



Department Newsletter

Issue No. 4 July 2016

Message from the Chair:



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Family Medicine Department newsletter.

This issue is filled with content that reflects our department's dedication to research, teaching and innovation. We are proud to have several faculty members awarded for their efforts in education and research. Additionally, we recognize our preceptors who do a great deal to teach future family medicine physicians.

Additionally, we are looking forward as we prepare to host the First Annual Judith D. Tamkin Symposium on Elder Abuse. This year we will host many research leaders and we are excited to be at the center of this groundbreaking research in the field.

I hope you are inspired by the great work in the department and about the upcoming symposium. Thank you for your continued support.

Laura Mosqueda,
MD, FAAFP, AGSF

Family Medicine recognizes clerkship preceptors at annual recognition dinner

On April 26, the Family Medicine Clerkship welcomed preceptors to San Antonio Winery to honor their commitment to education.

“To all our preceptors I want to say thank you,” said Clerkship Director Kathleen Jacobson, MD, during the award reception. “You are all really at the heart of family medicine and the key to the education of our students. It is really your volunteering that makes it possible for this clerkship to exist.”

As part of honoring the preceptors, Jacobson read aloud quotes from the students

about the time they spent each preceptor. The doctors then received a certificate for their time and dedication to teaching.

The ceremony also included thoughts from fourth-year medical students who had recently matched to family medicine residencies. Those in attendance spoke about their decisions to pursue this specialty.

“My journey has definitely been non-traditional. I am a first-generation bilingual, bicultural person who has really had to pave my way,” said Ruth Montes, who

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Outgoing Clerkship Director Kathleen Jacobson, MD, congratulates preceptor Steve Kaspar, MD, at the award ceremony that took part during the Preceptor Appreciation Dinner.

Congratulations to Irvin Benowitz, DO, for being selected as the 2016 Preceptor of the Year for the Family Medicine Clerkship. We are so grateful to all of our volunteer faculty!



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- **SAVE THE DATE:** USC Judith D. Tamkin Symposium on Elder Abuse, September 15-16

PRECEPTOR: Celebrating education

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matched with the CHMC/USC Family Medicine Residency. “There is more for the community that I want to do. It has really identified who I am as a person.”

This year 17 students from the Keck School of Medicine of USC matched in family medicine, and that number is only expected to rise.

“We keep growing,” said Jo Marie Reilly, MD. “We are moving up to see twenty or so students next year.”

Congratulations Family Medicine faculty!

Jo Marie Reilly, MD, was selected by the Class of 2016 for The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The award acknowledges a medical school faculty member that “consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients” and “serves as a role model and illustrates professional behavior by example for students and colleagues.”

Jerry Abraham, MD, received the CAFP Foundation AMAM Scholarship and was honored with the reception of the AAFP GME Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education.

Maria Maldonado, MPH, MPAP, PA-C, was inducted into Pi Alpha, the honor society for physician assistants during this year’s PA satellite commencement.

Alexis M. Coulourides Kogan, Ph.D., received the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00), which helps outstanding postdoctoral researchers complete needed mentored training and transition in a timely manner to independent, tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.

Jehni Robinson, MD was accepted for two conference presentations: the Occupational Therapy Association of California in a talk titled, “Partnerships in Primary Care,” in October and Innovations in Care with STFM in December.

Dedicated to the *family* in family medicine

Katherine Gibson, MD, loves seeing patients of all ages, so she can work with them to create plans to keep them healthy. A graduate of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, she completed her residency at Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles and then later took some time away from practice to focus on her family after the birth of her fourth son. In 2010, she started teaching medical students at the Keck School and now also sees patients at Healthcare Center 2 at the Keck Medical Center.



“What really appeals to me about family medicine is that we work with people to keep them healthy and teach them about the problems they have,” said Gibson. “I think the basic thing is I am a teacher at heart.”

After winning an award last fall for Outstanding Teaching in Introduction to Clinical Medicine, Gibson will begin in her new role as the director of the Family Medicine Clerkship this July.

“It puts together a lot of skills that I have,” said Gibson. “I love working with the students and I love inspiring people to see all the opportunities that exist in family medicine.”

Gibson enjoys seeing younger patients and focuses on healthy lifestyles to encourage continued wellness.

**To make an appointment or refer a patient:
Call (800) USC-CARE or visit
keckmedicine.org**

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

USC Judith D. Tamkin Symposium on Elder Abuse

Closing the Research Gaps – Moving the Field Forward

September 15-16, 2016
The Concourse Hotel, A Hyatt Affiliated Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

CONFIRMED FACULTY

David Burnes, PhD
Assistant Professor, Columbia University School of Social Work
M.S.W. Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto
University of Guelph

Marie A. Bernard, MD
Deputy Director of the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health

Laura Mesqueda, MD
Professor of Family Medicine and Gerontology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Karl Pillemer, PhD
Director at Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Hazel E. Reed Professor in the Department of Gerontology in Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College

For more information and to register, visit:
<http://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/education/usc-tamkin-international-symposium-on-elder-abuse>




The team at the Department of Family Medicine stands with Judith D. Tamkin at a lunch held in her honor.

SAVE THE DATE!

This September the Department of Family Medicine will be leading the first annual USC Judith D. Tamkin Symposium on Elder Abuse. In this inaugural year, the symposium will focus on research as it relates to creating safe and healthy environments for all older adults by bringing activists, caregivers, researchers, lawmakers and other stakeholders together to share findings, strategize solutions and help shape the field of elder justice.

Speakers include David Burnes, BSc, MSW, PhD from the University of Toronto, Karl Pillemer, PhD, from Weill Cornell, Marie A. Bernard, MD, the deputy director of the National Institute on Aging and many other experts in the field.

Please join us at the Hyatt Regency at Los Angeles Airport on September 15 and 16. You can register by visiting:

<http://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/education/usc-tamkin-international-symposium-on-elder-abuse/>

Ramping up for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

This year marks the 11th annual recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and this year the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) ramped up early to build awareness in communities and increase involvement.

With WEAAD on June 15th, the NCEA turned out in full force. They developed a complete toolkit of materials to help community members take action including the *Finish this Sentence* campaign, where participants complete the thought “Together we can fight elder abuse by...” and then post their responses on Facebook and Twitter to grow conversations surrounding the epidemic. Additionally, they are hosting talks throughout the southland in an effort to reach a variety of audiences.

On June 8, 2016, Eden Ruiz-Lopez visited Huntington Hospital in Pasadena to share literature and speak with doctors, nurses, families and community members about WEAAD and the role they could play to spread awareness.



NCEA’s Eden Ruiz-Lopez and Eileen Koons, from Senior Care Network, hosted a resource table at Huntington Hospital to educate community members about WEAAD.

“We just wanted to build on community partnerships,” Eden Ruiz-Lopez said. “By participating and co-hosting this table, we are making sure people in our area know about elder abuse and what resources we have locally, while still advocating at the national level.”

PA Student climbs Mount Everest and finishes the Seven Summits

After years of planning and two months of living on the mountain, physician assistant student Vanessa Blasic completed a feat that few people can boast of: summiting Mount Everest. More impressively, the accomplishment meant that she and her father Greg Blasic had joined an even more elite group: climbing the Seven Summits, or the highest peaks on all seven continents.

“Finally being up there and reaching that goal, which I have had for years, was a big accomplishment,” said the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program student, who hopes to specialize in high-altitude medicine. “Not many people get to this and I don’t think at first I realized what a positive impact it would have on me.”

Despite health concerns, weather and the perils of climbing, Blasic and her father reached Everest’s peak in Nepal at 5:41 a.m. May 21. Now at 29,029 feet above sea level, Blasic spent 30 minutes examining the horizon, fighting off the chilling temperatures and seeing what other peaks could possibly be in her climbing future.

Blasic’s road to climbing the highest mountain in the world started with her tagging along with her father and brothers on a Boy Scout trip to climb Mount Whitney. In 2005, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, setting off the quest to reach the Seven Summits. More than a decade later, she and her father would spend two months traversing Everest and training to get to the top. There were parts of the climb at an 80-degree pitch, which would take them hours to get to the next camp, she said. Even though the



PA student Vanessa Blasic right below the south summit with the top of Everest in the background on May 21, 2016.

group encountered dangerous conditions — including hearing distant avalanches — they persevered and accomplished their goal.

The hardest portion of the climb occurred two days before reaching the summit, when the climbers had to endure high altitude and extremely vertical portions of the mountain, Blasic said. But she was motivated by the support of her physician assistant classmates, who joined her in spirit via a “SC” patch on her jacket and motivational messages that she copied onto pink duct tape on her glove: “I can do it! Smile and keep going.”

Once coming down from the summit, Greg Blasic discovered he had frostbite on a few fingers and toes, leading him to be airlifted and spent six days recovering in a Kathmandu, Nepal, hospital. The younger Blasic isn’t ready to give up climbing, however, and said she would trek Everest again, possibly with her brother, who has climbed six of the seven summits with her.

Keck School of
Medicine of **USC**