Welcome to the inaugural issue of the DFMPHS newsletter. The intent of this newsletter is to share information with DFMPHS faculty and staff, former department members, and others who would like to hear the great things we are doing in the department.

The newsletter will also introduce new staff/faculty, report accomplishments, inform about upcoming deadlines, events, personal notables, milestones and accolades. We trust you will enjoy getting to know what's happening in the department and share in the successes of your colleagues.

Although it won't be necessary to entice you to read the newsletters, we will reward one lucky reader. In each newsletter we will feature a hidden word. When you find the hidden word, send an email letting us know the article and line where you found the word. The name of everyone with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a $20 Subway gift card. Winners will be notified via email.

Interventions
Send your ‘winning’ word to: jmagdale@med.wayne.edu within two weeks of the distribution date.

Important Dates
SOM Graduation—May 22
MI FM Research Day—May 24
School Closure—May 28
Faculty Retreat—June 14 & 15
Residency Graduation—June 22
School Closure—July 4, 2011

Wayne State University installed signage on the Woodward Gardens building for Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. Office space for DFMPHS faculty and staff is on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

Our hope is to publish an issue of this newsletter at a minimum on a quarterly basis, but we will publish an issue when we have important information to share. Please send Judy any information you would like to share with your colleagues. Once we’ve received enough information for a one- or two-page issue, we will publish.

Please let us share all the good things you are doing for our department.

News from DFMPHS Educational Programs

Thirty-one! Not since the mid-1990’s have that many WSU 4th year students matched into Family Medicine residency programs. Over the past 3-4 years, the number held steady at 24-25, but 2012 saw an increase of over 20%! Congratulations to the Undergraduate Medical Education Team, Drs. Binienda and Chadwell and Ms. Lisa Blackwell, and to all the FM physicians in our department and across Southeast Michigan who give their time to WSU students.

On the MPH front, the working group for the undergraduate public health program continues to meet and prepare a proposal for the Provost. MPH student applications are rolling in, while other students are finishing. Recent MPH practicum and project presentations have demonstrated how dedicated, intelligent and enthusiastic our students are.

For more information, contact: Kendra Schwartz, MD, MSPH
RESEARCH GARNERS NATIONAL PRESS

Our department played a key role in research recently published regarding postnatal therapy for neuroinflammation and cerebral palsy. This research has gathered national press and may one day lead to the ability to prevent cerebral palsy. James Janisse, Ph.D., has worked as both biostatistician and co-investigator on this research for the past 8 years. He has worked closely with Dr. Sujatha Kannan, the PI, helping to develop study protocols, write grants that provided research funding, and analyze and interpret the results of the research.

There have been many steps in this research endeavor, starting with the dosing studies for the endotoxin that causes cerebral palsy symptomatology in subjects, to testing the impact of a drug known as NAC (N-acetyl-L-cysteine), and finally testing of a dendrimer coupled with NAC.

It was this last step, the testing of the dendrimer coupled with NAC, that has shown the dramatic improvements in subjects. The testing of this therapy will continue with a recently funded five-year R01 titled, “Mechanisms and novel therapy in intrauterine inflammation induced perinatal brain injury.”

For more information, contact: James Janisse, PhD

STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE

Work is a substantial source of stress, and work stress plays a substantial role in physical and mental health. But what are the best interventions for preventing or reducing stress among workers in highly stressful occupations?

In a soon-to-be published study, Todd Lucas, Nathan Weidner, and James Janisse evaluated sources of stress associated with police work. A sample of Michigan police officers rated sixty stressors commonly associated with law enforcement, such as conducting traffic stops, encounters with the judicial system, and conflict with a supervisor. Some officers reported greater stress than others, and some stressors elicited more stress than others. However, stress among officers mostly reflected unique relationships between individual officers and particular stressors. For example, conducting traffic stops was a more stressful job task than dealing with aggressive crowds for some officers, while vice versa for others.

Results of this study highlight that stress at work largely results from the unique relationships individual workers have with particular job tasks or stress exposures. Lucas and colleagues discuss the potential to better craft and effectively evaluate stress management interventions by attending to these unique worker-stressor relationships. Their forthcoming article is entitled: “Where does work stress come from? A Generalizability Analysis of stress in police officers” will be published in the journal Psychology & Health.

For more information, contact: Todd Lucas, PhD