

PULSE

Newsletter of the
Department of Medicine,
Temple University
School of Medicine

Obesity Internist, Oncologist and Rheumatologist Join Faculty

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of the following three distinguished physicians to the Temple University School of Medicine faculty.



Sharon J. Herring, MD, MPH
General Internist
Center for Obesity
Research and
Education
sharon.herring@
temple.edu

MD, Temple University
School of Medicine
MPH, Harvard School
of Public Health, Mass.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION
New York University School
of Medicine, N.Y.
Harvard Medical School, Mass.

SPECIAL INTEREST
women's health and obesity
prevention



Alvaro Piero-Rico, MD
Oncologist
alvaro.pereira-
rico@tuhs.
temple.edu

MD, Universidad Complutense de
Madrid School of Medicine,
Madrid, Spain

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION
Saint Louis University Health
Sciences Center and John Cochran
V.A. Hospital, Mo.; Thomas
Jefferson University Hospital, Pa.

SPECIAL INTEREST
prostate, bladder and kidney cancers



Jennifer Sloane, MD
Rheumatologist
jennifer.sloane@
temple.edu

MD, Albert Einstein College
of Medicine, N.Y.

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION
New York University and NYU
Hospital for Joint Diseases, N.Y.

SPECIAL INTEREST
pulmonary manifestations of
autoimmune disease and vasculitis

Fred Bove Heads American College of Cardiology



Alfred A. Bove, MD, president of the American College of Cardiology, with Joel Richter, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine.

Alfred A. Bove, MD, PhD, FACC, professor emeritus of medicine and the former longtime chair of the Department of Medicine's cardiology section, has been elected president of the American College of Cardiology.

"Dr. Bove exemplifies the very best in an academic cardiologist," says John M. Daly, dean of the Temple University School of Medicine. "He is a productive clinical scientist, an engaging educator and a caring physician. He is a true leader in American medicine who embodies the spirit and mission of the Department of Medicine at Temple."

incorporate their patients into the health care decision-making process, and in order for that to happen patients need to be well informed and educated regarding their illness, what the outcome should be and what to expect in terms of quality care."

To enhance that patient education, the ACC under Bove's direction continues to bolster its new patient education web site, www.cardiosmart.org. The director of the ACC's internet activity since 1995, he was the founding editor the ACC's physician-oriented educational web site, www.cardiosource.com.

simultaneously teaching patients about the same topic in adjacent conference rooms."

As part of the ACC's advocacy mission, Bove says the 31,000-member organization also will be supporting a health care reform agenda, including creating performance measures for practicing physicians. This checklist will supplement the ACC's recently developed evidence-based appropriate use standards for diagnostic tools. "There's a lot of apparent overuse of certain testing procedures in medicine and some people feel that's one reason the cost of health care has increased," says Bove.

A member of the ACC Board of Trustees, Bove was governor of the eastern Pennsylvania ACC chapter (1989-1992) and president of the state chapter (1989-1991). He also serves on numerous ACC boards, committees and task forces.

His current research, funded by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, involves using the internet for patient-to-physician communication to manage hypertension, CV disease risk and diabetes in Pennsylvania's urban and rural underserved populations.

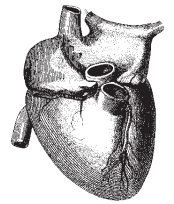
For more information, contact Alfred A. Bove, MD, at 215-707-9259 or bovea@tuhs.temple.edu.

Bove, whose one-year term began March 30, is a 1966 graduate of the Temple University School of Medicine whose postgraduate training included Temple and the Mayo Clinic. He joined the Temple faculty in 1973 and headed the cardiology section for a total of 18 years, including between 2005 and last year.

"We're calling this year the year of the patient," says Bove. "Physicians must

ACC chapters throughout the country this year will set up programs to underscore the importance of patient education for member cardiologists, as well as educational programs for patients with particular cardiovascular conditions.

"A lot of these initiatives are modeled after programs we've developed here at Temple," says Bove. "We've run CME programs for physicians while



**CARDIOLOGY
and
GASTROENTEROLOGY**

spring 2009

*This issue
of PULSE
focuses on the
Department
of Medicine's
Cardiology and
Gastroenterology
sections.*

More about Alfred A. Bove, MD, PhD, FACC

PUBLICATIONS: More than 250 original research publications and author of texts on coronary disease, exercise medicine and diving medicine.

Director, Temple University Underwater Medicine postgraduate training program
Capt., U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Temple's Leadership

*A message from Joel Richter, MD, FACP, MACG
Richard L. Evans Chair, Department of Medicine*



Within the Department of Medicine here at Temple we strive for leadership in clinical care, education and research. No faculty member more typifies such leadership than Fred Bove, MD, our longtime cardiology section chief who has assumed the presidency of the American College of Cardiology, one of the nation's largest and most prominent health profession organizations.

For more than a decade, through his innovative development of the ACC's web site, www.cardiosource.com, he's been on the cutting edge in educating the nation's cardiologists. And now, as he directs the ACC's efforts in giving patients a greater role in their care, he's using the ACC's web site to educate patients as well.

Meanwhile, as the story opposite my message on this page illustrates, two fine electrophysiologists, Florin Deger, MD, and Bindi Shah, MD, are providing increased relief for patients with atrial fibrillation with a minimally invasive procedure.

I'm also pleased to report that two of our gastroenterologists, Martin Black, MD, and Santiago Munoz, MD, are working with excellent Temple surgeons to revitalize our liver transplant program—making Temple only the second regional institution to offer multidisciplinary transplant services for all of the solid organs.

It's just one more sign of the comprehensive, high quality clinical care we strive to offer our patients on a daily basis.

Please contact me at 215-707-5069 or jrichter@temple.edu.

Seven Department of Medicine Physicians Lauded by *Philadelphia* magazine

Philadelphia magazine touted six Department of Medicine physicians as "Top Doctors" in their individual specialties in the magazine's annual list. The magazine also cited Victor Kim, MD, a Temple pulmonologist, as a "Rising Star"—one of the area's best physicians under 40.

THIS YEAR'S "TOP DOCTORS"
Gerard Criner, MD,
pulmonary disease
Bennett Lorber, MD,
infectious disease
Kenneth Mangan, MD,
hematology
Santiago Munoz, MD,
gastroenterology
Joel Richter, MD,
gastroenterology
Ellen Tedaldi, MD,
internal medicine

FOUR OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
PROFESSORS ALSO HAVE BEEN
LISTED AS AMERICA'S TOP
DOCTORS FOR 2009:
Alfred Bove, MD, cardiology
Robert Fisher, MD,
gastroenterology
Joel Richter, MD,
gastroenterology
Gerard Criner, MD,
pulmonary disease

Electrophysiologists Permanently Curing Atrial Fibrillation



Bindi K. Shah, MD, and Florin Deger, MD, in their electrophysiology laboratory.

conducting the procedure that often cures abnormal rhythms. "The procedure eradicates atrial fibrillation in about 75 percent of patients," says Shah. "These patients often no longer require anticoagulant medications, such as Coumadin (warfarin), and anti-arrhythmic medications, which frequently have high complication rates."

In most cases, catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation is considered only after a patient fails or is intolerant to at least one anti-arrhythmic medication, according to Richard Greenberg, MD, the cardiology section's electrophysiology director.

The three- to four-hour procedure afterwards requires an overnight stay. The electrophysiologists thread catheters placed in both groins into the heart's left atrium, where the pulmonary veins are electrically isolated from the rest of the heart. Shah

The Department of Medicine's cardiology section is increasing its minimally invasive, catheter-based ablation procedures for patients suffering from atrial fibrillation, the most common sustained heart arrhythmia.

Since her arrival early last year, Bindi K. Shah, MD, FACC, and Florin Deger, MD, an assistant professor since 2004, both have been

"THE PROCEDURE CAN ELIMINATE SIGNIFICANT PATIENT DISCOMFORT AND OBIVATE THE NEED FOR BOTHERSOME MEDICATIONS."

Bindi K. Shah, MD, FACC

underwent fellowship training in cardiology and electrophysiology at Cornell Weill Medical College and was an assistant professor at Cornell University. Deger, a native of Romania, underwent fellowship training in cardiology at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia and in electrophysiology at both the University of Maryland and St. George Hospital in Hamburg, Germany.

In addition to treating atrial fibrillation, Shah also is using another minimally invasive technique that incorporates a catheter-based laser to remove pacemaker or defibrillator leads that have become fractured or infected. "In this era of increasing numbers of malfunctioning defibrillator leads, this laser technology allows us to remove this defective hardware with a much lower complication rate," Shah says.

For more information, contact:

Florin Deger, MD, at 215-707-4724 or fdeger@temple.edu, or
Bindi K. Shah, MD, at 215-707-9261 or bindi.shah@tuhs.temple.edu.

Temple Reinitiates Liver Transplant Program



The liver transplant team includes (from left) gastroenterologists Santiago J. Munoz, MD, and Martin Black, MD, and surgeons Ashokkumar Jain, MD, and Andreas Karachristos, MD.

The first liver transplant in seven years at Temple University Hospital was completed on Feb. 14, shortly after the Pennsylvania Department of Health permitted Temple to reinitiate its liver transplant program. Temple is now one of only two academic medical centers in Philadelphia offering comprehensive,

performed approximately a thousand liver transplants and followed 5,000 patients there and at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center.

“During the past two decades, the chronic rejection rate has declined from 10 percent

disease reoccurrence,” says Black, who joined Temple in 1981. “Also, liver cancer is now a very treatable disease until transplantation becomes available. Dr. Karachristos has become especially skilled in resectioning liver cancers so that the sizes of the patients’ tumors meet acceptable transplant criteria.”

In addition, Munoz hopes to soon bring a clinical trial to Temple that would allow an artificial liver device to support patients with liver failure for up to as much as 30 days while they await a liver donation.

For more information, please contact Martin Black, MD, at 215-707-3434 or martin.black@tuhs.temple.edu, or Santiago Munoz, MD, at 215-707-5067 or santiago.munoz@tuhs.temple.edu.

Paired Kidney Network

In addition to its new liver transplant service, Temple now belongs to the National Paired Kidney Donation Network. The national consortium of 50 transplant centers evaluates “pairs” of clinically incompatible transplant candidates and potential donors with other incompatible pairs, increasing chances of finding matches.

“WE HAVE LONG EXPERIENCE IN CARING FOR LIVER TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AND NOW WE HAVE TWO EXCELLENT SURGEONS TO PERFORM THE TRANSPLANTS.”

Martin Black, MD, Head, Liver Unit

multidisciplinary transplantation services for all solid organs—including heart, lung, liver, kidney and pancreas. Temple also provides comprehensive bone-marrow transplantation services.

The liver transplant program teams two physicians from the Department of Medicine’s gastroenterology section, Martin Black, MD, the head of the section’s liver unit, and Santiago J. Munoz, MD, liver transplant medical director, with two skilled School of Medicine surgeons: Ashokkumar Jain, MD, FACS, who joined the faculty last September, and Andreas Karachristos, MD, PhD, who completed his surgical residency at Temple in 2005 and became an associate professor two years ago.

As of mid-May, four liver transplants had been performed, with a total of 30 expected to be performed during the first year. “Provided patients do not have a reoccurrence of disease and they are compliant with their medications, the prognosis for liver transplant patients is very good,” says Jain, who since training at the University of Pittsburgh has

to just 2 percent,” adds Jain, who while at Rochester continued to research anti-rejection medications as an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

The demand for liver transplants also is increasing. “Because of the increase in hepatitis C there has been a marked increase in liver cancer and liver failure,” explains Munoz, who brought a quarter century of liver experience to Temple when he rejoined the faculty in March after heading Albert Einstein Medical Center’s stellar liver transplant program and hepatology division for more than a decade.

Between 1998 and 2000 nearly 20 liver transplants were performed at Temple. Even during the hiatus, Black’s liver unit cared for transplant patients before and after their operations.

“We have extensive experience in evaluating potential transplant patients and providing pre- and post-transplant care, including managing their immuno-suppression drugs and providing close followup to look for signs of

More about Martin Black, MD

Professor emeritus of medicine and pharmacology

Associate editor, *Annals of Internal Medicine*

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Royal Free Hospital, London

Albert Einstein College of Medicine, N.Y.

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Md.

More about Santiago J. Munoz, MD

Professor of medicine

Director of clinical hepatology

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Director, Liver Service, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Pa.

Head, Division of Hepatology, Director, Center for Liver Diseases, Medical Director, Liver Transplant Program, Albert Einstein Medical Center, Pa.

Medical Director, Liver Transplant Program, Thomas Jefferson University, Pa.

2009: selected as Top Doc for the fifth time by area physicians in *Philadelphia* magazine

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

University of Chile University Hospital
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Md.
Jefferson Medical College, Pa.