Andrology, General and Community Urology Division (AGC) Gets Around

Dr. John Wei, Division Chief

Over the past several years, Michigan Medicine has embraced the principle of expansion with clinical investments in Midland, Chelsea, Brighton, and Grand Rapids. Our department, and in turn, our AGC division, has likewise aligned ourselves to this principle with new practices in Muskegon – West Shore Urology, Brighton – BCSC, and West Ann Arbor – WAA. But these expansions require investment beyond the infrastructure provided by Michigan Medicine. Indeed, success will also be determined by the investment in our faculty and staff who provide care at these more distal locations.

West Shore Urology (WSU) celebrates their second year as part of the Michigan Medicine family this month. We currently have five faculty (Kevin Stone, Joe Salisz, Brian Stork, Adam Walker, Jessica Phelps), three physician assistants (Lisa Thurman, Mary Boyd, and our latest addition Kelly Peterson), and about twenty other staff. This, the most distant of Michigan Medicine ACU, provides urologic care that spans all aspects of Urology, with pediatric care provided by John Park and our pediatric division. Over the past two years, our faculty at WSU have prevailed over some significant challenges (eg change over from EMR to MiChart, adoption of Michigan Medicine ACU management and policies, staff turnover) and are now a shining example of clinical productivity. The practice has also expanded their clinical offerings to include fusion and perineal prostate biopsies recently saving many a patient from having to drive across the state for these diagnostic tests. A big Kudos goes out to our WSU colleagues and staff for their contributions and success these past two years!

In other locales, AGC has become firmly entrenched at the Brighton Center for Specialty Care (led by John Wei), which also recently celebrated its first year of operations, at West Ann Arbor (led by Miriam Hadj-Moussa) and in Flint (Hamilton Community Health Network site led by Meidee Goh). These practices have significantly contributed to urologic access and decreased congestion at Taubman Center by providing sites of care “off the hill.” They are also fully aligned with Michigan Medicine’s principle of providing local care locally. The partnerships between Urology and these new ACUs have been successful because our providers have taken extra effort to collaborate and integrate seamlessly into new locales while providing the highest quality care.

But expansion need not always require bricks and mortar. Jim Dupree has led expansion of our andrology practice via collaboration with various Reproductive Medicine practices where male infertility care was lacking. Thanks to his perseverance and hard work Michigan Medicine Andrology now also provides service to patients in Troy, Warren, and Brighton.

On other notes — Susanne Quallich NP has been promoted to faculty (clinical assistant professor) effective Aug 17, 2019. Congratulations Susanne! Brian Stork, currently the Chairman of the Technology and Publications Committee of the Urology Care Foundation has been promoted to become the Chairman of the Public Education Council starting next Spring. Congratulations Brian! Dana Ohl led our department along with Jens Sonksen from University of Copenhagen, in the third biannual COPMICCH program that took place in the town of Hesselet, Denmark, where it turns out Brian Stork has family roots. The meeting was very well attended with about 100 attendees and the meeting was a huge success. Below is a picture of Brian sharing how we perform perineal biopsies and the impact that has had on sepsis with data from the MUSIC program.
The collaboration with Jens and the University of Copenhagen extends beyond meetings into cutting edge research. At the recent Nesbit annual meeting, Jens presented on various projects including a randomized clinical trial that Dana is leading with a goal to define the optimal retrieval technique for sperm retrieval among men with non-obstructive azoospermia, a problem affecting almost 1/3 of infertile men.

So as Porky Pig used to say, “that’s all folks!” Have a great weekend!