

# The Monitor



Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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## Quote of the Month

“Uncertainty and mystery are energies of life. Don’t let them scare you unduly, for they keep boredom at bay and spark creativity.”

R.I. Fitzhenry

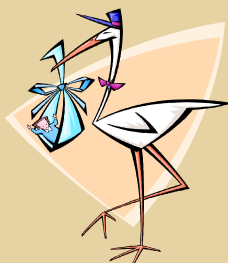


## Trivia Question:

What is the “Fisher test” used in the assessment of normal pressure hydrocephalus?

## Babies

Congratulations to Disha Singla and her husband, Amit Kumar on the birth of their baby girl, Amisha Kumar on 1/31/09.



## Case of the Month

A 40 year old female reports sudden onset of painless bilateral upper extremity weakness. The patient denies injury, but does use intravenous heroin. On exam there is significant proximal muscle weakness with sparing of the triceps. Wrists and hands are less severely affected. Needle tracks are visible on both arms, but there is no inflammation or tenderness. Sensation is intact. There is no spinal tenderness.

What disorder might be causing these findings and what test might you order next?

## Did You Know?

So far in 2008-2009, the U.S. influenza season has been relatively mild, while in Europe both Finland and Croatia are experiencing widespread outbreaks of influenza A.

## History of Medicine

Leeches were used thousands of years ago by Greek and Roman physicians as well as in traditional Chinese medicine. In the U.S., some leech “farmers” during the 1800’s collected them by adding animal blood to streams or ponds and then wading through the water, allowing leeches to attach to their legs. Apparently the medical profession paid handsomely for these unsavory efforts! Today they are produced under more controlled conditions. One can order leeches for \$7 each (plus \$25 shipping!). Please note leeches are “not returnable”!

## Winners

Congratulations to Ryan Simon (R4 med/peds) for being a recipient of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching award in 2008. He was selected by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Class of 2009 for this recognition, based on demonstration of commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and families, students, and colleagues.

Bilal Quraishi (R3) was the winner at for the "Question of the day" at VAMC in January.

MVH winners were Ryan Simon (R4 med/peds) and Omar Ahmad (R3).

## Thank You

Miami Valley Hospital Chief Resident Sudha Jaganathan recognizes Ashish Thakkar for willingly helping out with extra coverage at MVH in February during emergency leave for another resident.

## Answer to Trivia Question

Removal of at least 30 cc of CSF leads to prompt transient improvement of gait and cognitive abnormalities in some patients with normal pressure hydrocephalus. This “Fisher test” has been used to predict successful response to ventriculoperitoneal shunting.

Studies suggest excellent positive predictive value (90 to 100 percent), but limited negative predictive value (30 to 50 percent).

## Answer to Case

Although rare, the patient most likely has a brachial plexopathy which has been reported in IV drug abusers.

The cause is uncertain but may be related to contaminants in the injected drug triggering a hypersensitivity reaction. An EMG will confirm a demyelinating pattern.

## Happy Birthday

BEN STERMOLE	R3	3/16
JOE CHAN	R1	3/20
TOKUNBO MATTHEWS	R3	3/27



## Know the ACGME Requirements

The fourth ACGME competency is “interpersonal and communication skills”. Residents are to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of health care teams.

All residents should strive to “establish a highly effective therapeutic relationship with patients and families; demonstrate excellent relationship building through listening, narrative and nonverbal skills; demonstrate excellent education and counseling of patients, families, and colleagues; always be “interpersonally” engaged.”

At each level of training, the following performance might warrant a superior rating for this competency:

R1: Clear and concise conveyance of information; a positive team member communicating effectively with all staff; always maintains timely and legible medical records.

R2: Able to explain complicated concepts to patients and colleagues; effective team leadership with constructive and timely feedback to others; always maintains timely, legible, and comprehensive medical records.

R3: Communicates in a highly effective, culturally sensitive manner; superb team leader with astute and timely feedback to all; outstanding teacher; maintains timely, legible, focused, comprehensive medical records.

## Upcoming Local CME Programs

### Annual Orthopedic Symposium for Primary Care Physicians

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 – 5:30, Sinclair Community College Ponitz Center

topics include shoulder replacement, sports injuries, back pain free for residents – pre-registration appreciated; more information Gay Miller, 604-8829 or [millergk@aol.com](mailto:millergk@aol.com).

### CSI: Confronting Serious Issues in Women’s Health

Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 – 5:00, Sinclair Community College Ponitz Center topics include male/female brains, sleep disorders, fertility, at risk drinking, skin cancer

registration at [med.wright.edu/obgyn](http://med.wright.edu/obgyn)

## Donations Welcomed by the Homeless Shelter

Dr. Glen Solomon, Chair of the Department of Medicine, initiated an effort to collect clothing and supplies for the Samaritan Homeless Clinic. With the help of our Chief Residents, items from residents and faculty at all training sites were collected and delivered in mid-February. The shelter was extremely grateful for the generous donations.

