Volunteer Opportunity for Physicians Interested in Teaching

On July 31, the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians, in cooperation with Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), will sponsor a training program for physicians interested in teaching medical students. The Integrated Problems (IP) course is directed by Peter F. Shaw, PhD, associate director of the Office of Medical Education at BUSM, and Douglas Hughes, MD, director of medical student education in the Department of Psychiatry at BUSM. The IP course is a problem-based learning course taken by all BUSM students during their first and second years of school. The course involves the discussion of clinical cases to assist students in developing methods for learning, teaching, and integrating information from other courses and from independent study. Groups made up of 6 to 8 students meet with a facilitator* for 2 hours each week for 10 to 12 weeks between early September and early December. The facilitators guide and answer questions as needed; however, they are not teachers in the traditional sense. This fall, the course is tentatively scheduled for Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

*Role of volunteer teacher.

If you are interested in attending the July 31 training program, please contact Erin Tally at (800) 322-2303, ext. 7413, or via e-mail at etally@mms.org.
For the past 12 years, the Massachusetts Medical Society’s Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians has honored a senior volunteer physician of the year. Candidates for this award are nominated by their peers and selected by the Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians. To be considered for the award, candidates must be MMS members and 60 years of age or older. Additionally, they must have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism and dedication to sharing experience and medical expertise with communities in Massachusetts. Since 2002, when the MMS House of Delegates formally recognized the Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award, a senior volunteer physician has been honored each year as part of the Annual Meeting proceedings at the Awards Luncheon.

The recipient of the 2008 Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award, Bernard E. Maney, MD, is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Maney was an internist for 40 years. Following his retirement in 1993, he worked part time at Barnstable County Hospital and Cranberry Specialty Hospital before becoming involved in the establishment of the Falmouth Free Clinic in 1998. The clinic, now known as the Cape Cod Free Clinic and Community Health Center, provides medical services for the growing uninsured population of the Upper Cape who would otherwise obtain care from the community hospital emergency room or go without care. Dr. Maney was appointed to the Cape Cod Free Clinic and Community Health Center’s Board of Directors and ultimately became president of the free clinic. During this time, the clinic continued to grow, as did its financial, spatial, and personnel requirements. As a member of the board of directors and during his tenure as president, Dr. Maney helped develop some of the Health Center’s key strategic initiatives, including obtaining designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center and planning for a new permanent facility.

Following his tenure on the board of directors and as president of the free clinic, Dr. Maney developed an effective recruiting effort to attract area specialists to volunteer to see referred patients in their offices and to provide diagnostic and therapeutic support as needed. He continues to serve as an area fundraiser, and he has personally raised thousands of dollars, contributing to a community-wide effort that will allow the opening of a modern clinical facility in Mashpee. In addition to his medical service, Dr. Maney is involved in a variety of other efforts. He participates on the board of directors of his village community, the pastoral council of his church parish, and a variety of scholarship funds. He was named the 2006 Humanitarian of the Year for the town of Mashpee, and he was presented with the 2007 Distinguished Service Award by Tufts Alumni Association. As described in his nomination letter, “it can truly be said that Dr. Maney brought his profession to his community.”

The Massachusetts Medical Society is pleased to recognize Bernard E. Maney, MD, as the 2008 Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year.

Volunteer Opportunities in Worcester

While insurance is now mandated throughout the state of Massachusetts, daily experience tells us that many residents remain without regular health care for a variety of reasons. Because of this, free care clinics continue to play an important role in many cities and towns. The role of the clinic has evolved from simply providing medical care to providing medical care as well as on-site social work and insurance enrollment, serving as a connection between patients and existing health care institutions. Volunteers are critical to the operation of such clinics, and the more volunteers, the lighter the workload!

Currently, two clinics in Worcester have opportunities available for volunteers. Epworth Free Medical Clinic is in need of MDs, NPs, PAs, ophthalmologists, and optometrists to help on a rotating schedule. This clinic sees a diverse group of patients from Worcester and
Become a Part of the Health Care Solution: Volunteer at a Community Health Center!

For the past 35 years, the Family Health Center of Worcester, Inc. (FHCW) has provided comprehensive health care services to the most vulnerable populations of Worcester, Massachusetts. Under one roof, patients can receive comprehensive care from dentists, primary care and specialty physicians, nurses, case managers, nutritionists, and mental health providers. Patients can also access lab, radiology, and pharmacy services all at the same location. The FHCW is a model for the future of primary care delivery, and the physicians benefit greatly from working within the context of the center’s cutting-edge practice model.

The FHCW is a federally qualified community health center located in the heart of downtown Worcester’s urban neighborhoods. Health center staff meet the needs of over 25,000 patients annually through the “family practice” model of care, which ensures a medical home and continuity of care for both adults and children. Because 40 percent of the FHCW’s patients require translation services, staff include medical interpreters who speak several languages, including Albanian, Portuguese, English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Twi. At Family Health, the traditional idea of the family doctor has evolved with 21st century medical practice and has responded to the diversity of cultures in central Massachusetts.

The FHCW’s neighborhood in Worcester is home to a diverse population that includes minority and refugee populations, college students, low-income families, established residents, and homeless persons living in temporary shelters. In addition to providing top-quality health care, the FHCW also offers services for mental illness, homelessness, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and infant mortality prevention. School-based health centers in six area schools and dental services in Worcester and southern Worcester County provide further outreach. Since the implementation of the new Massachusetts health care reform law, health benefits advisors at the FHCW have facilitated the health insurance enrollment of 500 patients per month. Insured, underinsured, or uninsured — the FHCW welcomes all.

A site for the University of Massachusetts Medical School Family Practice Residency Program since 1974, the FHCW is a nationally acclaimed teaching facility and one of the few medical residency programs in the country that is based in a community health center. Over its history, the FHCW has trained over 130 family practice physicians, as well as many nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants. The University of Massachusetts Medical School is nationally ranked for its excellence in primary care and education.

Family medicine physicians at the FHCW are exposed to staff with a wide variety of expertise and clinical interests. Physician volunteers interested in women’s health, international family medicine, addiction medicine, chronic illness care, complimentary medicine, office procedures, and new models of health care delivery will find ample opportunity and exposure in these areas.

Volunteer physicians who wish to be part of the health care solution are welcome to contact Matthew Collins, MD, vice president of medical services, via his executive assistant, Sherry Coldren, at (508) 860-7898.
Volunteer opportunities in Worcester

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If you have any interest in helping, or for more information, please contact Jen MacDonald by email at (Jennifer.macdonald@umassmed.edu) or by phone at (860) 307-2311.