Medical Grand Rounds is directed at four distinct audiences. These include the following:

1) Medical housestaff and students who are most interested in acute and chronic diagnosis and management (some of whom have been awake all night!);

2) Internists and medical subspecialists in private practice who are most interested in outpatient and inpatient management and diagnostic/therapeutic advances;

3) Full-time Department of Medicine faculty who share the above interests but are also likely to be interested in clinical and/or basic biomedical research; and,

4) Practicing physicians, residents, and students at a very diverse group of hospitals to which UPMC Medical Grand Rounds is webcast “live” in real time and is available in archived format via the University of Pittsburgh Department of Medicine Website. These sites are mainly located in Western Pennsylvania, however Grand Rounds can be viewed from anywhere internationally via the password protected website.

Stimulating and educating such a diverse audience requires an unusual blend of didactic and speaking skills. We have developed these guidelines to help you prepare your Medical Grand Rounds “Update” presentation. Key things which you need to bear in mind are as follows:

1) Be sure that your talk has a clinical introduction (case presentation or a clearly stated clinical question/issue/hypothesis) at the outset.

2) End your talk with a clear explanation as to how your talk will enable practicing physicians to enhance, broaden, deepen, and enrich their ability to practice medicine as a result of the things you have taught them.

3) Feel free to discuss clinical research or basic research topics, but remember to stick with the “big picture” by limiting the presentation of nitty-gritty technical details to a minimum, and instead present schematics, diagrams, cartoons, etc., which show the “key bottom” line you are trying to emphasize. Again, remember that this is not a subspecialty research conference… it is for real doctors in the real world, for sleep-deprived house officers, and for full-time faculty whose academic expertise will primarily be in areas distinct from yours (they are not interested in the details).

4) Make your slides clear, simple, and easily visible. They must be visible from the back of a very large amphitheater. Use colors which are sharply contrasting such as yellow on blue, black on white, etc. Stay away from light green on light blue, magenta on red, etc. Use large fonts, and no more than 8 lines per slide. Try not to use too many text-only slides… pictures are worth a thousand words.

5) Because Medical Grand Rounds is webcasted live, our Continuing Medical Education Office is required to preview all powerpoint slide presentations one day prior to the presentation. The office will be reviewing the slides to be sure that they do not contain unauthorized copyrighted information or unauthorized patient-identifying pictures or information. You will need to submit your presentation to Melinda Splane by 12 noon the day prior to your presentation.

6) Plan to end your presentation between 11:45 to 11:50 a.m. so there is ample time for discussion.

7) HAVE FUN… this is an opportunity to strut your stuff; to show house officers (potential fellows) how much fun your subspecialty is; to let potential consulting physicians see how rational, relevant, helpful and responsive your subspecialty can be to their clinical needs; and how practicing physicians and housestaff might be helpful to your program’s research needs.

8) If you have any questions, discuss this directly with your division chief, who is fully aware of all of the above, or with Wishwa Kapoor, MD at 412-692-4821.
Thank you for participating in Medical Grand Rounds!

10/17/06