EDITOR’S INTRODUCTION:
Welcome to the second edition of our research newsletter. After a successful Research Week, we hope to keep up the enthusiasm year round. With the end of the academic year now upon us, we say goodbye to our outgoing residents and fellows and welcome our new trainees. I hope this newsletter is a valuable resource to aid you in getting started on your research career here at LAMC.

Our first research newsletter was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. Thank you to those who sent feedback and contributed content. Your input is critical to the future of this newsletter. Please continue to submit your presentations, papers, open clinical trials, collaborator requests, and profile nominations to Deena Pourang, PGY-4, Allergy/Immunology Fellow.

—Angelina Crans Yoon, MD, PGY-5, Allergy/Immunology

RESEARCH PROFILE:

Joan Ryoo, Radiation Oncology, PGY-? (the ? is intentional)

Dr. Joan Ryoo, a fifth-year Radiation Oncology resident at LAMC, tries to downplay the impressive list of accomplishments I managed to coax from her: Harvard undergrad, followed by a year at Cambridge under the John Harvard Scholarship, then Harvard med where she was active in bench research under the Doris Duke fellowship. She also obtained a master’s degree in health services, then completed three years at a seven-year categorical general surgery residency at Brigham & Women’s Hospital, after which she was accepted to the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar fellowship at UCLA. There, her research included 1) readmissions for surgery and 2) quality of lung cancer care at the Veteran’s Administration. Ultimately, she pursued a Post-Doc position at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; followed by a switch mid-career to radiation oncology, where she has been for the past five years. “I’ve had a lot of time,” she explains in all seriousness. “I’m 900 years old but people say I don’t look a day over 850.”

Accomplishments aside, it was obvious from our brief conversation that she manifested an extraordinary, unadulterated drive for knowledge—a rather charismatic trait when juxtaposed against such an authentic, self-deprecating humility. “I think ignorance allows me to move forward in life,” she says. “I’m not sure I would have had the courage to do things if I knew what I was getting into.”

(continues on page 2)
And if such “ignorance” is the gravity pulling her down her path, it was also evident that she does not simply seek to be an indiscriminate connecting tube to some nondescript container of knowledge. She thrives on research that is practical and easily implemented—“sharp,” as she calls it. “I knew pretty early on that lab science was not for me. It’s quality research that floats my boat. I really have a bizarre fascination with standards—why we have the standards we do and whether we are upholding them.”

She points to her research experience at the VA, where on the surface, the medical staff had been doing a poor job of adhering to guidelines of care for lung cancer patients. “But that was just based on administrative data. If you biopsy the chart, you see that doctors were really having conversations with patients regarding chemo, radiation, etc., and after excluding those who had willfully opted out, adherence was closer to 80 percent,” she explains. “This has so many policy implications because so much hangs on these performance standards that are based on these guidelines.”

Her most recent research project, “Radiotherapy for Brain Metastases Near the End of Life: Palliation or Poor Quality Care?” claimed first prize for Outcome studies at the 2015 KP House Staff Research Day. This project challenged whether some of these guidelines led to over-treatment of lung cancer patients at the end of life, and found that a surprising number of patients were receiving brain radiotherapy within 30 days of death. “What does it mean to be aggressive?” she asks. “We are so bad at predicting life expectancy, and it’s tough because I think it’s a disservice to recommend treatments that may harm them [patients]. Research like this really has changed what treatment plans I recommend and how I recommend them to patients. I think as providers we really need to explore these issues with patients in a way that does not make them lose hope.”

Furthermore, she views the field of medicine itself as an ongoing quality improvement project. “The nice thing about medicine is that it constantly changes, and forces you to continually reevaluate treatments, your practice, and even yourself. You continue to train and you pick up nuances, and these nuances accumulate over time to create a clearer picture.”

Thus “…it’s always good to not let go of ideas,” she advises. “If you have an idea and some will, you can usually power through those moments of getting lost.”
2015 LAMC Research Week Debrief—House Staff Research Competition

We had an excellent showing for our 16th Annual House Staff Research Competition Grand Rounds. More than 200 people came to see the top five trainees give oral presentations of their research. Our panel judges selected the top three presentations, which were awarded plaques at the annual graduation ceremony. The presenters were:

**Dr. Keith Thompson, Cardiology—1st Place**
- Mentor: Dr. Somjot Brar
- Presentation title: Statin Use Prior to Angiography for the Prevention of Contrast Induced-Acute Kidney Injury: A Meta-analysis of 19 Randomized Trials

**Dr. Patrick Kilday, Urology—3rd Place**
- Mentor: Dr. Gary Chien
- Presentation title: Long-Term Effect of Neoadjuvant Leuprolide Injection on Quality of Life Following Radical Prostatectomy

**Dr. Krystle Ziebell, Ob/Gyn**
- Mentor: Dr. Scott Lentz
- Presentation title: A Pilot Analysis of The Effect of Pre- and Post-Operative Metformin Use on Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Survival

**Dr. Joan J. Ryoo, Radiation Oncology**
- Mentor: Dr. Winston W. Lien & Dr. Michael K. Gould, Research & Evaluation
- Presentation title: Radiotherapy (RT) for Brain Metastases (BM) Near the End Of Life (EOL): Palliation or Poor Quality Care?

**Dr. Aaron Lee, Gastroenterology—2nd Place**
- Mentor: Dr. Bechien Wu
- Presentation title: Barriers to Patient Attendance for Outpatient Endoscopic Gastroenterology Procedures in an Integrated Health Delivery System
Research Week on the Road

The Research Week on the Road Poster session was a great success. There were a total of 41 posters that began their journey at the Rejuvenate Café at LAMC. They were then on display in our 2nd floor healing garden for our evening mixer on June 4, which more than 75 people attended. From there, the posters traveled to Baldwin Park and West LA. This year we awarded prizes for best poster in five categories.

Best Original Research
- First Place: #18 Maya Remington, Michael Fassett, Darios Getahun—Outcomes of Subsequent Pregnancies in Women with Peripartum Cardiomyopathy
- Second Place: #20 Lindsey Spragg, Jason Chen, Raffy Mirzayan, Rebecca Love, Gregory Maletis—Effect of Autologous Hamstring Graft Diameter on Likelihood for Revision of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction

Best Quality Improvement Project
- First Place: #6 Jack Der-Sarkissian, Christiane Wert Rivard—Impact of a Clinical Quality Care Award on Weight Management Program Engagement among Obese Adult Southern California Kaiser Permanente Patients
- Second Place: #40 Jeannie K. Huang, Nilesh J. Patel, and Robert M. Cooper—Increasing HPV Vaccination Rates among Pre-Adolescent Males and Females at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center
- Honorable Mention: #10 Theresa B. Sevilis, Navdeep S. Sangha, Zahra A. Ajani—The effect of ABCD2 score as a triage tool for TIA patients on 90-day hospital readmission.

Best Case Report
- First Place: #14 Christopher Y. Way, Annette Langer-Gould, Jim H. Nomura, Rene Patino—Severe Immune Reconstitution-like Inflammatory Syndrome from Cryptococcus gattii meningoencephalitis treated with Cyclophosphamide
- Second Place: #26 Laura Frisher, Angelica Zen, Michael Rotblatt—A 48-Year-Old Woman with Persistent Fevers and Cavitary Lung Lesions

Best Outcome Study
- First Place: #12 Joan Ryoo—Radiotherapy for Brain Metastases Near the End of Life: Palliation or Poor Quality of Care?
- Second Place: #25 Terrance Yu, Derenick Gharibian, Helen Chun, Giselle Willick—Evaluating the Clinical and Economic Outcomes of an Integrated Pharmacy Primary Care Service

Best Chart Review
- First Place: #37 Lee Christianson, Becky Lim, Raoul Burchette, Scott Lentz—Single Port Laparoscopic Hysterectomy Outperforms Conventional Multisite Laparoscopy in Properly Selected Individuals: A Retrospective Matched Cohort Study
- Second Place: #24 Monti Khatod, Guy Cafri, Maria Inacio, Elizabeth Paxton, Robert Namba—Risk Factors for Total Hip Arthroplasty Aseptic Revision

GME Research Program Update

The GME Research Mentorship Program is currently ongoing. You can follow along and participate in the didactic sessions remotely through the GME Research website at https://sites.google.com/site/kpscgmeresearchmentorship/home
UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Openings for Research Consultations

Please contact John J. Sim, area research chair, if you are interested in having a team of LAMC Researchers give feedback on your research project at any stage. The following dates are available:

- August 18, 2015 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- September 22, 2015 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Regional Research Committee Funding

- Attendings requesting less than $6,000 application due to Area Research Chair, RRC—August 3, 2015
- Residents and Fellows (Less than $6,000) application due to Area Research Chair, RRC—August 3, 2015 and October 19, 2015
- For assistance with the RRC application, please contact Usha G. Vaghasia 562-777-2650 (office) tie line 371 or 626-564-3128 (office) tie line 338

PUBLICATIONS:

Allergy/Immunology

Angelina Crans-Yoon PGY-5


Dermatology

Jashin J. Wu

- Wu JJ, Rowan CG, Bebcuk JD, Anthony MS. Association between tumor necrosis factor inhibitor therapy and blood pressure, C-reactive protein, and alanine aminotransferase among psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, or rheumatoid arthritis patients. Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. Published online March 4, 2015. PMID: 25848312.
Radiation Oncology

Michael Hitchler, PhD

- Back to the future: transgenerational transmission of xenobiotic-induced epigenetic remodeling.

Sharon M. Lu, PGY-3


Christine Chang-Halpenny, PGY 4

- Chang-Halpenny CN, Natarajan S, Hwang-Graziano J. Early stage papillary serous or clear cell carcinoma confined to or involving an endometrial polyp: outcomes with and without adjuvant therapy. Gynecologic Oncol. 2013 Dec; 131 (3): 598-603.
- Lu SM, Chang-Halpenny CN, Hwang-Graziano J. Sequential versus “Sandwich” Sequencing of Adjuvant Chemoradiation for the Treatment of Stage III Uterine Endometrioid Adenocarcinoma. Gynecologic Oncol.. Accepted Jan 2015 for publication, in press.

Sports Medicine

Brian D. Kurose, PGY 4 and Leena Patel, PGY 4

PRESENTATIONS

Allergy/Immunology

Angelina Crans-Yoon PGY 5


Dermatology

Jashin J. Wu

- Wu JJ. Speaker, Psoriasis and comorbidities. Immunology summit, Tokyo, Japan, August 1-2, 2015.
- Wu JJ. Speaker, Biologics and risk of malignancy and infection. 67th Annual meeting of the Pacific Dermatologic Association, Park City, Utah, August 5-9, 2015.

Family Medicine

Natalie Rose Mourra, MD, PGY-3

- Immunize and Save Lives: The Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center Hospital and Community-Based Immunization Intervention AAFP Foundation, SENIOR IMMUNIZATION AWARDS POSTER PRESENTATION July 30-August 1, 2015.

Gastroenterology

Aaron Lee PGY-4

- Aaron Lee MD1, PGY-4, Marianne Fahmy MD1, Julie W Liu2, Matthew D Devine2, Robert M Cooper MD2. Colon Cancer Surveillance: Identification of Individuals Lost-to-Follow-up and Development of a Colonic Adenoma Registry within an Integrated Healthcare Delivery System. KP Cancer symposium 3/27/15.
Internal Medicine

Joseph Thouin PGY-1


Medical Education

Hanna Garth, Davida Becker, and Rachel Hollander—GME office

- D. Becker, H. Garth, R. Hollander, F. Klein, S. M. Gonzalez, M. Klau. A formative assessment of research and quality improvement-related knowledge, attitudes and practices within Kaiser Permanente’s Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs to inform a new training program. Association of American Medical Colleges Integrating Quality Meeting Chicago, IL June 11-12, 2015.

Radiation Oncology

Michael Hitchler, PhD


Sharon M. Lu, PGY-3

- Concurrent Radiotherapy with Cetuximab or Platinum-based Chemotherapy for Locally Advanced Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck.

Christine Chang-Halpenny, PGY-4

- CN Chang-Halpenny, S Natarajan, J Hwang-Graziano. Early stage papillary serous or clear cell carcinoma confined to or involving an endometrial polyp. Poster presentation at 2013 ASTRO in Atlanta, GA.
- CN Chang-Halpenny, J Yeh, J Kaptein, W Lien. Glioblastoma in elderly patients: A single institution retrospective study of conventional vs hypofractionated regimen with concurrent temodar. Poster presentation at 2013 ASTRO in Atlanta, GA.

Sports Medicine

Brian D. Kurose, PGY 4

### DEPARTMENT RESEARCH CHAIRS

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<th>Department</th>
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<td>Allergy/Immunology</td>
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<td>Cardiology</td>
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<td>Community Medicine</td>
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<td>Urology</td>
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### CONTACTS

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