Investing in Primary Care: New Brochure Receives Praise

A new brochure on the value of investing in primary care is the result of a collaborative effort by the Center for Excellence in Primary Care at the University of California, San Francisco, and the Stoeckle Center. Shared recently at the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) and other conferences and meetings around the country, the brochure is informing clinicians, legislators (even presidential hopefuls), and the general public about the value of primary care and the threats it faces. To review or download a copy, visit the Stoeckle Center’s website and click on Publications: www.stoecklecenter.org.

Trust for Healthcare Excellence Meeting

The Mass General was well represented at the Trust for Healthcare Excellence meeting in Boulder, Colorado in June. One hundred likeminded individuals from across the country including representatives from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Group Health Cooperative, and the Group Practice Improvement Network, met to discuss a platform for health care reform that emphasizes a vital primary care system at its core. They also focused on efforts to place the crisis in primary care on the national agenda, and to develop systems that efficiently and effectively deliver primary care. A second meeting is planned for this fall. Questions may be directed to any of the MGH attendees: Barbara Chase, Ron Dixon, Peter Greenspan, Sherry Haydock, David Judge, Bill Kormos, and Eric Weil.

Awards, Accolades, and Achievements

Physician Appreciation Dinner for Recipients of the “Serving the Underserved Award”

On June 13th, Partners HealthCare System held a dinner to recognize a very special group of physicians at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Forty-seven physicians who care for a significant percentage of our uninsured patients with very complicated medical conditions were presented with a “Serving the Underserved Award.” These physicians often go unrecognized for their important work; this dinner served to appreciate their commitment, and also presented an opportunity for them to share experiences and best practices.

Awardees included 21 physicians from the Mass General, as well as those from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the North Shore Medical Center, and affiliated community health centers.

Sincere Congratulations to the MGH Awardees!

Wynne Armand, M.D.
Elisha H. Atkins, M.D.
Lynne Brodsky, M.D.
Roberto J. Carcamo-Sanabria, M.D.
Lisa S. Carr, M.D.
Philip F. Daly, M.D.
Mark P. Eisenberg, M.D.
Judith S. Fisch, M.D.
Herman Gomez, M.D.
Antonio Granfone, M.D.
Laura G. Kehoe, M.D.
Victor A. Lewis, M.D.
Allison L. McDonough, M.D.
Laura J. Olson, M.D.
Barbara Penn, M.D.
Sanja Percac-Lima, M.D., Ph.D.
William P. Schmitt, M.D.
Susan J. Seward, M.D.
Thomas C. Sterne, M.D.
E. John Vanderpool, M.D.
Dean C. Xerras, M.D.

MGH Department of Medicine Present Teaching Awards

Congratulations to our physicians: Bill Kormos for the Excellence in Ambulatory Teaching Award; Brian Chan and Leigh Simmons for the Morton N. Swartz Humanism in Medicine Award; Shana Birnbaum for the Primary Care Teaching Award; and Leigh Simmons for the Senior Resident Excellence in Teaching Award!
Elizabeth Rider, MSW, MD Co-authors Book on Communication Skills
Beth Rider, Director of Programs for Communication Skills at the Stoeckle Center, recently co-authored “A Practical Guide to Teaching and Assessing ACGME Core Competencies.” Written for medical education leaders at all levels, the book compiles best practices and advice to help teach, assess, and document the core competencies in medical education. Ordering information and discount available at www.stoecklecenter.org (click on Publications).

GIMU Staff Publish Article in the Journal of American Geriatrics Society (JAGS)
Gregory R. Schwartz, MD, JD, and Susan Regan, PhD, were authors on a study published in JAGS titled, “The New Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit: An Estimation of Its Effect on Prescription Drug Costs in a Medicare Population with Atrial Fibrillation.” The objective of the study was to compare prescription drug cost savings under the most commonly selected Medicare Part D prescription plan in 2006 with savings under the Medicare standard benefit and with drug costs assuming no coverage in an elderly cohort of patients.

Profile in Primary Care

Welcome, Angelo Volandes, MD
We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Angelo Volandes to the General Internal Medicine Unit (GIMU)! A Harvard College and Yale Medical School graduate, he is now a practicing internal medicine physician in the MGH Department of Medicine and a junior faculty member and Harvard Medical School.

Angelo will continue his work of exploring the role of visual media in medical decision making, and is already lending his expertise to efforts surrounding Advance Care Planning (ACP), the process by which patients plan for future medical care under circumstances of impaired decision-making. One of his research questions is determining whether, as part of the ACP process, patients can realistically imagine future health states which include difficult and uncomfortable hypothetical scenarios.

Angelo's recent ACP research was published in the Archives of Internal Medicine on April 23 in an article titled, "Using Video Images of Dementia in Advance Care Planning." His study compared the preferences of patients after seeing a video depiction of a patient with advanced stage dementia, to those who received a verbal description of that health state. Results show that the use of video engages and allows patients to envision future health states in a manner not captured with verbal communication.

Angelo comes to us most recently from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School where he simultaneously completed research fellowships in Medical Ethics. Currently, he is pursuing an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health in Clinical Effectiveness. He is an active member of the Ethics Committee in the Partners Health Care system. Since arriving, he has been awarded small grants from the Hartford Foundation and FIMDM.

Save the Date!

>>> S E P T E M B E R <<<

Thursday, September 20 • 5:30-7:00pm
First Annual Joseph W. Gardella, MD Symposium
“Through the Eyes of the Patient”
Moderator: Michael J. Barry, MD
Where: O'Keeffe Auditorium

Wednesday, September 26
Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) Seminar
Canceled: See October for the next APF seminar

Friday, September 28 • 7:45-9:00am
Stoeckle Center Seminar
Details to follow

>>> O C T O B E R <<<

Friday, October 12 • Ether Day!
(see box above)

Wednesday, October 24 • 4:00-5:00pm
Ambulatory Practice of the Future (APF) Seminar
“Achieving Patient-Centered Primary Care: Findings From Twelve Case Studies”
Speaker: Susan Edgman-Levitan, PA; Executive Director, Stoeckle Center, MGH
Where: Yawkey Bldg, 10th floor, Doerr 10660

Friday, October 26 • 7:45-9:00am
Stoeckle Center Seminar
Details to follow