Division of General Medicine
Department of Medicine
Annual Report, July 2000 - June 2001

The Division of General Medicine recently concluded another highly successful academic year. This report summarizes our activities and achievements in research, teaching, and patient care during 2000-2001.

Division Faculty

New Faculty: The Division welcomed 3 new faculty members this year:

K. Leigh Watson-Ramirez, M.D., formerly chair of general internal medicine at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, joined the Division as an Assistant Professor. An honors graduate of the University of South Carolina, she was elected to AOA at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her residency there. Her eight years in the Air Force included service as Associate Program Director for the internal medicine residency at Wilford Hall. Dr. Watson-Ramirez devotes much of her effort to the new internal medicine residency program at Valley Baptist Hospital in Harlingen, and teaches in resident and student clinics at the University Health Center-Downtown.

David F. Montemayor, M.D., Assistant Professor, joined us from a private internal medicine practice in Garland, Texas. A San Antonio native, he graduated with honors from St. Mary’s University and attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. After completing his residency at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, he practiced general internal medicine for 17 years in San Antonio and Garland. Dr. Montemayor provides care to patients seen in the Acute Care Clinic at the University Health Center-Downtown, and teaches in the General Medicine Clinic.

Pamela E. Horner, M.D., Assistant Professor, moved from a faculty hospitalist position at University Hospital to join our practice at The Diagnostic Pavilion. She is a graduate of both our medical school and our residency program in internal medicine. Prior to returning to our faculty, she practiced as a hospitalist in Corpus Christi.

Continuing Faculty:

Andrew K. Diehl, M.D., M.Sc., O. Roger Hollan Professor and Chief, Division of General Medicine.

Cynthia D. Mulrow, M.D., M.Sc., Professor; Director, San Antonio VA Cochrane Center and the San Antonio Evidence-based Practice Center.

Henry S. Perkins, M.D., Professor; Interim Director, Center for Ethics and the Humanities in Health Care.

Jacqueline A. Pugh, M.D., Professor; Director, Veterans Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation Center (VERDICT).
Valerie A. Lawrence, M.D., M.Sc., Associate Professor; Director of the Medical Consultation Service.

John W. Williams, Jr., M.D., M.H.Sc., Associate Professor, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Kristy Y. Kosub, M.D., Associate Professor; Director of Medical Student Education, Department of Medicine.

Robert G. Badgett, M.D., Associate Professor; Director of Office Medicine elective rotation for residents; Director of Medical Informatics, Department of Medicine.

Debra K. Hunt, M.D., M.S.P.H., Associate Professor; Residency Program Director; Director, Adolescent Medicine rotation for residents.

Mary E. O'Keefe, M.D., Associate Professor; Head, Section of General Medicine, Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital; Associate Residency Program Director; Director, Primary Care Block rotation for interns.

Patricia I. Wathen, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor; Director, General Medicine Clinic, University Health Center-Downtown, and Director, Women's Health elective for residents.

Hasi M. Venkatachalam, M.B.,B.S., M.P.H., Associate Professor; co-appointment with Student Health Service, UTSA.

Mark C. Henderson, M.D., Associate Professor; Internal Medicine Residency Program Director (to August 2000).

W. Scott Richardson, M.D., Associate Professor, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Barbara M. Fishman, M.D., Assistant Professor; University Hospital Emergency Center.

Timothy O. Jones, M.D., Assistant Professor; Coordinator for general internal medicine, The Diagnostic Pavilion.

C. Jeffrey Griffin, M.D., Assistant Professor, Director of Internal Medicine Clinic, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Jane E. O'Rorke, M.D., Assistant Professor, University Health Center-Downtown.

Michelle V. Conde, M.D., Assistant Professor, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Edward J. Lefeber, Jr., Assistant Professor, The Diagnostic Pavilion.

José M Benavides, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, Internal Medicine Group, University Health Center-Downtown.
Annie Chacko, M.B.,B.S., Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine Group, University Health Center-Downtown.

Sabrina D. Harris, M.D., Assistant Professor, University Family Health Center-Southwest.

Chieko M. Oi, M.D., Assistant Professor; Medical Director, Internal Medicine Group, University Health Center-Downtown.

Deborah L. Cardell, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, University Family Health Center-Basse.

Nancy J. Sugarek, R.N., A.N.P., M.S.N., Clinical Nurse Specialist; Assistant Professor, School of Nursing.

**Honors**

Dr. Wathen was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, and Dr. Cardell to Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Wathen was the recipient of the Southern Society of General Internal Medicine’s 2001 Clinical Educator Award, winning out over nominees from other medical schools. She was honored at S-SGIM’s annual meeting in New Orleans. She also received the Division of General Medicine Outstanding Teacher Award for the sixth consecutive year.

Drs. O'rorke and Cardell were recipients of the Division's Outstanding Teacher Award as well.

Dr. Kosub was honored by our graduating medical students with the Outstanding Faculty Award for the sixth consecutive year.

Dr. O’Rorke was selected for the two-year Faculty Development Fellowship Program in General Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Diehl was appointed as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners. In addition, he was named Chair of the Step 3 Test Material Development Committee for Family in Community of the US Medical Licensing Examination.

Dr. Mulrow was named Program Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program. She also assumed a new position as Deputy Editor of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Drs. Perkins, Hunt, and Watson-Ramirez were elected Fellows of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine.
Regional and National Responsibilities

Dr. Mulrow continued as a member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a 15-person panel convened by AHCPR to update the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services. She remained on the editorial boards of BMJ, ACP Journal Club, The American Journal of Medicine, and Primary Care Case Reviews. She serves as a senior editor of the 4th edition of Noble's Textbook of Primary Care Medicine. She is a member of the editorial board for electronic and print versions of Clinical Evidence, a compendium of the best available evidence for effective health care. She serves on the SGIM Communications Committee, and co-chairs the Peer Review cluster for primary care content of UpToDate.

Dr. Mulrow additionally serves on the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Improving Chronic Illness Care program. She is an ad hoc grant reviewer for the foundation’s chronic disease care grants. During the year she was named to the Subcommittee on Health Outcomes of the Uninsured, Institute of Medicine, and was a special consultant to the Subcommittee on Quality Improvement, JCAHO. She served as an ad hoc member of the Advisory Board for the Veterans’ Aging Cohort Study, a longitudinal outcomes study of HIV seropositive aging patients.

Dr. Perkins remained on the editorial boards of Chest and Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics. He served on the abstract selection committee for Southern SGIM, and moderated a session at the annual meeting in New Orleans. He chaired the Research Affinity Group of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, and was on the 2001 meeting planning committee for the Texas Bioethics Consortium.

Dr. Lawrence continued on the editorial boards of ACP Journal Club and The Journal of Clinical Epidemiology. She served as a special scientific advisor to the VA’s National Clinical Care Policy Board. In addition, she is a member of the Technology Recommendations Panel and a consultant to the Technology Assessment Panel of the Management Decision and Research Center of the VA’s HSR&D Center. She is a member of the VA’s Merit Review Committee for Epidemiology. She served as a consultant to the Cochrane Collaboration’s Hepatobiliary Group, and to the Evidence-based Practice Center at McMaster University. She was a consultant and participant at a strategic planning meeting in Boston on the Role of Technology Assessment Program in the VA’s Office of Patient Care Services.

Dr. Diehl served on the Nominating Committee of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation. He continued on the editorial board of The American Journal of the Medical Sciences. He served as SGIM's representative to the 15th Annual Primary Care Research Methods and Statistics Conference.

Dr. Williams was appointed to the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Program on Depression in Primary Care. He was also named to the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board of VA HSR&D’s Career Development Program. He chaired the Patient Centered Research 1 subcommittee that reviewed abstracts for the SGIM national meeting. He was appointed to the Depression Practice Improvement Module Committee of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He continued his service on the
national executive committee of the Veterans Health System’s Quality Enhancement Research Initiative on Psychiatric Disorders. He remained on the editorial board of *The International Journal of Psychiatry*. He served as a member of the National Advisory Council for the American Federation for Aging Research, and participated in a Special Emphasis Panel at the National Institutes of Mental Health.

Dr. Pugh continued her service on the VA's national Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) Research and Methodology Committee. In addition, she is a member of the VA’s Diabetes Advisory Field Group, Diabetes Guidelines Committee, and Clinical Practice Guideline Council.

Dr. Benavides continued his service as a member of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, where his specific responsibilities include disciplinary actions, peer review, and compliance.

Dr. Conde worked with the ACP-ASIM to present the 12th Annual San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review course in June, serving as the course's co-director. She reviewed clinical vignette submissions to the Southern SGIM meeting. She is a member of *UpToDate’s* peer review panel.

Dr. O'Keefe served as Past-president of the Southern SGIM, and was Program Chair of the annual meeting in New Orleans.

Dr. Wathen concluded her term as Secretary-Treasurer of Southern SGIM, and left the organization with improved financial stability.

Dr. Badgett chaired *UpToDate’s* Peer Review Leadership Group for primary care. He was a member of SGIM’s Clinical Diagnosis Interest Group, and maintained its web page. During the year he created a listserv for the group’s membership. He continued his service on SGIM’s Communications Committee, and was a member of the Evidence-based Medicine Interest Group.

Dr. Fishman was invited by the National Board of Medical Examiners to author questions on emergency medicine topics for the Step 2 USMLE examination.

Drs. Henderson and Richardson served as peer reviewers for the primary care component of *UpToDate*.

Dr. O’Rorke was a member of national SGIM’s Membership Committee.

Dr. Hunt served on national SGIM's Long Range Planning Committee.

Dr. Watson-Ramirez reviewed abstracts for the South Texas ACP-ASIM Associates’ annual meeting.

**Guests of the Division**
Dr. Mark Linzer, Professor and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, served as our 4th O. Roger Hollan Visiting Professor in February. He presided at the residents’ morning report conference, gave a seminar for medical students, spoke to the students’ internal medicine interest group, and gave Grand Rounds on physician job satisfaction.

In June, the Division hosted Dr. F. Allan Hubbell, Professor and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of California - Irvine. He spoke to the medical students’ internal medicine interest group and the Division’s Faculty Development Conference, and gave Grand Rounds on cervical cancer prevention and control among Latinas.

Three leaders in medical ethics and humanities visited during the year. In October, Dr. Dale A. Matthews of Georgetown Medical School gave a presentation under the sponsorship of the Salinger-Forland Endowment. Dr. Albert R. Jonsen, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, gave several lectures as the 2nd Salinger-Forland Visiting Scholar in Medical Ethics and the Humanities in February. In March, Dr. Lawrence McCullough of Baylor Medical College participated in a special debate at Grand Rounds on academy-industry relations.

Community Activities

Dr. Perkins continued as Consultant in Bioethics and adjunct staff member at the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, and served as a member of the Advisory Board of Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas. He was a consultant to a local attorney. He gave presentations to lay groups at the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health and at the New Jewish Congregation, and spoke on death and dying to an introductory sociology class at St. Philip’s College. He was interviewed twice by the San Antonio Express-News, and twice was a guest on the “Prime Plus” show on radio station KLUP. In May he participated in a medical mission to a village in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Dr. Venkatachalam volunteered for the Texas Indo-American Physicians’ Society and for the national American Association of Physicians from India.

Dr. Benavides volunteered at the annual health fair at the San Fernando Cathedral. He also performed summer camp physicals for boy scouts and scout masters in Troop 405. He continued as Associate Medical Director of Family Hospice of San Antonio.

Dr. Williams was interviewed by the San Antonio Express-News regarding his research on the treatment of dysthymia and minor depression.

Dr. Diehl served on the organizing committee of Health Professionals for Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas.

Dr. Wathen twice spoke to kindergarten classes at The Acorn School on “Being a Doctor.”

Dr. Harris continued her term on the board of directors of the American Heart Association, San Antonio Division.
Extramural Presentations

Dr. Lawrence was a visiting faculty member for the 2nd Rocky Mountain Workshop in Evidence-based Healthcare in Vail, Colorado. She was a visiting faculty member at Tulane’s Ambulatory Healthcare Curriculum, speaking on systematic reviews and evidence-based care.

Dr. Griffin spoke on the history of tuberculin skin testing to the San Antonio Club of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Perkins concluded his series of quarterly local CME conferences entitled "Real World Medical Ethics: Useful Concepts for Everyday Practice" to help community physicians meet their ethics/professional responsibility CME requirements for licensure. Topics covered included physician-assisted suicide and the milieu of today’s medicine. In San Antonio, Dr. Perkins spoke on clinical ethics to the medical staff at Vencor Hospital and to the San Antonio Dermatological Society, and gave additional presentations to the South Texas Chapter, American College of Surgeons, the San Antonio Society of Anesthesiologists, and the Texas Radiological Society.

Dr. Pugh gave presentations on weight management to the South Texas Nurse Practitioners’ Group, and spoke on the difficulty of implementing medical research findings to the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston.

Dr. Williams spoke on behavioral problems in primary care settings at the 2nd International Congress on Hormones, Brain and Neuropsycho-pharmacology in Rhodes, Greece.

Dr. Diehl spoke on colorectal cancer screening at the 25th Annual Family Practice Review course in San Antonio.

Dr. Conde, with the collaboration of Drs. Griffin, O’Rorke, O’Keefe, and others, conducted the workshop “Update in Perioperative Medicine for the Medical Consultant” at the 2001 Southern Society of General Internal Medicine meeting in New Orleans.

Drs. Wathen and Kosub presented the workshop "How to Screen and Counsel Patients about Partner Violence" at the Southern Society of General Internal Medicine meeting.

Drs. Conde and O’Rorke co-authored clinical vignettes presented by our residents at the Southern SGIM meeting.

Dr. O’Keefe spoke on erectile dysfunction at the 2nd Annual Clinical Care Update for Physician Extenders, South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

Dr. Venkatachalam gave a presentation for the Teleconference Network of Texas on cancer pain management.
TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Our major teaching commitment is to residents and medical students, in a variety of outpatient and inpatient settings. During 2000-2001 our educational efforts were focused in the following areas:

- Two General Internal Medicine Clinics (Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital and University Health Center-Downtown), each held five afternoons weekly
- Ambulatory Internal Medicine Clerkship for third year medical students
- Primary Care block rotation for interns
- Inpatient Medicine Consultation Service at both teaching hospitals
- Inpatient attending on the general medical wards of both hospitals
- Administration of the Introduction to Clinical Sciences course for second year medical students
- Adolescent Medicine block rotation for residents
- The Emergency Center at University Hospital
- Elective rotations in Office Medicine and Women's Health for residents

Selected details of these and other teaching activities follow:

Primary Care rotation for interns:

The month-long Primary Care block rotation, directed by Dr. O'Keefe, is required of all interns. It provides instruction in the principles and knowledge base of primary care internal medicine, with a special emphasis on evidence-based medicine, health maintenance, and prevention. Curricular components include patient evaluations under faculty supervision; a formal curriculum in interviewing skills, including a syllabus of articles with study questions and reviews of videotaped encounters (taught by Dr. O'Keefe with assistance from Drs. Cardell and Richardson); training in searching the medical literature (taught by Drs. Badgett, with assistance from Drs. Conde, O'Keefe, and Richardson); lectures by Drs. Diehl, Badgett, O'Keefe, and Conde focusing on topics in screening and prevention; seminars in ethics (taught by Dr. Perkins) and behavior change (including smoking cessation and exercise counseling, taught by Dr. Hunt); women's health clinic (taught by Dr. O'Rorke); continuity clinics; and journal article appraisals. Faculty gave each resident individualized feedback at the end of the month.
Adolescent Medicine Rotation:

This month-long required ambulatory rotation in Adolescent Medicine completed its third year. Dr. Hunt serves as the course director. Taught primarily by our affiliated faculty at Brooke Army Medical Center, the rotation includes extensive experience in caring for young people with acute symptoms, pregnancy prevention, and psychosocial issues. Residents also attend the Partner Violence seminars taught by Drs. Kosub and Wathen. The rotation has been very well received by our residents, who give it superior evaluations.

Women's Health Elective:

Dr. Wathen supervised the residents' elective in Women's Health. The rotation includes experiences in Family Planning Clinic, Gynecology Clinic, Surgery Breast Clinic, Osteoporosis Clinic, Urodynamics Clinic, and the Medicine Women's Health Clinic. The curriculum emphasizes physical examination, hormone replacement therapy, osteoporosis, management of abnormal Pap smears, breast diseases, and contraception. Ten residents completed the elective during 2000-2001.

Resident Elective in Office Medicine:

This elective rotation, introduced in 1990, is offered to internal medicine residents who desire to learn more about the common diseases and procedures encountered in office practice. Directed by Dr. Badgett with assistance from Dr. Diehl, the month-long curriculum allows residents to attend their choice of clinics in ophthalmology, ENT, gynecology, orthopedics, urology, radiology, podiatry, minor surgery, and other areas relevant to primary care practice. One day per week is spent in the practice of a community internist from our clinical faculty. In addition, Dr. Badgett provides an evidence-based teaching session on a primary care topic.

During 2000-2001, 21 residents participated in the elective; virtually all of our residents elect this rotation at some time during their final two years of training. Much of the course's curriculum is posted on our Division's web page.

Residency Program Administration:

Dr. Hunt succeeded Dr. Henderson as Residency Program Director in July. Among her principal responsibilities were housestaff morning report (which she staffed four days weekly), Morbidity and Mortality conferences, and oversight of the intern selection process. Dr. Hunt has responsibility for curriculum development, clinical teaching, and the scholarly activities of our residents. As chair of the Residency Curriculum Committee, she oversees a ongoing curriculum review process. During the year, four new elective rotations were added and a new mentoring program for interns was established. An annual internal medicine convocation at the end of the academic year was inaugurated. The success rate of our graduating residents on the ABIM examination continued to rise, reaching a three year average of 90%. Dr. Hunt continued as co-director of our combined medicine-psychiatry residency. She also organized and gave several
presentations at the 5th annual Intern-to-Resident Leadership Retreat and Teaching Skills Workshop in late June. Drs. O'Keefe and Kosub gave presentations in the retreat as well.

Dr. Hunt led a well-received fellowship seminar for our residents, and placed senior residents in a number of competitive fellowship positions.

Dr. O'Keefe, Associate Residency Director, focuses her efforts on improving the resident evaluation process and providing individual feedback to each resident twice yearly. She chairs the Residency Education Committee, on which Dr. Kosub also serves, as well as the Clinical Competency Committee. She also conducts the ambulatory Clinical Encounter Observation Exercise for almost all of our interns. She coordinates the Ambulatory Chief Residency program at the VA Hospital.

In addition to Drs. Hunt and O'Keefe, Drs. Conde, Badgett, O'Keefe, Pugh, and Griffin interviewed applicants to our residency program. We recruited an outstanding class of interns in the 2001 Match.

The Intern Learning Groups that were introduced during 1996-97 were continued. Originally proposed by Dr. O'Keefe, the program consists of two one-hour small group meetings weekly throughout the year to build the interns' medical knowledge and develop their clinical problem solving skills. Interns are given reading assignments coupled with brief presentations and case discussions. Drs. O'Rorke, and Pugh and Richardson facilitated two of the year's Learning Groups.

An evidence-based medicine course evolved from the former Residents' Journal Club, and continued one morning per week. In its revised format, Dr. Hunt remained as director. Dr. Badgett mentored the residents in identifying relevant literature via electronic searching. Evaluations by the residents were very positive, and Dr. Hunt plans to include EBM skills on a daily basis in next year’s morning report conferences.

ACP-ASIM Associates' Scientific Program:

Dr. Hunt served as our representative to the program committee of the 8th Annual South Texas ACP-ASIM Associates' Program, held in May in San Antonio. The program allows our residents and those from four area residency programs to present the results of research performed under faculty guidance, or to present informative clinical vignettes. Some 77 abstracts were submitted this year. Dr. Hunt supervised the 18 poster and oral presentations from our participating residents, of whom two were named finalists.

Dr. Hunt also assisted residents participating in our 4th Annual Department of Medicine Research Day. Sixteen residents presented their research, and two won awards.

Medical Consultation Service:

Dr. Lawrence continued her leadership of this service, with attending assistance from Drs. O’Rorke, O'Keefe, Conde, Griffin, and Wendell Jones. Two senior residents rotated on the
service each month, answering inpatient consultations from non-internal medicine services at our two teaching hospitals. Faculty conducted daily teaching rounds with the residents and remained on beeper call for questions. Drs. Diehl, Kosub, O’Rorke, Griffin, Wathen, Badgett, O’Keefe, and Hunt provided weekend attending support for the service.

Dr. Conde served as senior editor and Dr. Lawrence co-editor of an updated syllabus in medical consultation that provides concise reviews of core topics as well as reprints of selected literature. Sections include the art of consultation; the preoperative medical examination; monitoring and management of cardiac risk, pulmonary risk, deep venous thrombosis, and postoperative delirium; diabetes and hypertension in the perioperative patient; interruption of oral anticoagulant therapy; and common surgical procedures and anesthetic agents. Dr. Lawrence also revised her "quick reference" pocket card on pre-operative patient risk assessment. Dr. Conde evaluated patients at a weekly pre-operative evaluation clinic at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Advanced Clinical Evaluation Skills:

Division members were involved in teaching the Advanced Clinical Evaluation Skills (ACES) course for second year medical students. The purpose of the course is to teach students how to perform comprehensive patient evaluations. The course offers a series of introductory lectures, followed by 8 patient examination sessions conducted by student pairs. Drs. Hunt and Watson-Ramirez were among the many faculty who precepted students in the course. Drs. Wathen and Kosub assisted in teaching students the female reproductive examination.

Introduction to the Clinical Sciences:

Dr. Kosub continued as Director of this second year medical student course. The curriculum provides a comprehensive foundation of information in clinical medicine, and involves faculty from the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery. Consisting of lectures and seminars presented throughout the year, the course is largely taught by subspecialty faculty.

Third Year Medical Student Clerkship in Ambulatory Internal Medicine:

Dr. Kosub continued to direct this introduction to the management of adult outpatients. A component of the required 12-week medicine clerkship for third year students, each 4 week block assigns 6-7 students to University Health System clinics and 5 students to clinics at Brooke Army Medical Center. Students gain experience in both continuity and episodic care. While most of the experience involves the management of outpatients under faculty supervision, the curriculum also includes lectures given by Drs. Perkins, Diehl, Wathen, Kosub, Hunt, O’Rorke, and Griffin. In addition, lectures on dementia and headache are given by Dr. Robin Brey of our Neurology division. Students attend the offices of community internists from our clinical faculty one day each week. They also complete a "Controversies in Clinical Prevention" assignment, in which they choose a controversial issue, review relevant medical literature retrieved by electronic searching, and deliver a 10-minute presentation.
Continuing this year was a four-session seminar series on medical informatics, taught by Dr. Badgett. The curriculum includes a basic introduction to study design, demonstration of methods of information retrieval via SUMSearch, and advanced searching techniques. Students' response to the curriculum has been enthusiastic.

Also continuing this year was a series of three one-hour seminars on partner violence, delivered by Drs. Kosub and Wathen. These seminars cover background issues and the dynamics of partner violence, teach interviewing skills through role playing exercises, and include an interactive session with an outreach worker and victims of violence from the local Battered Women's Shelter.

A half-day medical student Women's Health clinic is taught by Drs. Wathen and O'Rorke, during which students receive an intensive exposure to women's health issues from a primary care/ internal medicine perspective.

Beginning this year, four medical students each month took this rotation through the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen. Their experience includes management of outpatients under the supervision of general internists at Su Clínica Familiar and medicine subspecialists in the community.

Student Preceptorship in General Internal Medicine:

Dr. Diehl coordinates this senior student elective that allows students full-time participation in the practice of a community internist for up to a month. Two medical students took the rotation during 2000-2001.

Medical Student Education:

Dr. Kosub, in her position as Director of Student Education for the Department of Medicine, continued her administrative leadership of all medical student educational programs directed by the Department. These include the third year medical student clerkship in internal medicine (as well as its Ambulatory Medicine component), the required fourth year student rotation in internal medicine, and all senior medical student electives in internal medicine. She also chairs the Department's Student Education Committee, whose membership includes Drs. Watson-Ramirez, Hunt, and Lawrence. During the year Dr. Kosub continued her focus on restructuring the third year clerkship, particularly the student evaluation and grading process.

San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review Course:

In June, Dr. Conde and Dr. Stephanie Levine presented this 12th annual intensive course designed to help attendees prepare for the 2001 ABIM certifying examination. The course, sponsored by the ACP-ASIM, continued the three and a half day format that has been so successful in recent years. In addition to traditional lectures, the curriculum included intensive case studies presented in workshops. An electronic audience response system that allowed
participants to respond to the lecturer’s questions during a presentation was continued this year. Dr. Perkins updated his contribution to the course syllabus. Dr. Conde, course co-director, updated the Case Studies/Answers in Internal Medicine component, and worked closely with Dr. Levine and with the continuing education staff of the ACP-ASIM. Some 150 physicians attended the course, which was held at the downtown Plaza San Antonio Hotel.

Dr. Conde will continue her role of co-director for the 13th annual San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review course, to be held in June 2002.

Programs in Bioethics and the Humanities:

During October, Dr. Perkins gave his biennial Ethics for the Clinician course. This is a full-time elective designed to teach health professionals the basic concepts and vocabulary of medical ethics, and how to apply them in clinical practice. Fourteen students, including two faculty members, 8 fellows (from geriatrics and pediatrics-critical care), one resident, two medical students, and one community nurse completed reading assignments and attended seminars led by Dr. Perkins.

Dr. Perkins continued to direct the twice-monthly Faculty Ethics and Humanities Journal Club at the Health Science Center, and presented at one of its meetings.

Dr. Perkins continued to serve as interim director of the Center for Ethics and the Humanities in Health Care. During the year he coordinated the Salinger-Forland Health Care Ethics Guest Lecture series, which brings nationally known medical ethicists and philosophers to our campus. This year the Center sponsored visits by Drs. Albert Jonsen and Dale Matthews. He also coordinated the visit of Dr. Alejandro Moreno from Boston University, who spoke to the Ethics Journal Club and to medicine housestaff on victims of torture. Dr. Perkins also assisted five first and second year medical students in obtaining $1000 research stipends for one-month summer research experiences in ethics. He precepted monthly tutoring sessions for a senior medical student undergoing court-ordered remediation.

In March, Dr. Perkins coordinated the visit of Laurence B. McCullough, Ph.D., Professor of Medical Ethics at Baylor, and Thomas R. Kowalski, President of the Texas Healthcare and Biosciences Institute, for a series of debates on “The Promise and Peril of Academy-Industry Relations.” These programs, open to all health professionals, were supported by the Texas Medical Foundation.

Inpatient General Medicine Wards:

The Division continued to devote substantial resources to the teaching of general internal medicine on the inpatient services of both hospitals. During the year Division faculty served as attending physicians for a total of 23 months, and provided 27% of the Department's inpatient teaching in general medicine.
Medical Informatics:

As the Director of Medical Informatics for both the Division and the Department of Medicine, Dr. Badgett devoted considerable energy to promoting education in medical informatics for our medical students and residents. He continued to teach a weekly series of informatics seminars for third year medical students, and instructed residents in informatics at Morning Report and during the Primary Care block rotation. He chaired the medical school’s Ad Hoc Informatics-Evidence based Medicine Committee, which will propose curricular changes to comply with recent AAMC recommendations. He also chairs the Institutional Web Advisory Committee that oversees the design and content of the Health Science Center’s web site, serves on several other committees related to informatics, and acts as an informatics consultant to the Briscoe Library.

He maintained his own SUMSearch software, which quickly identifies relevant guidelines, systematic reviews, and original research articles on topics in clinical medicine (www.sumsearch.uthscsa.edu), and provided a demonstration at the UTHSCSA Expo in March. SUMSearch currently receives 7000 Queries monthly.

Dr. Badgett took over maintenance of the Department’s web page this year, adding a searchable database of faculty members. The residency program site was expanded to assist in recruiting interns, and a web site was created for the new residency program in Harlingen. In addition, Dr. Badgett continues to maintain the Division’s home page on the World Wide Web (http://medicine.uthscsa.edu/genmed/). The page includes our mission statement, the most recent Annual Report, and links to the web sites of the National and Southern SGIM, other academic societies, and educational resources. He also maintains a clinical resources home page that provides access to electronic databases for staff based at the University, University Health System, and the VA (clinical.uthscsa.edu). During the year, he successfully negotiated with UpToDate to obtain a site license for the university.

The Regional Academic Health Center:

Preparation for full implementation of our new Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley accelerated during the year. Dr. Kosub focused on medical student education, identifying and preparing preceptors for ambulatory teaching. Four third year students each month traveled to Harlingen to learn outpatient skills under the supervision of general internists at Su Clinica Familiar and medicine subspecialists in the community. Dr. Watson-Ramirez led the development of a new residency program at Valley Baptist Hospital that will open in July 2002. She authored its curriculum, which resulted in the program’s accreditation in June. Drs. Kosub and Watson-Ramirez served on the medical school’s RAHC Faculty Development Committee and were co-directors for internal medicine on two HRSA grants that supported our efforts. They contributed to the design of a 24-week multidisciplinary primary care clerkship for third year students that will be inaugurated in July 2002.

Division Faculty Conferences:
Division faculty gather weekly for conferences after Medicine Grand Rounds. Journal Clubs and Research Conferences are each held monthly; interns on the Primary Care rotation attend the Journal Clubs as well. A Division business conference occurs once monthly, and a Faculty Development Conference focusing on educational issues occupies the fourth Wednesday of the month. Bimonthly HemiDivision meetings of faculty based at the University Health Center-Downtown and the VA are held to discuss clinical issues relevant to those sites. Division faculty participate in presenting these sessions on a rotating schedule. Fourteen Division members contributed to the Journal Club schedule, while Drs. Mulrow, Perkins, Lawrence, and Williams presented at our Research Conference. This year Drs. Griffin, Kosub, Wathen, Perkins, and O’Keefe contributed to the Faculty Development conferences.

Conferences, Rounds, and Classroom Lectures

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds:

Dr. Kosub: “Update on Partner Violence”

Dr. Mark Linzer: “Physician Job Satisfaction, Stress and Burnout: Challenges and Successes of Contemporary Medical Practice”

Dr. Williams: “Communicating Effectively: Strategies to Improve Patient Outcomes and Physician Satisfaction”

Dr. Allan Hubbell: “Improving Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Among Latinas: What Have We Learned?”

Housestaff Conference Series:

Dr. Henderson: Syncope
Dr. Kosub: Teaching medical students (interns)
Dr. Fishman: Hyperthermia
Dr. Kosub: Teaching medical students (residents)
Dr. O’Keefe: Impotence and sexual dysfunction
Dr. Lawrence: Preoperative evaluation
Dr. Pugh: Diabetes management in Medicine Clinic
Dr. Hunt: Adult immunizations
Dr. Badgett: Irritable bowel/constipation/chronic abdominal pain
Dr. Perkins: Ethical issues in medical practice
Dr. Mulrow: Hypertension management in Medicine Clinic
Dr. O’Keefe: Peripheral vascular disease and leg ulcers  
Dr. Kosub: Eating disorders  
Dr. Badgett: Low back pain  
Dr. Pugh: Headache  
Dr. Richardson: Chest discomfort  
Dr. Pugh: Prevention of diabetes complications  
Dr. Wathen: Family planning  
Dr. Williams: Sinusitis, rhinitis, otitis

Department of Medicine Research Conference:

Dr. Bauer: “A Family Study of Osteoporosis”

Dr. Richardson: “Could Our Differential Diagnoses Be Evidence-based?”

Other teaching activities:

Dr. Diehl led a faculty team that participated in the General Internal Medicine Faculty Development Program, administered by the Association of Professors of Medicine. Drs. Kosub and Griffin, and Dr. Mark Thornton from our clinical faculty, contributed as team members. The program’s purpose is to enhance the teaching provided by community-based clinical faculty. During the year, the team revised its orientation materials for community preceptors, provided each preceptor books and other materials on office teaching, facilitated teaching recognition awards from the ACP-ASIM, and met with members of two local practices to discuss teaching skills.

Dr. Badgett took a leadership role in UpToDate, an electronic source of clinical information that has been endorsed by SGIM. He chairs the UpToDate ongoing peer review process for primary care content, and oversees its administrative support. Drs. Conde and Cardell serve as reviewers for submitted chapters. Dr. Badgett also gave grand rounds on literature searching for the Department of Surgery and the Division of Neurosurgery, and spoke at the UTHSCSA Expo sponsored by the Briscoe Library.

Dr. O’Rorke, with the assistance of Drs. Wathen, Griffin, and Conde, continued to research and design new curricula in musculoskeletal medicine. They attended clinics at University Health System, the VA, and Brooke Army Medical Center, searched the literature for similar initiatives, and spoke with colleagues at other institutions. Dr. O’Rorke also surveyed practicing internists to determine the frequency of musculoskeletal conditions found in community practice. Based on this information, a syllabus was prepared and a new resident elective will be inaugurated in 2001-02. Dr. O’Rorke also planned a new selective in women’s health that will be offered to preclinical medical students next year.

Drs. Lawrence, Pugh, and Williams were instructors in the Introduction to Clinical Investigation course for all fellows in the Department of Medicine.
Dr. Mulrow mentored four Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars.

Dr. Henderson participated in the first year students' Clinical Integration Course.

Dr. Kosub directed a new Family Violence enrichment elective for students. In addition, she continued her duties as CME Faculty Advisor for the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Perkins gave Grand Rounds for the Department of Anesthesiology, and provided two talks at the annual graduate student forum sponsored by the Graduate Student Association.

Dr. O’Keefe was a member of the CATCHUM Problem Based Learning Task Force, a state-wide initiative that promotes teaching of cancer in Texas medical schools. She helped develop educational materials on breast and gastrointestinal cancers, and on occupational and lifestyle cancer risks.

Dr. Griffin lectured on vestibular system disorders and tuberculin skin testing for the Psychiatry PRIME lecture series. Dr. Williams spoke on acute sinusitis.

Dr. Pugh gave Grand Rounds for the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Dr. Venkatachalam continued her lecturing in the interdisciplinary Pain Management elective at the Health Science Center.

Dr. Benavides spoke to the fourth year medical students on the role of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

PATIENT CARE HIGHLIGHTS

Medicine Continuity Clinics -- University Health Center-Downtown and Audie L.
Murphy Veterans Hospital:

These clinics, each held five afternoons weekly, provide longitudinal care to patients with chronic medical conditions. Residents follow their own patients at both institutions. Most commonly, patients receive treatment for hypertension, diabetes, coronary disease, heart failure, chronic liver disease, obstructive lung disease, thyroid disorders, and degenerative arthritis. Patients are assigned to specific residents who follow them throughout their training. Health maintenance and disease prevention are emphasized. Division faculty oversee care and teach in both clinics.

Dr. O’Rorke joined Dr. Wathen as Co-director of Educational Programs of the University Health Center-Downtown General Medicine Clinic. The Medicine Acute Care Clinic, which serves patients with acute symptoms, continued to supplement the learning experience for residents. Dr. Wathen additionally fought to maintain Hospital Discharge Clinic, which facilitates continuity care from inpatient to outpatient settings. They conducted an orientation
program for interns during July, and continued a program that recognizes residents who display excellence in the care of their patients.

In addition to their clinical teaching at the University Health Center-Downtown, Drs. Wathen, Hunt, and Badgett maintained their own personal practices of medicine in the General Medicine Clinic.

At the VA hospital, Dr. Griffin continued as Director of Internal Medicine Clinic, and chaired the Primary Care Clinic Practice Management Team. As "clinical champion" of the VA Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS), he acted as liaison between the clinic and the VA Office of Information Technology during the ongoing implementation of the system. The CPRS is an electronic medical record that includes progress notes, results reporting, clinical reminders, and order entry. The Division's attendings continued their support of anticoagulation and drug monitoring clinics staffed by Pharm.D. faculty.

University Hospital Emergency Center:

Dr. Fishman represents the Department of Medicine in the Emergency Center at University Hospital, where she works with staff operating under the Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery. The only faculty internist based in the EC, she teaches medical students and residents from internal medicine, surgery, family practice, pediatrics, and other disciplines. Trainees have exposure to children, obstetrics/gynecology patients, and patients with trauma and lacerations as well as major medical problems. Dr. Fishman was appointed EC Director of Patient Relations in June.

The Diagnostic Pavilion:

Dr. Jones continued to head general internal medicine activities at The Diagnostic Pavilion. The Diagnostic Pavilion serves as the principal site for the medical school's faculty practice, which provides care for university and hospital employees as well as persons from San Antonio and beyond. The practice moved from its former home at University Hospital to new facilities at 4647 Medical Drive at the end of October. Dr. Jones worked to enhance the clinic's functioning in its new location. Among his duties were the review and authorization of physician referral requests. Dr. Lefeber continued to build his busy practice, and Dr. Pam Horner joined the practice. In addition, Drs. Diehl, Venkatachalam, and Fishman continued to see patients at the Pavilion one half-day weekly.

Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital Continuity of Care Clinic:

Division faculty at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital maintain their own practices of general internal medicine in the Continuity Care Clinic, for which Dr. Williams serves as director. Drs. Pugh, O'Keefe, Williams, Griffin, Lawrence, Conde, Mulrow, and Richardson supervised nurse practitioners and provided personal care to veterans with chronic diseases. Dr. Pugh continued to direct the VA's Obesity Clinic.
Internal Medicine Group at UHC-Downtown:

Drs. Chacko, Benavides, Oi, and O’Rorke continued to practice in this busy general internal medicine group that provides primary care to University Health System patients. The Internal Medicine Group practice supplements the clinical services provided by our residents in General Medicine Clinic. Our internists have developed large and loyal panels of patients, providing personalized care and taking call on nights, weekends, and holidays. Dr. Oi continued as Medical Director of the group until her departure in May. During the year, Dr. Chacko transferred her practice to the University Center for Community Health.

Drs. Oi and Benavides took time from their practices one or two sessions weekly to teach in the students' Ambulatory Care Clerkship and the residents' General Medicine Clinic.

University Family Health Centers--Southwest and North:

Drs. Harris continued to practice general internal medicine at the University Family Health Center-Southwest until January, when she moved to the University Center for Community Health. In addition to precepting medical students in her offices, she traveled to the University Health Center-Downtown to teach in the students' Ambulatory Care rotation.

Dr. Cardell and her busy practice at the University Family Health Center-Basse moved to the newly constructed UFHC-North. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, she taught medical students at that site as well as residents at the UHC-D's General Medicine Clinic.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Research Focus: Our Division's research employs the methods of clinical epidemiology and health care research. While the investigative interests of Division faculty are wide-ranging, there is an ongoing focus on systematic reviews, evidence-based medicine, guideline implementation, cross-cultural epidemiology, and measures of functional status.

The Division’s principal research center is the Veterans Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation Center (VERDICT), directed by Dr. Pugh. Funded by the Veterans Healthcare Administration, VERDICT seeks to translate and implement guidelines into clinical practice. Among its activities are the production of an informative newsletter, the VERDICT Brief, which appeared twice during the year. The VERDICT team was pleased to move into renovated research offices in January.

New Grants, 7/00-6/01

Drs. Kosub and Watson-Ramirez (Co-directors): Faculty development -- Faculty development in primary care -- Developing faculty in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. HRSA, 2001-03, $182,750.


Dr. Perkins (Preceptor): Summer research stipends for five medical students. Office of the Medical Dean, $5000, 2001.

Dr. Pugh (Principal investigator): Knowledge management and clinical practice guideline implementation. VA HSR&D, 2000-01, $479,442.

Research Presentations at Scientific Meetings, 7/00-6/01


Perkins HS, Cortez JD, Hazuda HP. Age-specific cultural views about advance care planning. Presented at the 4th International Bioethics Retreat, Paris, France 5/01.


Publications, 7/00 - 6/01


18. Mulrow CD. Commentary on “Long-acting nifedipine was as effective as hydrochlorothiazide plus amiloride for reducing mortality and morbidity in hypertension,” and “Diltiazem was as effective as diuretics or β-blockers, or both, at preventing cardiovascular mortality and morbidity.” ACP Journal Club 2001;134:6-7.


34. Pugh JA. Commentary on “Low-dose rosiglitazone plus sulfonylurea was effective and safe for treating hyperglycemia in type 2 diabetes mellitus.” ACP Journal Club 2000;133:49.


Other Activities

Drs. Diehl and Kosub worked with the Texas Academy of Internal Medicine's General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program to recruit a record 25 of our medical students for month-long summer experiences with community general internists.

Drs. Kosub, Hunt, Diehl, Wathen, Griffin, Badgett, and O'Keefe served as faculty advisors to medical students.

Dr. Diehl served as faculty sponsor for the newly invigorated Medical Student Internal Medicine Interest Group. He also assisted in the planning and presentation of National Primary Care Day in October.

Ms. Sugarek again planned and coordinated the Division’s sponsorship of a needy family during the holiday season. She gathered clothing, toys, and cash from Division members and delivered them to the family’s home.

Dr. Diehl served as liaison for a performance of Christmas music by musicians from the San Antonio Symphony in the pharmacy waiting area of the UHC-Downtown in December.