

**Family Medicine Information Express:  
Highlighting the Scope of Family Medicine at MUSM and MCGG**

Volume 1

March 2007

Number 2

# Family Medicine Research

## **Magnets Provide Innovative Approach to Placement of Feeding Tubes**



**Sabry Gabriel, MD** is the inventor of the Gabriel Magnetically Guided Feeding tube which was developed to facilitate post-pyloric feeding tube placement at the bed side without the need for fluoroscopy, endoscopy or sedating medications. The first generation tube contained a small magnet at the tube's distal end that could be maneuvered using a hand held, external magnet. The improved second generation tube has, in addition to the tube tip magnet, a magnetic field sensor connected to a light indicator at the proximal end. The light indicator illuminates when the tube's distal-end magnet is captured by the hand

held external magnet. The National Institute of Health funded the development of the size 12 French feeding tube as well as a multi-center study. The devices are being used at several US hospitals, burn hospitals and Army hospitals. Currently Dr. Gabriel is developing a size 8 French feeding tube with a smaller, lighter magnet for use in pediatric patients. Dr. Gabriel is a Professor of Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine.

---

---

## Dr. Lynn Denny Receives National Recognition for Resident and Student Teaching



The 2006 Pfizer Teacher Development Award recognizes 15 outstanding community-based Family Physicians that combine clinical practice with part-time teaching of Family Medicine. The program offers Family Physicians the opportunity to receive recognition for teaching and mentoring Family Medicine students and residents while also continuing their own practices. The Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative partners with the Foundation of the American Academy of Family Physicians to honor physicians that are judged on their commitment to teaching Family Medicine, patient care, interpersonal relationships, teaching skills, and teaching philosophy. This is a peer reviewed award that includes a \$1500 scholarship to attend a teaching enhancement opportunity of choice. **Dr. Lynn Denny**, a graduate of Mercer University School of Medicine, received this award on November 1, 2006 at a ceremony held

at the Macon Volunteer Clinic where she is the Medical Director. The Macon Volunteer Clinic offers healthcare to the uninsured working population and has been in operation since 2003 and provides over 3,000 patient visits per year. The award was presented by the President of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Alice House and the Chair of Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine, Dr. Fred Girton.

---

## Geriatrics Fellowship Led by Richard Ackermann, MD

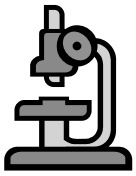
The Department of Family Medicine is pleased to announce the establishment of the first Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education Committee (ACGME)-approved fellowship at the Medical Center of Central Georgia and Mercer University School of Medicine. This fellowship, developed to help fulfill the growing needs of the central Georgia community, will train physicians to provide primary and consultative medical care for the aging population. The fellowship concentrates on long-term care and palliative medicine.

This one-year clinical fellowship started in July 2006 is approved for four fellows. **Dr. Richard Ackermann** is the founder and director of the fellowship. He completed medical school at Duke University and a family medicine residency at the Naval Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. He earned the Certificate of Added Qualification in Geriatric Medicine and has published many journal articles dealing with the medical care of frail elders. Dr. Ackermann is assisted by full-time faculty members Dr. Steven House—a palliative medicine physician, Dr. Dipesh Patel—a fellowship-trained geriatrician, and Physician Assistant Kathy Kemle—a nationally recognized expert in clinical geriatrics.



From left to right: Dr. Ackermann, Kathy Kemle, Dr. House, Dr. Patel

---



## Student Research in the Department of Family Medicine



In 2006, the Department of Family Medicine sponsored five Mercer student research scholars: Andrew Ouzts, Robert Lott, Heather Friedman, Brad Hobbs and Ankur Goel. After completing their first year of medical school each student performed research for six to eight weeks under the direction of one of the family medicine faculty researchers.\*

**Andrew Ouzts**, worked with Dr. John Boltri. His work was supported by a student research grant from the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Working with the team of Dr. Boltri, Mr. Ouzts investigated the effects of a patient-based risk assessment prompt on diabetes screening. In this study, that included 511 subjects, a simple diabetes risk survey was used to increase the detection of diabetes in high-risk patients. Compared to control subjects, patients receiving the intervention were five times as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes. This research has been accepted for publication and will appear in an upcoming issue of *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*.

**Robert Lott**, worked with Dr. Paul Seale. His work was supported by MUSM and a research grant from the Medcen Foundation. Robert assisted in measuring baseline rates of alcohol and tobacco screening and intervention in Family Health Center patients in a study designed to increase alcohol and tobacco interventions. During the first phase of the study (n=147 subjects thus far), addition of alcohol and tobacco questions to the nursing vital signs increased screening rates from 18% to 69% for tobacco use and from 16% to 66% for alcohol use, however clinician intervention rates did not improve significantly. A clinician training intervention is planned for April 2007 as the next phase of the project.

**Heather Friedman**, worked with Dr. Monique Davis-Smith. Her work was supported by the Holistic Women's Health Grant. Ms. Friedman investigated the effects of a complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) educational intervention with Family Medicine Residents on adult women's chart documentation of CAM use and recommendation. In this study, that included 150 subjects, a chart audit prior to the intervention evaluated CAM documentation and a pre-test was given to the residents to assess knowledge of CAM. After education, resident knowledge of CAM increased and documentation of CAM and recommendation of CAM increased in patient charts.

Two Medical students, **Brad Hobbs** and **Ankur Goel** worked with Dr. Sabry Gabriel during a summer research study at the Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) and at MCCG Children's Hospital. The students performed a computer data base review that included examining digital x-rays to determine feeding tube location and compare conventional methods of feeding tube placement with the Gabriel feeding tube method. A total of 491 records were reviewed. Results indicated that only 26% of feeding tubes were correctly placed in the duodenum by conventional insertion methods, however, 77% of feeding tubes were correctly placed in the duodenum by using the Gabriel feeding tube method.

\*For more information on these studies or to participate in a research project please contact the respective faculty member.

---

## Highlighted in this Issue

- Department of Family Medicine Annual Faculty Report of Scholarly and Leadership Activities
- Gabriel Pediatric Feeding Tube under development
- Dr. Lynn Denny receives 2006 Pfizer Teacher Development Award
- Geriatrics Fellowship first of its kind in Middle Georgia
- Medical Students Andrew Ouzts, Robert Lott, Heather Friedman, Brad Hobbs and Ankur Goel all participate in family medicine departmental research projects

---

**Faculty:** Fred Girton, M.D., Richard Ackermann, M.D., John Boltri, M.D., David Burtner, M.D., Monique Davis Smith, M.D., Sabry Gabriel, M.D., Dona Harris, Ph.D., Alice House, M.D., Steven House, M.D., Warren Hutchings, M.D., Kathy Kemle, PA-C, Karen Kovach, Ph.D., Hugh McLaurin, M.D., Dipesh Patel, M.D., Patrick Roche, M.D., Paul Seale, M.D., Sylvia Shellenberger, Ph.D., Roberta Weintraut, M.D.

The Silver Bullet is a newsletter dedicated to highlighting the scope of Family Medicine by the members of the Department of Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine and The Medical Center of Central Georgia

the Silver Bullet  
The Department of Family Medicine  
3780 Eisenhower Pkwy  
Macon, GA 31206



**Department of Family Medicine 2006 Annual Faculty Report  
of Scholarly and Leadership Activities  
(Family Medicine Faculty names are bolded)**

**Publications**

- Ackermann, RJ.** *Urinary disorders.* In Rosenthal, T; Naughton, B; Williams, W, eds. Office Care Geriatrics. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006, pp 175-195.
- Boltri, JM; Davis-Smith, M; Zayas, L; Shellenberger, S; Seale, JP;** Blalock, T; Mbadinju, A. *Developing a Church-Based Diabetes Prevention Program with African American Focus Group Findings.* Diabetes Educator, 2006; Nov-Dec;32(6):901-9.
- Davis-Smith, M; Boltri, JM.** *Issues With Nutrition and Exercise In The Elderly.* In Olsen, C; Tindall, W; Clasen, M., eds. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: A Guide For The Helping Professional. McGraw Hill, 2006, pp 219-237.
- Harris, D;** Alston, S; Brown, M; **Girton, F;** Reagan, C; Scheetz, A; Shillcut, S; Thompson, T; Tift, J; Walker, A. *Being an Effective Tutor.* MedEdPORTAL; 2006.
- House, A.** *Issues in Geriatric Dermatology.* In Olsen, C; Tindall, W; Clasen, M., eds. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: A Guide For The Helping Professional. McGraw Hill, 2006, 263-285.
- Keitel, W; Nichol, K; Bratzler, D; Clover, R; Foster, S; **Girton, F;** Gravenstein, S; Greenberg, B; Monto, A; Wolfe, R. *Influenzae: Taking the Lead in Prevention and Control.* Cortlandt Forum, June 2006, Haymarket Medical.
- Kemle, K;** Fawley, J. *Dealing with the Dread of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.* In Olsen, C; Tindall, W; Clasen, M., eds. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: A Guide For The Helping Professional. McGraw Hill, 2006, pp 163-176.
- Kovach, K; Boltri, JM.** *Ethical Issues in Prescribing for the Elderly Patient.* In Olsen, C; Tindall, W; Clasen, M., eds. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: A Guide For The Helping Professional. McGraw Hill, 2006, pp 263-285.
- Norris B, Angeles V, Eisenstein R, **Seale JP.** *Neuroleptic malignant syndrome with delayed onset of fever following risperidone administration.* Annals of Pharmacotherapy 2006, 40(12): 2260-4.
- Okosun, IS; Boltri, JM.** *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Hypertension and Diabetes Ascribed to Differences in Obesity Rate.* In Metroso, E, ed. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health and Health Care. New York, Nova Science Publishers, 2006, 53-72.
- Okosun, IS; Boltri, JM;** Eriksen, M; Hepburn, V. *Trends in abdominal obesity in young people: United States 1988-2002.* Ethnicity and Disease, 2006; 16: 338-344.
- Okosun, IS; Boltri, JM;** Hepburn, V; Eriksen, M; **Davis-Smith, M.** *Regional fat localizations and racial/ethnic variations in odds of hypertension in at-risk American adults.* Journal of Human Hypertension, 2006 May;20(5):362-71.
- Patel, D; Boltri, JM.** *Diagnosing and Managing Depression in the Elderly.* In Olsen, C; Tindall, W; Clasen, M., eds. Geriatric Pharmacotherapy: A Guide For The Helping Professional. McGraw Hill, 2006, pp 177-192.
- Seale, JP; Boltri, JM; Shellenberger, S;** Velasquez, MM; Cornelius, ME; Guyinn, MR; Okosun, I; Sumner, HM. *Primary Care Validation of a Single Screening Question for Drinkers.* Journal of Studies on Alcohol 2006 Sep;67(5):778-84.
- Seale, JP; Davis-Smith, M; Okosun, IS.** *Ethnic & Gender Differences in Lifestyle Risk Factors in a Bi-ethnic Primary Care Sample: Prevalence and Clinical Implications.* Ethnicity and Disease 2006; 16(2):460-467.
- Shellenberger, S.** *Use of the genogram with families for assessment.* In Handbook of EMDR and Family Therapy Processes. Shapiro, F; Kaslow, F; Maxfield, I, eds. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2007, pp 76-95.

## International, National, and Regional Presentations

- Ackermann, RJ.** *Over-used and under-used drugs in frail elders*, medical staff, Sumter Regional Hospital, Americus, Georgia, March 23, 2006.
- Ackermann, RJ.** *Struggling with polypharmacy: using patient examples to make a difference*, Florida Medical Directors Association, Disney World, Orlando, Florida, October 21, 2006.
- Adkison, LR; Scheetz, AP; **Weintraut, RJ; Davis-Smith, M; Shellenberger, S; House, A; Miles, SR; Brown, RM; Harris, DL.** *Gender Variation in Stress Perception and Management in Academic Medicine*. Presented to joint session of Women in Medicine and the Council of Deans at the AAMC annual meeting, Seattle, WA, October 29, 2006.
- Boltri, JM.** *Chronic Constipation and Irritable Bowel Syndrome with Constipation*. Presentation to the Pharmacy Group of the Columbus Regional Medical Center, Columbus, GA, September 14, 2006.
- Boltri, JM.** *Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Constipation*. Family Medicine Teaching Rounds, Memorial Medical Center, Savannah, GA, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.
- Boltri, JM.** *Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century “Evidence Based Patient Centered Care.”* Grassman Seminar, Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, GA, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- Boltri, JM.** *Medical Student Career Choices and Community Needs*. The Sixth National Workshop on Community Benefits of Family Medicine residency Programs. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- Girton, F.** *Adolescent Immunization: Influenza* American Academy of Family Physicians Meeting, Baylor College of Medicine, Washington D.C., September 27, 2006.
- Girton, F.** *Adult and Adolescent Immunizations* South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting, Litchfield Beach, Pawley’s Island, SC., July 20, 2006.
- Girton, F.** *Immunization Update 2006* Florida Academy of Family Physicians Spring Meeting, Daytona Beach Florida, March 17, 2006.
- Girton, F.** *Pertussis Epidemiology and Immunization Update* Ongoing program throughout Georgia presented 27 times July 2005 to Oct 2006.
- Girton, F.** *Quality Circle – Adolescent and Adult Immunizations* Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, Atlanta GA., November 9, 2006.
- Kemle, K.** AAPA Chapter Lecture Series speaker, *Evaluation and Management of Alzheimer’s Disease*, Kentucky, July, 2006.
- Kemle, K.** *No Place Like Home, Dizziness in the Elderly*, AAPA national conference, San Francisco, CA, June, 2006.
- McClellan, D; **Seale, JP**; Strothers, H; Pollard, S. *Implementing Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention Protocols Using Electronic Medical Records*. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual National Conference, Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse, Washington, DC, November 2, 2006.
- Monteiro, M; **Seale, JP.** *Primary care alcohol screening and brief intervention Phase II workshop*. Pan American Health Organization, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, July 12, 2006.
- Seale, JP; Boltri, JM; Shellenberger, S; Velasquez, MM; Cornelius, M; Guyinn, M; Okosun, I; Sumner, H.** *Primary care validation of a single screening question for drinkers*. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, San Francisco, CA, April 26-30, 2006.
- Seale, JP.** *Addressing problem drinking in indigenous communities*. Conselho Nacional de Pastores y Líderes Evangélicos Indígenas (National Council of Evangelical Indigenous Pastors and Leaders) 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting, Porto Velho, Brazil, September 6, 2006.

## **International, National, and Regional Presentations (continued)**

- Seale, JP.** *Advances in alcohol and tobacco screening and intervention.* Grand Rounds and Dr. Henry W. Withers Lecture, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX, May 24, 2006.
- Seale, JP.** *New tools for addressing substance abuse.* Sixth Annual Primary Care and Prevention Conference, Morehouse School of Medicine, National Center for Primary Care and Prevention Research Center, Atlanta, GA, September 13, 2006.
- Seale, JP.** *The science behind buprenorphine.* New Paths to Recovery Buprenorphine Community Education Forum, sponsored by SAMHSA, Atlanta, GA, March 21, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *A brief counseling model for health professionals.* Conference of the Federation of Family Medicine of Buenos Aires, Commission on Behavioral Science, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 7, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *Drawing and interpreting genograms.* Conference of the Federation of Family Medicine of Misiones and Misiones Medical Association. Misiones, Argentina, July 13, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *Alcohol screening and brief intervention.* Conference of the Federation of Family Medicine of Misiones and Misiones Medical Association. Misiones, Argentina, July 13, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *A brief counseling model for health professionals.* Conference of the Federation of Family Medicine of Misiones and Misiones Medical Association. Misiones, Argentina, July 13, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *Drawing and interpreting genograms.* Conference of the Federation of Family Medicine of Misiones and Misiones Medical Association. Misiones, Argentina, July 14, 2006.
- Shellenberger, S.** *Primary care alcohol screening and brief intervention.* Pan American Health Organization, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Oct 16-19, 2006.
- Weintraut, R; Davis-Smith, M.** *Holistic Women's Health Project-Interim Results.* STFM Annual Meeting, April 29, 2006.

## **Abstracts and Posters**

- Boltri, JM; Davis-Smith, Y; Seale, JP; Roman, P; Okosun, IS.** *Improving early intervention in persons at high-risk for diabetes using simple nurse prompting.* 39<sup>th</sup> Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Spring Conference, San Francisco, April 27, 2006.
- Davis-Smith, Y; Boltri, JM; Shellenberger, S.** *Developing a Faith-based Diabetes Prevention Program With Community-based Participatory Research.* 39<sup>th</sup> Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Spring Conference, San Francisco, April 27, 2006.
- Morris M, Okosun IS.** *Comparison of ADA and IFD of definitions of type 2 Diabetes.* International Society for the Study of Obesity and Metabolic Syndromes in Blacks, 2006.
- Seale, JP; Shellenberger, S; Velasquez, MM; Boltri, J; Okosun, IS.** *Vital Signs Screening Using the Single Alcohol Screening Question: A Feasibility Study.* 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland, June 24, 2006.
- Seale JP, Shellenberger S, Velasquez MM, Boltri JM, Okosun IS.** *Combined vital signs screening for alcohol and tobacco: a feasibility study.* Alcoholism: Clinical and experimental research 30(6)S:159A, 2006.

## Grants

Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, Residency Training Grant, \$298,629.00. Title "The Holistic Women's Health Project" Grant number 1 D58HP03199-01-00. Funded 07-01-04 to 06-30-07. (**Roberta Weintraut**, Principle Investigator, **Monique Davis-Smith**, Co-Investigator.)

National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Grant, \$542,825, 6-05 to 6-07. Title: 'The Georgia-Texas "Improving Brief Intervention" Project.' (**J. Paul Seale**, Principal Investigator, **John Boltri**, J Aaron Johnson, **Sylvia Shellenberger**, Co-Investigators.)

## Honors and Awards

**Fred Girton, MD**—AAFP Board of Curators, Member, AAFP, Dec 2004 – Jan. 1, 2007.

**Steven House, MD**—Alpha Omega Alpha, medical honor society .

**J. Paul Seale, MD**—Presented to the annual Withers Lecture at the U. of Texas Health Service Center at Houston, TX, May 24, 2006.

**Roberta Weintraut, MD**—2006 – Outstanding Family Medicine Faculty Award, MUSM.

## Offices and Other Activities (Does not include MCCG and MUSM offices and committees)

**John Boltri, MD**: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Committee on Faculty Development

**Monique Davis-Smith, MD**: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Communications Committee

**Fred Girton, MD**: Board member of GAFP.

**Alice House, MD**: Medical Director-Elberta Healthcare Center, Board of Directors-Georgia Medical Directors, President-Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, Delegate- GAFP Congress of Delegates, Board of Directors-GAFP.

**Steven House, MD**: Medical Director—Carlyle Place (CCRC), Board of Trustees—GA Health Decisions, President Board of Trustees—Foundation of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFP), Board of Trustees—Foundation of the GAFP, Delegate GAFP Congress of Delegates, GAFP Board of Directors, Assisted in Design Palliative Medicine Curriculum for Geriatric Fellowship, Resident and MS4 Electives.

**Kath Kemle, MS, PA-C**: Board Member, American Academy of Home Care Physicians, May 2006 to present.

**Sylvia Shellenberger, PhD**: Editorial Boards, Families, Systems & Health, 1996-present, and Peruvian family medicine and primary care journal, Revista de Atención Integral de Salud y Medicina Familiar para la Atención Primaria, 2006 – present.

**Roberta Weintraut, MD**: Society of teachers of Family Medicine Integrative Medicine Committee.