Highlights from the Department

Department of Medicine in the News

New Faculty

Kudos, Promotions, and New Grants

Recent Discoveries
The Department of Medicine Executive Committee recently held a strategic planning retreat on June 16 to discuss opportunities related to education, faculty development, clinical quality, research, and administration. The Committee, which consists of our Division Directors, Vice Chairs, administrative leaders, and Center and Institute Directors within the Department, meets monthly but convenes for strategic planning once every 18 months to two years.

On the education front, the residency and fellowship programs recently completed self-assessments in anticipation of an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) site visit (see Internal Medicine Residency Program). These assessments were instrumental in identifying common themes among program aims, as well as opportunities for growth and potential threats to program success. A priority for the coming year will be to increase exposure of our residents to potential mentors earlier during their training. We discussed strategies to provide tools and input to faculty to strengthen bedside and ambulatory teaching skills. The committee also discussed a number of innovations to the Harrison Society (the physician-scientist training program) that focus on developing opportunities for late-comers to research to join the program and increasing the diversity of program participants.

Faculty development continues to be a priority for the Department, and the Committee identified several areas for enrichment, particularly developing peer mentorship opportunities, providing information to faculty about accessing resources unique to academic life, and continuing to enhance diversity among the faculty (see Nielson Society and Schaffner Society). There was general agreement that we need to communicate more effectively about the successes of our faculty in achieving promotion and the resources available to basic scientists in the department, to cite just two examples. The Mid-Career Leadership program has been a resounding success, and we will be soliciting nominations for
the next year soon. The introduction of new faculty in the department was viewed as a success, but the Committee looks to develop more events to welcome new faculty.

With regard to clinical quality, the committee weighed various strategies to reduce fragmentation of patient care and address diagnostic error. Look forward to participating in discussion of the role of the Lead Clinician, for patients who do not have a primary care provider at Vanderbilt or for whom a subspecialist provides most of their care. Our faculty in primary care have led the development of quality dashboards for clinicians, and we will work to make these accessible in the coming year. We will also work to share best practices to improve patient access that have been developed in cardiology and oncology.

Several research initiatives were also outlined by the Committee, including convening a research council to hone strategic planning and coordinate recruiting across divisions and in partnership with other departments, developing a coordinating center and resources for investigator-initiated multi-center clinical trials, increasing bidirectional communication in all research infrastructure areas, and developing a strategic plan for international research within the Department of Medicine (see Research News). The Committee also discussed the need to identify administrative obstacles or institutional processes that need improvement. By identifying key priorities and developing strategies to address issues as they arise, the Executive Committee continues to foster growth and accelerate progress in the Department of Medicine.

Lastly, we will continue to search for better ways to communicate in real time. Today, we rely on members of the Department to visit the web page to read about leadership development opportunities, faculty and trainee accomplishments, and incoming faculty and house staff. We will be experimenting more with social media and other messaging strategies in the coming year.
In the News

**NOTCH1 role in heart development**

**VU scientists report a way to calm the “sepsis” storm**

**Chair of Medicine shares good news - and a story**

**New diabetes technology clinic informs patients about innovations**

**Study reveals role for stem cells in chronic lung diseases**

**Blood type link to cancer survival**

**RSV-HRV viral interference**

**EETs contribute to insulin sensitivity**

**Scientists create unique disease “catalog” linked to immune system gene variations**

**New test rapidly identifies cause of blood infections**
In the News

Lovly elected to American Society for Clinical Investigation

Therapeutic targets for diabetes

Hudson to receive Protein Society’s Brändén Award

Study examines new breast cancer drug combination

Ancient sea creature unlocks a mystery of how tissue developed

Clue to pulmonary hypertension

Other News Items

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https://medicine.mc.vanderbilt.edu