



Department Newsletter

Issue No. 3 April 2016



Students from underprivileged neighborhoods learn more about careers in health

On Friday, January 8th, the current cohort for the Pathways Program visited the CHMC/USC Family Medicine Residency to take the next step in their immersion into the field of health care.

The CHMC/USC Pathways Program brings in promising high school and undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to learn more about the dynamic field of health care. This opportunity allows them access to leading clinicians, advocates and teachers who have dedicated their careers to providing quality health care to patients at all ages in underserved communities.

While visiting the residency, the students received their

new badges and were paired with resident mentors to begin their inpatient and outpatient shadowing experience. As part of this transition, they got the opportunity to sit down with a few of the residents and faculty to hear more about being a doctor and what steps to take if they were considering medical school. Questions from the students included topics such as the Affordable Care Act, the transition from student to resident and how they could make themselves good candidates when applying to medical school.

The Pathways Program focuses on an array of careers in the medical field with specific emphasis on primary care. Each cohort of students begin their time with the Health Policy

See PATHWAYS, page 3

Message from the Chair:



Welcome to the Winter issue of the Family Medicine Department Newsletter.

The content of this issue reflects our continued growth in 2016 and steadfast dedication to quality care, innovation and care for the underserved. I am pleased to share with you two special highlights from our department.

We recently received a generous gift from Mrs. Judith D. Tamkin to fund a series of symposia on elder mistreatment. The first symposium, September 15 and 16, 2016, will address barriers to research. We are immensely grateful for Mrs. Tamkin's generosity. We are also proud to announce the formation of a USC Center on Elder Mistreatment. The Center, to be co- led by the Keck School of Medicine and the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, will serve as a leader and coordinating center of elder mistreatment research, education, practice and policy at USC.

I hope you enjoy this latest update on our department and the positive impact we are having in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Laura Mosqueda,
MD, FAAFP, AGSF

Inside This Issue:

- Geriatric Assessment Program kicks off seeing patients
- PA Program wins national award for diversity

Geriatric Assessment Program opens its doors

This winter the Geriatric Assessment Program at Keck School of Medicine of USC opens its doors. Focused on care for seniors over the age of 65, patients are evaluated by a team of specialists in geriatric care with the goal of developing an effective plan that supports the patient's highest level of functioning.

The interprofessional assessment team includes faculty from medicine, physician assistant studies, psychology, social work, dentistry, occupational therapy, physical therapy and pharmacy. It is designed to address the specific needs of seniors who have multiple medical comorbidities, including changes in their cognitive abilities.

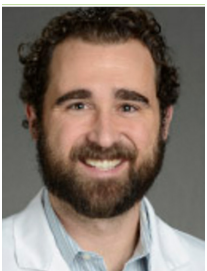
The clinic is supported by funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, as part of their Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program grant, and will ultimately include training future health care professionals in the listed divisions to grow the number of professionals with experience in geriatric care.

Patients may refer themselves or be referred by their personal physician, specialist or family member. Services include medical screenings, functional screenings, screenings for depression, gait and balance assessment, memory impairment assessment and psychosocial evaluation with the end goal of a treatment plan with recommendations and interventions. As part of the consultation, the providers will work to answer the questions of patients, their families and caregivers.

This one-stop shop is created to create a comprehensive plan tailored to the patient, so that the recommendations enhance all aspects of the patient's health.



Celebrating Outstanding Teaching in Family Medicine



Walter Coppenrath, MD was awarded for outstanding teaching at the White Coat Ceremony last summer and considered one of our top volunteer faculty.

“For me I have had such a great experience learning from mentors,” Coppenrath said. “I always saw myself wanting to return that favor and be involved.”

Coppenrath feels that family medicine has provided him with the ability to provide the necessary support and ongoing care that he believes is paramount to being a good doctor.

“The idea of being able to help with a problem wasn't as important as being able to help somebody to uncover their skills to lead a better life. Family medicine was the only field in which that was a possibility.”

Congratulations Dr. Coppenrath!

Announcing the Training Resources on Elder Abuse website

In a collaborative effort between the Department of Family Medicine and the National Center on Elder Abuse, there is now a searchable database of training material focused on ways to prevent, intervene and assist victims of elder abuse.

Thanks to funding from the Archstone Foundation and inspiration from the Elder Justice Roadmap, the team has built the Training Resources on Elder Abuse website and released it to professionals, caregivers and community members who seek high-quality training. TREA features a variety of training materials and resources created by the department, as well as organizations across the country. The database includes materials ranging from webinars to a complete video library that can be used for training purposes.

Through this effort, the team hopes to provide the best resources to better train individuals to prevent, report and work with victims of elder abuse.

Visit: trea.usc.edu

PATHWAYS: Students meet residents

Continued from page 1

Leadership Series, where they learn from lecturers and faculty about topics that include elder abuse, HIV care in jails and social determinants to health care. Additionally, the students complete workshops that help them prepare for college and finding scholarships to support their education.

Participating students also are encouraged to contribute to community outreach, partake in conferences and join other health related events that add to their interaction with the field.

At the end of their time in the Pathways Program, two students are chosen for a paid internship to hone their skills and continue the development of their passion for medicine. The program is currently halfway through their second cohort with a third group set for this spring.

Trojan PA joins clinical team at HCC2

Laura Huettner, PA-C, MPAP, feels like she has landed her “dream job” seeing patients at Health Care Clinic 2 on Health Science Campus as the newest member of the Family Medicine clinical team.



“Every day I appreciate working in such a supportive environment; while it sounds a bit cliché, working in the Family Medicine Department really does feel like a *family*, which I believe makes our department unique,” Huettner said.

Since Huettner started seeing patients, she has had some great interactions with patients and says she leaves every day with a smile on her face because of these positive engagements. For her working in primary care has been everything she hoped it would be.

PA Program wins award for diversity

At the Physician Assistant Education Association Forum in Washington D.C., this past November, the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program at the Keck School of Medicine of USC was awarded the Excellence Through Diversity Award. During a luncheon on November 13th, the PAEA award committee honored several recipients for their outstanding work in PA education.



“I think I speak for everyone in this room when I say to all of the 10 award recipients, you inspire us,” said PAEA President Elect Jennifer Snyder, PhD, PA-C. “Our profession faces many challenges, but there is so much we can do to make our mark. We can each serve as a catalyst for change, growth, and forward movement.”

The Excellence Through Diversity Award was given to the program for more than 40 years of dedication to recruiting, educating and graduating a diverse group of students. The receipt of the award also involved highlighting the Pipeline Program, which exposes a diverse group of high school students to careers in health care. The Pipeline Program has

already made a significant impact on the community and the number of students participating has grown exponentially.

Program Director Kevin Lohenry, PhD, PA-C, said, “I believe this program will significantly contribute to the diversity of the profession, but our time has only just begun.”

Want to make a difference in medicine, education and healthcare?

<http://keck.usc.edu/support/FamilyMedicine>

Donate today to the Department of Family Medicine and contribute to education, research and health. Your generosity makes a difference and we thank you for your support.

PAETC helps improve health care for inmates in South Africa

The DCS Commissioner in South Africa has agreed to follow recommendations for correctional centers based on recommendations from a South African delegation that visited and trained with the Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center in October 2014. After working with the group here at USC, the delegation was able to complete a report outlining a strategy that each prison in South Africa have a minimum of two nurses and one social worker, prepare a plan to improve mental health services for incarcerated populations and consider outsourcing various health services and nutrition services at an additional 14 correctional centers.

“This is huge and I want to thank you for all your help in making the tour successful,” wrote Harnik Gulati, a member of the delegation, in an email to the team at PAETC. “Your sacrifice in time resulted in a significant improvement in access to health services for inmates in South Africa.”

Gulati highlighted the dedication and time of Jerry Gates, Ph.D., Jenica Ryu, M.D., Kathleen Jacobson, M.D., Shanna Livermore, M.P.H. and Perlita Carrillo, M.P.H.



The South African delegation was able to visit the program at USC with sponsorship from the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-Tech) at the University of Washington in the Department of Global Health. While the group visited, they were able to review a variety of correctional center health services and examine new ways to integrate health programs for inmates.

“[We are] very pleased to hear that the DCS Commissioner for Health in South Africa accepted the delegation’s recommendations for a minimum health staffing in South African prisons,” responded Dr. Gates to the news. “I know this is a major step forward to improving the care of inmates who are HIV infected. I am happy to know that [their] visit with us helped in making those recommendations.”

Keck School of Medicine of USC

This newsletter is published for the faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the Keck School at University of Southern California’s Family Medicine Department. Permission to reprint articles is available upon request. No artwork may be reproduced without the creator’s consent.

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