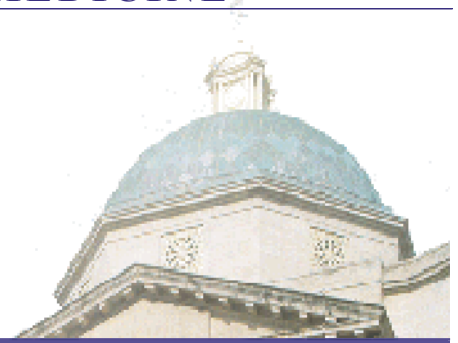


THE DEPARTMENT OF  
**INTERNAL  
MEDICINE**



Newsletter of the Department of Internal Medicine

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## **Guidelines for Interactions Among Yale Medical Group Physicians and the Pharmaceutical Industry**

The faculty in clinical departments of Yale School of Medicine (YSM) have developed guidelines for interactions among the physicians of Yale Medical Group and the pharmaceutical industry. These guidelines have been formally endorsed by the Board of Governors of Yale Medical Group (YMG) and apply to all those full-time faculty of YSM who practice in Yale Medical Group (YMG physicians). The guidelines supplement Yale University's policies on conflict of interest and are among the most explicit and stringent of any academic medical center. The overriding goal of these guidelines is to ensure as much as possible that the integrity of clinical decision-making is not compromised by financial or other personal relationships with industry.

A full description of the guidelines will be released to the faculty shortly. The guidelines provide guidance on the receipt of gifts, compensation, scholarships for trainees, free drug samples, support for educational activities on or off the Yale School of Medicine campus, and establish additional requirements for disclosure of financial relationships with industry. Some of the key elements in the guidelines include:

1. YMG physicians should not accept any form of gift from industry and that meals funded by industry should not be provided on the YSM campus.
2. The Yale Departments should regulate industry support for scholarships and travel to scientific meetings by YSM trainees.
3. Although free drug samples can be distributed to patients, free drug samples should not be used by YMG physicians for themselves or family members.
4. Educational events on the YSM campus that are

sponsored by industry must comply with the requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (available at [http://www.accme.org/dir\\_docs/doc\\_upload/68b2902a-fb73-44d1-8725-80a1504e520c\\_uploaddocument.pdf](http://www.accme.org/dir_docs/doc_upload/68b2902a-fb73-44d1-8725-80a1504e520c_uploaddocument.pdf)) regardless of whether or not formal Continuing Medical Education credit is awarded. Among other provisions, compliance with the ACCME guidelines requires that financial conflicts of interest with commercial entities be *both* disclosed *and* resolved by speakers at educational events.

5. Participation in industry-sponsored educational events off the YSM campus should ensure that the YMG physician has full control of the content and that the educational activity presents objective information that is as free as possible of bias or marketing influences.

The guidelines are not technically binding on YMG Physicians, except in certain areas cited in the guidelines that are legally prohibited. Adherence to the guidelines is strongly encouraged, however, to avoid both conflict of interest in clinical practice and violation of the federal anti-kickback statute and other laws

We believe that these guidelines will help to preserve the independence of our faculty and reduce the potential for real or perceived bias in our clinical decision-making and educational programs. Since we would also like to enhance the ability of the pharmaceutical industry to perform research and development independently and in collaboration with academic medical centers, we hope that these guidelines will promote an effective and ethical partnership between academic medical centers and the pharmaceutical industry that will facilitate drug discovery and more widespread use of effective therapies.

## New Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) Website Launched



Do you have an older patient or loved one about to be admitted to the hospital? Or are you a clinician caring for older persons in the hospital? In response to numerous calls for help from older adults and those who care for them, a new website has been developed at <http://www.hospitalelderlifeprogram.org>. This website is designed to provide information about hospital care and avoiding complications of hospitalization, such as functional decline and delirium. Delirium is a sudden disturbance in thinking or attention that occurs frequently in hospitalized older persons but often goes unrecognized.

Responding to suggestions from clinicians across the country who work with older adults, the website provides educational materials (in large print format) for patients and caregivers, as well as a reference listing, searchable bibliography, and useful weblinks for clinicians about acute hospital care for older persons generally and about delirium in specific. The website also provides information about the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) and dissemination sites around the world.

HELP is an innovative and cost-effective model of hospital care developed by Dr. Sharon Inouye and her team at Yale University School of Medicine. The program is designed to reduce delirium and functional decline by keeping older hospitalized persons oriented to their surroundings, keeping them mobile, avoiding unnecessary medications, and meeting their needs for nutrition, fluids, and sleep while in the hospital. The website will also provide support for enrolling new and ongoing HELP sites.

“Our goal is to create an online community for those involved in acute hospital care for older persons”, says Peter Charpentier, the website designer. “The HELP program, and the website, can play a critical role in improving patient safety for older persons in the hospital setting”, says Dr. Dorothy Baker, director of the HELP National Dissemination Project.

The current website development team includes Sharon Inouye, Dorothy Baker, Peter Charpentier, Patricia Fugal, Susan Grant, Geraldine Hawthorne, Eric Miller and Lynne Sette. Funding for the development of the website was provided by the National Library of Medicine.

## Library Notes:

### New Technologies for Communication, Current Awareness and Collaboration

Library staff are experimenting with several new technologies that may become important adjuncts to our traditional ways of communicating - Blogs (aka Weblogs) and RSS feeds. These are not the type of well-tested production services I tend to discuss in this column. You may find application for them in keeping up with emerging information resources or as a new way of collaborating with colleagues.

#### Blogs/Weblogs

A Weblog - Blog for short - is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary (trust me, it's really in the OED – <http://dictionary.oed.com>) as “A frequently updated web site consisting of personal observations, excerpts from other sources, etc., typically run by a single person, and usually with hyperlinks to other sites; an online journal or diary.”

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Many people became aware of this new medium last year when bloggers (those to create the blogs) played a visible role in the presidential campaign. You may think of blogs as the unfiltered rants of an individual but increasingly, there are many blogs which function as communities for a more cordial exchange ideas and information. Many blogs allow comments which are then available to anyone accessing the blog. While they bear similarities with email listservs and threaded discussion groups, the blog format is more flexible. A blog can be viewed as a separate Webpage or it can be delivered through an RSS feed as you will see below. Particularly appealing to many, there is neither the commitment nor the added volume to an already bloated Email inbox that comes with other methods of electronic communication.

Jan Glover, a senior member of the Medical Library's reference department, began a blog on search tips back in March. Jan periodically posts tips, tricks, search enhancements and other thoughts about how to locate the best biomedical literature. "Jan's Search Tips" is a way to share her knowledge and new discoveries with whoever is interested and provides opportunity for feedback and discussion. You can monitor it on a regular basis or scan the archives for items of interest at your convenience. "Jan's Search Tips" are on the Web at <http://janstips.blogspot.com/>

There is not a lot in the published medical literature on blogs at this point. A recent article in the journal "Artificial Organs" discusses how blogs and another tool, wikis, can be use to enhance communication among researchers:

Sauer, Igor, et al. "Blogs" and "Wikis" are valuable software tools for communication within research groups. *Artificial Organs* 2005; 29(1):82-83.  
<http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1111/j.1525-1594.2004.29005.x>

### **RSS Feeds**

RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication". RSS, pronounced "arr-ess-ess", is a web syndication protocol primarily used by news websites and weblogs. A program known as an RSS aggregator or feed reader can check RSS-enabled webpages on behalf of a user and display any updated articles that it finds. More detailed technical information on RSS feeds and links to related resources are available at <http://www.med.yale.edu/library/technology/rss/>

We are currently using RSS to display news feeds on several Web pages such as the feed from the "Ectopic Brain" Website on the Medical Library's PDA page - <http://www.med.yale.edu/library/technology/PDA/>

Library staff are working on a Webpage that will help you to get RSS feeds for journal table of contents, giving you another option for current awareness. If you can't wait and would like to see how this works, take a look at the RSS feed information for the British Medical Journal at <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/misc/rss.shtml>

Also on the horizon is an RSS option for PubMed. Once implemented, you will be able to define and store a search in that database and have the results delivered automatically to an RSS reader. Details are available at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj05/mj05\\_rss.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj05/mj05_rss.html)

If you would like to integrate RSS feeds like the Medical Library's news or journal tables of contents into your department or section's Webpages, we would be happy to share our knowledge on RSS. Just contact me or go directly to the Medical Library's Webmaster, Rick Zwies.

Keep an eye on the news portion of the Medical Library's homepage for more information once these services become available.

### **The YaleInfo Portal**

A related information technology initiative is YaleInfo, a new way for Yale faculty, staff and students to create a customized Webpage. Though still a development project, you may find the current version useful. Going to the main portal link – <http://portale.yale.edu> – will take you to the generic page. If you then login using your NetID,

you will have the opportunity to customize the page in many ways. For example, you could create a custom page with a blog of your choosing. Library Staff are also currently exploring the YaleInfo initiative to see how portal technology can fit into our overall strategy of delivering information to our users.

For more information or for comments on this topic or any other library-related matter, contact the Department of Internal Medicine's Library Liaison, Mark Gentry. Email: [mark.gentry@yale.edu](mailto:mark.gentry@yale.edu) --- Telephone: 785-2163 --- Office: Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Room 113B (in the Morse Periodical Room)

Contact information for Rick Zwies, Web Services Librarian: [richard.zwies@yale.edu](mailto:richard.zwies@yale.edu), 737-2954

## Research in Residency Day

On May 19, 2005 the Department of Internal Medicine held its third annual Research in Residency Day. A total of 13 Internal Medicine residents presented the results of their independent research projects that they conducted during a 3-month elective period of time during their residency training. Over 80 faculty, housestaff, and students attended this exciting event. Ten residents delivered poster presentations. They were:

Anita Chandrasena, M.D.  
 Emmanuelle Clerisme-Beaty, M.D.  
 Ashu Goyal, M.D.  
 Earle Hayes, M.D.  
 Timothy Mahoney, M.D.  
 Katie Moriarty, M.D.  
 Jennifer Sharp Possick, M.D.  
 Meeta Prasad, M.D.  
 Gregory Singer, M.D.  
 Bechien Wu, M.D.

Three residents delivered slide presentations of their research. They were each presented with a newly instituted Ralph I. Horwitz Award for their particularly outstanding work. They were:

Jacqueline Barrientos, M.D.  
 Carlos Mena, M.D.  
 Marc Rothman, M.D.

The Research in Residency Program was embarked upon by the Department of Internal Medicine to facilitate resident appreciation in hypothesis testing to create new knowledge, and to create a new dimension to the academic experience of clinical residency training. All residents in the Research in Residency program are closely mentored by Internal Medicine faculty in developing and completing a focus project of mutual interest.

The research projects of the residents and their faculty mentors for 2005 were as follows:



From left to right: Marc Rothman, M.D., Jacqueline Barrientos, M.D., Ralph Horwitz, M.D., and Carlos Mena, M.D.

Poster Presentation Abstracts:

1. TGF-beta Transcriptional profiling in Pulmonary Fibrosis (Anita Chandrasena – Resident, David Morris – Mentor).
2. Occurrence of Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Emboli in Patients with Cirrhosis (Emmanuelle M. Clerisme-Beaty – Resident, Mark D. Siegel – Mentor).
3. Failure Mode Effect Analysis of Laboratory Process in the Emergency Department (Ashu Goyal – Resident, Michael Apkon – Mentor)
4. Major Depressive Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, and Complicated Grief in Next-of-Kin of Patients Who Die in the Intensive Care Unit (Earle Hayes – Resident, Mark D. Siegel – Mentor).
5. Ejection Fraction is a Poor Predictor of Recurrent Arrhythmia in Patients Receiving ICDs for Primary Prophylaxis (Timothy Mahoney – Resident, Rachel Lampert – Mentor).
6. Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulator Effects on Vascular Function (Katie Moriarty – Resident, Jeffrey R. Bender – Mentor).
7. HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitor Use and Outcomes in Patients with Community Acquired Pneumonia: A Retrospective Chart Review (Jennifer Possick – Resident, Mark D. Siegel – Mentor).
8. Patient Preferences Regarding Prolonged Life Support and Withdrawal of Care (Meeta Prasad – Resident, Mark D. Siegel – Mentor).
9. Integration of Clinical Practice and Research in a Real World Setting: Process Analysis and Preliminary Findings (Gregory M. Singer – Resident, John F. Setaro – Mentor).
10. Role of Protein Kinase C in Early Pancreatitis: Effects on Zymogen Activation, Secretion and Cell Damage in Isolated Acinar Cells (Bechien Wu – Resident, Fred Gorelick – Mentor).

Slide Presentation Abstracts:

1. The Suppressor of Cytokine Signaling-3 Gene is Overexpressed in Human Follicular Lymphomas and Promotes IL-3-Independent Proliferation of BaF3 Pro-B Cells (Jacqueline C. Barrientos – Resident, Gary J. Vanasse – Mentor).
2. Detection of Heart Transplant Rejection in Adults by Diastolic Indices: A Quality Review of the Literature (Carlos Mena – Resident, Harlan Krumholz – Mentor).
3. Refusing Medical Treatments: A Community-Based Cohort with Advanced Chronic Illness (Marc Rothman – Resident, Terri Fried – Mentor).

We remain extremely proud of the great success of the Research in Residency Program, and we will continue to expand and celebrate the program in subsequent years.

Dr. Vincent Quagliarello

# Faculty Awards Presented to Department of Medicine Faculty at Medical School Commencement

The **Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award** presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation recognizes and honors a faculty member who has demonstrated particular compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of care to patients. The 2005 Award went to **Dr. Sharon Inouye**, Professor of Internal Medicine, Section of General Medicine.



Dean Robert Alpern and Sharon Inouye, M.D.

Here is a representative comment regarding Dr. Inouye:

“Dr. Sharon Inouye, more than any other human being I have ever encountered, on or off the wards, pays attention. She listens with her entire body. Even when she leaves the patient’s room, Dr. Inouye remains absorbed with the problem, whether it be a simple cold or an unsolved medical mystery. The patient becomes the center of her universe. She orbits each one until they are on the path to health. Only then does she rest. Every physician in training should spend one day with Sharon Inouye. You cannot help but catch her contagious compassion for her patients. It is impossible not to become a more caring person just by watching her interactions with those around her.”

Recipients of the two **Bohmalk Prizes for Teaching** (one award given for teaching in the Basic Sciences, one for teaching in the Clinical Sciences) were nominated by medical students and faculty members. A committee of students and faculty reviewed the responses and made the final selections:



Peter Aronson, M.D.

This year the two winners (a husband and wife team!) were Dr. Marie Landry, Professor of Laboratory Medicine and **Dr. Peter Aronson**, CNH Long Professor of Internal Medicine, Nephrology and Physiology.

Here is a representative comment regarding Dr. Aronson:

“We are lucky to have such a member of the faculty. I have never met anyone who teaches you so much, but at the same time keeps a humor within the class that makes it enjoyable. He has convinced me that nephrology and the kidney are virtually the only things that matter in life. He also made himself very accessible outside of

class, writing carefully thought-out answers to questions that we emailed him. He volunteered his time to take those of us interested into the ICU to look at real patient lab values and to show us the importance of acid-base in everyday clinical medicine.”

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Inouye and Aronson.

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# Medical Grand Rounds

- June 2, 2005                      Calabresi Lecture: *“Developing Novel Therapeutics for Stent Restensis, Heart Failure and Cardiac Arrhythmias”*  
Andrew R. Marks, M.D., Chair, Department of Physiology/Cellular Biology, Professor of Medicine, Columbia P&S
- June 9, 2005                      *“A Case of Locally Acquired Leptospirosis”*  
Michele Barry, M.D., Professor of Medicine & Public Health, Co-Director, Office of International Health  
Adam Wisnewski, PhD, Assistant Professor, Occupational Medicine  
Carrie Redlich, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Occupational & Environmental Medicine
- June 16, 2005                      *“Modern Refugee Medicine: Looking for Camels in South Darfur”*  
Stephen Winter, M.D., Chief of Pulmonary & Critical Care  
Medicine,                              Norwalk Hospital
- June 23, 2005                      No Grand Rounds
- June 30, 2005                      *“Young Woman with Fever, Splenomega and Pancytopenia”*  
Nancy Berliner, M.D., Professor of Medicine & Genetics, Section of Hematology

Grand Rounds begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Fitkin Amphitheatre.

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

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