Message from the Chair

In my role as chair, I am thankful for our trainees and to the faculty committed to our training programs. The jobs we have as faculty are greatly enriched by doctoral students, residents, fellows, and post-doctoral trainees. Specifically, our residents have many accomplishments in the past year.

First, our residents are the face of UNM to nearly all of our patients. The residents staff, most of the hospital wards, and many of our clinics. Our residents play a key role in the care we provide to our patients and the role of our faculty members are to model, mentor, and coach outstanding patient care and professionalism from our trainees. As faculty, we role model professionalism with both colleagues and patients and help to teach key communication skills. In the next year with our residents, we will focus on introductions, difficult discussions, and hand-offs as these are important to patient care.

We have success in the past year with 93% of our residents passing boards. In the past year, we have been committed as faculty to disseminate clinical knowledge to our trainees. Our department is committed to providing the resources needed so that every resident and fellow has the knowledge and test-taking skills needed to pass their board exams. Our expectation for the next year is that every resident will have the tools needed to perform at a high level and I have asked both UNMH and VA faculty to focus on providing the knowledge and skills to our learners so that they can perform better in these exams.

In addition to the role of our trainees in patient care, our medical residents contribute to generating new knowledge. Our residents have disseminated education research, quality improvement projects, case reports and more basic science contributions. The recent New Mexico ACP meeting was a terrific venue to see the scholarship of our trainees with a record number of posters presented at this meeting, and many of these posters were from our residents.

People: Welcome!

New Faculty Hires:

- Jeremy Chien, PhD
  Assistant Professor
  Molecular Medicine

- Mingsheng Guo, PhD
  Research Assistant Professor
  Molecular Medicine

- Yan Guo, PhD
  Assistant Professor
  Molecular Medicine

- Tsun Sheng Ku, MD
  Assistant Professor
  Infectious Diseases

New Staff Hires:

- Camille Irish
  Admin Assistant 2
  AA/HR

- Greg Trejo
  Clinical Research Mgr
  Nephrology

- Amy Zamorano
  HS Research Tech 3
  Endocrinology
Dr. Kamran Shaffi from the Division of Nephrology has been awarded the Darwin Peterson Award for DCI Grants. Dr. Shaffi is Medical Director of one of our dialysis units and has the highest quality scores in the DCI System.

Program ABIM Results

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates who passed their board exams. Our program pass rate for this year was 93%!

President Award of Distinction

Dr. Robert Strickland was awarded the Presidential Award of Distinction. This award is one of the most prestigious recognitions bestowed by the University president. It was established to recognize outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, leadership in a profession, noteworthy public service or humanitarian endeavor. The award is an opportunity to acknowledge remarkable individuals, both on campus and throughout New Mexico. Each recipient will be presented with a piece of Native American pottery resting on a personalized,

It is our mission to train the next generation of physicians and scientists for New Mexico and beyond. While we have challenges due to finances and resource constraints, the rewards from our trainees keep many of our faculty engaged in the mission of UNM and the NMVAH. I personally find the growth of individual trainees, their accomplishments, and the passion for the underserved refreshing and it sustain me through daily provocations. Our trainees and faculty inspire me to advocate every day on behalf of our mission. For that, I am thankful.
The mission of Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is to provide access to the best evidence-based healthcare for rural and underserved populations around the globe through collaborative innovation in medical education across all levels of the healthcare workforce. This mission has deep roots in the UNM Department of Internal Medicine (DOIM), as does its commitment to collaborative innovation in medical education across all levels of the healthcare workforce.

The ECHO model, developed in 2003 by Sanjeev Arora, UNM DOIM Distinguished Professor of Medicine, to address disparities in hepatitis C care across rural New Mexico, links expert interdisciplinary specialist teams at academic and institutional medical centers (“hubs”) with primary care clinicians (“spokes”). During regular videoconference sessions, the specialists mentor the clinicians on de-identified patient cases and share expertise via feedback, guidance, and brief lectures.

Over 60 research publications evaluating the ECHO model’s efficacy as a platform for healthcare service delivery and research have established its impact on patient outcomes and healthcare systems (see a full bibliography at https://echo.unm.edu/about-echo/research/). Over the past year, Project ECHO was brought into the national spotlight through the bipartisan ECHO Act, passed unanimously by Congress in November and signed into law by President Barack Obama in December 2016. The ECHO Act mandates that the Secretary of Health and Human Services study the impact of Project ECHO on priority conditions like mental and substance use disorders and chronic diseases; on healthcare workforce issues; on public health programs; and on healthcare access for rural and underserved populations. This study, to be completed by December 2019, will assess opportunities for leveraging the ECHO model to improve HHS programs and healthcare delivery on a national scale. Over 135 hub partners at academic and institutional medical centers—over 80 in the U.S., and over 50 internationally—are using ECHO to combat healthcare disparities in over 65 conditions. The ECHO Institute team supports these partners through ongoing technical assistance and resource sharing, and continues to train further replication partners at monthly virtual and face-to-face immersion sessions.

At its home in UNMHSC, the ECHO Institute conducts teleECHO programs that have reached 491 health centers in 28 of New Mexico’s 33 counties over the past three years. These programs provide mentoring and case-based learning to thousands of the state’s frontline healthcare providers, in evidence-based care for hepatitis C, chronic pain, integrated addictions and psychiatry, rheumatology, HIV, tuberculosis, antimicrobial stewardship, bone health, and many other conditions. DOIM support has been crucial to the success of Project ECHO since its beginnings. In addition to Dr. Arora, who serves as its Director, the ECHO Institute’s three Associate Directors and many of its participating specialists are DOIM faculty committed to combating healthcare disparities.
Project ECHO is continuing to address disparities in New Mexico and around the world, bringing their expertise and passion to Project ECHO’s mission [see sidebar]. Project ECHO is indebted to them and to the continued support of the DOIM divisions that they represent, as it is to all of the UNMHSC faculty and departments who participate in ECHO programs. Through their work, UNMHSC is increasing the capacity of providers to treat patients at the local, primary care level. To learn more about Project ECHO and its many programs in New Mexico and beyond, ask a colleague, or visit its webpages at https://echo.unm.edu/.

### DOIM Faculty involved with Project ECHO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOIM Faculty</th>
<th>Project ECHO team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abinash Achrekar, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Cardiology ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christos Argyropoulos, MD</td>
<td>Endocrinology ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanjeev Arora, MD</td>
<td>Founder and Director, Project ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur Bankhurst, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Rheumatology ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Bouchonville, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Endocrinology ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meghan Brett, MD</td>
<td>Antimicrobial Stewardship ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcos Burgos, MD</td>
<td>NM DOH Tuberculosis (TB) ECHO, Navajo Nation TB ECHO, Bi-National TB ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Comerici, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Chronic Pain ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbert (Bert) Davis, PhD</td>
<td>Biostatistics, ECHO Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanna Diaz, MD</td>
<td>Sleep ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roderick Fields, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Rheumatology ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Hashimoto, MD</td>
<td>ECHO Medical IT consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Iandiorio, MD</td>
<td>HIV ECHO, Indian Health Services (IHS) HIV ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Kistin, MD</td>
<td>Education ECHO, Quality Improvement ECHO, Antimicrobial Stewardship ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miriam Komaromy, MD</td>
<td>ECHO Institute Associate Director; Director of Integrated Addictions and Psychiatry ECHO, Opioid ECHO, Community Health Worker programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Marr, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Primary Palliative Care ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devon Neale, MD</td>
<td>Palliative Care ECHO, Complex Care ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Page, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>ECHO Institute Associate Director for Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akshay Sood, MD</td>
<td>Medical Director, Miners’ Wellness ECHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Struminger, MD</td>
<td>ECHO Institute Associate Director; NM DOH TB ECHO, Bi-national TB ECHO, Indian Health Services ECHO programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ECHO programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karla Thornton, MD</td>
<td>ECHO Institute Associate Director; HCV ECHO programs, New Mexico Peer Education Program ECHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerome Yatskowitz, MD</td>
<td>Cardiology ECHO</td>
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Quality & Safety

The Quality and Safety Goals for the Department have been released, and focus on those metrics for which Department clinical services contribute to the overall metrics of the UNM Health System Quality Pillar Goals. These include:

- Mortality (as measured by Mortality Index)
- Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI; as measured by the number of CLABSI infections)
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI; as measured by the number of CAUTI infections)
- Peri-operative Deep Vein Thromboses/Pulmonary Emboli (DVT/PE; as measured by the number of DVT/PEs that occur peri-operatively)
- Patient Experience (as measured by HCAHPS and CGCAHPS scores from patients on Department clinical services)
- Ambulatory Access (as measured by the percentage of patients able to be seen within 10 days after appointment request is made)

The Department is forming physician-led teams who will work with hospital teams addressing these Goals on a system-wide basis. An “organizational chart” of these teams and leaders will soon be a part of the Quality page of the Department web site.

We will be reporting the progress of these teams and metric scores for each regularly in the HOWL. If you want to be part of any of these teams, please contact Drs. Worsham or Crowell.

DoIM Holiday Giving Project

Each year, the Department selects a charity to benefit from our Holiday Giving Project. This year we have chosen two charities to benefit from our efforts. Special Olympics of New Mexico provides year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults who have Intellectual disabilities. They have been chosen as beneficiary of the proceeds from our raffle and silent auction. Additionally, St. Martin’s HopeWorks (formerly St. Martin’s Hospitality Center) will benefit from a shower curtains/liners and hooks, washcloths and new or gently used towels drive that will be held during the first part of December. For the past 27 years, St. Martin’s has been instrumental in working to end homelessness in Albuquerque. Stay tuned for more information about the holiday festivities.

Growth

Update and Review of Internal Medicine Course

The CME office has notified the Department that Dr. Sanjeev Arora’s, MD (Director of Project ECHO) update and Review Internal Medicine Course is now on the approved list of CME for MOC requirements for ABIM. This would be the first conference CME has ever certified for MOC. If you currently need to recertify your board be on the look out for this course.
The New Mexico Chapter of the Society of Hospital Medicine has recognized several UNM colleagues for their service:

- Amanda Lechel, RN, MSN, FNP-C Advanced Practice Provider of the Year
- Katherina Avila, MD Resident of the Year in Hospital Medicine
- Holly Fleming, MD Physician of the Year
- J. Rush Pierce, MD, MPH, FHM, FACP Special Recognition for Leadership and Service

This year the School of Medicine’s 23rd Annual Dean’s Staff Award received 71 nominations for 39 individuals.

**New Mexico American College of Physicians gave the following awards:**

Rush Pierce – Chapter Laureate Award for service to the chapter
David Scrase – Chapter Advocacy Award
Linda MacDonald – Teacher of the Year Award
Hope Ferdowsian – Humanitarian of the Year Award
Robert Strickland – Lifetime Achievement Award
Elizabeth Lawrence – Distinguished Teacher and Mentor Award

**Resident Research awards went to:**
Umar Malik – Clinical Vignette Poster for “A Mind over Heart”

**Student Research awards went to:**
1st place Parissa Mortaji – “Gender Differences in Peer Reviewers Between Prestigious Medical Journals”
2nd place Kayla Caruso - “Unmasking Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia”
Academic

The Division of Rheumatology would like to announce our junior Fellow Noelle Rolle, MD was selected to participate in the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Fellows-in-Training (FIT) Subcommittee. She will serve a two-year term beginning November 2017 and ending in November 2019. This is a subcommittee of ACR on Training and Workforce (COTW) Issues. She will be expected to both attend and participate in the planning of the FIT Educational Sessions held twice a year, once during the ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting in the fall and again at the State-of-the-Art (SOTA) Clinical Symposium in April, with intermittent conference calls as well as participate in other projects of the subcommittee. The FIT Subcommittee works to enhance mentorship opportunities for fellows-in-training and fosters opportunities for fellows across institutions to engage with one another. This is a great honor for our program as we have never had a fellow participate on this committee.

How IM can help increase the board pass rates:
1. Attend Thursday School regularly
2. Participate in Resident Rotations
3. Model use of AIDET and reinforce it with residents (whiteboards and other best practices)
4. Use of power plans

How IM Faculty can help with the success of IM residents
1. Help with interviews for resident recruitment (see attached Interview schedule)
2. Volunteer to be a Faculty Research Mentor
3. Completion of evaluations

Faculty Research Mentors

We are seeking faculty who are interested in mentoring residents in research activities. This is an ideal opportunity to build your mentoring portfolio. Please provide a brief description of possible projects or your area of interest and your preferred method of contact.

Resident interviewers:

We appreciate faculty with a variety of backgrounds and experience to participate in interviewing. Faculty do not need to have detailed knowledge of the residency program in order to interview. We will provide sample questions to be used in the interviews and can meet with you individually to discuss interviewing in more detail if needed. Each individual interview is 20 minutes in length and a full morning of interviews for faculty is 4 interviews on weekdays and 6 interviews on Saturdays.

*If you are interested in being a faculty research mentor or volunteering for resident interviews - please contact: DOIM-Residency-Staff@salud.unm.edu*

| We need Faculty volunteers to interview IM Residency Candidates on the below listed dates and times: |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| **Friday 11/10/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 11/11/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
| **Monday 11/13/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Friday 11/17/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 11/18/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
| **Friday 12/01/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 12/2/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
| **Monday 12/4/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Friday 12/8/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 12/9/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
| **Monday 12/11/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Friday 12/15/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 12/16/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
| **Monday 12/18/2017** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Friday 1/5/2018** | **9:30 a.m.—11:30 P.M.** |
| **Saturday 1/6/2018** | **9:30 a.m.—12:30 P.M.** |
Halloween Winners

Each Year the department holds a themed week before Halloween and has costume contests each day of that week. Below are this year’s winners. Thanks to all who helped with the festivities.

Wicked Wednesday Winner: Jolene Castillo - ID

Throwback Thursday Winner: Alicia Hernandez—Edu

Fictional Character Friday Winner: Kayla Russo—Edu

Orange & Black Day Winner: Jolene Castillo - ID

Department Costume Contest: Office of Education

Feedback:

If you have any feedback for future newsletters or would like to submit information please contact Pam Anstine at PAnstine@salud.unm.edu