



November 2008

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### Quote of the Month

*"Surely human affairs would be far happier if the power in men to be silent were the same as that to speak. But experience more than sufficiently teaches that men govern nothing with more difficulty than their tongues."*

*Benedict Spinoza*

### Medical History Quote

*"Mental cruelty is common and arises in three ways: 1) by saying too much; 2) by saying too little; and 3) by the patient being forgotten."*

*Richard Asher, 1948*

### Trivia question

*What is Uthoff's phenomenon?*

### Case of the Month

A 30-year-old asthmatic has noticed poor control of symptoms using a previously successful regimen including inhaled steroids and bronchodilators. The patient admits to using the steroid inhaler intermittently as it "doesn't seem to do very much and it's expensive". On further questioning, the patient admits to frequent cough productive of "brown pieces" that are semi-solid. On exam the patient has mild expiratory wheezing, no pleural rubs; cardiovascular exam normal. Lab studies reveal peripheral eosinophilia. The chest x-ray shows faint infiltrates in both the right middle and left lower lobes. What is the most likely diagnosis?

### Did You Know

Ninety percent of all species that have become extinct have been birds.

### Positive Feedback

from Sudha Jaganathan, Chief Resident at MVH:

When there was a mix-up about assigned resident coverage in the MVH Cardiology Clinic, Erica Taylor (R3 med/peds) was called (with no advance notice) to assist. "I want to commend the efforts of Dr. Erica Taylor...she really pulled through and helped out through the confusion...she was really good about arranging follow-up in the next cardiology clinic and having social service help with medications. She not only answered questions from the student but also tried to teach her a few things in the midst of the confusion. Her efforts were outstanding and I feel she deserves recognition."

from Debra and the ICU staff at Dayton VAMC:

"Dr. Taylor is an exceptional person and physician. She has all the attributes and caring to continue to give to the VA...She is energetic, honest, and one of the best team players for acquiring the best care for her patients...Patients, families, and staff were positively affected by her presence, making it an exceptional month for all...Thanks again for letting us give the best we could for our Veterans."

Wow!! Great job! Keep up the wonderful work!

### Editing Opportunity – Deadline November 14<sup>th</sup>

Virtual Mentor, the online ethics journal of the American Medical Association, is accepting applications for medical student and resident editors. According to their notice, "This is a terrific opportunity for students, residents, and fellows who are interested in actively engaging their humanities skills as they go through school and clinical training."

Full application information is available at: [www.virtualmentor.org](http://www.virtualmentor.org) and at <http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/issue-edscall.html>.

**Answer to trivia question:**

**Uhthoff's phenomenon is the worsening of symptoms with increased body temperature as seen in multiple sclerosis. An example: patient's vision becoming worse while jogging.**

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### **Answer to Case**

The patient likely has allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA). This is much less common now due to regular steroid use in many asthmatics. Contrary to other invasive aspergillus infections, this syndrome does not respond well to antifungal treatment. Steroid therapy is the key to control.

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### **Caution about Internet Use**

Remember the use of the Internet at hospital sites or via hospital connections should be confined to appropriate professional access. Viewing of pornographic or other inappropriate sites could result in disciplinary action or suspension of privileges. Individual physician and employee use is monitored and intervention regarding such activities has already taken place in at least one area hospital.

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### **Looking Ahead to DAGMEC Research**

Due to the high volume the past few years, the Dayton VAMC Media Services has developed a new policy/procedure regarding poster preparation for the DAGMEC Resident Research Forum next April. They will limit poster preparation/printing to 12 slots on first come, first served basis. Content will have to be complete to have a slot assigned. Cases/projects will not have to be from VAMC, but the Dayton VAMC will have to be listed on the poster as the first participating site and the VAMC logo will be displayed. More details will be available through Tessa Kalman in the coming months.

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### **New Baby**

Tom Grana (R3) and his wife Jennifer adopted a baby boy September 5th. Drew Thomas Grana was born August 6th and is "doing wonderfully". Congratulations!

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### **American College of Physicians Ohio Chapter Meeting**

At the ACP Ohio Chapter meeting in Columbus October 17th, three third year residents presented excellent poster abstracts: Damanjeet Kahlon, Nikki Okoye, and Jesse Wickham. Faculty member Thomas Koroscil was the recipient of the Chapter Laureate Award. Congratulations to all!

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### **November Birthdays**

Kunal Desai	R2	11/14
Kevin Goist	R2	11/20
Deena Hassuna	R1	11/03
James Hull	R2	11/16
Aaron Lewis	R3	11/12
Edward McCann	R3	11/09
Shashikant Patel	R2	11/07
Elizabeth Rini	R2	11/08
Eric Santiago	R1	11/28
Disha Singla	R2	11/18
Stuart Wood	R1	11/27

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### **November 2 — Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 A.M.**

Daylight Saving Time was first observed in the United States during World War I and then again during World War II. The time change was enacted to provide more light in the evening hours. This year, Daylight Saving Time started on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. (*The Old Farmers Almanac*)