

Updates from the Chair

February, 2010

Rhoda M. Alani, MD

Herbert Mescon Professor and Chair



Dear Colleagues:

February has been a busy month as we have been working on faculty recruitments for the 2010-2011 academic year. With that as a backdrop, I am delighted to announce that we will be welcoming three new faculty members to our BU/BMC Dermatology family within the next few months. Drs. Kasia Szyfelbein-Masterpol, Yuval Bibi, and Deborah Cummins will be joining the faculty as Instructors in Dermatology this summer. Drs. Szyfelbein-Masterpol and Bibi are no-doubt familiar to you all as current trainees in our residency program. They will be seeing dermatology patients at our practice sites at the DOB and also the South Boston Community Health Center. Dr. Cummins will be new to our BU/BMC family. She completed her medical school training at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a dermatology residency at Harvard Medical School. She also completed a Mohs surgical fellowship with Dr. Gary Rogers at Tufts/NEMC and will be directing procedural dermatology programs at the DOB starting May 1. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to these outstanding new faculty members and be sure to introduce yourself to Dr. Cummins upon her arrival in May.

Other news this month included the establishment of a Multidisciplinary Melanoma/Cutaneous Oncology Program at BMC which will be co-directed by Drs. Marie-France Demierre, Michael Stone (Surgical Oncology) and Omar Eton (Medical Oncology). The group is in its earliest stages of development and welcomes additional input from interested individuals. Please feel free to contact Dr. Demierre to be included in this exciting new program.

On another note, I was delighted to participate in an outstanding Grand Rounds program in early February and was incredibly impressed by the tremendous participation of all trainees, faculty, and

affiliated members of the BU/BMC Dermatology community. I was amazed to see that we had a “standing-room-only” crowd for this event which prompted a search for a more suitable conference room to better accommodate all. I am therefore delighted to note that all future Grand Rounds Meetings will be held in the L112 auditorium where we expect to have ample seating for all attendees. Please be sure to provide feedback on this new venue as we work to further optimize this important educational program.

I am delighted to report that the BU/BMC Dermatology Executive Committee held its first meeting this month and overwhelmingly approved the initiation of our **BU Dermatology Research Scholar Awards Program**. The formal announcement of this program should be available next week. We will be seeking applications for research funding up to \$30,000 for the 2010-2011 academic year and I encourage you all to apply. Please watch for details regarding this important departmental program.

Finally, I wanted to formally congratulate Dr. Gary Mendese (Administrative) and Dr. Mohammed Sharaf (Academic) on their selection as Chief Residents for the upcoming academic year. I look forward to working more closely with you both as we continue to develop exciting educational initiatives for our residency program.

Administrative Update

William Macone

In case you haven't heard, BMC is implementing a new patient scheduling, registration and billing software system, commonly referred to as ATLAS. This GE Healthcare Centricity Business system will replace the hospital's existing IDX scheduling and SDK registration systems as well as each department's billing vendors' proprietary billing system (Ingenix\Caretracker for Dermatology). The goal is to improve the accuracy, efficiency and timeliness of revenue cycle data and reporting.

The plan is for on-campus practices to go live with the scheduling and registration functions beginning on October 1, 2010. At the same time, all practices will begin entering hospital technical

charges into the GE Transaction Editing System (TES).

On 10/1/10, two practices (Plastic Surgery and Cardio-thoracic Surgery) will go live onto ATLAS with their professional claims charge entry, billing and accounts receivable follow-up. The remainder of the practices will go live with their professional billing at staggered intervals between 10/1/10 and 10/1/11 based on a roll out schedule to be determined. It is likely that Dermatology will convert to the new system sometime in early or mid 2011.

The new system is designed to permit BMC to maintain a single centralized database of all professional revenue information to facilitate reporting and analysis, as well as to allow billing companies to extract the necessary demographic and billing data in order to submit the professional claims on behalf of each department. Payment, contractual adjustment and claims denial information from third party payers will be uploaded through the billing companies back into ATLAS. Although we have not finalized the details, we expect that off campus staff will utilize the new ATLAS system for all of their practice management functional needs.

Meetings with Practice Managers, BMC staff and ATLAS consultants are ongoing and we will keep you informed of the progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Bill Macone.

Residency Program Notes

Amit Garg, M.D.

The past couple of months have been an extraordinarily active period for the Residency in a number of ways, and I'd like to highlight just a few of these happenings in the first of a series of programmatic messages and broadcasts.

Although this may be old news to some by now (a little under 2 months old, to be a bit more precise), others may not be aware of the most recent honorary additions to the Program- Ritchie (Kasia's son) and Casey (Cindy's daughter). From all accounts, moms and kids are well!

Please also join me in congratulating Gary Mendese (Administrative) and Mohammed Sharaf (Academic) for being selected as Chief Residents for the AY '10-'11. The program remains in great hands as we continue forward during a time of great opportunity for the training program.

To that end, I am pleased to announce that Boston Medical Center has agreed to more than doubling their support of our residency program over the next two years. While the program had been slated to lose funding from Tufts as well as non-sustainable resources over the course of the transition, it will now be able to maintain our current allotment of residents who will be spending the large majority of their time at BMC. At a time when this type of support is difficult to achieve, the Hospital has again demonstrated their commitment to our educational mission and to serving our community of patients. As a result, we will have 5 residents joining us in July, and we have also increased our allocation of advanced positions in the dermatology match to 5. We recently completed an intensive recruitment effort consisting of a highly accomplished pool of applicants. My sincere thanks go out to Daniella, Cindy and the selection committee for their efforts throughout the process. I would like to especially acknowledge all of the residents for being such terrific ambassadors of the program, as the numerous Thank You notes received gave particular mention to the pride our residents have in the program. The next update will surely include more detailed mention of our recruitment successes.

Support our Resident Talks at the Annual AAD Meeting

Several of our trainees will be presenting work at the upcoming AAD meeting in Miami, FL. Please make every effort to drop by and learn more about the academic interests of our trainees.

* Jenny Powers. "Incidence of serious infectious events with methotrexate treatment: Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials." Saturday, March 6, 8:25-8:35am, South Beach Convention Center, Room D321/D232

* Victoria Kuohung. "Prevalence of aluminum allergy in dermatitis patients". Thursday, March 4, 9:35-9:45am, Eden Roc Hotel, 4525 Collins Avenue, Pompeii Room

* Michael Krathen. "Risk of Skin Cancer in the Treatment of Psoriasis, Psoriatic Arthritis, and Rheumatoid Arthritis." Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis meeting, Sunday, March 7, 1:30-1:40pm, Courtyard by Marriott South Beach, 1530 Washington Ave.

News from Clinical Operations

Thomas Ruenger, M.D.

Earlier this year, we put into operation a convenient way to store and share clinical photographs using the dermatology partition on the hospital's G:drive, which provides unlimited and indefinite storage with daily backups. An e-mail with detailed instructions was sent to all clinical faculty, residents, and international trainees on January 9. While I have been using it regularly since then, I have noticed that nobody else seems to be using it yet. Therefore, I am giving the basic instructions again here:

- 1) Several computers in the clinic are designated to have access to the G:drive: one in each charting room, one in each nurses station, and the computer on the cart. The computers in the exam rooms CANNOT be used to access the G:drive, as they are set to auto log-in.
- 2) Log-off the designated computer and re log-in with your own BMC user name and password.
- 3) Under "My computer", double-click/open the G:drive, which takes you to its dermatology partition.
- 4) Open the folder called "pictures".
- 5) If not already done, create a folder with your name.
- 6) All designated computers are now equipped with multi-card readers. Just plug in the memory card of your or the clinic's camera, open the folder of the memory card and download your pictures into your picture folder on the G:drive using regular Windows operations (drag-and-drop or copy-and-paste).
- 7) I strongly recommend having a system in place on how you want to organize and name the pictures and subfolders in your folder. Obvious choices are to put pictures from each patient into a new subfolder and name those folders either by the patient's last name or the diagnosis. This is particularly important when you delegate picture storing to someone else. You need to instruct that person how to name your files and where to put them. All attendings, residents, international trainees and MAs have (or will shortly have) access to the G:drive.

Access to the G:drive is not limited to the clinic computers. You also have remote access (including e.g. from home), the same way you remotely access logician. In addition to your BMC user name and password, you need the SecureID for that.

This sounds much more complicated than it actually is. Try it!

There are of course many uses for easily accessible clinical photographs in clinic, including monitoring of treatment responses (e.g. repigmentation in vitiligo or healing of ulcers), longitudinal monitoring of pigmented lesions, documentation for medical-legal reasons or publications, and many more.

Of course, each patient needs to sign a consent form before a photograph is taken. Publication of clinical photographs often requires documentation of patient consent. However, finding the signed consent form, e.g. through "Grid" can be cumbersome, to say the least. Kathy Brown recently suggested to photograph the signed consent form and to store that photograph together with the clinical pictures. I think this is a great idea and I highly recommend this procedure. This way, you never have to chase after a consent form.

A collection of exquisite, high quality clinical photographs should be the pride of every academic dermatology department. Historic collections of moulages from the times before the invention of photography are still valuable today, and so are the large archives of slides/kodachromes, including private archives some of us still have.

The G:drive now provides the tool to start an institutional collection of digital clinical photographs. To start this process, I have created a folder in the "pictures" folder named "Collection". Please consider placing a copy of an excellent photograph into this folder and give it a name that includes the diagnosis. I envision a collection like this to be a great resource for our diverse teaching efforts. Copyright issues should be discussed.

The G:drive would also be a great place to store the power point files from our Grand Rounds. For these files to be most useful for future use, I suggest to include one slide in the power point file for each patient that summarizes the group's consensus about the diagnosis and suggested management. To be discussed.

Storage of clinical photographs on the G:drive is HIPPA compliant, as you can only access it with your personal BMC username and password. Use is wisely, creatively, and always with the patient's right for privacy in mind.

News from the Veteran's Administration

Medical Center

As the Chief of the Dermatology service at the Boston VA Healthcare System, Dr. Nellie Konnikov has completed the merger and put into practice combined training of BU/Tufts and Harvard residents. While on rotation at the VA, residents and medical students acquire the training and a gradual autonomy in providing primary Dermatological care, photodynamic therapy, PDL laser and special procedures, in addition to surgical and Mohs procedures. Nellie has recruited a superb group of loyal attending physicians from all three VA affiliates (BU, Harvard, and Tufts) who are dedicated to excellence in teaching and patient care at the VA. Dr. Konnikov is a Co-Investigator in the National Cooperative Studies Program on Chemoprevention of Non Melanoma Skin Cancer, in addition to studies related to implementation of new technologies into management of skin cancer. Within this context, residents are encouraged to participate in clinical research and quality improvement projects at the VA.

DermLight on Stefan Schieke, MD

Amit Garg, M.D.

Every so often, the newsletter will feature a brief conversation with one of our residents highlighting some of his/her interests, in and out of medicine. This month's conversation is with first year resident, Stefan Schieke.

Amit: Stefan, we hear you have a major life event coming up- and no, I'm not talking about the in-service exam.

Stefan: That's right Amit. Moira and I are getting married on March 27. We'll still be living apart while Moira is finishing up her training in Radiology in New Jersey. She'll be in Boston for good though in the summer of 2011, and besides, I can get to NJ in 3.5 hours- flat!

Amit: Congratulations Stefan!!!

Stefan: Thanks Amit, I appreciate the heart-felt wishes...but would you mind letting go now, it's getting hard for me to breathe with you hugging me so tightly. Yeah, we're getting married at a church in the village of Aschau in the Chiesee area of Bavaria.

Amit: Oh, that sounds beautiful Stefan. And are you spending your honeymoon in an equally romantic setting?

Stefan: Well, we start out our honeymoon in Alto Adige (the 'Italian Alps'), and then we're off to Lake

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2010

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 8:30-11:45 AM

LECTURE: "The Allergy/Immunology Approach to Moderate to Severe Atopic Dermatitis" by Dr. Jordan E. Scott

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

AAD ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE: MIAMI CONVENTION CENTER

DATE: MARCH 5-9

BU DERMATOLOGY ALUMNI REUNION

PLACE: BASS ART MUSEUM, MIAMI, FL

DATE/TIME: SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

IN-SERVICE EXAM FOR TRAINEES

PLACE: BU MEDICAL SCHOOL

80 EAST CONCORD STREET, 11TH FLOOR COMPUTER LAB

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 9:00AM-1:00PM

BMC SKIN CANCER SCREENING

PLACE: MOAKLEY LOBBY, 850 HARRISON AVENUE

DATE/TIME: SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 8:00AM-12:00PM

GRAND ROUNDS

PLACE: DOCTORS OFFICE BUILDING, 9TH FLOOR

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 8:30-11:45 AM

LECTURE: "Treatment of psoriasis in difficult clinical scenarios" by Dr. Bruce Strober

FACULTY MEETING

PLACE: 609 ALBANY STREET, 4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Como via a short stay in Venice. We finish up in Munich, where I most certainly plan to enjoy a *Maß*

[pronounced (mAs)

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IPA>>

and translating to "measure", a German term for a unit of volume used for measuring beer

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer>> and defined as exactly 1 litre] of Paulaner beer.

Amit: Enjoy, and please take lots of pictures for us to see when you get back. And good luck with the wedding. What kind of cake will you have at the wedding?

Stefan: It's a light biscuit cake with passion fruit cream.

Amit: Mmm. Make sure you remember to freeze a

piece for your 1 year Anniversary.

Stefan: That sounds gross. Is that an American thing?

Amit: We tried it ourselves, and it is gross. One last question Stefan- You have already quite an accomplished career in science. Can you tell us which of your publications are most proud.

Stefan: Well, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work at the NIH exploring the role of the MTOR pathway as a regulator of mitochondrial metabolism with its implications for the aging process, embryonic stem cell differentiation and potentially tumor biology.

Amit: Stefan, no need to blush. You should indeed be proud of your accomplishments, and we wish you so much success ahead.

Stefan: Amit, can we get back to clinic now? I have 4 patients waiting to see me.

*Those interested in learning more about Stefan's work may reference- "The mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway regulates mitochondrial oxygen consumption and oxidative capacity.

"<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16847060?itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum&ordinalpos=5>

Schieke SM, et al. J Biol Chem.

2006;15;281(37):27643. PMID: 16847060

One of Stefan's passions is cooking, to which anyone who has tasted his almond cake will attest. We'll leave you with his recipe offering of a delicious Bolognese.

Ragu alla Bolognese (a la Stefan)



Ingredients: 6 tbs olive oil, 2 lbs ground beef, 1-2 small dried chiles, 2 tbs vegetable or beef broth concentrate (I use paste), 2 large garlic cloves, 1 sprig each of rosemary, sage, thyme, ½ bottle of red wine, 2-4 tbs tomato paste, 3-5 tbs pine nuts, 2 carrots, finely chopped, 2 stalk celery, finely chopped, 1 medium size onion, finely chopped, 1 big can tomatoes (optionally more, or even Bertolli pasta sauce), pitted calamata olives (optional), 2 tbs

butter, 2 tbs aged balsamic vinegar, Pasta (i.e. Spaghettini from DeCecco)

1. Heat olive oil over low heat and add pine nuts. Cook until golden brown, then add chopped carrots, celery and onion while turning heat to medium-high. Cook for a few minutes and set aside.

2. Over medium-high heat, heat oil in a big saucepan and add beef. Let sear on one side until WELL browned and coming easily off the bottom of the pan. Then start stirring and breaking apart until cooked through. Now add salt, pepper, crushed chile to taste. Mix in broth paste to coat meat evenly and let brown. Add grated garlic and herbs, stir and cook for about 30 sec until fragrant. Add first third of red wine and let reduce completely, repeat with remaining two thirds of red wine. Then add the tomato paste and cook for a few minutes under constant stirring. At this point, meat should have a nice dark color and is ready for all the other ingredients.

3. Add pine nuts/vegetables, olives and tomato sauce to the meat. Stir well and let simmer over low heat for 1-2 hours. Just before done, stir in balsamic vinegar and butter.

4. Tips for cooking your pasta: generously salt the water, cook pasta al dente, when draining the water, don't run under cold water (this would remove the outside starch which is needed for letting the sauce stick to the noodles).

Serve with freshly grated parmigiano to taste. Enjoy!

Departmental Kudos:

* Dr. Meera Mahalingam was promoted to Full Professor of Dermatology and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in December.

* Dr. Vladimir Botchkarev will be delivering two oral presentations at the upcoming SID Annual Meeting in May on the following topics:

"Genome organiser and special AT-rich binding protein Satb1 controls the establishing tissue-specific chromatin organization during development of the epidermis."

"Lhx2 regulates Sox9 and Tcf4 to supply hair follicle-derived progenitor cells to the wound epithelium."

* Dr. Andrey Sharov will be delivering a poster presentation at the upcoming SID Annual meeting on: "Stable isoform of the Smad1 protein inhibits melanoma cell proliferation and migration."

* Drs. Jag Bhawan and Amal Kurban presented several lectures at the 4th International Conference on New Trends in the Management of Dermatological, Sexual, and Fertility Problems, February 11-13, 2010, Ismailia, Egypt

* Notable publication: Park HY, Wu C, Yaar M, Stachur CM, Kosmadaki M, Gilchrist BA. Role of BMP-4 and its Signaling Pathways in Cultured Human Melanocytes. Int J Cell Biol. Epub 2009 Dec 30.

*Please remember to RSVP for the Upcoming Alumni Reunion at the AAD in Miami. The event is Sunday, March 7th 6PM-8PM at the Bass Museum of Art. There will be a wonderful Latin band, plenty of Mojitos, and lots of delicious food. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

I hope you enjoyed this latest edition of Dermatology Updates.

Please feel free to send your suggestions for future topics and features to budermnewsletter@hotmail.com.

Best regards,



Rhoda