



The Department of Medicine Newsletter



Message from the Department

Welcome to our first Department of Medicine Newsletter! We will be communicating quarterly to keep members of the department informed on key issues.

This first newsletter comes on the heels of the launch of our new Department of Medicine Website and will be housed under the "About" tab within a newly created communications section. Please visit the website at www.umassmed.edu/medicine/

Faculty News:

- We have surveyed the department of medicine faculty about preferences regarding quarterly faculty meetings. In overview, the faculty are interested in more interactive meetings, including opportunities for faculty members to get to know each other across divisions and interact with their colleagues, and also would like additional options for meeting day / times.
- In response, we will be highlighting opportunities for across division communication and we will alternate meeting days and times. For those interested in reading the entire survey results, please see the summary [here](#).
- Each division is currently in the process of performing faculty evaluations. This year, the department is focusing on using the evaluation process to identify both strengths and opportunities for professional development for each faculty member. We are committed to feedback and faculty evaluation as the critical first step in the performance management creation of positive, successful, high efficiency, professional environment. We hope you will find your meeting with your division chief useful.

Innovations in Education:

- July schedules saw the long awaited implementation of 4+1. Congratulations to the entire education team!

First Annual Excellence Award

The Department of Medicine values the efforts and innovation of our faculty and seeks to celebrate achievements by honoring four individuals through the creation of the First Annual Department of Medicine Excellence Awards. Nominations were solicited for outstanding achievements in any of the following domains: Clinical, Research, Education, and Citizenship.

Nominations were submitted by division chiefs and included a CV and a concise letter indicating why the nominee deserves the particular award. A selection committee of department members convened to review applications and recommended 4 winners, which Dr. Finberg approved.

The 2015 winners of the Excellence Awards are: Konstantin Abramov, MD; Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH; Farhan Ibrahim, MD; Nancy Said, MD.

Winners will be recognized in the first faculty meeting of the year in the fall.



DoM Faculty in the News

July 21, 2015 - *Suzana Makowski, MD* will lead the conversation for 'Being Mortal' Diversity Campus Read on August 4th.
[Read the full UMassMed article](#)

July 12, 2015 - *Jerry Gurwitz, MD*, speaks to the unmonitored use of Coumadin in nursing homes.
[Read the full Washington Post article here](#)

July 7, 2015 - *Neil Aronin, MD*, has been honored by the Huntington's Disease Society of America with its Research Award.
[Read the full UMassMed article](#)

July 7, 2015 - *Katherine Fitzgerald, PhD*, has received a Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
[Read the full UMass Med Now article](#)

July 1, 2015 - *Lori Pbert, PhD*, has received tenure along with 7 other Department of Medicine faculty who were recently promoted to Associate Professor or Professor.
[Read the full list of promotions](#)

See more DoM faculty in the news articles [here](#).

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex, overwhelming tasks into small, manageable tasks, and then starting on that first one."

-Mark Twain



And the winners of the Excellence Awards are!....

Konstantin Abramov, MD



Konstantin Abramov, MD is Assistant Professor in our Renal Division, Director of the Chronic Kidney Disease Program and Associate Program Director of the Nephrology Fellowship at UMass Medical School/UMass Memorial. Dr. Abramov was nominated for this award by Dr. Jeffrey Stoff in the Excellence Award Clinical category for his compassion as a skilled clinician and his extraordinary contribution to improving the outcomes of patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). This has been demonstrated through his quality scholar project on timely detection of chronic kidney disease, as well as a long list of clinical innovations that have directly improved the quality of care and experience for our patients and their family members.

Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH

Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH of our General Internal Medicine and Primary Care Division is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, as well as Assistant Professor of Quantitative Health Sciences at UMass Medical School/UMass Memorial. Dr. Cutrona was nominated by Kathy Mazor in the Excellence Award Research category for her research in health care delivery, screening, and prevention. Her work to improve screening and vaccination rates, as well as electronic communications with patients is greatly appreciated.



Farhan Ibrahim, MD



Farhan Ibrahim, MD is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at UMass/UMass Memorial. Dr. Ibrahim was nominated by Bruce Weinstein in the Clinical category of the Excellence Awards for his efforts as a clinical educator in primary care, as well as his leadership in improving access through the development of weekend urgent care. The importance of this work is recognized in our effort to decrease the burden on our Emergency Department.

Nancy Said, MD

Nancy Said, MD is faculty member in our Community Internal Medicine Division and is the Medical Director of four nursing homes in the greater Worcester area. Dr. Said was nominated by Dr. Andrew Miller in the Excellence Award Clinical category for her compassionate work in the community through her Worcester practice and nursing home care of elderly patients. Dr. Miller describes her as representing “the best in the long-term care that modern medicine has to offer.”



Call for Team Player Award Nominations



The Department of Medicine values the achievements and extraordinary contributions of our administrative staff and seeks to celebrate these by honoring two individuals through the creation of the Team Player Award. Characteristics of nominees should include factors such as: **Collaborative:** known to be a collaborative team player, **Diligent:** works hard and demonstrates good work ethic, **Citizenship:** helps others; behaves in a selfless manner, **Creativity,** **Responsible:** good steward of resources, **Flexibility /Adaptability**

Please send recommendations for nominations to your division chief by *August 5th*.
The Awardees will be recognized at the Excellence Award event in the fall.