

The Monitor



Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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Quote of the Month

"In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

Eric Hoffer

Trivia Question:

What U.S. state is "rabies free"?

Did You Know?

October 23rd is Mole Day! No, it's not a day to have free dermatology inspections or to eliminate critters in your backyard. Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), a basic measuring unit in chemistry, and was created as a way to foster elementary and high school student interest in chemistry. Good luck with that!

Publication

Rizwan Kibria (GI fellow) and Khurram Bari (R3) published a case report with GI faculty co-authors Syed Ahsan Ali and Christopher Barde:

"Ohio River Valley Fever"
Presenting as Isolated
Granulomatous Hepatitis: A Case
Report, Southern Medical Journal
102:6, 656-658, June 2009.

Case of the Month

A previously healthy 70 year old woman is brought in by her daughter. The patient has no complaints but the daughter reports she has not been taking care of herself as she used to. She describes several months of a progressive and steady decline in the patient's hygiene and also confusion about family member names, inability to complete routine cooking tasks, and significant errors in home record-keeping. The patient has lived alone for many years and there is no history of alcohol or drug use. Physical exam reveals the patient to be unkempt with a pleasant affect; some word-finding difficulty and poor short-term and remote memory. She is unable to perform simple calculations and cannot accurately fill in numbers or hands on a clock face. The rest of the physical exam, including vital signs, is entirely normal. Laboratory studies including CBC, electrolytes, thyroid, serum B12 and folate, ammonia, and RPR (for syphilis) are all normal. There are no abnormalities on CXR or EKG. MRI of the brain shows moderate cortical atrophy with decreased hippocampal volume.

What is the most likely diagnosis? Would you recommend a lumbar puncture to rule out infectious or other etiologies for her symptoms and findings?

Congratulations

Arinze Ikeme (R2) was selected to attend the American Society of Nephrology meeting in San Diego 10/28 – 10/31. This was a competitive program for which he was nominated by Dr. Mohamed Saklayen. This will be an excellent opportunity for learning and career advancement.

National Presentation

Khurram Bari (R3) will present two projects at the American College of Gastroenterology meeting in San Diego this month. His case report "Chronic Infectious Enteritis Mimicking Crohn's Disease" was prepared with the assistance of Rizwan Kibria (GI fellow) and Salma Akram (GI faculty, Dayton VAMC). Drs. Kibria and Akram were also co-authors on Dr. Bari's project "Should We Screen all VA Patients with Iron Deficiency Anemia for Celiac Disease with Small Bowel Biopsy?" Additional authors on that initiative are Qasim Khalil (internal medicine faculty), Kanan Sharma (former WSU resident and Chief Resident, now internal medicine faculty), Syed Ahsan Ali (GI faculty MVH) and M.S. Beg (Univ. of Cincinnati).

Thank You's

Shabana Dewani, Chief Resident at Dayton VAMC, thanks Alicia Lowes (med/peds R3) for filling an unanticipated gap in coverage for the VAMC ICU. According to Shabana, "Alicia acted very responsibly and is excellent team player. She will make a successful and excellent physician." Dr. John Hughes, Medical Director of the Medical Surgical Health Center (MSHC) at MVH, thanks R1's Mohammed Abdelaziz and Obiora Okafor for their extra efforts Friday, September 18th. An unusually high number of patients converged on the MSHC and both residents pitched in to be sure everyone was well cared for, even though it meant some extra time at the end of the day. (No duty hour violations, just a long afternoon)! As first year residents, they are already demonstrating the positive attitude and flexibility that makes for great teamwork and high quality patient care!

Babies

Congratulations and best wishes to Mustafa Musleh (R2) and his wife, Lina who welcomed a baby boy, Laith on September 2, 2009.

Answer to Trivia Question

Hawaii.

(In 2006, Pennsylvania reported the largest number of domestic animals testing positive for rabies).

History of Medicine

In January, 1968, Indianapolis was the site of the first meeting devoted entirely to cardiac ultrasound (echocardiography). Program director was Indiana University's Harvey Feigenbaum.

Communication is Key

Please let your attendings and teams know about upcoming variations in your schedule. They may not see the vacation list and will be wondering where you are the first week of your elective rotation. Pick up the phone, send an email, or track someone down in his/her office to keep them "in the loop". You should be checking in with next month's attending in advance anyway, so take that opportunity to review your plans. It's also a good idea to confirm your schedule with your continuity clinic staff. Double-check to see that clinics have been canceled during night float, vacations, etc.

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Answer to case:

The patient has a progressive decline with findings typical of Alzheimer's dementia. There is no evidence to suggest benefit from a lumbar puncture in this setting. It might be considered in a younger patient, one with rapid progression of symptoms, or with findings suggesting infection (fever, elevated WBC, positive RPR, etc.).

RMS Reminders

So you receive a notice from New Innovations that you have some evaluations to complete and when you log in, one of them is for a heme/onc subspecialty attending. It happens to be for an attending (Dr. Q) with whom you never worked and you don't see an evaluation there for the person with whom you DID spend time. Might as well fill this one out anyway and at the end put a comment saying "I didn't really work with this physician but Dr. Z was great and I'd like to say a few things about her." That makes sense, right?

WRONG !!!

When Dr. Z gets her anonymous compiled summary of ratings and comments, your feedback is not included. Dr. Q, on the other hand, has your ratings for Dr. Z averaged in with his other ratings and has a mix of comments from both!

What should you do instead? To the left of the incorrectly assigned evaluation, check the "NET" (not enough time with subject) box and then click "Submit selected evaluations as NET" at the top of the list. If you need an evaluation for someone to replace the one you've deleted through "NET", contact Barbara Upton in the Wright State University Department of Medicine (208-2868 or baupton@mvh.org) to have the missing evaluation sent to you.

On a similar note, when completing a conference evaluation please don't use the comment section to explain why you didn't attend the conference. This section is for speaker feedback only. It is not necessary for you to give any written comment regarding conferences during your night float rotation, vacation, etc. Mark them "NET" as well.

If you have some constructive feedback for an attending physician, include it in the attending evaluation, not the rotation evaluation. Rotation evaluation comments should focus primarily on curriculum, patient population, educational experiences, etc. This practice allows for confidential sharing of individual attending comments through their own anonymous compiled summaries.

Question of the Day Winners

Mohammed Abdelaziz (R1)	July	VAMC
Emily Link (R2)	August	VAMC
Adam Hertlein(R2)	September	GSH

October Birthdays

James Thompson	R1	10/06
Erin McConnell (Med Peds)	R4	10/07
Erica Taylor (Med Peds)	R4	10/08
JoAnna Slobodnjak	R1	10/10
Rakesh Kilari	R2	10/14
Anjeli Nayar	R2	10/14
Inkyung Santiago	R2	10/14
Amie Ogunsakin (Med Peds)	R1	10/15
Farrukh Ashraf	R1	10/18
Shabana Dewani	R4 Chief	10/21
Yin Yin Aye	R3	10/24
Asish Thakkar (Med Peds)	R3	10/28

