

Quote of the Month

*As spring weather
FINALLY approaches:
"Golf is a game whose
aim is to hit a very small
ball into an even smaller
hole, with weapons
singularly ill-designed
for the purpose."*

Winston Churchill

Trivia Question

*Which protein is
detected in the urine
using a standard
"dipstick"? Which
important protein(s) are
NOT detected by this
test?*

Medical History Quote

*"Science is the father of
knowledge, but opinion
breeds ignorance."*

Hippocrates

CASE OF THE MONTH

A 35 year old woman in her 29th week of pregnancy notes a non-tender steadily enlarging "swelling" on the left side of her abdomen. She is otherwise well with typical pregnancy weight gain, mild constipation, no jaundice, fever, or skin rashes. On exam she has no lymphadenopathy, no abdominal tenderness or organomegaly, gravid uterus of expected size for dates. There is a smooth poorly circumscribed firm mass on the left side of her abdomen, approximately 4 x 3 cm. Ultrasound shows a homogeneous mass measured at 2 cm thickness within the abdominal wall musculature and separate from the uterus. The fetus and placenta appear normal. Biopsy of the mass shows a dense fibrous stroma with multiple bundles of spindle cells; no mitotic figures are seen. The pathologist reports this to be a desmoid tumor. What should be done?

OHIO DOCTOR'S DILEMMA

Steve Euler (R3), Dylan Girard (R3), and Eunice Pyun (R1) were selected to represent our program in the statewide competition "Doctor's Dilemma" on February 29th. This program is organized by the American College of Physicians Ohio Chapter with the winning team going to the competition at the National ACP meeting in May. After skillful preparation under the capable leadership of Chief Resident Aaron Allgood, our team set out early that morning to drive through a snowstorm to Akron, Ohio where they competed against 12 other Ohio internal medicine programs. Only slightly rattled from their experience on the road (following a snowplow "most of the way" according to one report), they managed to come in 7th overall! (University of Cincinnati had the winning team). Terrific job !!

Thank you Steve, Dylan, and Eunice for your time and courage. For residents interested in being considered as contestants for this competition next year, we expect to select members from our own Medical Challenge teams competing locally in November. Stay tuned for those plans from the new Chief Residents after July 1st.

PRAISE FROM NURSING STAFF

The ICU nursing staff at VAMC sent a note to Associate Program Director Dr. Jayson Yap, praising the performance of Joe Baber (R3) during his CCM rotation. They said he was "clinically astute and...exceptionally able to negotiate respectfully." They went on to praise his interactions with patients and families and said he had the "ability to calmly and successfully decrease the chaos in the ICU and remind us why we chose to do what we are doing." WOW! Great job, Joe!

IS FELLOWSHIP IN YOUR FUTURE?

NRMP has released a detailed report of fellowship match trends and programs with unfilled positions in the 2008 subspecialty match (the match conducted in 2007 for positions to start in 2008). This information will give one an idea of how competitive certain disciplines or programs might be and should help to guide your decision-making when selecting programs for application and/or interview. For example Rheumatology had 251 applicants with 152 matching to 165 possible positions. Of those, 50.9% were U.S. medical school graduates. Cardiology had 1110 applicants; 611 matched a possible 615 positions with 62.7% U.S. graduates. A quick browse of the program listings shows the cardiology positions unfilled by the match last year were at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland (2 of 5 positions unfilled), East Tennessee State University (1 of 2), and Temple University (1 of 4)! There's quite a bit of data in these reports – take some time to browse before starting the application process.

*Answer to Trivia
Question:*

Dipstick detects macroalbuminuria. Globulins, immunoglobulin light chains, and glycoproteins are NOT detected. The colorimetric change is triggered by a reaction with the anionic albumin, not cationic proteins such as those in multiple myeloma or other diseases associated with light chain deposition. To identify those, a sulfosalicylic acid (SSA) test or 24 hour urine protein measurement must be performed.

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PUBLICATION

Congratulations to Vidya Malini (R2) [aka Krishnamurthy] for her recent publication: "Severe Hyponatremia: A Danger of Low-Iodine Diet", Vidya Raj Krishnamurthy, Ian Ross McDougall. Thyroid. September 1, 2007, 17(9):889-892

RMS FAQ

1. I'm getting recurring email reminders to complete an evaluation for an attending with whom I have never worked. How do I get rid of these annoying messages?

Go to the evaluation section of RMS, locate this evaluation and click the "NET" box on the left, then "save". This indicates "not enough time" to form an opinion. The evaluation will be removed from your list and you will receive no more email reminders for this one.


2. I logged a procedure. The supervisor's name was not in the drop-down box, so I picked "other/none". It's now been six months it has never been confirmed. Why?

After three months, procedures not confirmed or refused by a selected supervisor will be manually confirmed by the residency staff. However, if you selected "other/none" from the supervisor list, you must explain the reason by entering text in the comment box. Say something like "Dr. Jekyll, new cardiologist at GSH, wasn't on the list" or "Supervised by a respiratory therapist at VAMC" or, if there was no supervisor, "I completed the online module". If you fail to enter a comment, it will never be confirmed. If you are in this situation, go back and edit the unconfirmed "other/none" procedure by entering a comment.

ANSWER TO CASE

Desmoid tumors, although technically benign, should be surgically resected if possible without damage to vital organs. They can be fatal due to progressive growth and compression or tissue infiltration. For reasons that are unclear, desmoid tumors are more common following trauma or during pregnancy.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

	Hendren Bajillan	R1	4/19
	Rawiya Elrufay	R2	4/04
	Richa Redhu	R3	4/26
	Richard Surowiec	R2	4/04
	Linda Yinkey	R2	4/12

APRIL TRIVIA

APRIL 1ST IS "ALL FOOLS' DAY"

Although the origin of playing practical jokes and pranks on this day is hazy, many folklorists believe that it may go back to 16th-century France. At that time, New Year's Day was March 25, with a full week of partying and exchanging gifts lasting until April 1. In 1582, the Gregorian calendar moved New Year's Day back to January 1. Those who forgot or refused to honor the new calendar were the butts of jokes and ridicule.



**Weather folklore states,
"If it thunders on All Fools' Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay."**