



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

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

M&M Conference:
TTP in AIDS: What is the Optimal Therapy?

Alice D. Ma, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology & Oncology

Mark A. Brecher, M.D.
Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical Services
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

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

FYI AND EVENTS

- The UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases (IGHID) and the Office of Global Health (OGH) in the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, is pleased to announce the fourth round of funding for the Faculty Research Partnership Travel Grants program to support global health initiatives for UNC-Chapel Hill faculty. Approximately 4-5 grants will be awarded this year in amounts up to \$5,000. Proposals are due Friday, March 20, at 5 p.m. Proposals should be emailed to ogh@unc.edu. For more information, click [here](#). Questions, email ogh@unc.edu.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

IN THE NEWS

- **Sidney Smith, M.D.**, has been named an International Honorary Member of the Japanese Circulation Society. He is among 13 physicians outside of Japan to receive such recognition in the 73 year history of the society. Five of these have been from the United States, and include the notable Jim Willerson, M.D., President of the Texas Heart Institute. Dr. Smith is also a recipient of the Gold Heart Award of the American Heart Association and the Award of Special Recognition from NHLBI/NIH.
- **Norman Sharpless, M.D.**, was [quoted](#) on Chapel Hill's WCHL 1360-AM regarding President Obama's lifting of the ban on

Investigator Awards in Health Policy Research funds highly-qualified individuals to undertake broad studies of the most challenging health policy issues facing America. Approximately 10 grants of up to \$335,000 each are available to investigators from a variety of disciplines to support projects that combine creative and conceptual thinking with innovative, policy-relevant approaches. Letter of intent deadline, Wednesday, March 25. Full information [here](#).

- The UNC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development recently distributed a message to faculty containing information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. To read that memo, click [here](#). For more information and news about other funding opportunities, check out the latest issue of the UNC Research Support [Newsletter](#).
- Applications are now being accepted for the NIH Challenge Grant; deadline, Monday, April 27. Grants are for 2 years, with \$500K/year total funding. NIH has designated at least \$200M for this program, and will fund 200 or more grants. Click [here](#) to see a list of areas and topics covered. Click [here](#) to read the RFA.

federal funding for stem cell research.

- **Nortin Hadler, M.D.**, has been quoted in a number of news sources recently. These include the [Associated Press](#), [CBC Radio](#), [ABCNews.com](#), [US News & World Report](#), and [National Public Radio](#).
- **Jennifer Stallings, M.D.**, was selected as a recipient of the 2009 American Diabetes Association's Patient Care Award. This is awarded to providers committed to providing outstanding patient education and care. These individuals go above and beyond to educate patients and families on diabetes management.
- Jay Fishman, M.D., of Harvard Medical School will give the lecture, "New Challenges in Transplant Infectious Disease," this Friday, March 13, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the Pagano Conference Room, Lineberger CCC.
- "A Conversation with Dr. Oliver Smithies," moderated by Dr. Tony Waldrop, Monday, March 30, 4-5:30 p.m. Room 527, Health Sciences Library. Register [here](#).
- Taking Control of Your Diabetes (TCOYD) conference and health fair, Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center. This event is aimed at educating those with diabetes and their loved ones. For more information, click [here](#).
- UNC HIV Care 2009: Antiretroviral Therapy,

Hepatitis B/C, Addiction, and Adherence conference, Monday, May 4, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Friday Center. Click [here](#) to register, or for more information. Click [here](#) to download the event brochure.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

The Email Disaster

I have spoken with many of you about the email problems we experienced between Thursday, February 26th and Tuesday, March 4th. If it is any consolation to you, I experienced stagnation of my email on Thursday afternoon and then was unable to access email from Friday through Tuesday morning with the exception of a few occasions on Friday morning.

Jim O'Neill has broadly distributed a note describing this episode. I wanted to give you my view of this as well and, particularly, to applaud Jim and Keith Gerarden for their efforts to help us all deal with a situation that was not at all of their own making. Jim and our IT group have provided exceptional service throughout the department and he brought many ideas to the attempts to restore email service over the weekend. Below, I am providing you with some background information on how we got to where we are and what the plans are for the future.

You may recall that early in my tenure here as chair we made the decision to put the entire DOM on a common email platform. This was a difficult transition for many of you but in the end it resulted in much easier communication among members of the DOM. Jack Zeng, who was our Director of IT at the time, oversaw this process.

As a next step, in 2004 the DOM moved the maintenance of our email servers to OIS. With a one-man operation at the time, this made lots of sense as it located our equipment in specially designed and cooled space, freed Jack up to provide more direct service, and provided more consistent service through OIS. Additionally, there was considerable institutional pressure to make this move based upon a number of factors. Up until last week, we had experienced only minor problems with this arrangement. I felt that our risk of problems was low for many reasons, not the least of which was that the Dean's office email was located on the same server as the DOM email.

Starting last Thursday we began to experience significant slow-downs that eventually culminated in

our email server effectively crashing on Friday to the extent that it halted all email communication for about ¾ of our employees. Prior to that, OIS was working on our equipment and had had some small successes, but Friday's equipment failure could not be brought back up by OIS. Over the weekend and working around the clock with the help of Microsoft consultants, OIS attempted unsuccessfully three times to recover the data and return the email system to working condition. The final attempt, which was eventually successful, started on Sunday and took over 36 hours to complete. I was told that ultimately this was a problem caused not by a virus but by a glitch in a virus protection program and exacerbated by the fact that we were reliant on a tape backup system.

The DOM administrative and IT leadership will be involved in a detailed review with OIS of what happened so that we can be assured that this is a singular event that will not occur again in the future, not only for our department, but for all departments' servers that are managed by OIS.

All I can do at this point is to offer you my sincere apology for the problems you may have encountered as a result of the email outage. You, like me, have undoubtedly had to spend much time in the past week catching up on your correspondence and work.

In the coming weeks we will know more and I will communicate that as soon as we know the plans for the future.

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