



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CFCM and China
- Research Committee Update
- Dr. Joanne Dempster joins CFCM
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CFCM-China Exchange Strengthens



Dr. Kathleen Klink in Beijing

The Center for Family and Community Medicine (CFCM) is broadening its international influence. This summer, faculty members traveled to China along with a group of faculty from Wisconsin University to attend the Sixth Annual General Practice and Community Health Service Summit in Beijing. The Summit is an annual meeting of the China General Practitioner Association and the Chinese Medical Doctor Association. The Summit addresses various topics of community health and to confer about the country's evolving health care system.

Dr. Kathleen Klink, CFCM Director, served as the Summit's American chair and spoke to hundreds of physicians about changes in the American health care system and the Patient Centered Medical Home.

"I talked this year about health reform in the United States--what we're trying to do, which is surprisingly similar to what they're trying to achieve--to improve access to primary care, improve service delivery and quality, while controlling costs," Dr. Klink said.

For the past decade, China's central government has been investing more resources into primary care and community health centers, a shift that has resulted in lowering certain expenses and has shown some positive health outcomes.

During their trip, CFCM members traveled to health centers in less economically developed regions to see first hand how the system operates. "It was a great experience to see all of the changes there," said Dr. Susan Lin, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Research at CFCM, who also attended.

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CFCM Welcomes Dr. Joanne Dempster

Her strong background and passion for primary care make new faculty member Dr. Joanne Dempster a perfect fit at the Center for Family and Community Medicine.

"I was always interested in the variety that family medicine provides as a practice, and the ability to make long lasting relationships with patients," she said.

Dr. Dempster, who joined the Center in June, is an experienced clinician and educator. She received her medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and then went on to serve underserved communities in the Bronx and Westchester.

She's excited to improve her teaching skills, she says, and hopes to show students the importance of providing personal, comprehensive care.

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Dr. Joanne Dempster

Seminar Series Spotlight: Coordinated Care



Dr. Ann O'Malley

An increased emphasis on specialty medicine has resulted in fragmented care in the United States. A typical fee-for-service Medicare beneficiary, for example, will see an average of seven different doctors annually, making the need for bridging the gap between primary and specialty care an imperative.

"Everyone's trying to help, but they're all moving in different directions," said Dr. Ann O'Malley, a senior researcher at the Center for Studying Health System Change.

Policy changes should provide better financial incentives for such coordination, address the shortage of primary care practitioners and encourage better, more advanced use of electronic medical records, she noted.

"These things benefit both sides," Dr. O'Malley explained. "It's not an adversarial relationship at all."

Models such as the Patient Centered Medical Home, where care is coordinated across all levels—between a primary care doctor, the patient, a patient's family and specialists—are effective, but still face substantial challenges, she said.

Dr. O'Malley and colleagues researched tactics to improve care and the biggest obstacles they face in coordination.

Her discussion was part of an ongoing series of lectures on primary care sponsored by the Center for Family and Community Medicine. The Center for Studying Health System Change is an independent research group based in Washington, D.C. that conducts studies on the United States health care system. For the list of the CFCM Seminar Series, please see the last page.

"Everyone's trying to help, but they're all moving in different directions:"

Dr. Ann O'Malley

CFCM Director's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our new Center for Family and Community Medicine e-newsletter. We hope this format will help us effectively highlight some of our varied and dynamic activities and achievements.

We hope to inform our colleagues in various disciplines and settings about Family Medicine and primary care, and our clinical, educational and research programs.

The Center is active in many Medical Center and community activities that we hope to underscore here and going forward. We have been able to attract some of the most competitive medical students from across the United States into our nationally recognized residency program. Our faculty has expanded into new areas of research, development and clinical practice, allowing us to recruit highly qualified individuals to our Center. Additionally, we find that more and more medical students are participating in the educational and enrichment programs sponsored by and in conjunction with Family Medicine.

As our Center grows and evolves, so will our newsletters. We welcome your comments for future editions.

Regards,

Kathleen Klink, MD
Director



Dr. Kathleen Klink, Director

Updates from CFCM Research Committee

“There are advances being made in medicine,” said Dr. Richard Younge, Director of Research. “But if you look at the health care in the community, a lot of people aren’t getting the services shown to be effective in clinical trials.”

Researchers at the Center for Family and Community Medicine hope to correct this disparity by developing a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN), where they apply research findings into everyday clinical practice to improve a community’s health care.

“From the laboratory to the bedside, figuring out what works, and making it effective in the community is the challenge,” Dr. Younge explained.

Dr. Younge and his colleagues are tackling community health problems like managing diabetes, integrating behavioral and mental health services into the primary care setting, and promoting weight loss and exercise to prevent conditions like hypertension and heart disease.

The Center is also reaching out to the community directly. Community Based Participatory Research engages residents and community groups in the research process, turning to them to identify health problems in their neighborhoods.

“It’s not always research emanating from the academics,” Dr. Younge said. “The community should also have a forum to say, ‘we have a problem, so what can the Center do to research those problems, to come up with solutions?’”



“But if you look at the health care in the community, a lot of people aren’t getting the services shown to be effective in clinical trials”

Dr. Richard Younge

CFCM-China Exchange Strengthens *(Continued from Front Page)*

“It was a great experience to see all of the changes there,” said Dr. Susan Lin, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Research at CFCM, who also attended. Dr. Lin, who made a similar trip to the country in 2006, said she was pleased to see the growing number of community health centers as well as extra emphasis placed on health education and preventive care.

The trip was part of a continuing exchange program between CFCM and FuXing Hospital, affiliated with Capital University Medical College in Beijing. The Center for Family and Community Medicine exchange program with FuXing Hospital was established in 2005. Since then, the exchange program has supported family medicine residents and medical students interested in international health and traditional Chinese medicine. CFCM has also hosted visiting Chinese community health physicians and administrators.



CFCM Welcomes Dr. Joanne Dempster *(Continued from Front Page)*

Dr. Dempster recalled one instance where a resident approached her for advice, frustrated by a patient whose blood pressure would not go down despite increased doses of hypertension medication. “My question to her was: is the patient taking the medicine?” Dr. Dempster said. “And she looked at me as though it was sort of a silly question.”

As it turns out, the patient had, indeed stopped having her prescriptions filled because she couldn’t afford it. “It reinforced the whole idea of how it’s not just always about the medicine,” Dr. Dempster explained. “Our care has to be patient-centered as well as medically appropriate.”



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Family and Community Medicine
seeks to enhance the health of our community
through education, service, research, and academic-
community partnerships.

CFCM Primary Care Imperative Seminar Series

The Center for Family and Community Medicine series created the Primary Care Imperative Seminar Series to stimulate conversation about the challenges and opportunities in primary care training, care, research and advocacy at the NYPH/CUMC. We hope you will join us. Below is the 2009-2010 schedule. (note: speaker/topic subject to change). For questions or to RSVP, please contact (212) 304-5214.

- September 10, 2009** **Dr. Luisa Borrell, Lehman College**
Race/Ethnicity and Health: Implications for Hispanics
Hammer Health Sciences, Room 401
- October 15, 2009** **Dr. Ann O'Malley, Washington, DC**
Primary & Specialty Care: Moving Toward a Vision of Coordinated Care for Patient
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2
- November 19, 2009** **Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, UCLA**
The Thread to the Health of Latinos
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2
- January 21, 2010** **Ms. Ronda Kotelchuck, Primary Care Development Corporation**
Health Care Reform: Two Challenges to the Primary Care Sector
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2
- February 18, 2010** **Dr. Yvette Walker, Community Healthcare Network**
Addressing Key Problems for the Black Community: Transitions in Clinical Care
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2
- March 18, 2010** **Panel Discussion (Dr. Kathleen Klink, Moderator)**
Community Health - Where are we?
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2
- April 15, 2010** **Promoting Community Health Achievement Awards Ceremony**
Russ Berrie Conference Room 2