Throughout 2013, the North Shore-LIJ Division of Gastroenterology has kept a dynamic pace of innovation and growth in all three dimensions of academic medicine: clinical care, research, and education. Under the leadership of Division Chief Larry Miller, MD, the Division is engaged in a major expansion and enhancement of basic endoscopy services while building state-of-the-art clinical care and research programs around a corps of nationally known experts and rising stars. The focus is on innovation and growth throughout the System in the areas of motility, advanced endoscopy, endoscopic ultrasound, gastrointestinal cancer, irritable bowel syndrome, and inflammatory bowel disease, all in the context of top-quality patient-centered care.

Building blocks of excellence

North Shore-LIJ Health System has a broad-based tradition of excellence in advanced endoscopy, growing from many years of service to the Long Island community. Building on this success is the new System-wide Chief of Endoscopy, Divyesh Sejpal, MD, who is charged with bringing state-of-the-art technology, innovative techniques, and cutting-edge research to the Health System. At the same time, he is standardizing and enhancing endoscopy practice and providing critical support and expertise to clinicians across our diverse System.

Enhancing efficiency and sharpening focus are key elements of the Division’s strategy to ensure the best patient care. The outpatient unit at North Shore University Hospital will be substantially renovated and the unit at Long Island Jewish Medical Center will be entirely rebuilt, providing greater efficiencies and improving access for patients undergoing uncomplicated ambulatory procedures as well as more complex therapeutic procedures. The recent addition of a major freestanding endoscopy center, in partnership with the Endoscopy Center of Long Island, the largest facility of its kind in New York State, will further expand outpatient options for uncomplicated ambulatory procedures.

The Digestive Disease Institute is another System-wide resource. It offers comprehensive outpatient and inpatient consultative and endoscopic services, clinical research programs, and community outreach, while providing unparalleled opportunities for training and education to medical students, residents and fellows. The Division’s resources are readily accessible through its innovative GI hospitalist program at North Shore University Hospital, created by Deepak Desai, MD (see sidebar, page 3).

World-class local care

The Division is capitalizing on its geographic reach to make state-of-the-art care available to Long Island communities whose residents have historically traveled long distances to get the best care. The Advanced Endoscopy Program has been transformed, with the continuous introduction of new diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. These modalities include ERCP, cholangioscopy, diagnostic and interventional endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), luminal stenting, endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), endoscopic suture, and many others. Resources are already committed to a significant expansion into biliary and pancreatic cancer diagnosis and therapy, endoscopic pseudocyst and abscess drainage, Barrett’s esophagus evaluation using optical coherence tomography (OCT), esophageal ablation using radiofrequency ablation and cryotherapy, and small bowel enteroscopy using a range of new techniques. Additionally, confocal laser endomicroscopy is utilized for a range of GI disorders including Barrett’s esophagus, pancreatic cysts, and evaluation of indeterminate biliary strictures. The newly
As the anniversary of Super Storm Sandy passed, it naturally evoked a great deal of hindsight, analysis, lessons learned, and finger-pointing – some of it more valuable than others. To be sure, North Shore-LIJ was right in the middle of the action, with our heterogeneous patient population and geographically far-flung physical plant experiencing the full force of the storm and its aftereffects. The Department of Medicine played a critical role in creatively meeting these challenges head-on. To cite just a couple of examples, the night of the storm we evacuated and cared for hundreds of patients around the area, and for months after the spotlight moved on, our medical van provided critical services to underserved communities. In short, North Shore-LIJ was willing and able to ensure seamless care for all who needed it throughout the region.

What was the secret of that success? None of the region’s academic medical centers had detailed plans that reflected every quirk of Sandy – it just wasn’t possible to predict the “storm of the century.” I believe our success derived from the same asset that has served as the springboard for all our success over the last years, and that will anchor our success as our nation’s healthcare landscape continues to shift in the years to come: versatility, nimbleness, and flexibility.

North Shore-LIJ Health System has built great proficiency in accurately assessing and responding to constantly changing circumstances and needs. The success of the innovative Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, for example, is due in large measure to its freedom from obsolete and ineffective institutional burdens and “traditions”. Similarly, the Department of Medicine has been able to streamline and elevate our training program in just a few years. At the same time, we are reinventing our research enterprise to reflect the growing national prominence of outcomes-oriented and patient-centered work, so ideally suited to our unique resources.

I believe that this same versatility, with superb staff and leadership at its core, will be the foundation for ongoing success in the months and years to come, as we continue to confront momentous shifts in our healthcare landscape. As with the storm of the century, it is impossible to predict and plan for every turn in that process. Nonetheless, we’re well-prepared for unpredictability. For us, the lessons of Sandy point to a future of continuing success.

Thomas McGinn, MD, MPH
David J. Greene Professor of Medicine and Chair of Medicine,
North Shore-LIJ Department of Medicine
Chair of Medicine,
Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine
Senior Vice President and Executive Director, Medicine Service Line
Division of Gastroenterology

(continued from page 1)

adopted multidisciplinary model incorporates close collaboration with the Department of Surgery teams that perform gastric pacemaker implantation, esophageal myotomy, Nissen fundoplication, esophageal resection for esophageal cancer, bariatric surgery, and gastric surgery.

Another partnership with Surgery is central to the Division’s initiative for women’s health, headed by Bethany DeVito, MD. Working with the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Program of the Division of Urogynecology, this center will evaluate patients with chronic pelvic pain, pelvic floor dysfunction, and fecal incontinence due to obstetric injury.

Broad-based study to address common problems

Motility disorders are remarkably common in medical practice. It is estimated that 40% of the general population have symptoms consistent with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS); a quarter suffer from GERD; and as many as half of patients seen with chest pain in the ED have non-cardiac chest pain associated with esophageal disorders. North Shore-LIJ’s well-established motility laboratory, run by Peter Shue, MD, performs esophageal manometry, impedance, anal manometry, Bravo pH studies, and standard pH studies. It provides a solid foundation for Dr. Miller’s groundbreaking research work with innovative methods of evaluating motility, including simultaneous ultrasound and manometry, use of the lactulose breath tests to screen for small bowel bacterial overgrowth, and use of botulinum toxin to treat non-cardiac chest pain and gastroparesis. Dr. Miller is also funded by NIH to study gastroesophageal reflux disease.

The work of Ravi N. Sharaf, MD, provides yet another perspective: an authority on familial gastrointestinal cancer syndromes, Dr. Sharaf heads the Division’s initiative in GI cancer genetics. (see sidebar on right)

The Division is well on its way to establishing a Center of Excellence in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) treatment and research, headed by Keith Sultan, MD, that will be the largest on Long Island. IBD is a challenging, complicated, lifelong illness, and the North Shore-LIJ Center of Excellence will create a patient-centered environment equipped to address those challenges with state-of-the-art diagnostics and therapeutics. At the same time, the Center will help advance the field’s cutting edge by expanding North Shore-LIJ’s role in both national and international initiatives and facilitating participation in clinical trials. And as the Division continues to expand its roster of internationally renowned experts and rising stars, the Center will support the ongoing expansion of investigator-initiated research.

Congratulations to DoM faculty on ECRIP funding

“North Shore-LIJ Health System” is repeated over and over in the recent announcement of the prestigious 2013 Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP) Awards. These New York State Department of Health Awards bring the institution $598,883 annually for two years.

Representing the Department of Medicine are these faculty winners:

Pravin Singhal, MD, Steven Fishbane, MD, and Anna Mathew, MD for their project on readmissions and mortality in patients with end stage renal disease, Renée Pekmezaris, PhD, Alex Spyropoulos, MD, and Liron Sinvani, MD, using ACOVE quality indicators to improve quality of hospital care for vulnerable elders, Joseph Conigliaro, MD, MPH and Jeanne Morley, MD: Effectiveness of a patient-centered multi-behavioral intervention addressing alcohol misuse and tobacco use, Betty Diamond, MD: An evolutionary approach to SLE therapy, Arunabh Talwar, MD: MIF-Thyroxine interactions in pulmonary arterial hypertension, Vincent Bonagura, MD: Simultaneous detection of immune cell markers, called TRECs and KRECs, in dried blood spots from NYS newborns which can predict the presence of reversible, immune genetic diseases, which cause death from severe/recurrent infections if not corrected early.

Over the last year, the Division of Gastroenterology has doubled its faculty, including several nationally known experts as well as rising stars; these are a few:

Ravi N. Sharaf, MD, heads the Division’s initiative in GI cancer genetics, a cornerstone of North Shore-LIJ’s rapidly growing Cancer Institute. The initiative uses state-of-the-art screening techniques and genetic analysis to provide personalized care and build a critical knowledge base. Dr. Sharaf also oversees the Division’s quality improvement initiatives and was recently awarded a prestigious fellowship designed to develop national leaders in quality and patient safety. He is an associate faculty member for the Faculty of 1,000, an elite corps of expert scientists and clinical researchers who help identify the most important work in their fields.

Deepak Desai, MD, has launched North Shore-LIJ’s GI hospitalist program – an innovative initiative that has succeeded, says Division Chief Larry Miller, “way beyond our highest expectations.” The dedicated GI hospitalist has no outpatient responsibilities, so patient care is focused, continuous, and high-quality.

Peter Shue, MD, brings experience and training in treatment of motility disorders, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), non-cardiac chest pain, and fecal incontinence. While these are widespread today, treatment has been difficult to obtain on Long Island.

Divyesh Seipal, MD, joined North Shore-LIJ Health System as the first System-wide Chief of Endoscopy, tasked with encouraging and supporting research initiatives and quality control across its diverse clinical settings. Dr. Seipal is an advanced/interventional endoscopist and has successfully developed advanced endoscopy programs at two prominent academic institutions: Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He served as Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy at both institutions.

Arvind Trindade, MD, a therapeutic endoscopist, is upgrading and expanding North Shore-LIJ’s endoscopic operations. In addition to performing advanced procedures that include ERCP, EUS, single balloon enteroscopy, Barrett’s radiofrequency ablation and cryotherapy, Dr. Trindade has been performing research in single balloon enteroscopy assisted ERCP and contrast-enhanced EUS.
Federally funded collaboration to battle alcohol and drug abuse in the wake of Sandy

Among Superstorm Sandy’s many devastating consequences to the region, this natural disaster has raised the risk of unhealthy substance use as well as incidence of substance use disorders. Primary care centers, hospital emergency departments, trauma centers, and other community settings provide opportunities for early intervention with at-risk substance users before more severe consequences occur, but this golden opportunity often goes underutilized because clinicians are unsure how to approach the issue with patients. The Departments of Medicine and Emergency Medicine are partnering with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and Columbia University’s CASAColumbia to ensure that a well-established, easy-to-use, evidence-based approach to identifying at-risk individuals is widely used by every clinician in a primary care or emergency department setting. This approach is called SBIRT [Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment]. The goal of SBIRT is to reduce and prevent related health consequences, disease, accidents and injuries. This project aims to build a sustainable model of screening in primary care that can be replicated throughout the state of New York.

The US Department of Health and Human Services has awarded more than $10 million for North Shore-LIJ and OASAS to collaborate with CASAColumbia to screen more than 150,000 individuals over 5 years. The Department’s Division of General Internal Medicine, led by Drs. Joseph Conigliaro and Jeanne Morley, provide the critical clinical care dimensions of the project at the 865 Northern Boulevard Practice in Great Neck currently, and later at the LIJ Ambulatory Care Unit and Staten Island University Hospital. We expect the project to maximize the use of health information technology, to support the clinical team, and track outcomes.

An inquiring, analytical mind; an unquenchable thirst for new knowledge; and a heartfelt compassion for the ailing - these are prominent traits among the committed clinicians who have preserved the passion for medicine.

– Lois DeBakey, Ph.D.
Anticoagulation and Clinical Thrombosis Service: Innovation and Quality throughout the System and Beyond

Thromboembolism has long loomed large on the healthcare landscape, striking more than a million Americans every year and imposing enormous economic and health burdens in almost every clinical setting. Traditional anticoagulants such as warfarin are the cornerstone for treatment of thromboembolic disease management and prevention, but they can be challenging to work with: they must be carefully monitored and often interact with food or other drugs. Newer anticoagulants are more convenient and can be equally effective but they are imperfect, with high-quality evidence just emerging. Regardless of approach, abnormal clotting associated with transitions of care has been particularly intractable. Thus, despite a surge in new knowledge and therapies, clinical outcomes have not improved significantly.

The Department of Medicine has taken on this challenge with the Anticoagulation and Clinical Thrombosis Service. This innovative outpatient program is transforming anticoagulation therapy with a multifaceted strategy, reflecting the Department’s academic nature, including clinical care, education, and research. This strategy extends to both the traditional mainstay anticoagulants, like warfarin, and to novel oral anticoagulants, always driven by evidence and focused on quality—the unifying elements throughout the service.

This comprehensive anticoagulant management is on its way toward building a top-tier research enterprise focusing on thromboembolism. More than just providing superior care, it is also serving to guide and educate clinicians across the Health System.

Director Alex C. Spyropoulos, MD, is widely recognized for advancing the development of protocols for treatment of thrombosis. Recruited to North Shore-LIJ in early 2013 to establish a center of excellence in coagulation and clinical thrombosis, he is overseeing an unprecedented expansion of the service that will place it among the nation’s largest and most productive services.

Across the system

The program’s flagship site at Staten Island University Hospital has long been a national leader in standardizing management of thromboembolic conditions and developing novel anticoagulation strategies. Its services include outpatient-based treatment of venous thromboembolic disease, warfarin patient self-testing, and periperaoperative “bridging” for patients on chronic anticoagulation.

That success is being leveraged across North Shore-LIJ Health System, with the newest site at Huntington Hospital, the largest anticoagulation service on Long Island. An interdisciplinary team of physicians and nurse practitioners collaborates with each patient’s primary care provider, cardiologist, or other referring physician to maximize the efficacy and safety of anticoagulant medications, by managing their anticoagulation and clinical thrombotic care. The service brings state-of-the-art evidence to clinicians working on the front lines with routine patients as well as those at higher risk of abnormal clotting or in high-risk situations, such as surgery, with special emphasis on transitions across care settings. In less than a year at North Shore-LIJ, Dr. Spyropoulos has developed the first System-wide validated warfarin dosing nomogram. This is implemented throughout the Health System to standardize care and ensure quality. Department Chair Dr. Thomas McGinn noted, “This is really remarkable: for the first time ever an entire health system is using an evidence-based warfarin dosing nomogram. With Alex, we are well on the way to becoming a national leader in thrombosis treatment and prevention.”

Recognizing that patient compliance is critical to the safe and effective use of anticoagulants, especially the traditional mainstays, our program includes a large dose of patient education. The Service’s staff are developing materials that can be adapted and adjusted to reflect our patients’ needs and strengths. “The key is reinforcing our message at every level,” Dr. Spyropoulos remarked, “including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and patients.”

Research

At the same time, Dr. Spyropoulos is overseeing a remarkable range of research initiatives in clinical thrombosis and management, continuing his landmark studies as well as launching new projects that use North Shore-LIJ’s unique resources. At press time, the service had been operating in its current form for only one year but already has six high-profile, well-funded projects underway, with support from government and pharmaceutical firms. A major ongoing study on periperaoperative bridging is supported by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of NIH, and Dr. Spyropoulos is continuing his work on validating the risk model for his clinical prediction study on thrombosis development in the hospital. Dr. Spyropoulos is a co-principal investigator of MARINER, a global Phase 3 study of medical thromboprophylaxis with rivaroxaban using the IMPROVE risk model, derived by his team in 2010. The trial involves 8,000 patients at 500 medical centers in 25 countries.

Dr. Spyropoulos has extraordinarily wide-ranging research experience, including serving as principal investigator or member of the scientific committee, steering committee, data safety monitoring board for multiple international, multicenter outcome and clinical studies in thrombosis. But he expresses particular enthusiasm for building an unparalleled research enterprise at North Shore-LIJ, including both outcomes research and clinical trials research, adding, “The size and diversity of the patient population are simply unmatched, with unlimited potential for impact.”
“Replicating changes in hand hygiene in a surgical intensive care unit with remote video auditing and feedback” is the subject of a report in American Journal of Infection Control by Donna Armellino, RN, Manish Trivedi, MD, Isabel Law, RN, Nareandra Singh, MD, Mary Ellen Schilling, RN, Efran Hussain, MD, and Bruce Farber, MD.

A recent issue of Journal of General Internal Medicine dedicated to medical education featured contributions by DoM faculty: Lauren Block, MD, collaborated on “In the wake of the 2003 and 2011 duty hours regulations, how do internal medicine interns spend their time?”, which was then featured in AMA News, and Saima Chaudhry, MD, Sandy Balwan, MD, Karen Friedman, MD, and Deborah DiMisa, MS, collaborated on “Moving forward in GME reform: A 4 + 1 model of resident ambulatory training”.

Dr. Sandy Balwan also presented a poster, “Transitional care: A novel, narrative initiative” at this year’s meeting of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM) and was awarded a Mini-Fellowship in Geriatrics Education and Career Development from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Joseph Conigliaro, MD, MPH, wrote a chapter on teamwork and communication for an upcoming text published by Springer: Patient Safety: A Case-Based Comprehensive Guide. He also collaborated on an abstract for the 36th annual meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine that was recently published in Journal of General Internal Medicine.

Betty Diamond, MD, Peter K. Gregersen, MD, and others published on work they jointly directed: “CSK regulatory polymorphism is associated with systemic lupus erythematosus and influences B cell signaling and activation” in Nature Genetics.

Steve Fishbane, MD, Chief of the Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension, published several articles in recent months: “Treating desmopressin-induced hyponatremia: a case using hypertonic saline” in Clinical Nephrology; “Subgroup analyses in nephrology clinical trials” (with Hitesh Shah, MD, also of the Division) in Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology; and “Changes to the end-stage renal disease quality incentive program” and “A physician’s perseverance uncovers problems in a key nephrology study” in Kidney International.

Dr. Shah also collaborated with Kenar Jhaveri, MD, on the first published paper in the medical literature to describe and evaluate the role of evidence-based debates during nephrology fellowship training: “Evidence-based nephrology-rheumatology debates: a novel educational experience during nephrology fellowship training” in Renal Failure.


Jamuna Karkhanis, MD, is first author on the paper, “Steroid use in acute liver failure,” published in Hepatology, Volume 59, Issue 2, February 2014. The other authors on the paper are Elizabeth C. Verna, Matthew S. Chang, R. Todd Stravitz, Michael Schilsky, William M. Lee, Robert S. Brown Jr. The paper was written for the Acute Liver Failure Study Group at the University of Texas Southwestern.

Seymour Katz, MD was senior author on “Increased hospitalizations in elderly with inflammatory bowel disease on anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy but not increased infections: A community practice experience,” published January 2014 in Journal of Cohn’s and Colitis. Dr. Katz was an author on an additional 13 articles in 2013 and an additional 3 more published in 2014.

Department Chair Thomas McGinn, MD, MPH, and Administrative Director of Clinical Research Lauren McCullagh, MPH, collaborated with other experts on a groundbreaking article that garnered significant media attention, including prominent mentions in Reuters and Medscape. “Efficacy of an evidence-based clinical decision support in primary care practices: a randomized clinical trial” was published in JAMA Internal Medicine (formerly known as Archives of Internal Medicine).

In order to promote its annual conference, the American College of Chest Physicians selected several news worthy abstracts to highlight for reporters via press releases and media interviews. Among them: a recent article in Chest by Margarita Okis, MD, Rubin Cohen, MD, Seth Koenig, MD, and Mangala Narasimhan, DO, titled “The use of point of care ultrasound in the medical intensive care unit reduces healthcare cost and patient radiation exposure”.

An article on spontaneous clearance of Hepatitis B surface antigenemia after long-term hemodialysis was recently published in Seminars in Dialysis by Chinnay Patel, MD, Divya Monga, MD, Mohini Alexander, MD, Sandeep Magoom, MD, and David Bernstein, MD.

David Rosenberg, MD, published a paper in Clinical Therapeutics on the role of the hospitalist in antimicrobial stewardship, reviewing completed work and describing an innovative multisite collaboration.

As a member of the Standards of Practice Committee of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), Ravi Sharaf, MD, has collaborated on a number of practice guidelines, including one on adverse events associated with EUS and EUS with FNA. Dr. Sharaf also collaborated on a recent article in American Journal of Gastroenterology, “Comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of screening colonoscopy vs. sigmoidoscopy and alternative strategies”.


Bettie M. Steinberg, MD, and Vincent R. Bonagura, MD, were co-authors on “TH2-like chemokine patterns correlate with disease severity in patients with recurrent respiratory papillomatosis” for Molecular Medicine.

**Honors**

Sandy Balwan, MD, is one of the recipients of this year’s “Teacher of the Year” Award.

Myra F. Bargineir, MD, received a junior investigator travel award to an NIH U13 conference. The award funded 10 young investigators to attend the second conference on Geriatric Oncology Research to Improve Clinical Care in November, 2013.

Tracy Breen, MD, and Marie Frassitta, NP, are recipients of an Abbott Award for innovation in diabetes education.

Frank Cacace, MD, has received a Patients’ Choice Award in recognition of excellence in patient-centered care as reflected in consistently high patient ratings over 12 months.

Betty Diamond, MD, recently provided the U.S. Congress with a briefing on the effects of health and racial disparities in lupus.

Steve Fishbane, MD, was honored as Nephrologist of the Year by the American Kidney Foundation.

The Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) presented Kenar Jhaveri, MD, with the Miriam Friedman Ben-David Award, for those deemed to have made a significant contribution to teaching in a relatively short time.

Seymour Katz, MD, received the CCNY Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his work behind the Bronx Science – CCNY Scholarship Project, which Dr. Katz chairs. It provides full scholarships to high-achieving Bronx Science graduates who attend City College. He was one of four honorees at the most recent City College President’s Gala. Since its inception in 2005, the project has supported 86 students. “Ultimately, every person with ability, should have opportunity,” said Dr. Katz when referencing this work.

Howard Kerpen, MD, has been named the year’s Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Teacher Award by the American College of Physicians.

Congratulations to the Divisions of Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, and Geriatric & Palliative Medicine: the fellowship programs for all three were recently approved by ACGME for 10 years.
**Arivals and Moves**

**Alessandro Bellucci, MD,** was appointed to the position of Executive Director of North Shore University Hospital, where he directs all elements of the hospital’s missions. North Shore is the largest hospital in the North Shore – LIJ Health System. Prior to this position, Dr. Bellucci was Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine and Medical Director of North Shore University Hospital.

**Lauren Block, MD,** joined the Department in July 2013 to work on development and evaluation of Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine’s innovative undergraduate and graduate curricula.

**Marcus Friedrich, MD, MBA,** joined the Department of Medicine in July 2013 as Associate Director of the Primary Care Service Line. Dr. Friedrich earned an MD from the University of Miami and completed his residency training at North Shore – LIJ Health System. He served as an Administrative Fellow for the Health System from 2012 – 2013, prior to joining the Department.

**Fran Ganz-Lord, MD,** joined the Department of Medicine in March 2014 from Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates. Dr. Fran A. Ganz-Lord did her undergraduate training at Amherst College, graduated AOA from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1999, and completed her medical training in Internal Medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Campus in 2002. After spending a year on faculty at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Ganz-Lord returned to Weill Cornell to join the Associates practice in 2003. Dr. Ganz-Lord is one of the Department’s leaders in the area of ambulatory care quality.

**Michael Gitman, MD,** was appointed Medical Director of North Shore University Hospital in February 2014. Dr. Gitman, a nephrologist, had been Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and Quality in the Department of Medicine and Associate Medical Director for North Shore University Hospital.

**Meron Kristos, MD,** joined the Department of Medicine in September as a full time internist in the Division of General Internal Medicine, from St. Luke’s Cornwall Medical Group in Cornwall, NY. Dr. Kristos is board certified in both internal medicine and infectious diseases. She completed her residency and fellowship in primary care at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center in Manhattan and a fellowship in infectious disease at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center and Mount Sinai Medical Center.

**Warren Licht, MD,** joined the Department of Medicine in September 2013 as Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Department. Dr. Licht is an internist, trained at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and has served as Medical Director at New York Downtown Hospital before joining the Department of Medicine.

**Mariecel Pilapil, MD,** joined the Department of Medicine in July 2013 from Mount Sinai Medical Center, where she completed her residency as Chief Resident of Internal Medicine-Pediatrics. Dr. Pilapil spends half her time as a clinician in pediatrics/adolescent medicine and the other half in adult medicine. Dr. Pilapil’s skill set supports the Health System’s mission to bridge the continuum of care from childhood through adulthood. She received her BA from Harvard University and her MD from Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

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**Living Out a Legacy of Excellence**

The Lawrence Scherr Scholarly Activity Award is one of many ways that the Department of Medicine lives out its commitment to the role of excellence in training and education in academic medicine.

Dr. Scherr, who died in September 2012, was fully committed to breaking new ground in all 3 missions of academic medicine. Dr. Scherr was the founding chair of the Department of Medicine and is often considered the father of North Shore University Hospital. Dr. Scherr was an outstanding leader, educator, and colleague and touched the lives of countless trainees and patients over the many years he led our department. He established our residency training program and many of our fellowship programs. He retired in 2010 as the Health System’s official historian and Betsey Cushing Whitney Academic Dean Emeritus. The tone he set, the discipline and ethics he brought, his academic and clinical vision – all paved the way for a new medical school and a world-class research enterprise, now indispensable parts of the System.

The awards named for him carry on his tradition of academic excellence as they honor up-and-coming trainees with extraordinary academic accomplishments.

This year, winners of the Scherr award included these Department of Medicine members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Division/Dept</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arunan Varmadevan, MD</td>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1st Place, Abstract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yakov Kandov, MD</td>
<td>Geriatric &amp; Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agatha Marszalek-Litauska, MD</td>
<td>Geriatric &amp; Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Rimar, MD</td>
<td>Geriatric &amp; Palliative Medicine</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel O. Griffin, MD</td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1st Place, Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janaki Parameswaran, MD</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>1st Place, Abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jossef Amirian, MD</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Abstract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chun Kit Hung</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Case Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Patel, MD</td>
<td>Nephrology</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1st Place, Case Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ali Sadoughi, MD</td>
<td>Pulmonary, Critical Care, &amp; Sleep Med</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Wang, MD</td>
<td>Pulmonary, Critical Care, &amp; Sleep Med</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>Hon. Mention, Case Report</td>
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DoM trainees were also well represented among the most recent winners at the Academic Day competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janice Wang, MD</td>
<td>Pulmonary, Critical Care, &amp; Sleep Med</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1st Place, Clinical Science Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene DeCastro, MD, MS</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>1st Place, Outstanding Case Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niket Donpal, MD</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>2nd Place, Outstanding Case Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Lapinel, MD</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Chief Resident</td>
<td>2nd Place, Educational Outcomes Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemio Jongco, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Allergy &amp; Immunology</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1st Place, Educational Outcomes Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemio Jongco, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Allergy &amp; Immunology</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>2nd Place, Basic Science</td>
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Congratulations to all! The next Scherr Awards will be held on Thursday, May 22nd, 2014 at 8:00am in the Rust Auditorium at North Shore University Hospital. For information on awards contact Elizabeth Forde at eforde@nshs.edu or 516-662-2044. For information on participating in the next Academic Day competition, please contact Barbara Sacks: 718-470-7070, bsacks@nshs.edu or e-mail AcadComp@nshs.edu.
Department of Medicine Grand Rounds

All sessions start at 8 am. Each session is presented live at one location and teleconferenced to the other, alternating monthly.

**April 2014**

Live at NSUH, teleconferenced to LIJMC, Franklin, Glen Cove, Huntington, Plainview, Southside and Syosset

**April 3**
Metastatic Brain Tumors for the Internist. Jonathan Knisely, MD, Division of Radiation Oncology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**April 10**
Updates in Radiation Oncology for the Internist. Brett Cox, MD, Division of Radiation Oncology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**April 17**
Internal Medicine Residency Presentation. Saima Chaudhry, MD, Division of Internal Medicine, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**April 24**
Endocrinology Updates. Tracy Breen, MD, Division of Endocrinology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**May 2014**

Live at NSUH, teleconferenced to LIJMC, Franklin, Glen Cove, Huntington, Plainview, Southside and Syosset

**May 1**
GI Motility Disorders. Peter Shue, MD, Division of Gastroenterology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**May 8**
Bending the Curve: How can medical education play a role in controlling health care costs? Holly Humphrey, MD, Dean, for Medical Education, Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago

**May 15**
GI Updates. Steven Cohn, MD, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Miami

**May 22**
Scherr Awards.

**May 29**
New Observations in GERD. Larry Miller, MD, Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**June 2014**

Live at NSUH, teleconferenced to LIJMC, Franklin, Glen Cove, Huntington, Plainview, Southside and Syosset

**June 5**
Health Care Policy. Howard Leventhal, Ph.D., Chair, Division on Health, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, Rutgers University

**June 12**
Colon Cancer Screening. Ravi Sharaf, MD, Division of Gastroenterology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**June 19**
Endocrinology Updates. Yael (Toby) Harris, MD, Division of Endocrinology, North Shore-LIJ Health System

**June 26**
Pulmonology Talk. Craig Lilly, MD, Division of Pulmonology, University of Massachusetts