

Educational Resources Newsletter

DEPARTMENT of FAMILY MEDICINE

University of California Irvine

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HELLO - GOOD-BYE

It is a great honor for me to assume the role of Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at UC Irvine. Our department has a long history of quality education to medical students, residents, and community physicians; service to the community through patient care and community health activities; and important research. There have been many great leaders and teachers in this department, and I hope to continue and expand upon this tradition. The current faculty are dedicated, talented, and energetic in their work. The many community family physicians who so willingly teach on a regular basis make the department successful with medical students and residents.

Johanna Shapiro has described the recent accomplishments of the department well. I am indebted to her stewardship through turbulent times for Family Medicine at UCI. I have come into a remarkably stable situation, postured to grow and succeed on all fronts. Johanna is spending 1997 in a sabbatical to expand her research skills, an effort to which we will all benefit.

Mike Prislin, Department Chair from 1988-1994, continues as Director of our Predoctoral Program. Mike is using the skills gained from his recent sabbatical to do nationally recognized research in our innovative programs in medical education. Mike, and the team of faculty working with him, will be presenting their work this spring at the annual meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Boston.

Our residency program has succeeded and grown under the directorship of David Morohashi for the past eight years. This year's Match should be one of the best ever given the quality of our applicants, a testimony to the program's carefully designed curriculum and the new Family Health Center in Santa Ana. In July, David will step aside as Residency Director in order to devote more time to teaching students and residents, and evaluating the residency program's curricular component. Thomas Bent, a graduate of the UCI residency with great community practice and teaching experience, will become the new Program Director.

Kathryn Larsen continues to support the Department as

Continued on Page 2 - see Scherger

It is perhaps fitting that my first column for the newsletter as acting chair will also be my last column as acting chair. The past 22 months have been a time of transition, change, and yes, sometimes confusion, chaos, even fear. Yet I believe we all have much of which to be proud. Throughout our challenges, we have managed to function as a team, to take responsibility for our needs and desires, and to work together to achieve our goals. Much is left undone, but much has been achieved:

- *After many unanticipated fiscal blows, we have significantly reduced the departmental debt, and are able to project a balanced budget for 1996-97.*
- *While all other UCI residencies were held at steady-state or forced to downsize, we successfully expanded our program.*
- *We completed our move to FHC, and it is finally beginning to feel like home.*
- *We fought hard for an integrated, coherent clinic space, and despite powerful forces in opposition, we got our Family Medicine Clinic.*
- *We pushed HealthSystems to compensate the department for faculty attending time; we pushed Medical Education to compensate us for time spent by faculty teaching medical students. We had considerable success on both fronts.*
- *Despite our budget problems, we were able to hire two outstanding family docs, as well as an excellent family nurse practitioner to support our clinical practices.*
- *The Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, which our department co-sponsors, graduated its first class of students.*
- *Our predoctoral section underwent reorganization and refocusing.*
- *The Primary Care Clerkship was officially renamed the Family Medicine Clerkship.*
- *We have continued and improved upon our nationally recognized training programs in cross-cultural medicine and mental health.*

Continued on Page 2 - see Shapiro

Scherger (Continued from Page 1)

Vice Chair, and gives Family Medicine much credibility by being the Co-Medical Director of the UCI Primary Care Medical Group (part of the new UCI HealthSystems).

Space does not allow me to list the many activities of all the other full-time, part-time, and volunteer faculty, and our highly dedicated and talented staff. Their work will find a place on future editions of these pages.

My goals for the Department are:

- Continue and improve the outstanding programs in medical student, resident, and family nurse practitioner education
- Help the Family Health Center become a national model of community oriented primary care and a center for residency education in a diverse environment.
- Provide leadership to the entire UCI health system so that UCI is recognized as a top ten medical school in family medicine and primary care.
- Integrate with other primary care faculty and programs at UCI so that our education, patient care, and research will be stronger than if we all acted separately.

The growth of family medicine and primary care at UCI is directly tied to the future of the College of Medicine. As Johanna mentioned, I have also been given the role of Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. This puts Family Medicine right in the center of the strategic planning and leadership for the College of Medicine. I plan to make the most of this opportunity to recognize the important work we all do. Let me hear from you, if not in person, by letter or e-mail (scherger@uci.edu). Thank you for your efforts. The door is always open.

-- Joseph E. Scherger, M.D., M.P.H.

FAMILY MEDICINE CALENDAR

Family Medicine Resident Match Day -	March 19, 1997
RRC Site Visit -	April 23/24, 1997
Family Medicine Clerkship Board Exam -	May 26-30, 1997
Family Medicine Refresher Course -	June 9-13, 1997
New Resident Orientation -	June 23-28, 1997
New Resident Barbecue -	June 29, 1997
Family Medicine Grand Rounds -	Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 (UCIMC, Library Room 2106)
FHC Teaching Conf -	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 (FHC, Conference Room A)

Shapiro (Continued from Page 1)

- *We have learned to live in peace, if not always harmony, with the other primary care specialties.*

Perhaps most exciting of all, we have at last succeeded in recruiting a permanent chair, Dr. Joseph Scherger, a nationally recognized figure in family medicine who has the potential to shape this department into one of the leading family medicine departments in the country.

There have been positive changes in the larger institutional environment as well. Hospital administration has been completely restructured, and much for the better. The College of Medicine and UCIMC are moving toward closer integration through the creation of UCI HealthSystems. Our Dean has decided to make UCI known for its excellence in primary care medical education, and as a result has created a new (and hopefully powerful!) position of Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, which Dr. Scherger will also hold.

Many exciting challenges and possibilities await us on the horizon. For example:

- *Further expansion of the residency program.*
- *Development of a commercial practice at FHC.*
- *Pioneering of the Objective Structured Teaching Examination, an innovative faculty development tool developed by the predoc section for use with clerkship preceptors.*
- *Increased control over faculty practices.*
- *The funding of our federal departmental grant, which will enable us to implement training and educational initiative in the areas of managed care and cross-cultural competencies.*

And you could each add to this list...

I have intentionally not named names in this letter because although I owe each of you individually many, many debts, it is the cooperative effort of our department, including our very ~~Shapiro~~ dedicated and hard-working staff, that I want to praise. We are most of us pretty rugged individualists. But we have learned to set aside our differences to work for shared goals and visions. As a result, in the most trying of times, we have landed on our collective feet.

With thanks to Rabbi Alexander Schindler, former president of the Union of American Hebrew Colleges, who authored a version of the following poem, I would like to say good-bye as acting chair in this manner:

Out of chaos, out of fear
 Together we have made a circle of hope
 It encompasses our future

It is my joy, now
 To step out of the center of this circle
 My sojourn there is complete

It is my honor, now
 To surrender the hard pillow of leadership
 Other heads are ready
 To dream their dreams upon it

-- Johanna Shapiro, Ph.D.