Boron, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Physiology and Biophysics at Case Western Reserve University, will give the lecture, "Gas Channels." To add this event to your Outlook calendar, click [here](#). Questions, contact Mary Wright, 6-3556.

- **Dan Reuland, M.D.**, published an [article](#) entitled, "Describing Physician Language Fluency: Deconstructing Medical Spanish," in the Jan. 28 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- **Beth Jonas, M.D.**, and the Thurston Arthritis Research Center were host this past weekend to the 4th Annual Carolinas Rheumatology Fellows Winter Meeting. This meeting brings together all the fellows and program directors from the rheumatology fellowship training programs at UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, and MUSC. The program is a model collaborative teaching project in which fellows attend didactic seminars presented by local experts and participate in a ROSCE (Rheumatology Objective Structured Clinical Examination). Dr. Jonas and her colleagues will be presenting a workshop on some of their innovative teaching tools at the American College of Rheumatology Program Director's Retreat next month.
- **Jonathan Serody, M.D.**, and his colleagues published an article in the Feb. 5 issue of *Blood* describing their work in identifying the cells responsible for graft-versus-host disease. A summary of that work, with quotations from Dr. Serody, can be found at [MedPage Today](#).
- **Nortin Hardler, M.D.**, was quoted in an Associated Press article on fibromyalgia. A version of that article can be found [here](#).

- **David Margolis, M.D., and Myron Cohen, M.D.**, were quoted in a *Bloomberg.com* [article](#) about new incentives from the government and from the Gates Foundation to spur scientists to find a way to cure AIDS.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

In this week's column, I'd like to pass on some information about possible upcoming funding opportunities in comparative effectiveness research. This is an exciting area that is likely to receive further attention in the months and years to come. For additional information, be sure to use the email address provided within the text. Please note that you can also link to this memo [here](#).

TO: Faculty Potentially Interested in Comparative Effectiveness Research

FROM: Tim Carey, Lisa Lavange, Mick Murray, Til Strümer

DATE: February 12, 2009

RE: Potential Funding Opportunities

We are writing regarding potential funding activities in the broad area of "comparative effectiveness research." This has been an area of significant federal interest at both federal funding agencies (especially AHRQ) and through the Institute of Medicine over the past three to four years. Federal interest in healthcare reform and comparative effectiveness seems to be increasing and there may be significant resources devoted to this area as part of the pending federal stimulus package. Regardless of the fate of the stimulus package, we anticipate increased interest over the next months and years.

UNC already has significant activity in the four broad areas composing "comparative effectiveness."

Systematic review and meta-analysis comparing one active treatment with others.

-Pharmaco-epidemiology examining benefits and harms of treatments through secondary data

analyses; this area is now expanding to include secondary analyses of clinical records such as electronic medical records.

-Head to head comparative effectiveness clinical trials, often comparing medications or devices within a class, or between classes.

-In the past the federal government has had little interest in specific examination of cost consequences of treatment choices; we anticipate that those constraints will be much less in the next several years as issues of the increasing costs of healthcare delivery become more urgent.

-At the present time, there are no specific RFA's out, but we do anticipate the need to rapidly turn around responses to federal requests over the next several months. Part of this infrastructure preparation is identification of faculty interested in engaging in these efforts. This note is one of the initial steps in those efforts.

Rather than sending out mass emails with each RFA, we think it would be most efficient to identify a cadre of faculty interested in these broad areas.

If you would like to be contacted as these RFA's come out, please indicate below and send us an updated curriculum vitae and a four page NIH-style biosketch within the next two weeks. Please return this biosketch to: shaw@schr.unc.edu. In addition, indicate in the email your interests in: systematic review; secondary data analysis; comparative effectiveness trials; cost-effectiveness analysis. Of course, no one will be included in a proposal without discussion first!

Many thanks. We look forward to working with you in the future.

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