DFMPHS receives $1.76 million to investigate care management decisions in prostate cancer

The American Cancer Society has awarded Wayne State University School of Medicine researcher and clinician, Jinping Xu, MD, MS, a five-year, $1.76 million Research Scholar Grant to analyze how men with low-risk localized prostate cancer choose to manage their disease. Dr. Xu will lead the team on the project “Why Don’t More Men with Low-Risk Prostate Cancer Choose Active Surveillance?”

“We are all very excited about the opportunity to carry out this longitudinal, population-based cohort study of men with newly-diagnosed prostate cancer, which we believe has the potential for impact on both public health policies and clinical practices of taking care of men with prostate cancer,” Dr. Xu said.

The study will identify determinants of treatment choice in men with low-risk localized prostate cancer, including the factors that affect the offer, acceptance and adherence of active surveillance as an initial management strategy. Localized cancer means there is no sign it has spread outside the prostate. Four out of five prostate cancers are found at this stage, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Active surveillance involves delaying treatment until test results show the cancer is growing or changing. The cancer is checked regularly. Active surveillance offers the opportunity to delay or avoid curative treatment and associated side effects unless the cancer progresses. Current practice guidelines identify active surveillance as an appropriate initial management strategy for low-risk localized prostate cancer; however, it is rarely chosen, and little research has addressed the reasons why men choose to receive aggressive treatment rather than active surveillance.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in men in the United States.

Dr. Xu is joined by 6 co-investigators including Drs. Kendra Schwartz, James Janisse and Joel Ager from the DFMPHS.

Researchers will recruit about 2,000 men in Michigan and Georgia, identified from cancer registries sponsored by the NCI.

Article excerpted from WSU School of Medicine Prognosis E-News. For more information go to June 3, 2013 Prognosis article or contact Dr. Xu at jxu@med.wayne.edu

Iraq General Director of Public Health signs official MOU between Iraq and WSU

In our November, 2012 issue, we told you about Hassan al-Kazzaz, MD’s visit to WSU to discuss initial steps to partner with the Iraq Ministry to assist them with opening the first College of Public Health in Iraq.

Dr. Kazzaz is the General Director of Public Health and Assistant to the Iraqi Minister of Health. He returned to Detroit at the end of June to attend the official signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Iraqi Ministry of Health and WSU.

The signing took place in the President’s office with President Gilmour; Dean Parisi; Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Assoc. VP, Office of Educational Outreach and International Programs; Almanhal Alsafi, the Iraqi Consulate General in Detroit; I. Malik, Executive Secretary of Iraqi Consul; as well as members from the DFMPHS in attendance.

Stay tuned for more details about this collaboration.
Phillip Lupo, Jr., MLIS won first place at the Michigan Mitten Movie Project for his short film “Trail.” His film was selected by the audience from among 15 short films that were shown during an evening event at the Main Art Theater in Royal Oak.

Congratulations, Phil!!!

Wayne State University’s Office of the Vice President for Research announced two research awards totaling $1.8 million in the Multidisciplinary Research Group Incubator Program, an internal funding program at the university.

The seed-funding program seeks to foster the development of multidisciplinary research groups with significant growth potential for external funding through centers of excellence grant programs, program project grants or similar multidisciplinary grants.

Bengt Arnetz, Ph.D., professor in the DFMPHS and Deputy Director of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and Melissa Runge-Morris, M.D., director of WSU’s Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, are the recipients of a three-year award with an anticipated total of $900,000. The grant, “Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors,” will work to address the need to develop environmental health leadership and capacity, as well as equip the next generation of environmental health scientists with the necessary skills to identify, evaluate and mitigate environmental health challenges.

Drs. Runge-Morris and Arnetz will lead this cutting-edge environmental health research project, which will make a significant impact not only in Detroit, but in urban areas around the United States.

The second half of this three-year grant, was awarded to James Granneman, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences and director of the Center for Integrative Metabolic and Endocrine Research in Wayne State’s School of Medicine, and Sylvie Naar-King, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics and director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Obesity Research and Education in Wayne State’s School of Medicine. The grant, “WSU Diabetes Obesity Team Science,” will focus on addressing the challenges of obesity-related diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Science degree from Michigan Technological University in Medical Technology with a minor in Business Administration and his MBA from Central Michigan University. He continues his education by attending industry seminars and is a member of the Medical Group Management Association.

Welcome, Rick!!
Third Annual Skin Cancer Screening

The Wayne State University Family Medicine Residency held its 3rd annual Skin Cancer screening on May 11, 2013. This event offers comprehensive skin cancer screening exams performed by the residents of the Family Medicine program and has grown annually since its inception. The event is free to residents in the Rochester area.

In total, 104 patients were seen during the screening event, up from 50 patients in 2012!

Thank you to the faculty and residents who participated: Drs. Zainab Al-Obosi, Hussaini Hina-Syeda, Aja Morningstar, John Otremba, Nikhil Parekh, Fred Rosin, Hasan Suleiman, Eric Tkaczyk, Salieha Zaheer, and Jason Zeidan.

A very special thank you to Karen Thornton for creating a beautiful brochure for the patients; office manager, Carmen Tigges; medical assistants Jessica Bloomingdale, Kristen Pica, and our front desk staff, June Litz and Carlyn Morgan who made this event a huge success!

For more information about this event, please contact John Otremba, PharmD, MD at jotremba@med.wayne.edu.
We are very pleased to announce that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved the new DMC-WSU Family Medicine Residency program for an initial three years.

The outpatient training site will be located at Advantage Health Systems’ Thea Bowman Community Health Center (CHC) located at 15400 W. McNichols in Detroit, MI. Thea Bowman CHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center.

The primary inpatient training hospital will be Sinai-Grace.

The program will start in July 2013 with six interns.

The WSU-Crittenton Family Medicine Residency program located in Rochester, and established in 2007, will work in concert with the new DMC-WSU program to train the best family medicine physicians in the Detroit Metro area.

Many thanks to all of you for your support and contributions to this effort during the past 20 months.

For more information, please contact John Boltri via email at jboltri@med.wayne.edu.

The Wayne State University School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences teamed with the Detroit Lions Living for the City initiative to call attention to the issues of food insecurity and hunger in the region.

DFMPHS and the Lions, along with Levy Restaurants, Eastern Market Corporation, and Gleaners Community Food Bank, hosted a June 11 charity screening of the film “A Place at the Table” at Ford Field. The documentary investigates incidents of food insecurity in America.

After the film, a moderated panel discussion with some of Michigan’s food economy experts, public health and policy advocates, researchers and physicians took place. The department’s very own Margit Chadwell, MD, FAAFP served as a panelist. Dr. Chadwell is co-principal investigator of the federally-funded Bridges to Equity Program housed in the department. The program develops and implements educational programming to engage medical students in interdisciplinary collaboration with public health students and faculty on community-based projects to reduce health disparities.

Juliann Binienda, PhD, DFMPHS assistant professor and principal investigator of the Bridges to Equity Program recognized collaborating with the Living for the City program was in keeping with the department’s strategic goals, which include increasing its current level of high quality educational presence and community collaboration through service and engagement and contributing to a healthier Detroit and Michigan.

After the launch of the Living for the City Program, Dana Rice, Dr. P.H., DFMPHS adjunct assistant professor and wife of former Detroit Lions safety Ron Rice, began meeting with team officials to discuss ways to which the department could partner with the community program.

With both programs’ goals so closely aligned, it was determined a relationship would only enhance both organizations missions. Said Dr. Rice, “We came to the mutual conclusion that formalizing our relationship would ensure the creation of a sustainable partnership for years to come.”

Article excerpted from WSU School of Medicine Prognosis E-News. For more information go to June 14, 2013 Prognosis E-News article or contact Dr. Rice at dric@med.wayne.edu or Dr. Binienda at jbinien@med.wayne.edu.
The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences (DFMPHS) faculty and staff have been shining brightly since we published our last newsletter issue.

Margit Chadwell, MD, FAAFP, was elected to a two-year term as a director for the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Southeast Michigan region. The Academy is the state’s largest specialty physician association serving the needs of more than 3,000 members so that they may concentrate on caring for, and improving, the health of patients, families and communities.

In other news, Dr. Nejla Israel, Dr. Tsveti Markova, Dr. Frederick Rosin and Dr. Kendra Schwartz were listed in the March 2013 issue of StyleLine Magazine’s bonus section ‘Best Doctors 2013’.

Physicians were selected from peer-to-peer surveys conducted among physicians by Best Doctors, Inc., an international company.

Congratulations to each of them for achieving this recognition.

Dawn Misra, PhD, was selected by a committee of her WSU colleagues as one of the 27th group of Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellows, an honor established by the University’s Board of Governors to recognize and provide support for faculty whose achievements and activities in scholarship, research and artistic performance and creativity continue to hold national distinction.

Dr. Misra is considering developing a research symposium with outside speakers focused on methods of study life course predictors of health.

She was quoted in the School of Medicine Prognosis E-News as saying “receiving this award is very gratifying and it’s nice to be recognized for my work.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to announce Dr. Dawn Misra was promoted to Professor and Dr. Judith Arnetz was promoted to Professor with Tenure in the DFMPHS (Dr. Misra received tenure in 2010).

Dr. Arnetz joined the DFMPHS in 2007. She is an excellent educator and a core faculty member for the MPH Program and Occupational and Environmental Health. She is an internationally recognized leader in the field of occupational and environmental health with her works repeatedly cited and is frequently an invited speaker/presenter as an expert in her field.

Dr. Misra joined the department in 2008. She is an accomplished and internationally respected and recognized researcher. Dr. Misra is a perinatal social epidemiologist making important contributions to our understanding of the social determinants of perinatal health and disparities associated with pre-term birth. She is a strong leader in the DFMPHS, the School of Medicine and the University, serving on a multitude of cross functional committees.

Congratulations to our newest Professors on their well-deserved promotions!!

AND THE RECOGNITION CONTINUES.....