#ProudtobeGIM
Moderated Poster Session & Networking

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **JOSEPH SHIN**
   - HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2. **MONIKA SAFFORD**
   - THE PATIENT ACTIVATED LEARNING SYSTEM (PALS)

3. **FRED PELZMAN**
   - PRIMARY CARE INNOVATIONS PROGRAM

4. **MONIKA SAFFORD**
   - CORNELL CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY

5. **MARGARET MCNAIRY**
   - GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

6. **ART EVANS**
   - HOSPITAL MEDICINE CLINICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

7. **JENNIFER LEE**
   - QUALITY UNIVERSITY, WEILL CORNELL DEPT OF MED

8. **ERICA PHILIPS**
   - WCIMA WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

9. **JUDY TUNG**
   - TELEMEDICINE

10. **LAURA GINGRAS & JENNIFER CHESTER**
    - TRANSITIONS OF CARE AFFINITY

11. **MATTHEW MCCARTHY & EZRA GABBAY**
    - HOSPITAL MEDICINE & ETHICS

12. **HELENE STRAUSS**
    - MECA: MEDICAL EDUCATION COLLABORATORS ACADEMY

13. **AMIRAN BADUASHBILI**
    - ADVANCED EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE

14. **LIA LOGIO**
    - ITUNES U

15. **PAMELA CHARNEY**
    - WEILL CORNELL COMMUNITY CLINIC

16. **GREGORY MINTS & TANPING WONG**
    - POINT OF CARE ULTRASONOGRAPHY

17. **ALKA GUPTA & CHITI PARIKH**
    - INTEGRATIVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

18. **MARY CHARLSON**
    - T32 FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN HEALTH SERVICES

19. **MONIKA SAFFORD**
    - REGARDS

20. **LISA KERN**
    - HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION, DELIVERY, & FINANCING

21. **JANEY PETERSON**
    - BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

22. **IRIS NAVARRO-MILLAN**
    - RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS CLINICAL RESEARCH

23. **JAMES HOLLENBERG**
    - CLINVESTIGATOR

24. **STEPHANIE TANG**
    - RETHINKING THE MEDICINE SUB-INTERNSHIP

25. **ALICE TANG**
    - PA-HOSPITALIST TASK FORCE

26. **SARITA MAHTANI**
    - ED/IM/ICU INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATION

27. **ALEXIS VIEN**
    - OPIOID STEWARDSHIP

28. **LAURA PINHEIRO**
    - CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

29. **MONIKA SAFFORD**
    - SOUTHEASTERN COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE BP

30. **OLIVER FIEN**
    - HEALTH POLICY

31. **AMANDA RAMSDELL**
    - HEALTH DISPARITIES IN URBAN HOSPITAL

32. **LEE SHEARER**
    - RESIDENCY PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM

33. **ARNAB GHOSH**
    - GIM IN THE FIELD: PUERTO RICO
Human rights are fundamental to all individuals, and their establishment and protection are often a precondition for many factors that promote health. Health professionals have long played critical roles in recognizing the medical and psychological harm that human rights abuses cause to individuals, communities, and populations, and have documented evidence of such abuses, protested human rights violations, and advocated for effective medical, public health, and policy interventions when such harm takes place.

At Weill Cornell Medicine, there are two well-established and novel programs that students, housestaff, and faculty have contributed to in order to advance health and human rights. Through unique partnerships with community-based as well as national and internationally recognized human rights and advocacy organizations, we have helped to serve asylum seekers and refugees, prisoners, victims of trafficking, survivors of torture, war trauma, violence due to ethnicity, membership in specific social groups, gender, sexual orientation, political activity, and other factors.

We also advance this work in an incredibly interdisciplinary manner linking health professional students, clinicians including physicians from multiple specialties, psychologists, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, lawyers and rights advocates in the service of these vulnerable populations.

Individuals interested in learning more about health and human rights activities here at WCM can contact Dr. Joseph Shin at java923@med.cornell.edu for further information.

**Weill Cornell Medicine**

**Programs**

**Well Cornell Center for Human Rights**

WCCHR is a student-run, faculty supported clinic providing pro-bono medical forensic evaluations for survivors of torture and asylum applicants who have medical, psychiatric, and gynecologic evidence of torture and other human rights abuses.

Founded through a collaboration with Physicians for Human Rights in 2010, students and faculty/clinician evaluators have conducted approximately 400 forensic evaluations for individuals from over 60 countries. In addition to these core activities, WCCHR’s commitment to service, education, advocacy and research continues to grow through a number of other initiatives and programs:

- **Continuing Care**: Students help to identify client needs, establish intervention priorities and coordinate contact with community-based resources and partner organization to address medical, dental, mental health, insurance, housing, clothing, language and other needs.

- **Research**: Students and faculty have and continue to be involved in research projects seeking to understand the experiences and health status of asylum seekers. Several current projects include: Trauma Exposure, Health Status and Disease Burden of Child Asylees, Gender-Based Violence, Chronic Pain Screening, Scar Database Among Torture Survivors, and others.

WCCHR has acted as a major convener and source of expertise advising other medical colleges as they start similar asylum clinics. WCCHR has hosted a Student-Run Asylum clinic Summit and developed a Asylum-Clinic Start-up Kit and handbook outlining best practices and effective strategies in partnership with PHR.

**Experiences of Sex Trafficking Victims in Healthcare Settings**

Sex trafficking is a global phenomenon, involving over 21 million victims worldwide. Here in the United States, a large proportion of victims are domestically trafficked, and are disproportionately victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (87%). The limited evidence suggests that up to 88% of victims interact with healthcare providers during the period in which they are trafficked. This research project, conducted in partnership with Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS), a community-based organization serving survivors of domestic sex trafficking, seeks to better characterize these encounters with the healthcare system through a series of focus groups among survivors in order to identify barriers to victim identification and appropriate linkage to services and effective interventions.

**Health Justice Initiative**

In partnership with the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) and the Legal Aid Society, clinicians at Weill Cornell Medicine have provided medical expertise and insight to this program that brings a civil rights and immigrant rights focus to healthcare advocacy here in New York City and State. Specific projects have allowed clinicians to collaborate with lawyers and community advocates using a broad range of investigatory, medical and advocacy tools including medical evaluations and chart review, health outcomes reviews, community organizing, coalition building, impact litigation and legislative advocacy to advance several priorities including challenging health disparities, particularly those in setting of incarceration or the correctional and immigration impact litigation and legislative advocacy to advance several priorities including challenging health evaluations and chart review, health outcomes reviews, community organizing, coalition building, impact litigation and legislative advocacy to advance several priorities including challenging health
Introduction
Shared decision-making is increasingly emphasized as the US healthcare system moves toward more patient-centered care. However, shared decision-making hinges on patients understanding their options. This is challenging since the US Department of Health & Human Services estimates that only 12% of the US adult population has proficient health literacy.

While it is clear that patient education is critical for shared decision-making to be meaningful, current patient education materials often fall short, with many being too text heavy and providing insufficient visual depiction of data, overly general information, and unclear conflicts of interest.

Another important consideration is reliability. Many patients now routinely search the internet for health-related information, but that information is often difficult to assess in terms of reliability. The authorship of health information is often difficult to ascertain, and the conflicts of interest of the authors are often not disclosed. Furthermore, the source of the information is usually not described.

The PALS is specifically designed to overcome these barriers by providing health information written at or below the 6th grade reading level, enriched with audiovisual presentations of short (60-90 seconds) duration, along with a well referenced, peer reviewed evidence summary. Authors are clearly identified, and their potential conflict of interests are transparently displayed.

Objectives
The goals of the PALS are:

1. To provide engaging, easily understood, and focused answers to health-related questions to a worldwide audience, targeted at populations with low literacy.
2. To allow patients to be the drivers, encouraging patient activation and engagement.
3. To support and encourage shared decision-making by enhancing patients’ understanding of their conditions, thereby sparking more in-depth discussions between patients and their healthcare providers.

Program Details
The PALS draws on several established paradigms:
- Adult Learning Theory – adult learners want focused information at the time they need it.
- Social Cognitive Theory – humans learn by watching what others do.
- Bartle’s Taxonomy – the multi-billion dollar online gaming industry uses 4 basic player types (achievers, “killers”, explorers, socializers) which are incorporated into the PALS.

Storytelling – because humans remember more in the context of a story.

The PALS uses Reusable Knowledge Objects (RKOs), which consist of a patient-derived question, a single learning objective, a well researched answer translated into patient facing text at the 6th grade level, and an assessment question testing whether the learning objective has been met.

Users control which content they want to view, with future development of individualized curricula that physicians can customize for specific patients. The system will allow physicians to track whether patients completed assignments, and also which additional content their patients viewed, serving as a springboard for physician-patient communication.

Current content focuses on hypertension medications and rheumatoid arthritis. Additional content is being developed for end-of-life care, pediatric asthma, and hospital discharge planning.

Figure 1. Google analytics – web utilization
Figure 2. Countries that have used the PALS

Opportunities for Students & Residents

Systematic literature review:
The strength of the evidence supporting recommendations for patient education materials

Masha Jones, MD, IM Primary Care Resident

Video content on hypertension
Brittney Frankel, MD (did this work while a WCM student, Class of 2017)

Opportunities:
1. Create and test PALS content:
   - Create a Reusable Knowledge Object (RKO):
     - Start with a patient-generated question
     - Create a single learning objective
     - Learn how to conduct a rigorous literature review under the guidance of a research librarian and with the help of a faculty member
     - Translate the review into patient facing text: short, easily digestible text at a 6th grade reading level
     - Include memorable sound-bites reinforcing the learning objective
     - Create an assessment question testing the understanding of the learning objective
   - Collaborate with Audiovisual Team to provide an accurate and engaging visual representation of RKOs
   - Engage in a dynamic development process by testing your patient-facing material on actual patients
   - Provide feedback about website design to the consulting team that manages website development

2. Design a research project using PALS content

3. Join an ongoing research project being conducted by the PALS team
#ProudtobeGIM Poster Session
Primary Care Innovations Program
Fred Pelzman, M.D. | January 19, 2018

Introduction
The main goal of Primary Care Innovations (PCI) program is to create a virtual and physical site for innovation and experimentation. Through support and inspiration, we (hope to) model and (help) mold the next generation of primary care clinicians, educators and researchers. Our mission is to bring together all the varied components needed for change in our fractured healthcare system.

How will PCI advance this mission?
The major tenets of the PCI model are:

- Research in Primary Care
- Teaching Primary Care Medicine, Inspiring the Next Generation of Practitioners
- Mentoring at All Levels of Training
- Developing Models of Care
- Collaboration

Program Details
Collaboration opportunities exist through the PCI program through multiple venues. We hope to foster collaboration by bringing together those with innovative ideas about changing primary care, and building teams to work on new and exciting research. The PCI program will give people a place to put forth new ideas and get input from others in the community and find new collaborators across multiple disciplines.

Opportunities for Students & Residents
The program will provide faculty scholarships, develop a research symposium lecture series and fund scholars to attend meetings to present their research.

Seed Grant Proposals
Annual requests for proposals for the PCI program seed grants go out in May. These projects are designed to support researchers while they complete early work on a new idea, with a goal of publication. They will use this work to support outside requests for future funding. The Primary Care Innovations program intends to commit $100,000 to fund two to three 1 year projects.

Additional funding opportunities will become available throughout the year, to support medical students, residents and faculty who need additional help with ongoing projects related to primary care innovation.

Visit careinnovation.weill.cornell.edu to learn more about getting involved in research and collaborative opportunities.

Objective
The Primary Care Innovations program aims to serve as a laboratory for innovation, and a clearinghouse for change. By investing time, the clinicians, educators and researchers of WCIMA and our partners can achieve our main goal: to inspire the next generation of medical students in the field of primary care. The PCI program will guide Internal Medicine residents (and WCM medical students) to choose primary care by creating high quality practice settings, providing opportunities to participate in meaningful research and inspiring viable future careers in a new model of healthcare. We also support and mentor junior faculty in their careers today and expand the way they practice medicine tomorrow.

Funding Source:
Conflicts of Interest:
Acknowledgements:
Introduction
The Cornell Center for Health Equity responds directly to community priorities by focusing on practical, relevant research topics. It brings together a deep talent pool at Weill Cornell Medicine and at the Cornell University Ithaca campus with a strong vision for generating new science on how to achieve health equity, engaging community members at every step of the research process from conceptualization through dissemination and implementation.

Objective
The Cornell Center for Health Equity responds directly to community priorities by focusing on two themes of multiple vulnerabilities to health disparities and stigmatized conditions. It brings together a deep talent pool on CU’s Manhattan and Ithaca campuses with a strong vision for generating new science on how to achieve health equity, engaging community members at every step of the research process from conceptualization through dissemination and implementation. This Center will accelerate Cornell’s commitment to being a positive force for change to achieve health equity with our partnering communities while building capacity for health equity research, especially URM scientists, and generating new evidence for a broad national audience.

The Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq) aims to:

1) Generate new knowledge on how to provide equitable healthcare to all;
2) Create a pipeline for the training of outstanding investigators focused on health equity research with a concerted effort made to engage and nurture minority investigators;
3) Provide education to our students, trainees, and faculty about how to achieve health equity;
4) Provide service to the communities with whom Cornell is affiliated to work collaboratively toward the goal of eliminating health disparities.

Program Details
The Center pursues an integrated study of health disparities with teams based at two locations:

- Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City provides a diverse urban, multicultural perspective with a focus on the interplay of numerous health disparities. Co-director Monika Safford, MD, who is based in Manhattan, is an epidemiologist with an active NIH and PCORI-funded research program in cardio-metabolic health disparities.

- Cornell University, in the heart of rural New York State, taps into the many pervasive socioeconomic disparities endemic in rural 21st Century America. Co-director Avery August, PhD, who is based in Ithaca, is an immunologist who serves as a critical role model for minority scientists as well as basic scientists.

The Center is well-aligned with Cornell's “One Cornell” objective to enhance collaborations between the two campuses. Several institutions within each campus will extend the reach of the Cornell Center for Health Equity thereby facilitating faculty development through courses and workshops.

Pilot Program Awards
Annual requests for proposals for Center for Health Equity pilot projects go out in February. These projects are designed to support researchers while they complete early work on a new idea, with a goal of publication. They will use this work to support outside requests for future funding. The Center for Health Equity intends to fund four $50,000 1 year projects.

Additional funding opportunities will become available throughout the year to support medical students, residents, and faculty who need additional help with ongoing projects related to health disparities.

Opportunities for Students and Residents
The education core of the CCHEq will include components aimed at educating learners at multiple levels on the science of health disparities, including existing faculty, postdoctoral trainees, medical and graduate students, undergraduate students, and high school students. The CCHEq will provide opportunities for Cornell students and faculty to interact with leaders in the field of health equity research.

Additional opportunities include between-campus mentoring and joining ongoing research projects being conducted by the CCHEq.

Visit centerforhealthequity.cornell.edu to learn more about getting involved in research and collaborative opportunities.

Cornell Center for Health Equity

Proud to Be GIM

Funding Source: WCM & CU
Conflicts of Interest: None
Acknowledgements: Shannel Lewis
Fellowship Mission

The mission of the Global Health Research Fellowship is to train general internists for academic careers in global health research. The 3-year fellowship includes field-based research, courses in research methods, and teaching and clinical service at Weill Cornell New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Background

Global health is a multidisciplinary field of service, research, and training that seeks to improve the health of individuals and populations to achieve worldwide health equity, especially for the resource-poor. Over the past decade there has been a heightened recognition of the need for generalist clinician-scientists in global health, reflecting the rise of non-communicable diseases in resource-poor settings and the importance of primary care for sustainable health improvements.

Fellowship Objectives

1. Deepen trainees understanding of health care delivery systems, epidemiology of disease, and interventions to improve health in resource-poor settings.
2. Provide trainees with the skills to design and conduct patient-oriented research in global health.
4. Prepare trainees for NIH K-Award submission by the end of the program.

Program Details

Field-based research and mentorship: Trainees conduct research abroad in Haiti, Tanzania, India or Brazil for a minimum of 20 months over a 3 year program. This amount of field time is essential for understanding the local health context, establishing research relationships and developing preliminary data for future NIH grant submissions. The research may be translational, clinical or implementation. Trainees assigned a primary WCM faculty member with numerous secondary mentors related to their project.

Masters in Science Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research: Coursework includes biostatistics, epidemiology, decision analysis and research ethics.

Hospital Medicine Clinical and Teaching Service: Trainees will complete ~ 8 weeks of clinical service on resident and physician assistant hospital service at NYP each year. Trainees receive training in evidence-based medicine, ultrasound and quality improvement methods.

Table I: Fellowship Timeline (flexible depending on trainee’s prior experience and training)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Research</td>
<td>7 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>7 months</td>
<td>20 months (55%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSc Courses</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>5 months (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical/Teaching</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>6 months (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexible Time</td>
<td>0 month</td>
<td>0 month</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>2 months (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>3 months (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Innovation

• Tailored for post-residency graduates in internal medicine
• Extensive field-based research in Weill Cornell programs in Haiti, Tanzania, Brazil and India
• Masters degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research
• Intensive faculty mentorship with New York and international Weill Cornell faculty

Fellows and Faculty

• Justin Kingery MD PhD: Cardiovascular disease Tanzania
• Katey Walsh MD: MDR TB Haiti
• Sasha Fahme MD: Women’s health Tanzania
• Daniel Fitzgerald, Molly McNairy: Fellowship Co-Directors
• Art Evans, Chief Hospital Medicine
• Monika Safford, Chief Division of General Internal Medicine

For more information: https://globalhealth.weill.cornell.edu/fellowship
Hospital Medicine Clinical Scholars Program

Goals:
1-year intensive fellowship program:
• Ignites the potential of highly motivated 1st-year faculty
• Generates momentum in scholarly productivity
• Provides tools to lead change

Focus:
Personal growth and 5 foundational skills:
• Teaching
• Quality improvement
• Advanced clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine
• Diagnostic bedside ultrasound
• Leadership

Expectations:
• Achieve proficiency in each of the 5 skill areas
• Spend at least 18 weeks leading an inpatient clinical team
• Identify an area of academic focus and complete a publishable scholarly project
• Area of focus can be one of the 5 foundational skills or options such as medical ethics, humanism in medicine, health equity, physical diagnosis, global health, hospital epidemiology, decision-analysis, medical informatics, physician resilience, hospital operations, meta-analysis, health services research, among others.
Introduction

• National expectation that providers participate in reporting quality metrics
• ACGME’s Clinical Learning Environment Review Program identifies 5 domains essential in training physicians.
• 2 are quality and safety with faculty engagement in quality improvement and safety initiatives
• To address these learning objectives, the Department of Medicine created Quality University.

Quality University-Well Cornell Department of Medicine (QU-DOM) introduces the skills, tools, and knowledge needed to successfully implement a clinical process improvement project.

• Through applied learning, participants will gain a meaningful understanding of the project lifecycle, and learn to integrate basic Lean concepts and process improvement tools (DMAIC, PDSA, etc).
• The course will also provide a high level overview of change management and a sponsorship model necessary for successful project execution.

Objectives

• Train junior faculty within the Weill Cornell Department of Medicine rigorous QI methodology over an academic year to improve the delivery of high impact, high value care
• Lead fellows through processes of project design, development, testing evaluation and implementation
• Consistent delivery of high quality patient care
• Prevention of patient injury and healthcare errors
• Redesign of processes to support patient safety and mitigate risk
• Management of patient-related incidents, complaints, and lawsuits
• Assessment of various quality metrics to improve performance and patient safety on both the inpatient and outpatient services
• Education of faculty, staff, patients and families in patient safety and risk management

Interested in joining our efforts?
Please contact
Jennifer I. Lee at jel9026@med.cornell.edu

Opportunities for Students & Residents

1. Collaborate with a faculty mentor, under the guidance of the QU-DOM, on a Quality Improvement project.
   • Assist a current faculty member in collecting data, analyzing data, and reporting project outcomes
   • Faculty and projects are from all over the hospital and WCMC.
   • Past departments involved include: Medicine, Endocrinology, Pulmonary, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, GI, Infectious Disease

By assisting a QU-DOM project, students and residents are also invited to attend QU-DOM workshops where one can:

• Acquire knowledge and understanding of all the elements of a project lifecycle
• Learn concepts and tools used for QI including:
  • The Model for Improvement, Appreciating Systems, Process Map, Fishbone Diagram, Aim Statement, Measuring for Process Improvement, PDSA cycle

3. Become a leader of the WCM open chapter of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement
   • Enroll and take free courses online at IHI
   • Networking opportunities

Funding Source: Weill Cornell Department of Medicine
Conflicts of Interest: No conflicts of interest to report
Acknowledgements: Weill Cornell Department of Medicine, Art Evans, Monika Safford, Division of General Internal Medicine, Linda Gerber, Lisa Kern
Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates
Weight Management Practice

Purpose
1. To provide access to obesity medicine specialists within the primary care setting thus creating an interdisciplinary approach to managing diverse patients with obesity and complex medical conditions.
2. To provide medical supervision for patients preparing for bariatric surgery and treatment of patients with weight regain or inadequate weight loss post-bariatric surgery.
3. To participate in the training of physicians and students in the field of obesity medicine.

Program Background
- Weight Management Practice established in 2012 in conjunction with a 2-week Weight Management elective. In the development of the program, an IRB-approved needs assessment survey was conducted among 177 faculty, fellows and residents within the Department of Medicine.
- Of the 121 (68%) respondents, 88.6% of respondents stated that they had not received sufficient weight management education (Figure 1). While 93% of all respondents indicated that they believe obesity is an international epidemic, only 23.4% reported having successfully helped patients lose weight, and 15% of respondents felt that they could effectively prescribe pharmacological agents to assist obese patients with weight loss (Figure 2).

Opportunities for Students & Residents
- 2-week-long Weight Management Elective and research elective offered to residents
- 2nd continuity practice option for primary care residents
- Mentorship in the application to the Dr. Robert C. & Veronica Atkins Foundation Research Scholarship
- Well-Ithaca Summer Member Experience in Research (WISER) a 7-week summer program on health disparities and inequities research

Program Details
- Intensive evidence-based behavioral counseling and pharmacotherapy management offered in a team based visit (MD and dietician). Visit frequency is every 2-4 weeks for a minimum of 6 months
- Standard weight management prescription inclusive of:
  - Goal setting
  - Self-regulation of weight loss behaviors (i.e. food diary, daily weighing)
  - Pharmacotherapy Management
  - Referrals to mental health providers to address psychosocial stressors
  - Referrals to community based physical activity and support programs

6 month weight loss = 40 pounds, 13.1%

Selected Past Residents & Students
Aoife Casey, Cornell
WISER Summer Student 2017

Brett Ehrmann, MD NYP-WCM 2017
*WCM Primary Care East Side

Guillermo Espinoza, MD NYP-WCM 2015
*Primary Care Alaska Native Medical Center

Katherine Saunders, MD NYP-WCM 2014
Obesity Medicine Fellowship at WCM
*Comprehensive Weight Control Center at WCM

Jamie Mullally, MD NYP-WCM 2014
Recipient Atkins Foundation Research Scholarship
*Weight Control Center at CUMC

Leon Igel, MD NYP-WCM 2013
Recipient Atkins Foundation Research Scholarship
*Co-Director Weight Management Elective
*Program Director Obesity Medicine Fellowship
*Comprehensive Weight Control Center at WCM

* Current professional positions

Erica Phillips, MD, MS, DABOM Clinical Director
Gabrielle Siragusa, Practice Dietician
Lauren B. Solomon MS, RD, CDN, CLC Supervisor of Ambulatory Nutrition at Columbia & Weill Cornell
Debra Katz-Feigenbaum, Director of Ambulatory Nutrition at Columbia & Weill Cornell
Definition

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines telehealth as the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration.

Telemedicine, a subset of telehealth, is the evaluation and treatment of patients remotely.

Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.

Introduction

• Originally created to reach patients in health professional shortage areas.
• Emphasis was on access to previously unavailable specialists and subspecialists.
• Movements to enhance patient-centered care and to reduce unnecessary ER visits have brought telemedicine to primary care.
• 74% of patients surveyed indicated interest in televisits.
• In 2015, 800,000 virtual visits were estimated
• At NYP/WCMC televisits have been used in the ER, at retail pharmacies and in outpatient offices.
• Specific existing programs include urgent care, mental health and neurological consultations.

Program Details

• Urgent Care- same day visits for ambulatory acute care.
• Visits that do not require physical exams- tobacco cessation, mental health, nutritional counselling, weight mgmt., annual wellness/prevention
• High frequency visits- medication titration, mental health, wound checks, CHF mgmt
• Other visits where travel might pose undue burden- post-hospitalization
• Remote monitoring- BP, glucose, HR, weights
• Asynchronous e-visits- templated HPI, patient education scripts

Future Considerations

• Interface between existing (nonreimbursed) care rendered via phone
• Privacy concerns and informed consent (recordings)
• Reimbursement models
• Cross- state regulations

Opportunities for Students & Residents

• Research- Impact of telemedicine on access, satisfaction, ER utilization, hospitalizations, quality of care, etc.
• Education- Development of curriculum and/or innovations for increased use of telemedicine

Funding Source: WCMC and NYPH
Conflicts of Interest: None
Acknowledgements: Drs. Adam Stracher, Travis Gossey and Peter Fleischut
Introduction

Transitions of care – the movement of a patient from one care setting to another (e.g. hospital to home), or the transfer of a patient’s care from one medical provider to another.

Transitions are known to be highly vulnerable points in a patient’s care

- 1 in 5 patients discharged from the hospital experienced an adverse event within three weeks of discharge.1
- 60% of these adverse events were medication related and could have been avoided.1
- On average, 19.6% of Medicare were readmitted within 30 days and 34% were readmitted within 90 days.2
- Hospital readmissions within 30 days account for $15 billion of Medicare spending.3

The creation of Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) is a recent strategy for containing costs in healthcare, while maintaining or improving quality. Several large commercial insurers have also created ACOs or ACO-like programs. In these programs, a group of providers takes on financial and clinical responsibility for a defined population of patients that is “attributed” to that ACO.

However, although patients may be “attributed” to a particular ACO, they are not required to obtain their care from ACO providers. This creates challenges for the ACO, as the ACO is still “responsible” for this care and the costs it incurs, regardless of where the care actually took place.

Aims

1) To determine whether hospitalizations disrupt “loyalty” to ambulatory care providers.

2) To determine if the degree of disruption varies based on whether the patient was hospitalized within or outside the provider organization that is in an ACO-like contract.

We plan to pursue these goals by analyzing claims data for patients who have been attributed to Weill Cornell Physicians Organization (PO) by one commercial payer in an ACO-like contract.

Objectives

The purpose of the Transitions Care Affinity Group is to bring together faculty, residents, and students from across the Division of General Internal Medicine to collaborate on research projects related to transitions of care.

Transitions between the inpatient and outpatient settings are a unique and rich area for collaboration between hospitalists and primary care doctors. Understanding and improving these vulnerable transitions requires the unique expertise of both groups.

Program Details

- The Affinity Group is led by a small core group of faculty, with the intent of engaging a wider group of interested faculty, residents and students on a project-by-project basis.
- Quarterly meetings or social gatherings are held to bring together as many interested members of the division as possible to share ideas, obtain feedback, and discover areas for collaboration and cross-pollination between diverse groups of faculty.
- Smaller group meetings are held regularly to work on particular projects.

Past, Present, and Future Transitions-of-Care Projects in the Division

Faculty and trainees in the Division of General Medicine have a history of productive work in the area of Care Transitions. A few examples of this work is listed below (some of which was made possible through the Quality University Program).

The Transitions of Care Affinity Group hopes to further promote this work, and particularly to bring together hospitalists and primary care providers to inspire new innovative collaborations.

- A Multidisciplinary “Discharge Time-Out” utilizing a check-list to catch common preventable errors at the time of discharge.
- “What to expect that you’re not expecting: Video education to improve self-efficacy surrounding discharge medication barriers” – An innovative mobile video educational tool used to help patients anticipate and overcome challenges around adhering to discharge medications. (Sponsored by the DOM Quality University Program)
- “Pod-Cards” – a visual tool to improve the continuity between residents and their patients at the CIMA primary care practice. (Sponsored by the DOM Quality University Program)
- “Rapid Primary Care Follow Up From the ED to Reduce Avoidable Hospital Admissions” – A rapid-ED-to-primary-care-access program to provide a safe and reliable ED discharge option and engage patients in primary care.

For more information, or to get involved, contact:
- Laura Gingras, MD – lfg0003@med.cornell.edu
- Jennifer Chester, MD – jgc0002@med.cornell.edu

Co-leaders of the Transitions of Care Affinity Group

References:
Background/Relevance
Little is known about the sources of quotidian ethical conflicts encountered by hospitalists at the bedside, many of which have meaningful ethical dimensions.

Hypothesis
The ethical problems that hospitalists confront differ in type and degree from the cases that trigger a formal ethics consult, and are not clearly characterized.

Study Goal
To describe the frequency of the ethical problems that arise on the General Internal Medicine Hospitalist Service and compare them to those seen by the consult service of the Hospital Ethics Committee.

Materials and Methods
This is a cross-sectional study of all ethical problems consecutively identified during daily rounds on teaching GIM hospitalist services since September 2017. We are currently collecting data on the frequency of ethical and contextual issues pertinent to clinical decision-making with a standardized instrument on Hospitalist Service rounds. This same instrument will be used to retrospectively review and catalogue consultations received during that same period by the NY-PH-WCM Ethics Consultation Service and Ethics Committee. We will then compare the baseline frequency of ethical and contextual problems between groups (Hospitalist Service v. Ethics Consultation Service).

Results
We present here an interim analysis of our study. During the 3-month observation period, 150 different patients were evaluated. Seventy-two ethical challenges and 34 contextual issues were identified in 46 of those patients (30.6% of the study sample presented ethical issues) (TABLES 1 and 2). Seven novel, unanticipated ethical issues (10%) didn’t fall into any pre-specified category. They involved, for example, questions about forgoing the recommendations of consulting physicians, or considerations about the impact of outpatient treatment non-adherence on fetal wellbeing. During the same observational period, only three formal clinical ethics consults were brought to the Hospital Ethics Committee for these same 150 patients (30.6% versus 2%).

Conclusion
Hospitalists confront frequent ethical problems in daily practice that differ in degree & type from those referred to the Hospital Ethics Committee. These ethical issues are meaningful to patients and present an opportunity for medical education in ethics and professionalism.

TABLE 1. ETHICAL ISSUES DURING THE OBSERVATION PERIOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethical issue</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End-of-life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals of care discussions</td>
<td>21 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal of treatment</td>
<td>6 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgoing life-sustaining treatments</td>
<td>3 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician-patient relationship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>6 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrogate decision-making</td>
<td>4 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical issues of medical management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain management</td>
<td>5 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
<td>4 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice considerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource allocation</td>
<td>2 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge planning</td>
<td>7 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known ethical issues</td>
<td>9 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified issues</td>
<td>7 (10%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2. CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contextual issue</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal conflict</td>
<td>11 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>10 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic/Cultural/Religious</td>
<td>3 (9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8 (24%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FELLOWSHIP IN MEDICAL ETHICS

The New York-Houston Medical Ethics Consortium brings together Houston Methodist Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

- Two-year program.
- 45% effort in clinical ethics consults, 35% mentored academic research and 20% in teaching activities.
- Weekly case seminar presentations. Monthly journal clubs and clinical case conferences with New York and Houston Faculty and Fellows.

For more information, please visit https://medicine.weill.cornell.edu/divisions-programs/medical-ethics/education/fellowships
MECA: Medical Education Collaborators Academy
Helene L. Strauss, MD and Lia S. Logio, MD

The Mission
• To create a collaborative and cohesive community for GIM faculty interested in medical education research and scholarship
• To provide a forum for effective exchange of ideas around educational innovations and research projects
• To serve as a partner in the larger academic medical community around medical education, curricular ideas, assessment, and faculty development

Objectives
• To facilitate the production of high quality medical education research
• To serve as an advisory group and contribute to curriculum innovations both within and outside of the MECA community
• To support medical students, residents, and fellows with an interest in medical education

Program Details
1. Monthly Meetings focus on works in progress and skill building
2. Quarterly Social Events to build community of like-minded individuals
3. Quarterly Journal Clubs that include trainees interested in medical education
4. Social Media Tools to connect team for productive collaboration
   • SLACK: group work tool for messaging, sharing files, discussions
   • Virtual meetings with Zoom
5. Goal of producing academic products for GIM clinician educators

Opportunities for Others Interested in Medical Education
• Participation in quarterly med ed journal club
• Collaboration with residents interested in medical education on projects
• Link to medical students enrolled in the medical education AOC in active research and curriculum development

How to Get Involved
Email Helene Strauss for more information.
hes9045@med.cornell.edu
**EDUCATION**

**Clinical Decision Making Conference**

**Description:** Noon conferences held every other month for PGY2 and PGY3 medicine residents. Residents contribute by providing real patient related diagnostic dilemmas and questions.

**Examples of dilemmas/questions:**
1. How do we interpret low B-Type Natriuretic Peptide in a patient with symptoms and signs consistent with congestive heart failure?
2. How do we interpret borderline troponin in a patient with suspected acute coronary syndrome?
3. A patient with chronic kidney disease presenting with shortness of breath has a moderate probability of pulmonary embolism. VQ scan is indeterminate. Lower extremity venous dopplers are negative for deep venous thrombosis. What is the probability of pulmonary embolism now, and how do we proceed?

**Objectives and Methods:** We use evidence based medicine to find answers to these dilemmas. Residents find answers using case based problem solving, working through each problem in small groups. Goal is to teach the best practices in clinical decision making, such as Bayesian reasoning – likelihood ratios, pre and post-test probabilities of disease, testing/treatment/action thresholds, and interpretation of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves.

**Case 1**

53 year old man with coronary artery disease presents with sudden onset substernal chest pressure and pain, radiating to left shoulder, associated with diaphoresis and profound shortness of breath. ECG showing submillimeter ST depressions in the inferolateral leads.

- Estimate the probability that this patient is having a myocardial infarction.
- Troponin peaks to 0.05 (normal 0 – 0.04). How does this borderline elevation change probability of MI? Use the ROC curve to answer this question.

**Case 2**

You are caring for a patient coming in with SOB and lower extremity swelling. You’re 90% confident patient has CHF. BNP returns low at 14. Patient’s BMI is 40. How does this BNP result change probability of heart failure? What should be done next?

- a. Estimate the probability that this patient is having a myocardial infarction.
- b. Troponin peaks to 0.05 (normal 0 – 0.04). How does this borderline elevation change probability of MI?
- Use the ROC curve to answer this question.

**RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP**

**Users’ Guide: ROC Curve Anatomy**

Using ROC curves to answer diagnostic dilemmas such as – how do borderline positive test results change the probably of a diagnosis? When is the test result low enough to “rule out” disease?

**Understanding P Values**

Drug X found to decrease mortality by 10%, compared to placebo. P value is 0.04. What is the probability that these results are found due to chance? What is the probability that drug X does not reduce mortality? Is it 4%? If you think yes, then most clinicians, residents, and students will agree with you. Unfortunately, the answer is no. P value is widely misunderstood. This project aims to teach p value in case-based format to improve our interpretation of vastly growing medical literature.

**Diagnostic Tests**

- **MRSA PCR** swab for diagnosis of MRSA infections (cellulitis, pneumonia) in hospitalized patients – ongoing systematic review and planned meta-analysis
- **Procalcitonin** – how to interpret different values of procalcitonin in variety of clinical scenarios
- **B-Type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP)** – we have learned BNP changes in obesity, renal disease, atrial fibrillation. How much does it change, and how does it affect our ability to diagnose heart failure?
- **Highly Sensitive Troponin** – FDA approved new troponin test that can rule out myocardial infarction within 3 hours of presentation to the emergency department. How can we interpret this test in different clinical scenarios (i.e. high risk patients)?

**Affinity Group Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arthur Evans, MD, MPH</th>
<th>Chief, Division of Hospital Medicine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amiran Baduashvili, MD</td>
<td>Hospital Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Cutler, MD</td>
<td>Hospital Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanping Wong, MD</td>
<td>Hospital Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Mints, MD</td>
<td>Hospital Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Jannat-Khah, PhD</td>
<td>Senior Data Analyst</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Source: None

Conflicts of Interest: None

Acknowledgements: All affinity group members and Monika Safford MD
Introduction
The Internal Medicine Residency Program at Weill Cornell has created a digital ecosystem to enhance learning for our trainees. Every resident is given an iPad that serves as an important resource for learning with the goal of getting their "brains on fire." Each physician has access to everything they need to learn best practice medicine.

Program Details
The foundation of our program is the Apple ecosystem, especially the use of personal iPads provided to each resident. We use iTunesU to share educational materials and foster discussions related to didactic conferences, to share multimedia touch books with targeted resources on particular rotations and to use as textbooks for some of our core medical topics. The platform allows us to share logistical information like schedules, policies and procedures, too.

Since our original designation as an Apple Distinguished Education Program (2015-2017) the first ever graduate medical education program to receive this honor, the Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Residency Program at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan has continued to explore digital tools to keep their physicians-in-training at the forefront of learning cutting edge medicine.

The custom content with powerful search functionality combined with the mobility of the iPad have allowed us to create an invaluable resource to our trainees learning medicine on the go. Technology has helped us deliver consistent content in a multimedia format that appeals to all kinds of adult learners. It helps us deliver information to residents across different sites on different rotations and provides a way for those residents unable to make it to teaching conferences to be connected to the information covered.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, we introduced the Slack tool. We have 155 individuals enrolled which includes 100% of the residents. With our current eight channels, within the first two months, we have seen an average of 110 weekly users based on the analytics available through Slack.

Slack serves as a way to engender open communication and exchange of ideas between all the members of the program. It serves as a vital tool to make important announcements, to share articles and start a discussion for journal clubs, and to recruit team members to specific quality improvement initiatives.

Slack has facilitated several important dialogues as well as photo sharing from the annual Housestaff Picnic, building community!

Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses with Content</td>
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<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apps</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Users</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>iFaculty</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Presentations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In-Training Exam Scores and Board Pass Rate Rising since Digital Ecosystem Introduced in 2015
Three Clinical Centers within WCCC: Medicine, Women’s Health, & Mental Health

Introduction

- WCCC began functioning 11 years ago, created and sustained by medical student volunteerism with medical and social work faculty support.
- In the last two years, we have become even more interdisciplinary and have nutritionist volunteering as well as pharmacy students with faculty supervision.
- The majority of Weill Cornell medical students volunteer at WCCC over their four years.
- Applicants to our medical school are enthusiastic about participating.

Mission Statement

The Weill Cornell Community Clinic (WCCC) is a student-led initiative aimed at providing high-quality and equitable health care to uninsured individuals in New York City. Under the supervision of an attending physician, we offer comprehensive primary healthcare services at low- or no-cost to adults, including preventive care, treatment for acute and chronic conditions, and referrals to appropriate and affordable specialty services. We aim to extend healthcare access to underprivileged populations while encouraging volunteerism and philanthropy, and we welcome all students to participate in the clinical, research, and organizational opportunities that are available.

Program Details

We all meet usually on Monday evenings in the Helmsly Medical Tower at either the Weill Cornell Community Clinic or at the Women’s Health Center. At each session there are medical students at different levels of training collaborating and presenting to an attending physician. Each patient is seen by a junior clinician (pre-clinical student) and senior clinician (clinical student) with initial history obtained by the junior clinician supplemented by the junior clinician who also examines the patient. They together present to the attending. Many WCCC patients also have a “COC or Continuity of Care, preclinical student” who comes to appointments and has regular contact with the patient, at least once a month.

There has been a special effort to have foreign speaking patients be linked with a COC student who is fluent in their language. To support WCCC there is a junior board of over 20 medical students who take on a year commitment to facilitate WCCC functioning. The WCCC Senior Board are involved in direct patient care and supervising other medical students providing that care. The core administrative group consists of two MD-PhD students our Executive Directors (each has a two year term) and two Medical Student Co-Directors (one year term). All patient care provided is reviewed by the WCCC Medical Director, Dr Pam Charney with the Medical Student Co-Directors and this team is also responsible for coordination of interim care and assuring follow up of outstanding results. The Medical Clinic Director is Dr Pam Charney; the Director - Weill Cornell Community Clinic Women’s Clinic is Dr Patricia Y Allen and the Director of the Weill Cornell Community Clinic Mental Health Clinic is Dr Akshay Lohitsa. There have been multiple Quality Improvement projects focused on clinical care and educational efforts.

Opportunities for Medical Students

WCC is a community of students and attending’s committed to providing best care to underserved patients.

> Students can participate in a wide range of tasks required to provide clinical care and personally learn about the challenges and benefits to providing care for individual patients
> WCCC provides the opportunity to provide direct care to patients in need with attending supervision
> Senior clinicians not only increase their ambulatory clinical experience and improve their competency but have substantial opportunity to teach classmates and future physicians
> Collaborating has strengthened the WCCC community as well as its functioning.
> Many students have lead initiatives that have improved patient care!
> Multiple innovations have lead to publications and presentations.

A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

http://www.weill.cornell.edu/wccc

Weill Cornell Community Clinic
Medicine, Women’s Health, & Mental Health
Pamela Charney | January 19th, 2018

Funding Source: Fundraising Activities by WCM Students.

Conflicts of Interest: None

Acknowledgements:
Dr. Patricia Y. Allen, MD, Director of WCCC Women’s Clinic
Dr. Akshay Lohitsa, MD, Director of WCCC Mental Health Clinic

Executive Medical Directors:
Andrew Iannone, MD/PhD, entered 2014
Maria Passarelli, MD/PhD, entered 2015

Medical Co-Directors:
Catlin Finn, Class of 2018
Amanda Su, Class of 2018
Introduction

- Hospital Medicine Point of Care Ultrasonography (HM-POCUS) is a relatively new and dynamic field.
- The idea is simple: bring US - a powerful, portable, real-time imaging technique - to the bedside.
- Point of Care Ultrasonography is always by definition a focused study intended to answer a very specific question under a very specific clinical circumstances.
- It is performed and interpreted by a clinician, caring for the patient in real time by the bedside.
- At the center of the field is the appreciation that the same sonographic finding may mean completely different things, depending on the clinical context.
- As hospitalists at Weill Cornell/New York Hospital, we are proud and excited to be part of this emerging field.

Objectives

- The goal of program is to gain proficiency in basic point of care ultrasound, including image acquisition, interpretation, clinical decision-making, and its evidence-based diagnostic accuracy.

Opportunities for Students & Residents

1. Learn Ultrasonography at one of our various classes for residents, or fellows/faculty
   - Classes consist of didactic material, extensive image review and hands-on scanning of life models.
   - During the scanning our student-to-faculty ratio is set not to exceed 3-1, but has not yet exceeded 2-1.
   - Our last class learners had 15 hours of one-on-one supervised “probe time” per week!
   - We have implemented longitudinal year-long curriculum which includes hands-on supervised scanning sessions and image review.
   - Participants must also complete a portfolio of images and teach entry-level POCUS to others

2. Create and develop a research project under the guidance of one of the HM-POCUS faculty

3. Present a case at our monthly interdisciplinary POCUS conference.
   - IM, ER, Critical Care, Radiology and Cardiology comes together to discuss cases.
   - Conference is open to all interested, regardless of level of training or departmental affiliation.

Interested in joining our efforts?

Please contact
Gregory Mints at grm9032@med.cornell.edu
Tanping Wong at taw9047@med.cornell.edu
Elaine Gee at eyg9001@med.cornell.edu

Funding Source: Section of Hospital Medicine
Conflicts of Interest: No conflicts of interest to report
Acknowledgements: Art Evans, Weill Cornell Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine
Introduction

Currently, chronic diseases are linked to at least 70 percent of our nation's deaths and disability. Many of these conditions are preventable or reversible with reliable and early education. Emphasizing the basic tenets of healthy eating, emotional wellbeing, and an active lifestyle can lead to a better quality of life and greater vitality later in life.

Integrative therapies can help to prevent and treat chronic disease, reduce stress and anxiety, and relieve symptoms associated with disease or its treatment. Currently over half of medical schools in the U.S. contribute to the clinical, scholarly, or educational advancement of topics in integrative medicine.

Program Objective

The Integrative Health and Wellbeing team brings long-known and newly discovered principles of nutrition, psychologic care, mind-body therapies such as meditation and breath work, and physical practices such as acupuncture and massage therapy to the medical setting.

Through this interdisciplinary and novel model, the program creates a focus on prevention, education, and wellbeing.

Clinical Services

- Mindfulness based therapies, Meditation
- Nutrition counseling
- Yoga therapy
- Acupuncture
- Massage therapy
- Pilates instruction
- Hypnosis
- Physician consultation

Common Clinical Applications

- Chronic pain
- Irritable bowel syndrome & Inflammatory bowel disease
- Coronary artery disease
- Metabolic syndrome
- Diabetes
- Symptoms of cancer or cancer treatment
- Mental Health
- Autoimmune disorders

Opportunities

Shadowing and e-learning opportunities may be available for students interested in Integrative Medicine. To learn more, please visit our website: www.nyp.org/integrativehealth or contact agupta@med.cornell.edu

Clinical Team

- Alka Gupta, M.D.  
  Co-Director, Integrative Health
- Chiti Parikh, M.D.  
  Co-Director, Integrative Health
- Oleg Fabrikant, DAOM, Lac  
  Acupuncturist
- Manna Lu-Wong, RN  
  Integrative Health Nurse
- Jacqueline Herbach, LMSW, LMT  
  Massage Therapist & Pilates Instructor
- Jackie Topol, RD, CSO, CDN  
  Integrative Nutritionist
Fellowship Objectives

1. Train post-residency physicians to conduct their own, methodologically rigorous health services research, which is focused on improving clinical practice and improving our health systems’ ability to provide high quality, high value, effective health care.
2. Teach post-residency physicians how to perform question-driven, multidisciplinary research, in an area of their own interest.
3. Prepare physicians to become independent investigators.

Research Priority Areas

- Healthcare Disparities
- Patient Safety
- Quality Improvement
- Translating Research into Practice and Policy
- Patient-centered Care and Education

Program Details

- Two-year program.
- Didactic curriculum of 30 courses designed to provide conceptual and practical foundations and core competencies in health services research.
- Master’s Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences at the completion of the required coursework.
- Independent research project(s).
- Faculty mentorship in health services research, clinical epidemiology, behavioral science, biostatistics, health economics, informatics, health policy, and medical ethics.
- Weekly seminar presentations, where mentors, program directors, and fellows provide group feedback to the fellow(s) presenting their research.
- Monthly journal club, led by fellows.
- T-32 AHRQ-NRSA Trainee Conference.

Coursework

- Clinical epidemiology
- Health services research
- Survey design
- Qualitative research methods
- Biostatistics
- Informatics
- Decision Analysis
- Behavioral Science
- Health policy
- Implementation Science
- Quality Improvement
- Grant Writing

Current Fellows

Second Year Fellows
- Madeline Sterling, MD, MPH  General Internal Medicine
- Matthew Symer, MD     General Surgery

First Year Fellows
- Patrick Dolan, MD       General Surgery
- Greg Eckenrode, MD  General Surgery
- Lindsey Gade, MD     General Surgery
- Nicole Shen, MD    Gastroenterology

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Apply early as fellowship slots are limited. To apply, please visit https://weillcornell.liaisoncas.com
• Cardiovascular disease (CVD) affects more than 92 million Americans.
• By 2030, ~44% of the population will have some type of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD).

Background

- Baseline data collection included computer-assisted telephone surveys assessing medical history and health status as well as in-home examinations by trained health care professionals.
- Living participants or proxies are followed up every 6 months by telephone with retrieval of medical record for hospitalizations.
- Deaths are detected by report of kin and through online sources; next of kin are interviewed about the circumstances surrounding the demise of the participant.

Objectives and Design

- REGARDS is a prospective cohort study of 30,239 individuals examining regional and racial influences on stroke mortality.
- REGARDS-MI is an ancillary study examining similar issues for myocardial infarction (MI).
- The REGARDS and REGARDS-MI studies’ purpose is to better understand why regional and racial disparities exist in stroke and coronary heart disease (CHD), and to learn how to reduce the number of people with stroke and CHD outcomes.
- Black and White English-speaking, community dwelling adults aged 45 years or older, living in the continental US were enrolled between 2003 and 2007.
- Blacks and Southeastern residents were oversampled by design.
- Baseline data collection included computer-assisted telephone surveys assessing medical history and health status as well as in-home examinations by trained healthcare professionals.
- Endpoints are rigorously adjudicated by experts.
- Living participants or proxies are followed up every 6 months by telephone with retrieval of medical record for hospitalizations.
- Deaths are detected by report of kin and through online sources; next of kin are interviewed about the circumstances surrounding the demise of the participant.

Cognitive Impairment among Adults with Incident Heart Failure

Madeline R. Sterling, MD, MPH, GIM Fellow, et al.

Background: Although cognitive impairment is present in as many as 70% of patients with HF, little is known about the prevalence of cognitive impairment early in the course of HF. We examined the prevalence and correlates of cognitive impairment among adults with incident HF.

Results: Of the 436 participants with HF included, 14.9% had cognitive impairment as assessed with the Six Item Screener at the time of their first hospitalization for HF. The prevalence of cognitive impairment among participants with incident HF was higher than the prevalence of cognitive impairment among age, race, and sex-matched controls with low Framingham risk score (FRS) (9.4%) but less than the prevalence of cognitive impairment among controls with high FRS (21.9%). The majority of the high cognitive impairment associated with HF may occur after initial hospitalization, suggesting that study of the trajectory of cognitive impairment over the course of HF is needed.
Overview

• Have you ever wondered about the forces outside your exam room that affect the way you deliver care?
• General internal medicine is a great field for those interested in the way healthcare is organized, delivered, and financed.
• General internal medicine is also a great field for those seeking to evaluate the effectiveness of large-scale interventions designed to improve the quality and value of healthcare broadly.
• Topics within this field include:
  ▪ Models of care delivery, such as the patient-centered medical home
  ▪ Financial incentives, such as pay-for-performance
  ▪ Alternative payment models, such as accountable care organizations and value-based purchasing
  ▪ Health insurance and benefit design
  ▪ Patterns of utilization, including patterns that suggest fragmentation of care
  ▪ Advancing measures of quality and value
• The organization, delivery, and financing of healthcare is currently changing dramatically, in unprecedented ways with unknown consequences.
• More physician-scientists are needed to evaluate the impact of these changes.

Background

Average Health Care Spending per Capita, 1980–2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Netherlands</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>Norway</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>3,000</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<td>9,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commonwealth Fund: Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, 2017
Health Care System Performance Rankings

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Canada</th>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Efficiency</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
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Selected Contributions by Our Team

• An intervention to teach physicians how much medications cost to patients out-of-pocket was effective in increasing physician knowledge.

• cuando los proveedores buscan información clínica en las intercambios de información de salud electrónica (HIEs), hospitalizaciones, readmisiones, y repetición de pruebas de diagnóstico, se comparan con cuando no buscan la información clínica en las HIEs.

• Measures reported directly and automatically from electronic health records need to be validated before being used for financial incentives.

Annals of Internal Medicine

• The patient-centered medical home may lead to modest changes in quality and cost – due to the combination of electronic health records and organizational changes.

Methods

• These studies and others like them used data from:
  ▪ Administrative claims (billing data)
  ▪ Physician directories
  ▪ Electronic health records
  ▪ Electronic health information exchanges
  ▪ Surveys

• These studies also used advanced techniques from the fields of epidemiology and biostatistics, including:
  ▪ Time-to-event analyses,
  ▪ Adjustment for potential confounders,
  ▪ Adjustment for clustering and repeated measures, and
  ▪ Sensitivity, specificity and other measures of accuracy,
  ▪ Among others

Next Steps

• Get involved in research as a medical student, resident, or junior faculty member.
• Consider a GIM fellowship to learn research methods and healthcare policy.
• Follow the health policy debates by reading newspapers, social media, and data-driven foundation websites.

• For more information, contact Lisa M. Kern, MD, MPH, lmk2003@med.cornell.edu.
**Background**

There is unequivocal evidence that exercise improves health

- ↓ Mortality (20-35%), colon cancer (30-40%), breast cancer (20-80%), type II diabetes (30-50%), coronary artery disease (30-40%), stroke (25-30%), HBP (25-30%)

- Prevents falls (up to 54%), reduces depression, prevents disability

- ↑ Cognitive function (executive function, attention, cognitive speed, and memory)

**Program Objectives**

1. Develop and test methodologically rigorous, theoretically-derived behavioral approaches to motivate initiation and maintenance of physical activity.
2. Promote implementation of evidence-based physical activity interventions, education, and research.
3. Mentor junior investigators in behavioral medicine research aimed at promotion of healthy physical activity and other lifestyle changes.

**Studies in high-risk population**

- Older adults with multimorbidity
- Chronic pain
- Cardiovascular disease (post-coronary angioplasty)
- Cancer survivors

**Assessment with FitBits and Accelerometry**

**Prospective evaluation**

Exercise improves health

- ↓ Mortality (20-35%), colon cancer (30-40%), breast cancer (20-80%), type II diabetes (30-50%), coronary artery disease (30-40%), stroke (25-30%), HBP (25-30%)

- Prevents falls (up to 54%), reduces depression, prevents disability

Cognitive function (executive function, attention, cognitive speed, and memory)

**Funders**

- National Institutes of Health (NHLBI, NIA)
- American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)
- Lung Cancer Research Foundation

Contact Dr. Janey Peterson for additional information
jcopers@med.cornell.edu
Research Objectives

As a rheumatologist, my goal is to generate new knowledge that will allow patients with arthritis to live and age with dignity. This is an ongoing effort that will be accomplished through the following objectives:

- Develop cardiovascular risk reduction strategies for patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), the most common cause of death in these patients
- Identify gaps in quality of care for patients who are disabled with arthritis based on their race and ethnicity.
- Improve disease activity measurement in the clinical setting in order to facilitate shared decision making and better collaboration among physicians caring for a patient with arthritis.

How does being in GIM allow you to pursue your research objectives?

I have found over the years that working with a diverse group of investigators and clinicians has led to more innovative research objectives:

- Improve disease activity measurement in the clinical setting in order to facilitate shared decision making and better collaboration among physicians caring for a patient with arthritis.
- Identify gaps in quality of care for patients who are disabled with arthritis based on their race and ethnicity.
- Develop cardiovascular risk reduction strategies for patients with RA.

Research Projects

Optimization of Hyperlipidemia Management Among Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA): A Patient-Centered Intervention Development

Research Objectives

- **Aim 1**: Identify patient and physician barriers to CVD risk reduction among patients with RA
- **Aim 2**: Develop a patient-centered intervention designed to reduce cardiovascular risk among patients with RA
- **Aim 3**: Pilot test the intervention

Current Phase:

- **Aim 1**: Conducted nominal groups with physicians and focus groups with patients
- **Aim 2**: Abstract accepted to and presented at 2017 Well Cornell Primary Care Innovations Symposium
- **Aim 3**: Initiated development of the patient-centered intervention

Funding Source: National Institute of Arthritis Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS – K23) from the National Institutes of Health

Frequency of Lipid Testing and Treatment among Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Diabetes, Both or Neither Condition During 2 years of Follow Up

This graph was generated using data from a mix of private and public insurance claims data. It shows the gap that exists in screening and management of hyperlipidemia among patients with RA compared to patients with diabetes and the general population. This gap is the one that we will be addressing as part of the intervention to reduce cardiovascular risk in patients with RA.

Patient Reported Outcomes in Rheumatoid Arthritis: electronic data collection tool

Research Objectives

- Elicit perspectives of patients with RA regarding perceived barriers and facilitators to collecting data electronically to monitor RA disease activity
- Determine which Patient Reported Outcome (PRO) domains rheumatologists commonly use to assess RA disease activity
- Develop an electronic data collection tool for PRO

Current Phase: Data collection, analysis and manuscript preparation.


Funding Source: Rheumatology Research Foundation

Next Step: Expand the utilization of ArthritisPower (an online PRO data collection tool developed as part of this project) to clinical settings (rheumatology, orthopedic and GIM clinics).

Quality of Care and Characteristics of Middle-Aged Hispanics Disabled with Arthritis

Research Objectives

- Describe the characteristics of individuals younger than 65 years of age with arthritis who receive Medicare due to disability and compare Hispanics to African Americans, Whites, and Native American/Pacific Islanders
- Determine the patterns of health services utilization among Hispanics, African Americans, Whites, and Native American/Pacific Islanders with arthritis who receive Medicare due to disability before age 65
- Determine the factors associated with differences in quality of care between Hispanics, African Americans, Whites, and Native American/Pacific Islanders with arthritis who receive Medicare due to disability before age 65

Current Phase: Data Analysis

Funding Source: Well Cornell Primary Care Innovations Seed Grant

Opportunities for Career Development

**Medical Students and Residents**

- Learn about research design, both qualitative (hypothesis generating studies) and quantitative (hypothesis testing studies) research methods
- Collaborate in projects aiming to develop new knowledge regarding challenges facing patients with arthritis and the physicians who treat them
- Opportunities for abstract and manuscript authorship and presentation
- Conduct literature reviews to assist with manuscript and grant preparation

**Fellows**

- Mentoring and guidance in developing fellows’ own research projects in either health services research, outcomes or qualitative studies
- Expand their network of investigators locally, with other institutions and investigators at a national level
- Clinical guidance in the care and management of patients with rheumatic diseases
- Opportunities for abstract and manuscript authorship and presentation

**Faculty**

- Collaboration in research questions for patients with arthritis with special attention to cardiovascular risk reduction and quality of care
- Expand research network and opportunity to work with a multidisciplinary team (epidemiologists, biostatisticians, qualitative researchers, cardiologists, internists, orthopedists, and rheumatologists)

Research Presentation

Dr. Navarro-Millán presenting preliminary results on the project “Patient Reported Outcomes in Rheumatoid Arthritis: electronic data collection tool” at the Rheumatology Research Foundation Investigators Meeting in 2016.
ClinvestiGator is a Web-Based System for Data Collection

- The researcher defines the data, fields and forms that need to be included
- The ClinvestiGator team creates the web-based version of these forms as part of the database
- Data can be entered by diverse users including research staff and study participants
- Data from other sources can be imported into ClinvestiGator

ClinvestiGator Facilitates Study Coordination

- Investigators can easily manage the flow of the study protocol
- Study participants can be followed over time
- Study participant status at any point in time can be easily determined
- Time sensitive “To Do” list is maintained by the system
- Information can be easily communicated among members of the study team
- Staff workload and productivity can easily be tracked

ClinvestiGator is a Powerful Tool for Real-Time Reporting and Analysis

- Reports can identify populations or outcomes of interest
- Reports can be run in real time to analyze variables of interest
- Reports can be run to determine overall study status
- Reports can be run to export data

Experience – Customizability – Security – User Support

Experience
- Long history of research and extensive analytic and methodologic experience
- History of creating interfaces and working with multiple constituencies

Customizability
- Custom widgets
- Custom reports
- Custom dashboard
- Custom dynamic flow control
- Customize validation

Security
- HIPAA compliant
- Strong encryption
- Strong password rule
- Data recovery mechanism

Flexibility
- Ability to modify study in progress
- Data entry can be done by either staff or directly by subjects.

Dynamic system
- Real time capability
- Query capability
- Real time scheduling and communication with patients and rest of study team
- Data cleaning in real time

Feature List

- User access control
- Role level security
- Task level security
- Multi-site security
- All data entry fully auditable

Ease of use
- Predefined standard clinical form library
- Branching logic / dynamic forms
- Ability to share forms and data across studies and registries
- Automatic scoring of forms during data entry
- Online rapid design tools
- Field / form / patient level data validation
- Direct study participant based data entry capabilities.
- Track email response rate
- Remind users and study participants to enter data via scheduling algorithms
- Collect data from multiple predefined time points as well as event driven
- Reuse data collection forms for longitudinal data with optional normalization of data on output
- Dynamically adjust form control

Reporting
- Fully programmable report capability
- Real time reporting
- Automatic scheduled reporting
- Report library

Others
- Compatible with all browsers
- Support rich set of datatypes including files such as documents, audio, video, images.
- Complex / programmable flow control
- Import / export data to data analysis packages

Meet the Team

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Jim.Hollenberg@clinvestiGator.com

Martin Gerard
Martin.Gerard@clinvestiGator.com

Lew Perin
Lew.Perin@clinvestiGator.com

Clinical research study data is complex. No two studies have exactly the same needs. ClinvestiGator provides each investigator with a custom-tailored, secure and reliable data system. Launch your study with a data management system that works for you!

Clinical Research and Their Data

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#WeAreGIM
Curriculum

- **Foundations Series** – Interactive workshops to explicitly teach important clinical care skills
- **Collaborative Feedback Worksheet** – A structured tool to maximize the effectiveness of weekly feedback sessions
- **On the Fly Feedback** – Team structure of 1 attending and 1 PA with 1 student maximizes opportunities for specific actionable feedback, mentorship and coaching

### Results

This rotation hosted 2 students per month during July & Aug 2017. On average each student performed 10 new admissions and cared for 20 patients, with an average daily census of 3-4.

### Future Directions

- Expand Foundations Curriculum to all Medicine Sub-Internship sites
- Expand the use of the Feedback form to other clerkships
- Increasing the number of students who rotate on the LMH medicine sub-internship rotation
Introduction
Burnout is a pervasive problem amongst healthcare professionals. Instead of focusing on fixing individual problems which perpetuates negative emotion, our group used an appreciative inquiry (AI) approach to improve job satisfaction and professional development. A PA-Hospitalist Task Force was created to identify strengths in our PA’s and hospitalists, recognize potential opportunities for improvement, and harness the group’s assets to propose group-wide changes in best practices.

Objectives
This collaborative working group seeks to enhance the Hospital Medicine experience for Hospitalist & PAs at LMH by:
1. Developing strategies that can be employed to achieve shared goals
2. Fostering collaboration and creativity
3. Serving as a forum for constructive dialogue & development of ideas

Vision & Goals
What is our vision for improving the Hospital Medicine experience for Hospitalists & PAs?
Excellent patient care in an academic setting
- Improve hospitalist & PA job satisfaction & retention
  • Find meaning in our work
  • Feel motivated and inspired
- Improve hospitalist & PA professional development

Appreciative Inquiry 5D Cycle
1. Define Vision & Goals
Surveys & Focus Groups
Implementation in collaboration with hospitalist & PA leadership
- Focus groups & Subcommittees (develop change ideas & formalize guidelines for best practices)
2. Discover Appreciating the best of “what is”
Surveys & Focus Groups
3. Dream Imagining “what could be”
4. Design Determine “what should be”
5. Destiny Creating “what will be”

Future Directions
• Hold a series of focus groups to provide a forum for members to discuss existing strengths and formulate a set of group-wide “best practices.”
• Development of subcommittees to help enact change and track the impact of these changes on our goals.
• Dissemination of process and results to serve as a model for other institutions.

Survey Results
1. Without being humble, describe what you feel is your greatest strength in your job? How did you develop that skill? How could others learn from what you do to improve their practice?

2. Think of one peer PA and one peer hospitalist at LMH that you see as a role model. Describe a time when they felt their behavior was exemplary. How has this impacted your own practice or how could this impact your practice?

3. Describe the best relationship you’ve experienced between a PA and a hospitalist. What made this type of collaboration possible?

4. What 3 specific changes to the workflow would have the greatest impact on improving fulfillment, education, and professional development? (MD respondents = 17, PA respondents = 12)

Acknowledgements:
• Arthur Evans
• Vishwas Anand Singh
• Cecily Gallup
• Judy Tung
• Deanna Joa
• Phyllis Vitale

Funding Source: none
Conflicts of Interest: none

We Are GIM
https://appreciativeinquiry.champlain.edu
ED/IM/ICU Initiatives and Collaboration
Sarita Mahtani, MD and Meron Kiros, MD

Introduction

Transitioning patients efficiently and safely from the emergency department to the inpatient setting can be challenging. ED volumes are increasing, which are resulting in increased Medicine and ICU admissions.

To combat the increased pressures all departments feel, open communication and collaboration among specialties is necessary. In order to provide the highest level of care, and overcome conflicts between the groups, it is important for each group to know the pressures each department faces. This allows for solutions to be devised and improvements in care to occur.

Objective

- Increase work-flow productivity
- Safer care for patients with improved transitions of care
- Understand and clarify roles
- Address systems issues
- Improve communication across various departments
- Increase collegiality and satisfaction among providers

Program Details

ED, IM and ICU meet monthly to review cases brought up by each specialty

Based on discussions:

1. Individual providers receive feedback if needed
2. Systems issues that caused problem are identified and solutions sought
3. Discrepancies between specialties are addressed quicker than previously
4. Protocols and guidelines are implemented

Results from work-to-date:

Eliminating duplicate/inefficient work

- Medicine consults are now utilized in cases where ED has the opportunity to discharge the patient directly
  - Medicine can give recommendations without having to admit and subsequently discharge the patient (which can be a 2 hour unnecessary process)
- Admitting medicine attendings now triage own patients directly with ED attending
  - Previously, medicine triage hospitalist called ED for signout on every admission and would subsequently tell the admitting attending the case, creating duplicate work
- Encouraging Mobile Heartbeat utilization between ED and Medicine attendings
  - Mechanism for attendings to talk quickly to each other for signout. Previously all calls went through main ED line if no extension line was provided, creating delays in care

Clarifying Roles

- Ownership of patients during high risk times for adverse events (like signout times) defined
  - Even if patient accepted from ED to Medicine, ED attending will be responsible for patient until Medicine officially changes the Attending of Record in Allscripts
  - ED attendings will give brief signout to colleagues even on these “Admit Aware” patients
  - Prevents gap in care, especially around signout/high risk times for adverse outcomes until oncoming service can take over care safely

Improving triage guidelines for transparency among departments

- New Ortho admission guidelines created to clearly demarcate for ED how to triage Ortho patients
  - Done in collaboration with ED, Medicine, and Ortho services to clarify when patient will be admitted to Medicine vs Ortho
- Currently working on DKA guidelines
- Pulmonary assisting with guidelines for Iclot
  - To see which patients with a pulmonary embolus should be referred to Iclot. It has been unclear thus far when appropriate to consult

Collaboration with other specialty services

- GI now better equipped to come in during middle of night/weekends for emergent procedures
- Inviting specialists to meetings to share their input (Surgery, Ortho)

Acknowledgements:
- Judy Tung, MD
- Vishwas Anand Singh, MD
- Cecily Gallup, MD
- Anthony Dajer, MD
- Jeffrey Mayer, MD
- Robert Tanyouye, MD

#WeAreGIM
Introduction

Prescription opioids are at the center of the opioid epidemic as nearly half of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid(1). Part of the Health and Human Services initiative to address the epidemic involves improving opioid prescribing practices(2). Hospitalization is now known to contribute to opioid initiation in millions of adults each year(3,4), thus the in-patient setting has an important role in the opioid epidemic. Current pain management guidelines regarding opioid use can be used to support in-patient providers in improving opioid prescribing(5-10).

The focus of this project is to improve opioid prescribing practices during in-patient admission, specifically to decrease the use of IV high potency opioids as initial and exclusive pain treatment and to reduce overall opioid use in the hospital. We propose to do this through an opioid stewardship program comprised of education regarding hospital specific guidelines and best practices in pain management, PharmD stewardship rounds using a systematic ‘Time-out’, and patient education materials.

Research Question

Can the implementation of an opioid stewardship program comprised of education and support tools decrease inappropriate opioid prescribing in the hospital.

Program Details

The focus of this project is to improve opioid prescribing practices on a hospitalist service through an opioid stewardship program comprised of:

• Formulation of Best Practice opioid management guidelines for LMH using evidence based guidelines, pain management specialist, hospitalist, ED, and PharmD input.
• Education (monthly noon conferences, bi-weekly re-fresher huddles) and increased availability of clinical resources (pain cards, patient education hand-outs) promoting Best Practices in opioid management.
• Systemic ‘Time-outs’ with PharmD regarding opioid management at daily AM rounds.

Opportunities for Students & Residents

• Creation of patient and nursing education materials pertaining to opioids and pain management.
• Data collection.

References

5. MHA SUDPTTF Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids within Hospitals

Conflicts of Interest: None

Acknowledgements: Grace Shyh PharmD, Ajay Suman MD, Ara Lee MD, Deanna Jannat-Khah Dr PH
Cancer Health Disparities

Defining Health Disparities

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<td>Healthy People 2010: differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases, and other adverse health outcomes among specific population groups in the United States.</td>
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<td>Differences or gaps in care experienced by one population compared to another, within the scope of health care delivery. These disparities may be due to differences in access to care, provider biases, poor provider-patient communication, and other factors.</td>
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<td>Racial or ethnic differences in the quality of health care that are not due to access-related factors or clinical needs, preferences, and appropriateness of interventions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of cancer and related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States.</td>
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<td>Avoidable inequalities in health between groups of people within countries and between countries that arise from inequities in their living and working conditions.</td>
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Burden of Cancer

- **Worldwide Cancer Cases:** Projected to increase by 50% from 14 million to 21 million from 2012 to 2030.
- **Worldwide Cancer Deaths:** Projected to increase by 60% from 8 million to 13 million.

Examples of Cancer Health Disparities

- **Breast Cancer:** African American women are nearly twice as likely as white women to be diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer and are much more likely than white women to die from breast cancer.
- **Kidney Cancer:** The highest rates of kidney cancer cases and death in the United States occur among American Indians/Alaska Natives.
- **Liver Cancer:** Rates of liver cancer are higher among American Indians/Alaska Natives and Asian and Pacific Islanders than other racial/ethnic groups.
- **Prostate Cancer:** African American men are more than twice as likely as white men to die from prostate cancer.
- **Cervical Cancer:** Women in rural areas are twice as likely to die from cervical cancer as women in more urban areas.
- **Multiple Myeloma:** African Americans are twice as likely as whites to be diagnosed with and die from multiple myeloma.

Documented Risk Factors

- Genetic and Biological Factors
- Health Care Access
- Socioeconomic Factors
- Chemical and Physical Exposures
- Diet
- Physical Inactivity

Implications for Primary Care

- 16 million cancer survivors in the United States
- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among cancer survivors
- >70% of cancer patients have co-occurring chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension
- >30% of cancer survivors are obese, which increases risk of cancer recurrence and mortality

Opportunities for Collaboration

- Center for Health Equity
  - Community Engagement Core
  - Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center
- New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist
- New York Presbyterian Queens
- New York Department of Health
  - Breast Cancer Screening Initiative (2017-2020)
    - Ongoing at WCIMA
    - Patient navigation services
    - Increasing mammography uptake among vulnerable women in New York

GIM Faculty Working in This Area

- Laura Pinheiro, PhD, MPH
- Erica Phillips Caesar, MD, MS
Introduction

The Southeast is home to rural-dwelling African Americans who live in some of the poorest counties in the US.

The burden of chronic disease in these counties is enormous, while the availability of healthcare resources is scant.

Community members can overcome some of these resources constraints. We have conducted a series of trials engaging community members as change agents in the form of “peer coaches”. In our work, peer coaches themselves have a chronic medical condition that requires self-management. They receive training and work with clients over the phone to improve self-management practices, including taking medications, reporting side effects or cost issues, and self-monitoring.

In addition, many primary care practices in this region lack training in quality improvement. Practice facilitation is an intervention wherein trained individuals work with a practice to teach quality improvement and help the practice use its data to track progress.

Neither peer coaching, an inherently relationship-focused intervention, nor practice facilitation, a structural process improvement intervention, have been tested in the Black Belt region of the US Southeast.

Hypothesis

This trial tests the hypothesis that peer coaching or practice facilitation, or both, will improve blood pressure control more than enhanced usual care.

Program Details

Study design: 4-arm, randomized, controlled pragmatic trial.

We are engaging 80 primary care practices in rural Alabama and North Carolina.

At each practice, we are enrolling 25 African Americans with persistently uncontrolled hypertension (systolic BP >140 over the previous year plus BP >140/90 on enrollment day). We will eventually enroll 2000 participants.

Each practice is randomized to peer coaching, practice facilitation, both, or enhanced usual care.

Conceptual framework for the study

Enhanced usual care

All practices receive enhanced usual care: 25 BP monitors, a laptop computer, the Patient Activated Learning System as a patient education tool.

Peer coaching intervention

Weekly sessions for 8 weeks covering hypertension, medications, healthy eating, physical activity, stress, social support, and the doctor’s visit. Thereafter monthly contact with boosters if needed.

Practice facilitation intervention

Monthly in-person visits and between phone conferences to implement a QI activity in 4 key areas: clinical information systems, team management, standardized care processes, and self-management support.

Opportunities for Students and Residents

Community-based trial research assistant

Anthony Finch, WCM Class of 2019

Anthony traveled to Alabama to work as a research assistant with the AL-based Team. He traveled to the Black Belt and interacted with trial participants and community-based research team members.

Opportunities:

The trial will continue through mid-2022.

(1) Participate as a research team member

• Learn how large clinical trials are run

• Experience the unexpected twists and turns that characterize pragmatic trials and implementation science

• Screen prospective participants by phone.

• Conduct follow-up retention calls.

• Assist the team with preparation of materials for meetings.

• Attend team meetings and participate as a full member of the team.

(2) Design and carry out your own research project

• Student-led research projects in our past trials include:

  • Focus groups of patients to understand their perceptions of generic medications

  • A survey of trial participants to assess the prevalence of the beliefs that emerged from the focus groups

  • A survey of primary care physicians that assessed primary care physician knowledge of beliefs about generic medications

(3) Join an ongoing research project

• Perspectives of patients enrolled in the trial and their thoughts on working with a peer coach

• Characteristics of primary care practices in the Alabama and North Carolina Black Belt region

Conflicts of interest: None

Funding: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute and National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, Weill Cornell Medicine institutional funds
Health Policy Activities of a General Internist
Oliver Fein, M.D. | January 19, 2018

Introduction

Dr. Oliver Fein is Professor of Clinical Medicine and Professor of Clinical Healthcare Policy and Research, and Associate Dean for Affiliations at the Weill Cornell Medical College. He is a practicing general internist with experience in health policy and a commitment to access to care for vulnerable populations, health system reform and domestic and global health policy education. He has engaged health policy at the following venues.

Weill Cornell Medical College
- Undergraduate medical education: lectures on the social responsibility of the Academic Health Center.
- Co-Director of the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium: a weekly forum for the presentation of a wide variety of contemporary health policy issues, where students, faculty, other health professionals and administrators can exchange points of view.
- Faculty advisor to student groups interested in health policy, e.g. SNaHP (Students for a National Health Program); WCCHR (Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights).

Program Details

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
- Organizer of a course for all first year internal medicine residents entitled: Perspectives on the Changing Health Care System.

Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM)
- Member of the Health Policy Committee, clinical practice sub-committee
- Coordinator of the Social Responsibility Interest Group
- Organizer of a Symposium for the 2018 Annual SGIM meeting entitled: “Access for All requires a Single-Payer National Health Plan.”
- Member of selection committee: David Calkins Award in Health Policy Advocacy.

Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)
- Chair of the Board of the NY-Metro Chapter of PNHP
- Member of the national executive committee of PNHP
- Representative of PNHP to the Board of Healthcare-NOW.

American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Member and past chair of the Medical Care Section
- Member of the editorial board of the journal: Medical Care
- Founder of the Public Health Congressional Fellows Program

Opportunities for Students & Residents

- Advisory Board Member of the Rogers Colloquium
- PNHP-NY Metro Chapter and Weill Cornell Student Chapter

For more information contact:
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Fax: (212) 746-8156
E-mail: ofein@med.cornell.edu
Concept for Proposed Medical Student Elective: Exploring Health Disparities at an Urban Community Hospital

Background

- Increasingly, the importance of health equity is gaining awareness throughout every level of the healthcare system.
- As Hospitalists, we bare witness to the most severe downstream effects of health disparities in our community.
- Serving our patients involves taking a close look at the root cause of disease and health disparities long before a patient enters the hospital.

Concept

- As Hospitalist, we witness first hand large disparities in health outcomes for many marginalized and excluded populations
- Students add significant value to the clinical team as they explore various aspects of the patient experience both in and out of the hospital setting.
- Team will connect specific patient experiences to relevant evidence in health disparities research and explore active community programs.

Educational Goals

- Increase opportunities for Medical Students to explore Health disparities
- Support Hospitalist engagement in exploring and respecting social determinants of health
- Building connections between inpatient LMH teams and community organizations

Student Roles

- Perform in-depth interviews of identified high risk inpatients using the biopsychosocial model
- Deliver information obtained to the Hospitalist team caring for team
- Work with an interdisciplinary team to explore root cause of health events
- Attend various affiliated outpatient programs relevant to your patients
- Delivery community health lectures on high yield topics, working with LMH Community Affairs department
- Engage in Didactic sessions and discussions, lead by multiple dedicated general medicine Attendings, and guest lecturers
- Deliver an evidence-based talk on a topic of health disparities, based on a patient encountered during the rotation with review of current medical literature.
- Explore continued interest with Faculty mentorship for community health projects and research

Figure 1: Model for Clinical Engagement of Students

Challenges in our work include identifying patterns in barriers to care & wellness. We aim to engage in preventative strategies within the communities we serve.

Figure 2: Intersection of Populations in New York City

Key References

For more information or interest in collaboration contact: Amanda Ramsdell at akr7003@med.cornell.edu

Amanda Ramsdell, Assistant Professor Clinical Medicine
Cecily Gallup and Vishwas Singh, LMH Hospital Medicine
Judy Tung, Chair of Medicine, LMH


Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Residency
Primary Care Program

Program Objectives

1. To train the primary care leaders of tomorrow.
2. To allow our residents to develop expertise within the scope of academic general internal medicine, including clinical practice, care delivery, clinical research, medical education, quality improvement, medical ethics, public health, and health policy.
3. To poise graduates of the program for careers as general internists, clinician-educators, clinician-investigators, and patient advocates.

Program Overview

• 36-month residency providing a focused ambulatory medicine curriculum in addition to intensive inpatient training
• Six-month expanded ambulatory exposure in the PGY2 and PGY3 year
• Comprehensive outpatient subspecialty curriculum consisting of site-visits, procedures, lectures, readings, pre/post-tests, group reviews
• Second continuity-clinic experience during PGY2 and PGY3 year in a clinical area personalized to each resident
• Urban, rural, and international experience
• Longitudinal structured scholarly project
• Wide range of one-on-one mentorship
• Funded travel to academic general medicine conferences
• Evidence based medicine conferences
• Senior leadership and teaching experience as an Assistant Chief Resident

Subspecialty Clinical Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardiopulmonary</th>
<th>Psychiatry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Health</td>
<td>Dermatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scholarly Pursuit

Dedicated research methodologies course
One-on-one research mentorship
Group Research-in-Progress meetings
Research support from clinical librarians
Funding to present at national conferences

Assistant Chief Residency

PGY3 rotation mirrors the responsibilities of junior academic faculty and teaches trainees about managing an outpatient practice, clinical administration, teaching, and leadership skills

Our Graduates

Clinician educator
IT Innovations
Policy
Geriatrics
QI Chief resident
Faculty practice
Rheumatology
Weight management
GIM fellow
Global health
Public health
Hospitalist
PC Chief resident
Residency leadership
Adolescent medicine
Endocrine

Program Leadership

Dr. Lee Shearer, Program Director
Dr. Helene Strauss, Associate Program Director

Learn More

Applications are accepted through the NRMP. To learn more about the program or how to apply, please visit:
https://medicine.weill.cornell.edu/residency/our-programs/primary-care-track
GIM in the field
Serving Puerto Ricans after the devastation of Hurricane Maria
Arnab Ghosh, MD MA, Nancy Pagan PA-C, Susana Morales MD

Background

- On September 20th, 2017, Category 4 Hurricane Maria swept across the island of Puerto Rico, making landfall near Humacao heading in a northwesterly direction
- The devastation wrought to the island was significant in the weeks after the hurricane
  - 100% blackout from failure of the electrical grid
  - Minimal potable water due to heavy rains and contamination
  - Limited transportation access around island from flooding
  - Major hospital centers in metropolitan areas operated without food, electricity and limited supplies of medication

Mission

- A group of WCMC, CUMC and NYP health professionals gathered under the auspices of the Great New York Hospitals Association to provide assistance as members of the National Disaster Medical Service (NDMS) and DMAT teams
- On October 24th, 13 team members (consisting of internal medicine and emergency medicine professionals) arrived in the northern city of Manati
- Working in collaboration with the VA and federal responders, we delivered healthcare to ambulatory patients and inpatients within Federal Medical Shelter created within a basketball stadium
  - Teams saw up to 200 – 220 patients per day (24 hours per day care provided)
  - Inpatients were housed within a 150 bed hospital
- Our team focused on two patient populations
  - Emergency care to individuals of Manati
  - Elderly and disabled patients whose homes were destroyed, and nursing home patients with electricity requirements (e.g., ventilators, oxygen concentrators, CPAP machines)

Challenges faced working in a disaster setting

- Ongoing power outages affecting ventilators and oxygen concentrators
- Limited oxygen supplies for oxygen-dependent patients
- Limited potable water for patients and staff
- Potential for contagious outbreaks within the shelter (e.g., conjunctivitis, influenza, scabies)
- Diagnosis and management of uncommon conditions without lab or radiological support (e.g., leptospirosis)
- Limited drug supplies, and threat of running out of necessary medications

Key statistics about Puerto Rico (before hurricane)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Puerto Rico</th>
<th>Rest of US (incl. DC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (M)</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>317.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives below FPL (%)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (USD, K)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer sponsored insurance (%)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid insured (%)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with disability (%)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult diabetes prevalence (%)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult heart disease prevalence (%)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reporting on Puerto Rico in the news

- Reputable news sources report the death toll from the hurricane could exceed 1000 lives, an almost 20 x increase compared to the official toll
- Our team’s experience in Manati supports this

References
1 Puerto Rico Fast Facts, Accessed 1/5/2018
   (www.kff.org/disparities-policy/fact-sheet/puerto-rico-fast-facts)
2 ‘Official Toll in Puerto Rico: 64, Actual Deaths May be 1052’ NYTimes Dec 8th 2017

Funding Source: None
Conflicts of Interest: None
Acknowledgements: NYP, WCMC