

WILLIAM T. AND GAY F. SOLOMON DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE
GENERAL MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

THREE GIM FACULTY ASSUME NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES

Dr. Steve Leach has been appointed the new Chief Medical Officer for UT Southwestern Hospitals.



Dr. Leach has served as the Medical Director of Outpatient Services for five years and as the Medical Director of the Internal Medicine Specialty Clinic for two years. In his role as Director of Outpatient Services, Dr. Leach was in charge of all of the GIM Division outpatient services, including the Aston Clinic and the St. Paul Clinic.

"While his stewardship in these roles will be sorely missed, it is a very good thing that one of our fellow GIM faculty members will have such a prominent leadership role in the University Health System," said Dr. Ethan Halm, GIM Division Chief.

Dr. Temple Howell-Stampley will soon assume the role of Medical Director of Outpatient Services. In her new role, Dr. Howell-Stampley will be responsible for leading the Division's outpatient services, which includes the Aston and St. Paul clinics.



Dr. Howell-Stampley has been the lead physician in the St. Paul GIM Clinic for the past three years, where she has been a major contributor to the clinic's growth and success. She has been a part of UT Southwestern for many years, having completed her internal medicine residency training here and being a member of the faculty for four years prior to her recent work at the St. Paul Clinic.

Dr. Brett Moran has been named the new Chief Medical Informatics Officer for Parkland Hospital. In his new role, Dr. Moran will focus on implementing EPIC at Parkland Hospital and working to optimize its uses for clinical research, quality improvement and physician decision support.



Dr. Moran, a long-time proponent of the use of technology to improve patient care, has been with UT Southwestern since he began as a medical student in 1990. For the past several years, Dr. Moran has served as the Director of Medical Consult Services at Zale Lipshy University Hospital.

STOP THE PRESSES!

GIM FACULTY STUDIES MAKE NATIONAL HEADLINES

Studies published recently by two GIM researchers received substantial media coverage in local, national and international newspapers, journals and web news sites.

Dr. Ruben Amarasingham's study, "Clinical Information Technologies and Inpatient Outcomes," was the lead article in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* January 26, 2009. The study was heralded by Dr. David Bates of Harvard Medical School as a "landmark" in an editorial also appearing in the same issue.

Dr. Amarasingham's study concluded that "wired" hospitals (those that use more health information technology) had fewer complications, lower mortality rates and lower costs than those that did not implement such tools.

The results of the study drew the attention of worldwide media. In its January 27 edition, *Scientific American* published an editorial about Dr. Amarasingham's study. United Press International ran a story about the study on its web site, UPI.com, on Jan. 28, and Reuters News Service in Chicago published information about the study on its MSNBC.com web site. News of the study also appeared on Health-

Day.com, and as far away as the *Times of Malta* in Malta.

"If implementation is done well, health information technologies can be hugely beneficial to patients," Dr. Amarasingham told the *CenterTimes* newspaper.

Dr. Ethan Halm's study of managed care plans was published in the November 2008 issue of *American Journal of Medical Quality*. The study drew the attention of the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, and other medical news web sites.

Dr. Halm's study examined appropriateness and outcomes of care for Medicare patients who received a carotid endarterectomy and were enrolled in either managed care or fee-for-service plans. The study found there was no difference in rates of inappropriate surgery or risk-adjusted outcomes between managed care or fee-for service plans.

"Managed care plans have financial and quality-of-care incentives to prevent overuse of unnecessary procedures and steer their beneficiaries to high-quality providers. Our study shows that in the case of CEA, managed care plans failed to deliver on this promise," Dr. Halm said.

(Reports from UT Southwestern CenterTimes newspaper were used as sources for this story.)

ACP Dr. Rody Cox Awarded MACP

Dr. Rody Cox has joined a select group of doctors who have been awarded Mastership status by the American College of Physicians. Dr. Cox received the honor in December 2008. He joins an elite group of other GIM physicians who also possess MACP status: Dr. Lynne Kirk, Dr. Albert Roberts and Dr. Ron Anderson.

According to the ACP, Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine.

Provider of the Month

Dr. Vicioso Honored By Her Parkland Hospital Peers

Dr. Belinda Vicioso was named Provider of the Month for Parkland Hospital for October 2008, in recognition of her excellent patient care. The honor is given to the provider deemed by their peers to have exhibited "outstanding performance, motivation, and a sincere desire to make Parkland the best it can be."