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 2002-2003.

Division Faculty

New Faculty: The Division welcomed 2 new faculty members this year:

H. Edwin Tamayo, M.D. Assistant Professor, joined our group after completing a year as one of our chief residents. A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, he attended medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He then stayed with us for his residency, where he won Intern of the Year and Outstanding Resident awards. Dr. Tamayo has a strong interest in doctor-patient communication and the medical interview, and heads that curriculum for our residents. He is based at the VA Hospital.

Deborah L. Baruch-Bienen, M.D., Assistant Professor, joined us from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, where she directed the residents’ medical ethics curriculum and served as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She is an honors graduate of the University of Rochester and attended its medical school. She took her residency at Wilford Hall and served on its staff thereafter. Currently she works closely with our affiliated residency program at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen, Texas. She also teaches locally in clinics at the University Health Center-Downtown.

Continuing Faculty:

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

Jacqueline A. Pugh, M.D., Professor; Head, Section of General Medicine, Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital; Director, Veterans Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation Center (VERDICT).

Henry S. Perkins, M.D., Professor; University Health Center-Downtown.

Valerie A. Lawrence, M.D., M.Sc., Professor; Director of the Medical Consultation Service.

Cynthia D. Mulrow, M.D., M.Sc., Clinical Professor; Deputy Editor, Annals of Internal Medicine; Program Director, Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program.
Kristy Y. Kosub, M.D., Associate Professor; Director of Medical Student Education, Department of Medicine.

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

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

Patricia I. Wathen, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor; Associate Residency Program Director; 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.

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; Director, General Medicine Clinic, University Health Center-Downtown; Director, Musculoskeletal Medicine elective for residents.

Michelle V. Conde, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor; Director, Primary Care block rotation for interns.

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.

Eric M. Mortensen, M.D., M.Sc., Assistant Professor; VERDICT Center, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Vineeta Kumar, M.B.,B.S., Assistant Professor; University Health Center-Downtown.

Polly Hitchcock Noël, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; Associate Director, VERDICT Center, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.

Daniel J. Muraida, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; VERDICT Center, Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital.
David F. Montemayor, M.D., Assistant Professor; Acute Care Clinic, University Health Center-Downtown.

Honors

Dr. Kumar was named by our residents as the Outstanding Faculty Teacher among all faculty in the Department of Medicine for the second consecutive year.

Dr. Kumar also received the Division of General Medicine’s Outstanding Teacher Award for the second time. Dr. O’Rorke received the Division’s Outstanding Teacher Award for the third year in a row, and Dr. Wathen was so honored for the eighth time.

Dr. Kosub received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Medical School Class of 2003 at their commencement in May. She has received this honor from 7 of the past 8 medical school classes.

Dr. O’Rorke was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Southern SGIM at the 2003 meeting in New Orleans. In addition, she advanced to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Diehl visited the Department of Medicine at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center and gave the Charles C. Smith, Jr. Lecture at Grand Rounds. He was recognized by the *Annals of Internal Medicine* for the quality of his manuscript reviews in 2002.

Dr. Perkins was invited to be the 2003 Hoxie-Thompson Lecturer at Austin Presbyterian Theological Center.

Dr. Pugh co-authored a journal article that received honorable mention designation for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Best Research Paper Award for 2001-02.

Dr. Lefeber was listed in the 2003 edition of *Guide to America’s Top Physicians in Internal Medicine*, prepared by the Consumer Research Council of America.

Regional and National Responsibilities

Dr. Perkins remained on the editorial board of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. He evaluated research abstracts presented at the plenary session of the 2003 Southern SGIM meeting.

Dr. Lawrence continued on the editorial boards of *ACP Journal Club* and *The Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 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 office.
Dr. Diehl continued as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners. He chaired the USMLE Step 3 Test Material Development Group for Family and Community, and served on a Test Item Review Committee for the Step 3 examination. He continued on the editorial board of *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. He served as SGIM’s representative to the 17th Annual Primary Care Research Methods and Statistics Conference.

Dr. Pugh continued as a member of the VA’s Diabetes Field Advisory Group and its Clinical Practice Guideline Council. She serves as well on the Implementation and Education committee of the latter group.

Dr. Hitchcock Noël was invited to review abstracts for the VA HSR&D annual meeting. She is an ad hoc member of the VA HSR&D’s Scientific Review and Evaluation Board, and is a reviewer of LOIs.

Dr. Mulrow continued as Deputy Editor of the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and Program Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program. She completed her appointment as a member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a multispecialty panel convened by AHRQ to update the *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services*. She remained on the editorial board of *ACP Journal Club*. 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.

Dr. Benavides completed his fourth year as a member of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, where his specific responsibilities include disciplinary actions, peer review, and current proficiency. He chairs the finance committee.

Dr. Conde worked with the ACP-ASIM to present the 14th Annual San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review course in May, serving as the course's Director. She is a member of *UpToDate*'s peer review panel, and an editorial consultant to the ACP-ASIM’s *PIER* database.

Dr. Kumar served as co-director of the 14th Annual San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review course. In addition, she reviewed workshop submissions to the 2003 Southern SGIM meeting.

Dr. Mortensen reviewed clinical epidemiology abstracts for the SGIM national meeting as well as abstracts for the VA HSR&D annual meeting.

Dr. Badgett continued as the Associate Editor for Electronic Publications for the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. He was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. He served on SGIM’s Evidence-based Medicine Evaluation Cluster.

Dr. O’Rorke began her term as Secretary-Treasurer of Southern SGIM. She continued as a member of national SGIM’s Membership Committee.
Guests of the Division

William W. McGuire, M.D., Chairman and CEO of UnitedHealth Group, visited in March as our 6th O. Roger Hollan Visiting Professor. Dr. McGuire, a former internal medicine resident, chief resident, and pulmonary fellow here, currently heads one of the largest and most successful health services companies in the nation. During his visit he met with University leaders and Division faculty, and gave Medicine Grand Rounds.

Community Activities

Dr. Perkins continued as Consultant in Bioethics and adjunct staff member at the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health. He serves as a member of the Advisory Board of Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas, and is a member of the Health Cabinet at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. During the year he gave bioethics presentations to lay groups at the Downtown Rotary Club and at the University of the Incarnate Word/Friends of Hospice. He volunteered on a medical mission trip to Cozumel, Mexico that was sponsored by Yucatán Presbyterian Ministries and First Presbyterian Church. He was an expert consultant in two legal actions. He provided three interviews to the San Antonio Express-News.

Dr. Benavides volunteered at the annual October health fair at the San Fernando Cathedral. He also performed summer camp physicals for boy scouts and scout masters in Troop 405. He participated in a half-day seminar on health careers for the senior class of Southwest High School.

Dr. Tamayo was a medical volunteer in the Helping Hands for Honduras organization.

Dr. Kumar mentored a student at John Glenn Elementary School weekly as part of a volunteer program sponsored by the Health Science Center. She spoke at the school’s Career Day, describing to fourth and fifth graders what it is to be a physician. In addition, she was the physician at Jennifer’s Camp, an annual four day camp for children with HIV/AIDS and their parents.

Extramural Presentations

Dr. Lawrence spoke on rates of recovery of function in elders after abdominal surgery at a symposium during the 2003 meeting of the American Geriatrics Association.

Drs. Conde and Lawrence were speakers in the “Update in Perioperative Medicine” workshop at the 26th annual national SGIM meeting in Vancouver.
Dr. O’Rorke was a faculty member for the precourse “See One, Do One, Teach One: A Practical Approach to the Medical Orthopedic Exam for the Academic Internist” at the 2003 SGIM meeting in Vancouver.

Dr. Pugh participated in the precourse “Quality Improvement: Moving from Research to Practice” at the annual SGIM meeting in Vancouver.

Dr. Diehl gave Medicine Grand Rounds at the University of Louisville on the health effects of drinking coffee. He lectured on colon cancer screening at the 27th annual Family Practice Review Course in San Antonio in March.

Dr. Baruch-Bienen spoke on palliative care at the Family Practice Review course, and Dr. Badgett discussed medical informatics in a presentation titled “Keeping Up in a Fast Moving World.”

Dr. Kumar led a workshop presentation describing our Intern Learning Groups program at the 2003 Southern SGIM meeting in New Orleans. She also gave a presentation on dealing with “problem residents” at the Scott and White Hospital, Texas A&M Medical School faculty development course in Temple.

Dr. Kosub also spoke at the Texas A&M Medical School faculty development course, addressing how to teach effectively in a busy medical practice and the teaching of psychomotor skills.

Dr. Perkins spoke on professionalism in the era of managed care at a Taylor-Jones-Haskell Tricounty Medical Society meeting in Abilene, Texas.

Dr. Mulrow participated in the One-on-One Mentoring program at the 2003 SGIM meeting in Vancouver.

Dr. Hunt participated in the chief residents’ workshop addressing “problem residents” at the national Association of Program Directors of Internal Medicine annual meeting in San Diego.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Our major teaching commitment is to residents and medical students, and occurs in a variety of outpatient and inpatient settings. During 2002-2003 our educational efforts were focused in the following areas:

• Two resident General Internal Medicine Clinics (at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital and the University Health Center-Downtown)

• Ambulatory Internal Medicine rotation for third year medicine clerkship students
• Primary Care block rotation for interns

• Medicine Consultation Service rotation for residents

• Inpatient attending on the general medicine wards

• Adolescent Medicine block rotation for residents

• Emergency Center rotation at University Hospital for residents and students

• Elective rotations in Office Medicine, Musculoskeletal Medicine, and Women's Health for residents

• Administration of the Introduction to Clinical Sciences course for second year medical students

Selected details of these and other teaching activities follow:

**Primary Care rotation for interns:**

The month-long Primary Care block rotation, directed by Dr. Conde, is required of all categorical interns. It provides instruction in the principles and knowledge base of primary care internal medicine, with a special emphasis on evidence-based medicine and health maintenance and prevention. Curricular components include evaluations of walk-in patients under faculty supervision; a formal curriculum in medical interviewing, including a syllabus of articles with study questions and reviews of videotaped encounters (revised and taught by Dr. Tamayo); training in searching the medical literature (taught by Dr. Badgett); lectures by Drs. Diehl and Badgett on prevention and screening of breast, colon, and prostate cancer; seminars in ethics (taught by Dr. Perkins) and behavior change (including smoking cessation and exercise counseling, taught by Dr. Hunt); a weekly women's health conference and clinic (taught by Dr. Wathen) and a weekly musculoskeletal medicine clinic (taught by Dr. O'Rorke); continuity clinics; and twice-weekly journal article appraisals (facilitated by Drs. Conde, Tamayo, and Griffin). 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 fifth 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. The two senior residents rotating each month also attend the Partner Violence seminar series taught by Drs. Kosub and Wathen. The rotation has been 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, management of menopause, osteoporosis, management of abnormal Pap smears, breast diseases, contraception, and partner violence. Six residents completed the elective during 2002-2003.

Musculoskeletal Medicine Elective:

This was the second year that a month-long elective rotation in Musculoskeletal Medicine was offered to our residents. Directed by Dr. O'Rorke, it includes clinical experiences at Brooke Army Medical Center and with the University's podiatry service. Rotating residents are guided by a comprehensive compendium of relevant literature prepared by Dr. O'Rorke, with assistance from Drs. Conde and Kumar. Eleven residents participated in the elective during 2002-2003. Also during the year, the weekly Musculoskeletal Medicine Clinic serving patients with non-rheumatic musculoskeletal symptoms continued for Primary Care block interns and residents taking the elective. Dr. O’Rorke serves as the clinic's attending physician, and is assisted by a physician assistant from the Department of Orthopaedics.

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 2002-2003, 18 residents participated in the elective; most 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 leads our postgraduate educational curricula as Residency Program Director. Among her principal responsibilities are housestaff morning report (which she staffs four days weekly), the weekly Evidence-based Medicine course, Morbidity and Mortality conferences, leadership of our 3 chief residents, and oversight of the intern selection process. Dr. Hunt oversees curriculum development, clinical teaching, and
the scholarly activities of our residents. She provides individual feedback to each resident twice yearly, and currently chairs the Clinical Competency Committee. Drs. Wathen, Kosub, Tamayo, and Kumar served as members of this committee. An annual internal medicine convocation at the end of the academic year was continued. The success rate of our graduating residents on the ABIM examination attained a three year average of 93%. She also organized and gave several presentations at the 7th annual Intern-to-Resident Leadership Retreat and Teaching Skills Workshop in late June. Drs. Kumar and Kosub led workshops 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. Hunt continued a seminar to educate residents in issues relevant to community private practice. She increased resident participation in research, and promoted study groups for residents preparing for the ABIM certifying examination.

Dr. Wathen served as Associate Residency Program Director. As chair of the Residency Curriculum Committee, she oversees a ongoing review of our resident teaching programs. During the year, she focused her efforts on updating our written curriculum to conform to the new ACGME core competencies. In addition, she developed new assessment tools to improve the evaluation of residents' skills in specific areas. With Dr. Tamayo, she completed the design of new on-line evaluation forms. Although the new system’s implementation was unsuccessful, our traditional paper evaluation forms were revised to reflect the competencies.

During the year Dr. Wathen began preparations for the anticipated 2004 ACGME program review and site visit. She met with faculty from several divisions in the Department of Medicine to explain ACGME requirements and the resident evaluation process. Projects undertaken included revising the residents’ Journal Club to incorporate practice-based learning, revising evaluation and feedback instruments to reflect the competencies, developing and distributing patient survey instruments, and expanding the Mini-CEX as a tool for giving feedback and assessing competence.

The Intern Learning Groups that were introduced during 1996-97 were continued. 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. Dr. Kumar, Course Director, added new content to the workbook that guides the curriculum and led one of the Learning Groups. She additionally coordinated and directed an ACLS review session. At the end of the year she arranged an interactive “Medical Jeopardy” session.

An revised evidence-based medicine course continued one morning per week. Dr. Hunt remained as director. Dr. Badgett mentored the residents in identifying relevant literature via electronic searching.

ACP-ASIM Associates' Scientific Program:
Dr. Hunt served as our representative to the program committee of the 10th 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. Dr. Hunt supervised the 34 submissions from our participating residents. Two residents won first and third place in the research category, and another was a finalist. Nine residents presented clinical vignettes as posters, with one named a finalist. Drs. Kumar and Tamayo assisted residents with their presentations.

Dr. Hunt also assisted medicine residents participating in our 6th Annual Department of Medicine Research Day. Twenty-one residents presented their research, and one won an award.

Medical Consultation Service:

Dr. Lawrence continued her leadership of this service, with attending assistance from Drs. O'Rorke, Tamayo, Conde, Mortensen, Griffin, and Kumar. 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. Lawrence, Mortensen, Griffin, Wathen, Tamayo, O'Rorke, Diehl, Perkins, Badgett, Conde, and Hunt provided weekend on-call support for the service.

Dr. Conde served as senior editor and chapter author of an updated syllabus in medical consultation that provides concise reviews of core topics as well as reprints of selected literature. Drs. Lawrence, Griffin, Kumar, O'Rorke, and Mortensen assisted as co-editors and also authored chapters. Sections include the art of consultation; perioperative medical risk assessment and management; monitoring and management of cardiac risk, deep venous thrombosis, and postoperative delirium; preoperative pulmonary evaluation; diabetes in the perioperative patient; interruption of oral anticoagulant therapy; and common surgical procedures and anesthetic agents. Dr. Lawrence updated 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.

Inpatient General Medicine Wards:

The Division continued to devote substantial resources to the teaching of general internal medicine on the inpatient services. At the VA hospital, Division faculty served as attending/teaching physicians for a total of 17 months, providing 28% of the Department's inpatient teaching in general medicine at that site. At University Hospital, Dr. Kosub contributed 30% of the student teaching attending duties.

Dr. Kumar guided a task force of residents who developed a workbook of protocols to guide internal medicine cross-cover on the wards of both teaching hospitals.
Third year medical students assigned to the general medicine inpatient service attended teaching conferences provided by faculty. Drs. Kosub and Baruch-Bienen presented conferences monthly throughout the year.

University Hospital Emergency Center:

Dr. Fishman represents the Department of Medicine in the Emergency Center at University Hospital, where she works with faculty and staff from 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 and community medicine, psychiatry, obstetrics-gynecology, and other disciplines. In addition, she teaches emergency medicine residents, physician assistant students, and PAs in advanced training who rotate through the EC. Our Emergency Center is the region’s only civilian level I trauma center, with over 60,000 patient visits annually. Dr. Fishman serves as the EC’s Director of Patient Relations.

Medical Student Education:

Dr. Kosub currently chairs the medical school’s Curriculum Committee. In addition, in her position as Director of Student Education for the Department of Medicine, she 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. For the first time, 24 of our third year medical students took their entire medicine clerkship in Harlingen through our Regional Academic Health Center. Similar to the clerkship in San Antonio, the 12-week experience included both inpatient and outpatient rotations. Dr. Kosub began planning for fourth year electives in Harlingen during 2003-04.

Dr. Kosub continued to chair the Department's Student Education Committee, whose membership includes Drs. Hunt and Lawrence.

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 patient examination sessions conducted by student pairs. Drs. Wathen, Hunt, Mortensen, Griffin, and Kumar were among the faculty who precepted students in the course. Dr. Wathen also assisted in teaching students the female reproductive examination.
Introduction to the Clinical Sciences:

Dr. Kosub continued as Director of this multidisciplinary second year medical student course that emphasizes pathophysiology. Duties include planning the year-long lecture/conference schedule, editing syllabus handouts, advising faculty and counseling students, writing and preparing examinations, and course evaluation. Providing a comprehensive foundation of information in clinical medicine, the curriculum draws faculty from the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Surgery. Dr. O’Rorke gave a lecture in the musculoskeletal module on the upper extremity.

Third Year Medical Student Clerkship in Ambulatory Internal Medicine:

Dr. Kosub also 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 5-6 students to several University Health System and VA facilities 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, O’Rorke, Wathen, and Kumar. In addition, lectures on dementia and headache are provided by Dr. Robin Brey of our Neurology division. Students attend the offices of community internists from our clinical faculty one day each week. Under Dr. Badgett’s guidance, 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, 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. Residents from the Adolescent Medicine and Women’s Health rotations attended these seminars as well.

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

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. Three medical students took the rotation during 2002-2003.

Programs in Bioethics:

Dr. Perkins continued to direct the twice-monthly Ethics and Humanities Journal Club at the Health Science Center, and presented an article at one of its meetings. Dr. Baruch-Bienen led a session as well. Dr. Perkins gave ethics-related presentations at the Division’s Journal Club and at its Research conference. He gave frequent talks on ethics to third year medical students and medicine interns.

In October, Dr. Perkins repeated his month-long intensive “Ethics for the Clinician” course. Eighteen students enrolled, including three medical students and 11 physicians in fellowship training. Meeting daily in seminars, students covered the contents of two books and a syllabus of recent journal articles assembled by Dr. Perkins. Participants wrote up their own real-life ethics dilemmas and presented them for class discussion. Students gave the course excellent evaluations.

Dr. Perkins continued to precept a second medical student enrolled in the Hartford Foundation/American Federation for Aging Research Geriatric Scholars Program. With his help, she presented their research at the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation meeting in New Orleans in February. He also spoke on “Medicine, Moonlighting, and Morality” for the preclinical medical students’ Integrative Health Care Association lecture series.

Clinical Informatics:

As Director of Clinical Informatics for both the Division and the Department of Medicine, Dr. Badgett devoted considerable energy to promoting education in informatics for our medical students and residents. He continued to teach a weekly series of informatics seminars to third year medical students, and instructed residents in informatics at Morning Report and during the Primary Care block rotation. Dr. Badgett directed the two-week long selective in medical informatics for fourth year medical students, and contributed five presentations. Dr. Mortensen led a seminar in the course as well. At the beginning of the academic year, Dr. Badgett additionally gave two lectures to third year students on how to search for medical evidence.

During the year, Dr. Badgett presented sessions on literature searching at the Summer Institute on Evidence-based Practice, our Regional Academic Health Center, and the 27th Annual Family Practice Review Course in San Antonio. He presented posters on just-in-time searching at the UTHSCSA Expo 2003 and the AAMC Group on Information Resources’ annual meeting. He co-developed a new search engine for dentistry, “Evidents,” in conjunction with the Forsyth Institute. He is the co-owner of a patent for Evidents.
Dr. Badgett continued his service on the Library Committee and the Web Advisory subcommittee of the Computing Resources Committee, which oversees the policies of the Health Science Center’s web sites. He helped design and publish the electronic Dean’s newsletter. He serves on the advisory board for our Academic Center for Evidence-based Nursing.

He maintained his own SUMSearch software, which quickly identifies relevant guidelines, systematic reviews, and original research articles on topics in clinical medicine (http://sumsearch.uthscsa.edu).

Dr. Badgett continued to maintain the Department of Medicine’s web site, including portions describing our residency program and its sister program in Harlingen. In addition he maintained the Division’s page (medicine.uthscsa.edu/genmed/), which includes our mission statement, current and past Annual Reports, links to the web sites of SGIM and other academic societies, and educational resources. He also maintained a clinical resources home page that provides access to electronic databases for staff based at UTHSC, University Health System, and the VA (clinical.uthscsa.edu).

He maintained several electronic information services, including the web page of SGIM’s Clinical Examination Interest Group and the ClinDx listserv, which distributes a monthly compilation of research on the medical history and physical examination. He provided similar services monthly for MedConsult, a compilation of research on pre-operative clinical assessment prepared by Dr. Lawrence for the SGIM Medical Consultation Interest Group.

Finally, Dr. Badgett continued as Associate Editor for Electronic Publications at the Annals of Internal Medicine. His work involves enhancing the electronic versions of the Annals and revising its web site, Annals.org. In addition, during the year he completed a project resulting in a handheld version of the Annals.

The Regional Academic Health Center:

Full implementation of our teaching programs at the new Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was accomplished in July. Dr. Kosub focused on medical student education, identifying, recruiting, and preparing physicians from the Harlingen community for ambulatory and inpatient teaching. She additionally presented a workshop on effective teaching methods at a RAHC Faculty Development Retreat that was attended by more than 50 clinical preceptors over a weekend in early October. Drs. Kumar, Badgett, and Wathen also led workshops at the retreat. Dr. Diehl visited the RAHC in November to present two conferences to the students, and Dr. Wathen returned the following month to present a faculty workshop on billing and documentation procedures.

For the first time, 24 third year students took their required 12-week medicine clerkship at the RAHC campus in Harlingen. Dr. Kosub served as clerkship director. The new rotation includes 6 weeks’ inpatient experience at Valley Baptist Hospital. In addition, each student spends six weeks in various clinics and private physicians’
practices, dividing time between a general internist and two medicine subspecialists. As at our home campus, students evaluate patients with a broad range of acute and chronic illnesses, and participate in an on-site version of the informatics course. Students also attend a series of multidisciplinary seminars in primary care coordinated by our Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family and Community Medicine. Student evaluations of the experience were very positive, with the one-on-one exposure to teaching physicians receiving the highest ratings.

Dr. Baruch-Bienen assisted in the inaugural year of the new internal medicine residency program at Valley Baptist Hospital. She assisted in developing its curriculum and interviewed candidates for its residency class. Drs. Kosub and Baruch-Bienen served on the medical school’s RAHC Faculty Development Committee and were co-directors for internal medicine on two HRSA grants that support our efforts.

San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review Course:

In May, Dr. Conde served as Director of this 14th annual intensive course designed to help attendees prepare for the 2003 ABIM certifying examination. Dr. Kumar joined her this year as Co-director. The course, sponsored by the ACP-ASIM and held at the Plaza San Antonio Hotel, continued the three and a half day format that has been so successful in recent years. Drs. Conde and Kumar worked closely with the continuing education staff of the ACP-ASIM to prepare the curriculum and coordinate the conference. In addition to traditional lectures, the course included intensive case studies presented in interactive workshops. Workshops in neurology and office orthopedics were continued for a second year, as well as a section on dermatology for the primary care internist. Dr. Perkins revised his contribution to the syllabus. Over 100 physicians attended. Consistent with previous years, course ratings by the attendees were highly favorable, with the workshops receiving especially positive evaluations.

Drs. Conde and Kumar will serve as Directors for the 15th annual San Antonio Internal Medicine Board Review course, to be presented in June 2004.

Division Faculty Conferences:

Division faculty gather weekly for conferences after Medicine Grand Rounds. A faculty Journal Club, also attended by interns on the Primary Care rotation, is held monthly. A Research conference, Division business meeting, and a Faculty Development Conference focusing on educational issues rotate on the month’s other Wednesdays. 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. Fifteen Division members contributed to the Journal Club schedule, while Drs. Perkins, Noël, Lawrence, and Mortensen presented their research. Drs. Wathen, Tamayo, Diehl, Griffin, O’Rorke, Mortensen, Badgett, and Conde gave the year’s Faculty Development conferences.
Conferences, Rounds, and Classroom Lectures

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds:

Dr. Wathen:    “Managing Menopause”
Dr. Griffin:    “The Evaluation of the Patient with Vertigo”
Dr. William McGuire:  “The Internist and American Health Care: Leadership and Control, or Capitulation?”
Dr. Hunt:     “Tobacco Wars: Improving our Effectiveness at Smoking Cessation”
Dr. Diehl:     “Grounds for Concern? The Health Effects of Coffee”

Housestaff Conference Series:

Dr. Kosub:     Teaching medical students (interns)
Dr. Pugh:     Diabetes management in Medicine Clinic
Dr. Lawrence:  Pre-operative evaluation
Dr. Badgett:   Irritable bowel, constipation, chronic abdominal pain
Dr. Diehl:     Practicing prevention in Medicine Clinic
Dr. Mortensen: Impotence and sexual dysfunction
Dr. Badgett:   Low back pain
Dr. Perkins:   Ethical issues in medical practice (with Dr. Baruch-Bienen)
Dr. Pugh:     Prevention of diabetes complications
Dr. Kosub:     Eating disorders
Dr. Fishman:   Heat illness
Dr. O'Rorke:   Ankle, knee, hip pain
Dr. Pugh:     Headache
Dr. Wathen:    Family planning
Dr. Fishman:   Hypertensive urgencies
Dr. Lawrence:  Arterial insufficiency

Department of Medicine Research Conference:

Dr. Mortensen: “Improving Outcomes for Patients with Community Acquired Pneumonia”

Other teaching activities:
Drs. Lawrence and Pugh were instructors in the Introduction to Clinical Investigation course for subspecialty fellows in the Department of Medicine. Both additionally lectured in the research methods course for the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation curriculum at the Health Science Center. Dr. Pugh gave two lectures on secondary database analysis in the Patient Oriented Clinical Research Methods and Biostatistics course.

Dr. O’Rorke continued the selective in women’s health that she developed for preclinical medical students. She also developed and held a coding and billing workshop for PGY3 internal medicine residents planning to enter practice.

Drs. Kosub and Kumar were small group facilitators in the “On Becoming a Doctor” course for fourth year medical students.

Dr. Mortensen led a seminar for fourth year students in the Alternative Medicine selective.

Dr. Wathen lectured in the fourth year student pharmacology elective on women’s health.

Dr. Baruch-Bienen was a preceptor in the first year students’ Clinical Integration Course. In addition, she continued as CME Faculty Advisor for the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Hitchcock-Nöel successfully implemented the first year of a VA Associated Health Professions Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Health Services Research and Development. She serves as director of this training program.

Dr. Kumar discussed a patient at Morbidity and Mortality conference.

Dr. Perkins precepted a medical student who presented research at the annual Medical Students’ Research Day in September.

Drs. Wathen and Kosub served on a Dean’s committee planning to establish a Teaching Academy at our medical school.

During the fall, Dr. Conde completed the two-month Health Science Center’s Teaching Excellence course. Dr. Tamayo attended an intensive faculty training course in addiction medicine at the Hanley-Hazelden Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. O’Rorke completed her two year faculty development fellowship in general internal medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**PATIENT CARE HIGHLIGHTS**

Resident Continuity Clinics, University Health Center-Downtown and Audie Murphy VA:
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. Health maintenance and disease prevention are emphasized. Division faculty oversee care and teach in both clinics.

Dr. O’Rorke served as the Medical Director of General Medicine Clinic at the University Health Center-Downtown. The Medicine Acute Care Clinic, which serves the clinic’s patients who develop acute symptoms, continued to supplement the learning experience for residents. Dr. O’Rorke conducted an orientation program for interns during July, and continued a program that recognizes residents who display excellence in the care of their patients. She chaired faculty work sessions that evaluated residents’ performance in the clinic.

An important reorganization of the clinic was implemented in July. Dr. O’Rorke, assisted by Robyn Childress, Clinic Manager, began operating the Clinic under four resident-staff teams. Residents were assigned to color-coded sections of the clinic space staffed by stable personnel, so that a team relationship could develop. The transition to the new organization was seamless, with residents, faculty, and staff expressing satisfaction with the changes. Waiting times for patients were reduced by 50%.

Due to the leadership of Nancy Sugarek, the clinic’s nurse practitioner, our anticoagulation services were reorganized. A new master's level nurse practitioner was recruited and hired, and the clinic began receiving reimbursement for previously unreimbursed services.

Dr. Kumar developed, explained, and distributed a new Narcotic Treatment Agreement for use in the clinic. The new contract form was published in English and Spanish versions. Dr. Perkins framed and mounted a diabetes poster for the patient waiting area.

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

At the VA hospital, Dr. Tamayo was appointed Co-director of Internal Medicine Clinic, joining Dr. Griffin. Dr. Tamayo coordinated the clinic’s resident evaluation process, and revised the residents’ orientation to the clinic. Dr. Griffin 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. The Division's attendings continued their support of anticoagulation and drug monitoring clinics staffed by Pharm.D. faculty.

The Diagnostic Pavilion:
The Diagnostic Pavilion serves as the principal site for the medical school's faculty practice, which provides care to university and hospital employees as well as persons from the San Antonio community and beyond. Dr. Jones continued to head general internal medicine activities there. Among his duties were the review and authorization of physician referral requests. Dr. Lefeber continued his busy practice and precepted third year medical students. In addition, Drs. Diehl, Venkatachalam, and Fishman continued to see their 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. Drs. Pugh, Griffin, Lawrence, Mortensen, and Tamayo supervised nurse practitioners and provided personal care to veterans with chronic diseases. Dr. Pugh continued to direct the VA's Weight Management program.

Internal Medicine Group at UHC-Downtown:

Drs. Benavides, Kumar, and O'Rorke Staff 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. Dr. Benavides took time from his practices one session weekly to teach in the students' Ambulatory Care Clerkship.

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 health manpower.

The Division's principal research center is the Veterans Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation Center (VERDICT), directed by Dr. Pugh and co-directed by Dr. Noël. Funded by the Veterans Healthcare Administration, VERDICT seeks to translate and implement guidelines into clinical practice.

New Grants, 7/02-6/03
Dr. Lawrence (Principal investigator): Systematic review and tracking database for clinical practice guideline implementation research. VA HSR&D, 2003-2008, $735,400


Dr. Mortensen (Principal investigator): The effects of chronic statin use on outcomes for patients hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia. VA VISN 17, 2002-2004, $90,000

Dr. Mortensen (Principal investigator): The effects of statins on clinical outcomes for patients hospitalized with community-acquired pneumonia. Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 2002-2003, $40,000

Dr. Perkins (Principal investigator): Medical student geriatric scholarship. John A. Hartford Foundation/American Federation for Aging Research, 2002-2003, $4,000

Dr. Pugh (Principal investigator): Veterans’ Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation Center (VERDICT). VA HSR&D, 2003-2008, $3,540,000

Research Presentations at Scientific Meetings, 7/02-6/03


Lawrence VA, Hazuda HP, Bradshaw P, Cornell JE, Mulrow CD. Predicting elders’ functional recovery after major abdominal surgery. 26th annual meeting, SGIM, Vancouver, 5/03.

Mortensen E, Restrepo M, Anzueto A, Pugh J. Guideline-concordant antibiotic therapy and mortality in patients with community-acquired pneumonia. 21st national VA HSR&D meeting, Washington, 2/03, and 26th annual meeting, SGIM, Vancouver, 5/03.


Jarvis JW, O’Rorke JE, and the 4P Group. Characteristics related to increased chronic non-malignant pain perception. Southern SGIM meeting, New Orleans, 2/03.


James DK, Perkins HS, Hazuda HP. Ethnicity and gender affect attitudes about post-mortem procedures. Annual meeting, Texas Academy of Internal Medicine, Galveston, 11/02 (third place award); annual meeting, Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, New Orleans, 2/03; 26th annual meeting, SGIM, Vancouver, 5/03; national meeting, American Geriatrics Society, Baltimore, 5/03; and 6th International Bioethics Retreat, Pavia, Italy, 6/03.

Adams SG, Pugh JA, Kazis LE, Anzueto A. Former smokers with COPD have better mental health than active smokers. Annual meeting, American College of Chest Physicians, San Diego, 10/02.


Parchman ML, Pugh JA, Romero RL. Diabetes quality of care in the primary care setting. 30th annual meeting, North American Primary Care Research Group, New Orleans, 11/02.

Best RG, Hysong SJ, Moore FI, Pugh JA. Knowledge management and CPG implementation: developing measures of knowledge management constructs. 21st national VA HSR&D meeting, Washington, 2/03.

Adams SG, Anzueto A, Pugh JA, Lichtenstein M, Hazuda HP. Mexican-Americans have significantly less exposure to tobacco than European Americans, despite similar severities of COPD. 99th annual meeting, American Thoracic Society, Seattle, 5/03.

Parchman ML, Pugh JA. Characteristics of primary care practices in the U.S.: implications for chronic illness care. 20th annual research meeting, Academy Health, Nashville, 6/03.

Publications, 7/02 - 6/03


Other Activities
Dr. Diehl worked with the Texas Academy of Internal Medicine's General Internal Medicine Statewide Preceptorship Program to recruit a record 42 of our medical students for summer experiences with community general internists.

Drs. Kosub, Hunt, Diehl, Wathen, Fishman, Griffin, Tamayo, O’Rorke, and Kumar served as faculty advisors to medical students.

Dr. Kumar served as a special mentor for two residents.

Dr. Diehl continued as faculty sponsor for the Medical Student Internal Medicine Interest Group. One hundred fifty of our medical students are members of the ACP-ASIM. He also spoke at the medical school’s alumni reunion weekend in October.

Dr. Hunt spoke to the Medical Student Internal Medicine Interest Group on procedures for applying for residencies in internal medicine. She also met individually with over 30 students to discuss their career plans and specific residency programs.

Dr. Griffin served on the Human Subjects Review Committee at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Dr. Wathen’s poem “To Rose Ellen” won the Healing Power of Poetry competition in the medical school’s Spring Enrichment Program.

In June, Dr. Conde played pieces by Bach, Mozart, and Handel as a prelude to the graduating residents’ convocation ceremony.