Dr. Supriya Mannepalli, 1st Year Internal Medicine Resident, presents her poster on the role of Prolactin in Distinguishing Seizures versus

Twenty-Third Annual Research Week Awards

Congratulations to the residents, faculty and staff who participated in the Twenty-Third Annual Research Week.

Special thanks to Erlanger Health System for funding the cash awards as well as to John Stroud for his many hours spent producing the posters. Appreciation is also extended to Doctors Christopher LeSar, Paul Stafford, and Cathy Stevens for serving as judges for the posters and the presentations.

The Robert C. Coddington, M.D. Award for Research Excellence (First Place Overall Research Presentation): Philip Rayers, M.D. and Deborah Duffield, M.D., both Senior Internal Medicine Residents. “Does Minority Status Affect Self-Reported Health?”

Second Place Research Presentation: Amy Hildreth, M.D., 3rd Year Surgery Resident. “Helmet Use Decreases the Severity of Head Injury in All-Terrain Vehicle Accidents.”


Second Place Case Report Poster: Amanda Mulch, M.D., 2nd Year OB/GYN Resident. “Umbilical Vein Varix — A Rare Embryologic Abnormality.”
Erlanger Chest Pain Study Featured in National Publication

A 10-year study of chest pain patients treated in Erlanger’s Emergency Heart and Stroke Center was recently published in a leading medical journal, “Clinical Pathways in Cardiology.”

The article, entitled “Improving Care in Patients With Acute Coronary Syndromes: The Erlanger Quality Improvement Initiative” was researched and written by Erlanger emergency room physician, Francis M. Fesmire, M.D. Its purpose, according to the emergency medicine specialist, is to help serve as a standardized chest pain treatment guideline for other ED physicians.

“In this report, we describe Erlanger Medical Center’s 10-year quality improvement initiative in developing a successful chest pain protocol for the rapid evaluation and treatment of patients with suspected ACS (acute coronary syndrome) or heart attack,” Dr. Fesmire explained.

“Just as an airplane pilot would never take off without performing comprehensive pre-flight operational checklist, the ED physician should have a standardized protocol for evaluating and treating chest pain patients,” the local doctor noted in his medical abstract. Erlanger’s lengthy study was a collaborative effort among ER physicians, cardiologists, nuclear radiologists, nursing staff and administration.

During the study period, 2007 eligible chest pain patients underwent the Erlanger Chest Pain Evaluation Protocol. According to Dr. Fesmire, “studies in these patients demonstrated that the most common presentation (of symptoms) is atypical.” The ED physician, he explained, is often “a multi-task individual, having to simultaneously take care of a multitude of diverse complaints (headache, shortness of breath, stab wounds, abdominal pain and so on) that frequently prevent them from having time to perform an adequate history or physical.”

Research also revealed “there are also significant gaps in discharge medications, and discharge planning, and it is hoped that quality improvement tools such as preprinted orders, awareness posters, discharge plans and quarterly feedback reports will improve patient care and outcomes,” he added.

Dr. Fesmire concluded, “At Erlanger, we believe we have developed a successful program based on almost 10 years of research endeavors. It is our hope that these protocols can be modified to assist other institutions in developing a successful QI program in the evaluation, treatment and disposition of chest pain patients.”

Dr. Fesmire’s treatment studies in Erlanger’s Chest Pain Center have also appeared in the American Heart Journal, Cardiovascular Toxicology, Annals of Emergency Medicine, and the American Journal of Emergency Medicine.
**Transitions**

**Jayne Althaus, M.D.** will be joining Regional Obstetrical Consultants in the University of Tennessee Department of OB/GYN in July as Assistant Professor. She is a Michigan State University College of Human Medicine graduate and has recently completed her fellowship training in maternal fetal medicine at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. She is a board certified OB/GYN and is board eligible for maternal fetal medicine. Her research interest is prematurity and low birth weight.

**Carolyn H. Salafia, M.D.** has been appointed the rank of Clinical Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. She is an internationally known placental pathologist and has joined with Regional Obstetrical Consultants in authoring close to $2,000,000 in grant proposals to study causes of low birth weight.

**Regional Obstetrical Consultants** has recently assumed leadership responsibility for the Obstetrics program at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Knoxville Unit, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. This commitment includes training of their OB fellow and twelve residents.

**Lawrence G. Miller, Ph.D.** was recently installed as the President of the Board of Directors for the Kidney Foundation of the Greater Chattanooga Area.

**Publications**


Presentations

Lawrence G. Miller, Ph.D., presented a paper, “Using Distance Learning for Continuing Medical Education,” at the annual conference, The NMC: The New Media Consortium, on June 17 in Honolulu, HI. He was also awarded status as a Director Emeritus for his service on the NMC Board of Directors.

Larry A. Sargent M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery, presented at the AO/ASIF Challenges and Advances in the Management of Craniomaxillofacial Surgery Focus: A State of the Art Analysis of Surgical Challenges of the Orbit. Dr. Sargent was among an international faculty to present at this meeting April 2-3 in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Sargent spoke on “Long Term Evaluation of Metallic Mesh in Acute Internal Orbital Reconstruction and Orbital Hypertelorism—Improving Results of Interorbital Deformities.”

Continuing Medical Education Events 2005

For information call 423-778-6884 or visit our website: www.cmeconferences.org

August 30, 2005
Chattanooga Renal Symposium
The Chattanoogan
The Kidney Foundation of Greater Chattanooga

September 23-24, 2005
Pediatric Trauma Conference
The Sheraton Read House
Chattanooga TN

September 23-24, 2005
Medical Research Nuts and Bolts
Research Symposium
Chattanooga Convention Center

October 14-16, 2005
Internal Medicine Update
Chattanooga Convention Center

UT College of Medicine and Erlanger Partner to Deliver Medical Education Through Web Casting

Through the cooperative efforts of the UT COM CME Office and Erlanger’s Audio Visual and Technology Management Departments, physicians and other healthcare professionals have been using the Internet to attend CME activities that originate from the Probasco Auditorium.

Busy physicians must complete CME courses on a regular basis, but often have difficulty in attending CME events. For over three years, physicians at Hutcheson Medical Center in Fort Oglethorpe, GA have been able to participate in real-time CME lectures from the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds every Thursday morning. The technology behind the system is remarkably simple to use and employs the Web to carry the visual information (such as Power Point slides) and the telephone to support the audio portion.

The system has been used to convey the Internal Medicine Grand Rounds to more than 40 sites, including Bradley Memorial Hospital, BlueCrossBlueShield of Tennessee, and Erlanger’s Bledsoe campus.

Those interested in using this system for CME should contact Larry Miller, CME Director, at 778-3821 or CME@Erlanger.org.

Comments, articles & announcements for the COMmunicator can be submitted in publishable format to: Sylvia Friedl, Office of Human Subject Protections, UT College of Medicine at Chattanooga [sylvia.friedl@erlanger.org]