A New Academic Year

Summer passed by in a flurry of nationwide recognition for Pittsburgh and the University as a whole.

News headlines included an updated “36 hours in Pittsburgh” article by the NY Times. A video by TIME magazine, featuring Dr. Art Levine and Dr. Steve Shapiro, detailed Pittsburgh’s Comeback. USA Today has also ranked Pitt as the #1 place to study health professions, which is not a secret to our PACCM family.

Here in our division, we have also been busy. Our second issue of the PACCM Insider aims to highlight many of our accomplishments and celebratory moments from June through August.

As we welcome the new academic year, please remember to keep sending details, pictures, announcements, etc to be included in our future issues!

2015 Robert M. Rogers Lectureship

Each year during the Robert M. Rogers Lectureship, our fellows have the unique opportunity to interact with a world renowned leader in Pulmonology.

This year, the PACCM fellows spent the morning with Dr. Talmadge E. King, Jr., chair of the Department of Medicine and newly appointed Dean at the University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. King’s research interests include pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of inflammatory and immunologic lung disease. In 2007, he won the Trudeau Medal, the highest honor of the American Lung Association and American Thoracic Society.

After meeting with the fellows and discussing their individual research goals, Dr. King shared some personal career experiences.
This year, the 11th Annual Fran Magister “FORE IPF” Charity Golf Outing was held at Wildwood Golf Club on Monday, August 24th. The weather was perfect! This year’s event had the most attendees to date; with 102 golfers, including 16 IPF patients. For those patients that didn’t golf, there was afternoon bingo run by 2 granddaughters of former IPF patients. Once golf concluded, there were 175 attendees at the dinner and auction, including a total of 26 patients and their caregivers. The profits raised from this event fund the support and education efforts of the Simmons Center. This day is supported by a wonderful team of faculty, fellows, and staff, and volunteers, complete with oxygen for our patients donated by Medcare. We are also happy that many of our patients and family members participate to make this a success.

Save the date for next year; Monday, August 22, 2016!

Welcome to our newest PACCM members:
- Shannon McKenzie
- Emily Stilwell
- Lauren Tomsic
- Sreejata Raychaudhuri
- Kelsey Elliott
- Justin Dutta
- Rachel Hannum
- Kaitlin Fiedler
- Vickie Petraglia
- Renee Wunderley
- Byron Chuan
- Mariam Lawani
- Roe Catley

Keep up with all weekly divisional conferences by visiting the [PACCM web calendar](#)! Clicking on an event will expand to show speaker information!
**In the News**

**UPMC Above & Beyond Nomination - Shikha Gupta, MD**

"I'm proud we were able to accomplish this for her in such a short period of time. A lot of people really stepped up and arranged for this to happen."

- Shikha Gupta, MD

Diana Perciavalle, who was battling brain cancer for three years, had been admitted to UPMC McKeesport a day before her son, Anthony, was due to graduate high school.

Dr. Shikha Gupta worked with the clinician on the unit, social worker, and McKeesport Ambulance Rescue Services to ensure that Diana would be present for her son’s graduation ceremony.

Read more [HERE](#)

**Team PHenomenal Hope in Race Across America**

For the second year, Team PHenomenal Hope participated in the Race Across America, which began in Oceanside, CA and ended in Annapolis, MD.

Over 50 percent of the riders in this sporting event represent charities and causes.

Patty George, MD, captain of Team PHenomenal Hope, has garnered national attention to raise awareness for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

Read more [HERE](#)

**Upcoming Events**

**FELLOWS RESEARCH RETREAT SAVE THE DATE**

**FEBRUARY 1-2, 2016 SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**

**Flu Vaccine/PPD Sessions for PACCM Faculty and Staff**

- Friday, October 9
- Friday, October 30

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

MUH NW628

**Promotions**

Alison Morris, MD, MS has been appointed as Vice-Chair for Clinical Research in the Department of Medicine

John Tedrow, MD has been promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine

Elena Goncharova, PhD has been promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine
The Fourth Annual PACCM Awards were held on Friday, June 12, immediately following the 2015 Robert M. Rogers Lectureship.

The presentation of these awards recognizes excellence among our colleagues in five different categories.

Each spring, all colleagues of PACCM is asked to nominate any individual deserving of recognition.

The Awards committee has the daunting task of selecting from that large pool of outstanding nominees in order to select the winners.

The luncheon and awards ceremony are the final highlight to the annual Rogers Lectureship.

We congratulate all of this years winners!

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**2015 PACCM Awards**

Photos L to R:
Doug White presents award; Janet Lee, award winner (photo by Dorothy Voith);
Fernando Holguin with Nydia Chien, award winner (photo by Dorothy Voith)

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**Grants, Awards, and Notable Mentions**

**Sally Wenzel, MD** is the 2016 recipient of the ATS Foundation Breathing for Life Award. The award will be given at the Eighth Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit on Saturday, May 14, 2016 in San Francisco.

**Michelle MacPherson**, research coordinator in the Simmons Center, was chosen as one of the winners for the UPMC Platinum STAR Award.

**Frank Sciurba, MD** is the recipient of a U01 grant: “NEMO – Network Management Core for the Pulmonary Trials Cooperative.”

**Frank Sciurba, MD** and **Yingze Zhang, PhD**, have been awarded an R21 grant “Biomarkers Predictive of Lung Function Decline in Physiologically Normal Smokers”.

**Jing Zhao, MD, PhD** recently received an ALA Biomedical Research Grant.

**Yutong Zhao, MD, PhD** has been invited to DOD PRMRP Pre-Acute Lung Injury Panel as a reviewer.

**Chunbin Zou, MD, PhD** has been awarded and R01 grant: Epigenetic Regulation in Acute Lung Injury.

**Jessica Bon Field, MD**, received the 2015 PACCM Junior Translational Scholar Award (JTSA).

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**2015 PACCM Award Winners**

- Outstanding Service Award—Nydia Chien, MSN, RN, CCRC
- Robert M. Rogers Award for Outstanding Research or Clinical Mentorship—Janet Lee, MD
- John W. Kreit Outstanding Educator Award—Khaled Fernainy, MD
- Robert M. Rogers Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement—Jared Chiarchiaro, MD
- Outstanding Young Investigator Award—Jessica Bon Field, MD

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A U01 grant entitled, “Building Multi-levels Models of Therapeutic Response in the Lungs” has been granted to **Tim Corcoran, PhD**, **Joseph Pilewski, MD**, **Mike Myerburg, MD**, **Robert Parker (Chem Engr)** and **Carol Bertrand (Cell Bio).**

**Janet Lee, MD** was appointed as a standing member of NIH CSR study section *Innate Immunity and Inflammation* for the term Oct 2015-June 2019 and Vice Chair of the ATS Membership Committee for 2015-2016.

The competing renewal for **Anuradha Ray, PhD** R01 grant, entitled, “Mechanisms of Antigen-induced Tolerance in the Lung” scored in the 7th percentile at the first submission. This will be the fourth cycle for this grant.

**Matt Gingo, MD** received an R56 award; “Adiposity and Airway Inflammation in HIV-Associated Airway Disease.”

**Mauricio Rojas, MD** is the recipient of R01 grant, entitled “Aging of Mesenchymal Stem Cells Missing Link in IPF”.

**Sarita Kumari, MD** facilitated two days of ultrasound scanning workshops while fulfilling her clinical duties.

**Shikha Gupta, MD** coordinated an Airway Management Training Program for the residents at UPMC McKeensport.
Designation of HHT Center of Excellence

Dr. Christopher Faber (Clinical Director) and Beth Roman, PhD (Research Director) announce the new HHT Center of Excellence in this YouTube video, via UPMC.

“UPMC and University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences clinical and academic partnership has earned international recognition as a premier center for treatment of and research into hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), a rare genetic disorder that can cause sudden, catastrophic internal bleeding and stroke.

Cure HHT, previously known as The HHT Foundation International, has designated the UPMC-Pitt partnership an HHT Center of Excellence.

This designation means that UPMC and Pitt meet the rigorous criteria that Cure HHT – the only worldwide advocacy and support group for the condition – requires in order to refer patients for care.”

- article courtesy of UPMC

Grateful Patient and Family Fundraising

- written by Anne Immekus

Philanthropic funding – from individuals, corporations, private foundations – is more important than ever for sustaining the research and clinical programs of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine.

Philanthropy may provide badly needed start-up funds for innovative research, “gap” funding between NIH grants, the funding for patient support/educational programs, support for professional training and continuing education. Large philanthropic gifts can literally transform a program.

You may be surprised to learn that patients and families are among the most important donors to UPMC (clinical services) and the School of Medicine (research and endowments). They do this:

- To express appreciation for the care they or their loved ones have received from physicians, nurses, care coordinators, social workers, therapists, aides and others;
- To remedy medical conditions affecting them or their family and friends.

Yes, patients and families frequently want to make a contribution – sometimes a large contribution – to express gratitude for what they have received. This is known as “Grateful Patient and Family Fundraising” and it is a direct result of the care they receive from PACCM staff.

You make these gifts happen by helping patients and families to manage and cope with serious illness and by providing compassionate care even when there is no hope for recovery.

I am the fundraising liaison for PACCM and I look forward to sharing more information on Grateful Patient and Family Fundraising in coming issues of The PACCM Insider.

I can be reached at 412-647-2434 or by email at ianne@pmhsf.org.

Violet Rippy 5K Walk/Run for Pulmonary Fibrosis

-written by Kathy Lindell

The Violet Rippy 5K Walk/Run for Pulmonary Fibrosis was held on Saturday, August 15th on the North Shore Riverfront in Pittsburgh, PA.

Over 500 participants walked or ran to raise awareness and funds for the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis in hopes of finding a cure for PF.

Over $34,000 was raised from this event, and donations are still coming in for the cause. Many families and friends came to honor and support their loved ones affected by the disease. Participants shared their stories and experiences, and we all gained insight into new treatments, research, advocacy and support groups. The Simmons Center was well represented at this event.

- Photo credit, Kathy Lindell
Publications


Annual Around-the-world Holiday Luncheon & Misfit Gift Exchange

Thursday, December 17, 2015
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Montefiore Conference Room, NW628

Around-the-world Holiday Luncheon:
Our PACCM Family is rich in cultural backgrounds that extend around the world!
Share your ethnic history and holiday traditions by bringing a traditional covered dish or dessert if you would like to participate in our Annual Potluck Around-the-World Holiday Luncheon.

Misfit Gift Exchange:
The fun way to “REGIFT”...
Did you receive 2 copies of the same DVD movie last year? Or would you like to conveniently “lose” last year’s gift from your in-laws?
Rewrap it in pretty paper (without a gift tag) and see who will bargain for your mystery gift in this playfully competitive tradition.
Fellows

Roger Alvarez, DO-
Received the Breathe PA grant, “Alpha Globin Expression in Pulmonary Artery Endothelial Cells Modulates; Nitric Oxide Signaling in Chronic Hypoxia and Pulmonary Hypertension.

SeungHye Han, MD-
“Cigarette Smoke Decreases NALP3 Protein Levels” abstract has been accepted for presentation at the Eleventh Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum that will take place on October 8-11, 2015 in Atlanta, GA.

Ian Barbash, MD-
Has received a two year NIH Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Award.

Congratulations to our recent graduates!

Fellowship Summer Party

- Photos courtesy of Dorothy Voith

- Photos (and fun) courtesy of Bryan McVerry
Celebrations

BIRTHS

Congratulations to all of the growing PACCM families!

Yanyan Qu (Research Associate) welcomed a son, Ruilin, on June 3.

Mindy (Seagriff) Kleson (Simmons Center) welcomed a son, Grant, on June 24.

Christina Kutzavitch (ECRC) welcomed a daughter, Milena, on July 22.

Christine Sanserino (PTRC) welcomed twins, Mathew and Deborah, on August 26.

Random Fun

THROWBACK PHOTO TIME!
Our Halloween/United Way bake sale in 2008!
Do you recognize anyone here?

Be sure to notify us of all newsworthy items!

- New Grants
- Honors & Awards
- Promotions & New Appointments
- Special Presentations/Seminars
- Engagements/Marriages/Births
- Share photos of your colleagues!

Send info to: dobranskyta@upmc.edu

www.dept-med.pitt.edu/PACCM

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