



Boston
Children's
Hospital

Until every child is well™

GME ON-CALL

Volume 5, Issue 4 Spring 2014

Message From the Co-Chairs Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, Debra Boyer, MD

We continue to host exciting events and make tremendous progress in graduate medical education at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH). Medical educators are busy at work developing the new scorecards describing in detail how they measure the progress of trainees in their acquisition of the requisite



knowledge, skills, and professionalism necessary for independent surgical and medical practice. These new metrics for trainee evaluation are termed the 'milestones'. These milestones have been developed by national specialty groups and are embedded within the six ACGME competencies.

A new team of faculty, termed 'Clinical Competency Committee (CCC)', has been formed for every BCH training program. Each CCC will review on a semi-annual basis every trainee's progress in that program, using the milestones as one measure within the trainee's portfolio of cumulative data. The CCC will advise the training program director on summative and formative measures of each trainee's progress for use in his or her counseling of them effectively in addressing their short-term learning goals. The reporting of achievement of training milestones by individual residents and fellows to the ACGME will commence starting in November of 2014.

Comings & Goings:

We want to congratulate **Dr. Helen Christou** on her recent appointment as program director for the Neonatal Perinatal Medicine fellowship and thank outgoing program director **Dr. John Zupancic** for all of his hard work.

We also want to congratulate **Dr. Meredith van der Velden** on her recent appointment as program director for the Pediatric Critical Care fellowship and thank outgoing program director **Dr. Jeff Burns** for all of his important contributions to the success of the training program.

One fellowship coordinator has left the hospital to pursue other opportunities; thank you to **Ms. Carol Santilli** from Pediatric Endocrinology for her contributions.

We would like to welcome **Ms. Mary Beth Sweeney**, fellowship coordinator for Pain Medicine.

We would like to welcome **Ms. Sophia Tber**, coordinator for affiliating house staff in the Department of Anesthesiology.

We would like to welcome **Ms. Irene Nakabonge-Lugude**, fellowship coordinator for Pediatric Endocrinology.

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Message from Co-Chairs continued

In conjunction with the Boston Combined Residency Program (BCRP), the GME Office again sponsored the core curriculum “Strategies for Academic Success (SAS)” during the 2013-14 academic year. This outstanding and innovative hospital-wide trainee development program includes four sessions each academic year and covers curricular content in the areas of leadership and teaching skills, the pursuit of a ‘professional development plan’, and quality improvement research. Drs. Jennifer Kesselheim, our GME educator and Debra Boyer, the GME Committee Co-Chair, have been working closely with Dr. Ted Sectish of the BCRP and Dr. Cynthia Stein, Associate Program Director of Primary Sports Medicine to develop the offerings at this retreat. Congratulations to them and SAS graduates in this creative approach to satisfying some of the learning needs of our fellows.

The Office for GME, in partnership with the Program in Patient Safety & Quality (PPSQ) at Children’s Hospital, has continued to define a reformulated and jointly-administered Education Committee. The committee, ably led by Dr. Jennifer Kesselheim of the GME office, has begun to pursue goals and objectives on teaching aspects of improving the health care and the safety of patients. It has already issued research awards to trainees who have proposed new research endeavors to improve patient care and safety at Children’s Hospital. Read about details of these trainee research awards elsewhere in this edition of *GME On-Call*.

We are also very pleased to announce that Dr. Mari Nakamura will assume the position as the new Chair of the Joint PPSQ/GME Education Committee on July 1st, as Dr. Kesselheim steps down to pursue other duties. We are so grateful to Jennifer for leading this group to its many accomplishments over the past three years. And our congratulations go to Mari on her new administrative responsibilities in GME.

The **next meeting of the GMEC** will be held on Monday, **June 9th** from **5-6 pm** in the **Gamble Room** in the house-staff library. All training program directors, associate directors, coordinators, and resident/fellow representatives are invited to attend. There will be an **orientation for all new clinical fellows** in the Third Floor Rotunda at the Conference Center at Harvard Medical School on Avenue Louis Pasteur on **July 1st** from **8am to 3pm**.

Finally we want to extend our congratulations to all of our residents and fellows who are completing their training at Boston Children’s Hospital in June. Some of you are staying at the hospital to pursue further training; some of you are leaving to go elsewhere. But all of you deserve our thanks and praise for a job well done. You have achieved a pivotal accomplishment in your professional careers as physicians and are now ready to take on the complex and challenging health care needs of children anywhere and everywhere. We salute your tenacity, your courage and integrity, and your determination to succeed!

By the Numbers

NRMP

The AAMC
Estimates
that there
will be a

Shortage
of

45,000
PCPs

and

46,000
Specialists

by

2020

GME ON-Call

By the Numbers

NRMP

20,602

PGY-1 residents placed in the 2002 Main Match

That number increased by

28 %

In 2013 to

26,392

The number of graduating seniors also increased by

16%

President of ABP Emphasizes Value of Learning Environment in Grand Rounds Presentation

Dr. David Nichols, present and CEO of the American Board of Pediatrics, presented Grand Rounds on April 30th during the celebration of GME day at Boston Children’s Hospital. In his lecture, Dr. Nichols described the rationale for a certifying professional pediatrics board: assurance to the public that the physicians caring for their children are well-trained, well-prepared, and highly effective practitioners. He observed that highly competent trainees in pediatrics can only come from highly competent learning environments, ones that focus on patient outcomes and safety. He previewed for the audience some features of the promising future of certification in pediatrics, with a focus on ‘continuous certification’ and outcomes improvement, rather than simply taking a knowledge test once every 10 years. Dr. Nichols believes that trainees learn in the clinical environment by a complex interplay between ‘vivid effects’, ‘spacing effects’, and ‘stress effects’. He challenged the audience to consider new methods of training that emphasize inter-disciplinary teams working together towards improved patient outcomes.



Dr. David Nichols, President of the American Board of Pediatrics, presenting at Grand Rounds April 30th– The Future of Board Certification

Participants of the Interactive Morning Seminar at GME Day, April 30th. Issues discussed were QI in the hospital setting, MOC, and issues surrounding certification



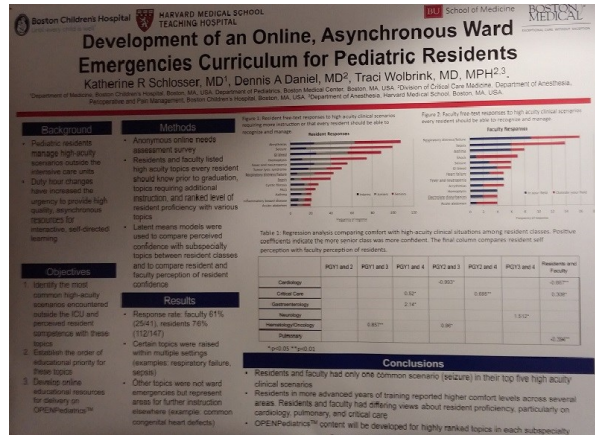
GME ON-Call

GME Day, April 30th, 2014 Continued



Abstracts submitted and presented pertaining to Graduate Medical Education in Enders Plaza on GME Day

Detail of Submitted Abstract



Dr. William Branch Urges More Humanism in House-Staff Curriculum

Dr. William T. Branch, Jr., the Carter Smith, Sr. Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, delivered Grand Rounds at Boston Children's Hospital on March 19, 2014. Dr. Branch's talk was sponsored by the Institute for Professionalism and Ethical Practices and co-sponsored by the Office of Graduate Medical Education at BCH. Dr. Branch founded the Primary Care Residency at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in 1974. As a key leader of the New Pathway project at Harvard Medical School, he served as Coordinator of the required first year Patient Doctor Course in 1988 and Director of the required third year Patient Doctor Course from 1989 to 1995. After accepting a position at the Emory University School of Medicine in 1995, he became Director of the Division of Internal General Medicine. His special expertise is humanism in medicine, professionalism, medical interviewing, medical ethics, and topics related to the patient-doctor relationship.

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By the Numbers

ECFMG

9,642

ECFMG Certified Physicians in 2012

600

Medical Schools verified the status of their students and graduates through EMSWP in 2012

The schools represent

61%

Of the students that ECFMG registered for USLME in 2012

GME ON-Call

By the Numbers

ECFMG

Between

1988-2007

165,790

International
Medical
Students &
Graduates have
achieved
ECFMG
certification

Of International
Medical School
Graduates in 2012

56% were

Men

and

44% were

Women

Branch Grand Rounds, Continued

In his Grand Rounds lecture: *"The Road to Professionalism: A Life-Long Journey"*, Dr. Branch emphasized the intentional training of medical students and house-staff in the fundamental skills of humanistic health care, using case-based, role-playing, and small group methods. He cited core values such as empathy, compassion, respect, altruism, caring, integrity, honesty, justice, and a patient-centered approach to care. Dr. Branch pointed out the "informal curriculum": everyday, informal interactions between health care providers that convey strong messages to students and residents in a 'hidden curriculum', causing them to revert to a conventional morality. A deliberate, humanistic approach to patient care, modeled at all levels in the hospital environment, can lead to a broad cultural change that overcomes such a hidden curriculum. A longitudinal, small-group forum facilitates resident training in humanistic concepts. The use of regular (bi-weekly or monthly) discussions, narratives and the notation of 'sentinel' or 'critical' incident reporting leads to deep reflection and transformative learning and a sustained change in how the trainee practices medicine.



Dr. Branch expanded on his inspirational talk and answered questions at a luncheon attended by house-staff and faculty following his grand rounds presentation.

New Education Planning Taskforce Assembled

A new task force has been launched this Spring by Dr. Kevin Churchwell, Chief Operating Officer at BCH. The charge to the task force is to: *conduct a thorough review of the undergraduate, residency, clinical fellowship and CME programs; and develop recommendations to advance new ideas and approaches, find new synergies among existing programs, and promote innovation in medical education.* The group will develop a strategic plan that spans the teaching hospital's efforts to promote education across the spectrum of life-long learning.

Drs. Ted Sectish and Alan Woolf of the Department of Medicine chair the group, which includes educators in UGE, GME, and CME in medicine, surgery, critical care, cardiology, nursing, and other disciplines. Ms. Susan Friedman, an external consultant to the Hospital, is assisting in the organization of this effort.

Two nationally acclaimed medical educators -- Dr. Tom DeWitt from Cincinnati Children's Medical Center and Dr. Stephen Ludwig from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia -- will be acting as advisors to the project and making a site visit on July 28th. The task force has created four subcommittees: Faculty Development, the Clinical Learning Environment, Technology and Innovation, and Governance. An all-day retreat of the task force is planned for September, and the final report will be issued by the end of the year.

GME ON-Call

GME Spotlight– Dr. Rizwana Popatia

Katherine Evitts

Adversity and challenge are not strangers in Dr. Rizwana Popatia's world, but they have done little to wane her ambition, faith, and fulgent sense of humor. It was both an honor and a pleasure to get to sit with Dr. Popatia, who has a knack for putting people at ease with a ready smile. Dr. Popatia is a third-year fellow within the Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, headed by Dr. Debra Boyer.

Dr. Popatia grew up in Jamnagar, Gujarat-India. Jamnagar is a small city rivaling the size of Omaha, Nebraska and is nestled on the coast of the Gulf of Kutch. In India, students enroll in medical school directly following secondary school, and Dr. Popatia was no exception. She began medical school at the age of 17 and was an attending physician in India by the time most of her American counterparts were only applying to medical school. In 2009, she came to Brooklyn, NY to do an American residency at SUNY Downstate.

What was it like coming from a small city in India to one of the largest cities in the world?

Culturally, it was very different. I got to see the world from a different perspective, honestly. My worldview was very narrow when I first came to the U.S. So, it was a good thing that I wound up in New York- it's very diverse, so you don't feel alone. Living in Jersey City and needing to be at Downstate by 7:00 am, I'd have to be ready and on the train at 5:30- and get up at 4:45. But the best part is that when you go on the train, and you see that it's full, you know that other people are struggling, as well- you're not the only one.



Can you tell me more about your time at SUNY Downstate?

I came [to New York] on the 17th of August 2008 and finished all of my steps (US Medical Licensing Exams) within four months- it typically takes a couple of years, at least, to finish your steps. I applied to around thirty hospitals around New York and New Jersey although it was late in the game as they say it because interview process was already over at most of those places, except SUNY Downstate [Dr. Popatia laughs, still astonished at the kismet of the situation] And, because I had already finished my residency in India, I was advanced based on my performance and I was able to complete my residency in two years.

Residency in India is really different from residency in the U.S. In India, we neither have duty-hours regulations nor do we have a concept of a weekend or holidays. You work every single day as a resident and each shift generally lasts 36-40 hours. It's [also] more of a hierarchal system. You have to respect your seniors- you can't just talk to them face-to-face or question their decisions. The duty-hours regulation in the U.S. was a pleasant change. Honestly, I wouldn't have the courage to do a second residency if there were no duty-hours regulations and relatively it felt like a walk in the park.

And then you came to BCH for your fellowship in Pulmonology. Why Pulmonology? As a resident [in India], you generally take care of a lot of subspecialty cases- such as managing patients with diabetes ketoacidosis, status asthmaticus, renal failure and so on. I got interested in Pulmonology because we had a large patient population with wheezing and asthma, complicated pneumonias and tuberculosis. I used to be an integral part of the asthma clinic and helped in establishing protocols in management and follow-up of asthma patients. I did three research projects in asthma and was awarded gold medals for two of them for best scientific paper presentation by Indian Academy of Pediatrics. When I came to the U.S., I was looking for a subspecialty that involves both inpatient/outpatient care, broad age group - from neonates to adolescent population and do procedures as well. So in a way, pediatric pulmonology chose me rather than the other way around.

By the Numbers

ECFMG

Citizenship of International Medical Graduates in Active Practice in the United States as of 2012

42,412

India

38,772

US

11,405

Pakistan

4,955

China

4,712

Russia

GME ON-Call

By the Numbers

AAMC—Women
in US Academic
Medicine and
Science: Statis-
tics & Bench-
marking Report
2012

The
percentage of
women in
residency
programs has
increased
from

36% in 2002
to

46% in 2012

7%

The increase in
female
instructors since
2002

22% of

Division Chiefs
are women

GME Spotlight- Rizwana Popatia

Why BCH?

I got married on 08/08/08 and immigrated to the US. I needed sponsorship for obtaining a work visa, which is very difficult as there are very few institutions that support the process. I was fortunate to find a position at the residency program in SUNY Downstate despite being late for interviews and the recruitment process.

When I was offered the fellowship at BCH, I was very thrilled on one hand but I was not prepared to leave my husband and New York; my husband still lives in New York. I still remember his words that helped me make my decision; "To get something you have to give something. You've come a long way from small town. People generally don't get this type of opportunity often and when it comes your way - you should grab it with both hands. I can tell our kids one day that their mom studied at such a good institution, and if she can do it so can you."

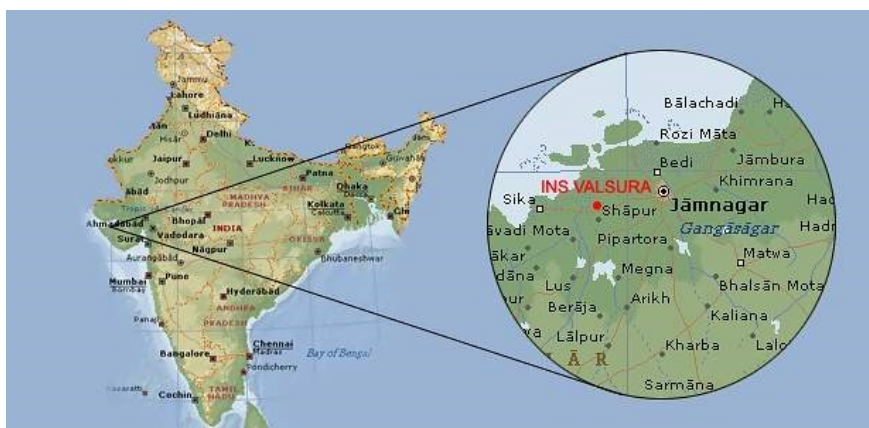
Dr. Popatia is also prolifically published with 8 scholarly journal articles in the U.S. on her resume, as well as 17 gold medals in India.

I enjoyed the opportunity to present research papers in India (fortunately, those opportunities came quite often my way) at the national conferences of Indian Academy of Pediatrics, which is equivalent of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I was awarded 17 gold medals in my medical career for academic excellence and best research paper presentations.

I never stepped into a basic science laboratory until I came to BCH and was curious to get that experience. Currently, I'm working now on a molecular biology project on complement receptor and inflammation and it has been a fascinating experience so far. I'm also working on some other retrospective clinical projects. The most exciting experience for me was [conducting] my first oral presentation at a conference in the U.S (CHEST conference in Atlanta). It was a special experience for me.

What's been the big motivating force of your career?

There are a lot of people, who deserve credit for my success, but I sincerely believe that the unconditional support and love of my mother and husband have been invaluable; they serve as a big support system for me. One open secret of my family- my parents aren't educated and in a way I am living their dream. My husband has inspired and empowered me at every step, and has stood by me like a rock. My in-laws as well have been very supportive throughout and encouraged me to excel.



GME ON-Call

I know that it's an ongoing topic that is brought up by many fellows, and you may be the ideal person to speak to it, as a mother and very successful and well-respected physician- how do you manage your time and bring balance into your life?

It's tough to be a new mother, fulfill your fellowship demands and attend to daily life (with husband in a different city). It sounds cliché but working on priorities has never been more important. However, I have to admit that motherhood is the best accomplishment of my life - it has made me more compassionate, patient and focused. I have always believed that if there is a will, there is a way. When I look back at when I was growing up, the situations through which my mother raised me were much more difficult. To summarize, it's difficult but, you need to trust yourself and you need to kind of go and face the music - and believe that things will fall into place somehow - if you are sincere and have good intentions.

I do need to mention Deb Boyer here; she has been nothing less than a beacon of light that has always been there when I needed her. I truly think of her as my family and frankly her leadership and compassion has reverberated to the division feeling like a big family. I would have not accomplished what I have without her support and am sincerely obliged for the invaluable life lessons she has imparted to me.

Dr. Popatia will be graduating in June from BCH and returning to New York to rejoin her husband and begin work at New York Presbyterian Hospital on the Cornell Campus. She will continue to combat asthma and other respiratory disorders. She will continue on in her education, as well, in pursuing another fellowship and Masters Degree in outcome-based research in asthma.

Upcoming Events

**July 1
Orientation**

8 AM

To

3:00 PM

at the
Joseph B.
Martin
Conference
Center at
Harvard
Medical
School

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