



“To say that our faculty is merely ‘involved’ with local and national professional societies would be an understatement,” asserts Division Chief Thomas McGinn, MD, Clifford L. Spingran, MD, Professor in Primary Care Medicine. “Just look at the number of leadership positions held and the honors bestowed upon Division faculty in the past year. These highlight the impact they are having on the practice of medicine.”

# Division of General Internal Medicine

Three members of the Division—Ethan Halm, MD, Associate Professor, Nina Bickell, MD, Associate Professor, and Carol Horowitz, MD, Assistant Professor—serve as associate editors for the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, the flagship publication of the Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM), while Alex Federman, MD, Assistant Professor, and Andrew Dunn, MD, Associate Professor, serve as deputy editors. Drs. McGinn and Federman serve on the Health Policy Task Force of the SGIM.

Division faculty played influential roles in the 2008 SGIM Annual Meeting, including chairing the scientific program and abstract committee, and presenting a plenary session. During the meeting, David Thomas, MD, Associate Professor, received the Mid-Atlantic Regional Award for Excellence as a Clinician, while Mount Sinai’s Visiting Doctors Program received the Clinical Practice Innovation Award.

“It is clear from their level of involvement, and from the recognition coming from their peers, that our efforts over the past several years to recruit and retain exceptional faculty, and to build one of the top academic divisions of general internal medicine are succeeding,” notes Dr. McGinn.

Brief highlights of the past year’s achievements in research, education, and patient care demonstrate why Division faculty members are held in such high regard.

- Yasmin Meah, MD, Assistant Professor, received the 2007 Humanism in Medicine Award from the American Association of Medical Colleges. Dr. Meah is the youngest person ever to receive this honor.
- Mark Woodward, MD, Professor, was the primary author of new cardiovascular disease guidelines for Scotland. These new guidelines were developed to address some of the social inequities inherent in current risk calculation methods.
- Internal Medicine Associate of the Division of General Internal Medicine, the largest hospital-based clinic, moved from a building with aging infrastructure to occupy two floors of the modernized Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM). (See page 29 for more information on CAM.)

## HOSPITALISTS POINT TO THE FUTURE

“Our clinical practices refer patients for approximately 1000 inpatient procedures annually, and with an average daily inpatient census of more than 100 patients, the Division averages more than 2,500 discharges each year,” notes Dr. McGinn.

In a large and busy ambulatory care setting such as the IMA, internists often find that the time they can spend with ambulatory patients is stretched thin as the need to care for multiple hospitalized patients increases. Enter the hospitalist, a physician whose primary professional focus is the full-time care of hospitalized patients.

Hospitalists, like their practice-based counterparts, engage in clinical care, teaching, research and leadership in the field of hospital medicine.

Over the past year, the Division’s hospitalist program has expanded, while maintaining a consistently high standard of quality. “We hired an additional five full-time hospitalists,” says Dr. Dunn, Director of the Hospitalist Group, “as well as five physician’s assistants dedicated to hospitalist practice.” Recent initiatives, notes Dr. Dunn, include hospitalists working in the Emergency Department, a pilot program managing the care of cancer patients, and a plan for the Hospitalist Group to become providers for patients with end stage renal disease.

The Hospitalist Group runs the New York Metropolitan area’s largest Continuing Medical Education program on Hospital Medicine, which will be expanded to a 2-day course this year. In addition, Dr. Dunn is part of the steering committee of a multi-million dollar national grant to study perioperative warfarin management at 40 hospitals in North America. Also, major research initiatives are in progress to study ways in which to improve the quality of discharge summaries and to evaluate the hospitalist’s role in the emergency department.

“On the educational front,” notes Dr. Dunn, “the hospitalists also have prominent roles, including a medical student elective in hospital medicine, teaching preoperative evaluation, and a novel curriculum on patient safety for housestaff.”

- Drs. McGinn, Halm, and Carlton Moore, MD, Assistant Professor, evaluated the frequency with which hospital physicians recommended outpatient workups for patients discharged with unresolved medical issues. The study, which was published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, also looked at the impact that availability of discharge summaries has on workup completion.
- Theresa Soriano, MD, Assistant Professor, and colleagues published process quality indicators that are essential to high-quality home-based primary care in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.
- Deborah Korenstein, MD, Assistant Professor, and colleagues developed and implemented a database searching tutorial to help residents improve their searching skills for practicing evidence based medicine. Results evaluating the success of this new tool were published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.
- Dr. Halm, Juan Wisnivesky, MD, MPH, and Sue Marcus, PhD, Assistant Professors, are principal investigators on a new grant from the National Cancer Institute to use population-based data to evaluate the effectiveness of several treatments for early lung cancer in elderly patients.
- The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke awarded Drs. Halm and Wisnivesky, along with Stanley Tuhim, MD, Professor of Neurology, a grant to investigate long-term outcomes of carotid endarterectomy in the elderly.
- “Improving Access to High Quality Care in East Harlem” is a new program funded by New York State Health Foundation and run by Dr. Halm to formally assess patients’ underlying asthma health beliefs and behaviors, with the goal of tailoring interventions to specific areas that need bolstering.
- With new funding from the American Cancer Society, Drs. Wisnivesky, Halm, Bickell, Sean Morrison, MD, Professor of Geriatrics and Adult Development, and John Mandeli, MD, Assistant Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine, are examining cultural factors that may explain treatment differences.