Four Residents Travel Muddy Roads in Paraguay to Provide Care

Our residency has always attracted energetic physicians who want to travel the world to learn medicine. Drs. Shah, Ally, Saini, and Godhwani recently carried on this tradition, traveling to Chore, Paraguay last March on a trailblazing mission to reach remote populations.

They worked with local government officials, nursing students and community members to screen over 485 patients over seven days, thus identifying high risk patients who required close monitoring for conditions ranging from Leishmaniasis to uncontrolled diabetes. Utilizing many of the skills learned during their training, they treated a full spectrum of patients (pediatric, ob and geriatric), performed home visits, and offered wound care.

To reach some of the sites for screening clinics, the residents rode for several hours on muddy roads. On arrival, they encountered an abundance of patients eager for medical attention, many of whom spoke Guarani, not Spanish as their primary language. Dr. Shah reports, “Through our experience, we came to appreciate the crucial role communication plays in developing a collaborative project and providing medical care abroad.”

VFMRM proudly supported these residents to present two posters describing their project, titled “Is That a Parasite in Your Nose?” and the “How the Art of Communication Turned a Vision into a Mission” at the 2014 AAFP Global Health Conference.

Kudos to these residents travelling to another hemisphere to take on this challenge.

CEO Begs for More Money

Valley Consortium for Medical Education was proud to host U.S. Congressman Jeff Denham for a visit to our Family Medicine Center this October, and State Senator Cathleen Gagliani this past May. Both legislators showed great interest in our clinic, the first Teaching Health Center in California to receive funding under the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Peter Broderick, the CEO of the Consortium, shamelessly begged for the Congressman’s support behind funding reform that will stabilize the
Graduates Off to Great Things!

Christine Battaglia, DO (Touro University California) Christine has joined Scenic Faculty Medical Group and will be practicing in Turlock, CA.

Joey Chang, MD (David Geffen School of Medicine UCLA) Joey has joined Mercy Medical Center and will be practicing in Merced, CA.

Patrick Clavecillas, MD (West Visayas State University) Patrick has joined Providence Medical Institute and will be practicing in San Pedro, CA.

Baltej Dosanjh, MD (Ross University School of Medicine) Baltej has joined Scenic Faculty Medical Group and will be practicing in Modesto, CA.

Anika Godhwani, DO (Touro University California) Anika has joined Scenic Faculty Medical Group and will be practicing in Ceres, CA.

Jan Janay, MD (West Visayas State University) Jan has joined Facey Medical Group and will be practicing in Valencia, CA.

Michael Quintana, MD (University of the City of Manila) Michael has joined Kaiser Permanente and will be practicing in Modesto, CA.

Romeo Samouh, MD (Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara) Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group and will be practicing in Victorville, CA.

Vini Sidhu, MD (St. George’s University) Vini has joined Kaiser Permanente and will be practicing in Modesto CA.

Michael Yeh, MD (St. George’s University) Michael has joined Battle Mountain General Hospital and will be practicing in Battle Mountain, NV.

CEO Begs for More Money

Continued from front page... stream for the training of primary care doctors in our underserved Central Valley. We are glad politicians like Denham and Gagliani take the time on their whirlwind tours to see our hard work first hand. As Dr. Broderick notes, “We know there is a huge shortage of primary care doctors, and our training program helps combat this crisis of physician workforce. We just need the powers that be to see us in action and realize the impact that programs like ours can have.” We were able to show the Congressman our patient-centered diabetes group visit in progress. Managing Director of Health Services Agency Mary Ann Lee remarked, “We know we are innovating and doing the right thing for patients. We are striving to reduce health disparities, improve access, and improve outcomes for our patients. The family medicine residency program is crucial to the success of our safety net clinic system and the important services we provide for the community.” Let’s hope these politicians agree that graduate medical education funding should remain a long-term priority for our state and local governments.
Long Time Behavioral Science Guru Starts the Golden Years

Having started with residency teaching 30 years ago in 1984, Marlene Cohen, PhD recently retired this past June. While Marlene admits she is looking forward to the next phase, “time with my family, a quieter pace of life, time to paint,” her warmth, positivity, and expertise will be dearly missed by residents. When asked what she enjoyed the most about working with residents, Marlene offers, “I have enjoyed almost every task thoroughly, counseling, precepting, and otherwise holding the space and being present for the unfolding of the wonderful people who have passed through this program. What I enjoyed most however, was just watching in awe the bloom of confidence, competence and enjoyment that almost everyone expressed in their work and life, at least that’s the way they appeared by the time graduation was near.” Her parting words to our budding physicians: “Cheers, and as my grandfather would say, ‘coraggio, avanti!’ Medicine has changed much during these years, and not much at all. Good care still depends on good people, and I have been blessed and otherwise privileged to have shared life with you all.”

Since July 1, the residency welcomes our new dynamo behavioral science faculty, Dr. Annarheen Pineda. Welcome aboard!

Green Smoothies and Patient Empowerment

Who is a better expert in living with diabetes than the diabetic patient herself? This truth underpins a new trend in chronic disease management: peer-to-peer teaching. With support from a state grant, Dr. Juan Lopez-Solorza trains our residents in this new model, working closely with Yolanda Travis, behavioral scientist. Through interactive exercises, some individual attention, and peer-liaison-led grocery shopping trips, patients who sign up for a 12-week series of group care sessions transform their approach to their diabetes. Residents learn more about patients’ lives and challenges and expand patient education skills. Plus, none of the residents complain about learning how to make delicious green smoothies and enjoying them with the patients. Modern medicine, we join you with our state of the art.

Promoting Primary Care, One Condom at a Time

We never lose sight of the “community” in “Family and Community Medicine.” This week, Drs. Cassey, Gunn, and Payanes along with two faculty and a medical student infused enthusiasm into the Modesto Junior College Health Fair to tout primary care, as well as to promote reproductive health by passing out condoms and explaining IUDs and implants using plastic models. Passersby sampled fruit and brownies and asked questions about the various methods. As Dr. Cassey explained, “I really wish women would learn more about long acting contraceptives instead of always defaulting to taking the pill. These methods are more fool proof and reliable, especially for teenagers who can be less than perfect with organizing their lives.” Many junior college students did not realize that we boast a training program right here in Modesto. Remarked Dr. Kearns, “By demonstrating their passion for prevention and education, our young doctors might just inspire others to consider medicine as a career.”

Residents Dr. Cassey, Dr. Gunn, and Dr. Payanes pitch various birth control methods at the local Modesto Junior College Health Fair
Dr. Kiesel Wows Colleagues in Kansas City

Dr. Erin Kiesel, Valley Family Medicine Residency of Modesto’s Associate Program Director, attended the AAFP Program Directors’ Workshop for the first time this past April. One of only 12 faculty chosen to comprise the “Innovation Showcase,” her pithy description of our “Patient Care Facilitator” (PCF) role drew enthusiastic comments from colleagues. Our PCF assignment has residents collecting patient surveys about their experience at their doctor visit, as well as explaining health care maintenance and chronic disease guidelines in lay terms to patients. The PCF takes time with the patient, improving the efficiency of their resident colleagues who can move on the next patient while education is ongoing.

Reports Dr. Kiesel, “Other faculty loved the idea of using residents to fill a role of support and education that will in the future be done by MA’s or educators in the Patient Centered Medical Home. They learn a lot about each other’s practice style and about the practice guidelines.”

The Valley Family Medicine Residency of Modesto was founded in 2010. Our community has a thirty-five year history of training family physicians for this region.

Valley Consortium for Medical Education is a public-private partnership with Doctors Medical Center, Memorial Medical Center, and Stanislaus County Health Services. Our mission is to train physicians through service to those in need. Our residents build on a four-decade legacy of comprehensive care for the underserved, ethnically diverse population of Stanislaus County.