Division of
Infectious Diseases
Fellowship Program

Much has happened since last year’s Newsletter including 3 conferences where much was learned and good fellowship was enjoyed. As you can see from the description of those conferences (page 2) many new ID topics were introduced. The Main Campus consultation service is now so busy that we have two Fellows on the rotation every month as well as the usual 1-2 residents and medical and pharmacy students. Didactic teaching occurs on Tuesday afternoon for one hour and on Friday afternoons for a 3.5 hour block. All recent graduates have done outstanding on their boards and we congratulate all of them on their accomplishment.

Fellow News

Graduates of 2005
Kalpana Natrajan is still in private practice in San Diego. Lisa Valdivia continues in private infectious disease practice at SAIDS.

Graduate of 2006
John Mourani, John remains in an ID group of four in San Dimas, CA and recently emailed to alert us to the fact he is looking for more partners.

Graduates of 2007
Brian Chasin is at Oro Valley Hospital and Andy Giblin has two children and is doing well, living in Tucson.

Graduates of 2008
Cliff Martin directs the Fellow program at Tucson Medical Center. He has built a state-of-the-art antibiotic infusion center and the Fellows will be rotating with him to share in this knowledge. Shannon Thorn is in private infectious disease practice in Tucson at St. Mary’s and Northwest Hospitals.

Graduate of 2009
Fares Masannat is in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where he is in another ID group other than Susan Hoover who moved there last year.

Graduates of 2010
Larissa Szeyko, when last we heard is in El Paso, TX. Viki Ianas is in private practice in Phoenix. She now has two daughters. Her work in frailty and HIV has led to two further publications and a pending grant application.

Graduates of 2011
Geoffrey Smith is in a private practice group in Tucson. Amber Noon has moved from the ID group at TMC and is now practicing in Denver, Colorado.

A beautiful day at the 8th annual Desert Museum ID Conference, February, 2014. Wasl, Mayar with Tirdad talking about paragonimiasis in the Americas, David, Ahmad, Joe, John, Sean, Luis and Anca all listen; Tim and Jack in the shadows. (Photo Qin Chen)
Graduates of 2012

James Yanes has moved to Washington state. Joel Terriquez (6/12) is in practice in Flagstaff, AZ and is doing great and very busy. Miriam Grigor (12/12) is in practice in Sacramento, CA with Kaiser Permanente.

Graduates of 2013

Ram Seddabattula (6/13) joined a group in Phoenix, AZ and he telephones us not infrequently. Tatyana Shekhel (12/13) joined a group in Phoenix and is enjoying her new career. She became engaged recently.

Current Fellows

Jack Ajmeri (6/14) will become the ID consultant at UA College of Medicine – South Campus after graduating from the program. He will be mentoring the Fellows when assigned to UA College of Medicine – South Campus. Wasl Al-Adsani began in January 2013 just in time to inaugurate the new two fellow consult team at UA College of Medicine – University Campus. He has already reestablished the fecal transplant service begun by Geoffrey Smith years before.

Ahmad Salameh (6/15) is joining us from the UA College of Medicine residency program and Luis Medina (6/15) from Maricopa County Hospital Medicine residency program in July 2013.

Incoming Fellows

Razan Al Ramadi starts in August 2014 after finishing her Medical Residency at the UA College of Medicine. She is already working on a paper with Tirdad Zangeneh concerning coccidioidomycosis and transplant.

Rafael Urcea joins us as well in July 2014, leaving a hospitalist practice in Phoenix.

Conferences

7th Annual Desert Museum Walk and Dinner. We met August 10th for this conference and the turnout was excellent although it was quite hot. Sean Elliott talked about global climate change and emerging infections, Mayar Al Mohajer, cats and tularemia; Tim Kuberski, about transmission of Giardia by dogs to humans; Anca Georgescu, TB from humans to animals; John Bloom, Coronavirus and bats by Mike Habib; bear hibernation and the kidney by Cliff Martin; phaeohyphomycosis and wildlife by Tirdad Zaneneh; David Nix talked about coyote plague as indicators of human cases; Phil Factor addressed Hanta virus and the brush mouse; Jack Ajmeri gave a case of orf and during dessert Justin Schmidt presented tarantulas to the guests.

The Sonita Conference was November 8 and 9, 2013 and featured an excellent luncheon at the Steak Out Saturday noon preceded by a morning conference with talks by Elliott and Sobonya with similar themes of “Look elsewhere”; Craig Brown, Salmonella cellulitis; Mike Habib, the case of the disappearing pleural effusion; cases by Luis Medina and Jack Ajmeri and Eskild Petersen presented the “Case of the brilliant albino researcher.” A short test was administered and Tim Kuberski was the winner of the featured wine. Everyone had a great social gathering and Bob Hyland (whose home is in Sonita) attended as well.

8th Annual Desert Museum Walk and Dinner. We decided to change this conference to earlier in the year because of the heat during the last two years when conducting the walks in July. So we met on Saturday, February 15th at 10:00 AM to beat the heat this year. Tirdad talked about Paragonimus kellicotti; Wasl Al Adsani, anisakidosis; Joe Alpert about anthrax in deer in Texas; David Nix, Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae; Mayar, rinderpest; John Po, enterohepatic Helicobacter; Tim Kuberski, Aedes aegypti and dengue in Tucson; Justin Schmidt, how to tell Aedes from Culex from Anopheles; Ahmad Salameh, Diphylobothrium dendriticum; Luis Medina, Powassan fever and Sean Elliott, foie gras and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. This was followed by a great picnic lunch in the Brown Mountain picnic area near the museum.

The Sedona ARIDS meeting was in March 2014 and the venue moved back to the Enchantment Resort under the leadership of Tim Kuberski. There were three excellent presentations by our Fellows: Jack Ajmeri presented a case of pulmonary Mycobacterium malmoense, Ahmad Salameh, a case of chronic EBV and Luis Medina presented a case of RMSF.

Some never listen. This ram refused to listen to Mayar’s discussion of rinderpest. (Photo Qin Chen)
Faculty and Staff

Newcomers to the faculty include John Po who joined in March 2014 to become the Fellowship Director. He comes from Banner Health in Phoenix as well as the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix. Jack Ajmeri will become the Attending ID physician at the UAMC – South Campus following graduation from Fellowship. Hooshang Nematorollahi, NP, joined us in June 2014 and he will be seeing patients in Refugee Clinic, Antibiotic Clinic and serving as PCP for some of our HIV patients.

Rod Adam, emeritus, was in town in December 2013, home from Kenya. He has successfully established a medical microbiology program in Nairobi and we hope to be sending some Fellows to stay with him during their training.

Mayar Al-Mohajer has interests in staphylococcal infections and he heads up the Antibiotic Stewardship Program with David Nix and Katie Matthias.

Neil Ampel continues to focus on coccidioidomycosis and shares attending duties at the VA with Chinh Nguyen.

Sean Elliott is Program Director of the Pediatrics Residency program but makes time to come to the pediatrics/adult Friday morning conference. He emcees the Desert Museum walks as well as the Sonoita conference.

Anca Georgescu is busy directing the Ryan White Clinics as well as directing intravenous antibiotic administration. She had another daughter this year, Natalie.

Bob Kalinske comes every week to the ID conference and gives several lectures to the Fellows each year.

Steve Klotz continues to work on Candida and amyloid and has several projects dealing with kissing bugs.

Tim Kuberski is faculty at the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix and always attends the Museum and Portal conferences. He recently steered Luis Medina our way who joined us as a Fellow in July, 2013.

Bill Martone formerly with the CDC, has retired to Arizona and attends the Friday conferences. He is giving Medicine Grand Rounds in July on “CDC mystery cases.”

Katie Matthias along with Dave Nix has been instrumental in forming an Antibiotic Stewardship program for the Main Campus.

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Faculty and Staff

Yasuhiro Nakatani retires from UA in June 2014 and will be moving to Japan to work in an HIV clinic as well as taking care of his folks.

David Nix along with Katie and Mayar Al Mohajer made an excellent start on the UA Health Network Antibiotic Stewardship.

Chinh Nguyen continues as attending at the VA as well as giving daily lectures to the Fellows when on service.

Eskild Petersen, emeritus, joined all of us in Sonoita for the ID conference and gave an interesting talk.

George Ray continues to train young ID physicians, coming to every Friday conference.

Kareem Shehab is a busy teaching, consulting and working on research.

Ziad Shehab continues with his tireless schedule of teaching and attending.

Richard Sobonya gives the monthly ID/Pathology conferences and published two excellent articles with the Fellows this past year.

Calvin Kunin, emeritus, continues to publish his photographs of birds in the New England Journal of Medicine. He attended the Sonoita conference last year.

Gordon Trenholme head of ID at Rush in Chicago, bought a home in Tucson and comes to Friday conferences when in town. He recently presented an interesting case of Plasmodium vivax.

Tirdad Zangeneh has established a large transplant patient population and deals with the infectious disease issues in these patients. He is also Assistant Program Director for the UA College of Medicine Residency Program – University Campus. He recently assumed Co-directorship of Prologue, the first week of medical school.

Hooshang Nematollahi joins the Division from the Transplant Service to head up the Refugee Clinic.
Martha Aragon the Administrative Associate for the Division of Infectious Diseases, sends her love to all former Fellows.

Cesar Egurrola is the Clinical Coordinator and oversees the Medical Case Management Program for the Petersen Clinic patients.

Michael Casteneda has joined the HIV team and is medical case manager for South Campus as well as working with Mental Health with the patients. He comes with years of experience in the Mental Health field.

Ruth Hillman has joined the Petersen HIV Clinics and identifies and enrolls newly diagnosed patients through the Emergency Room as well as testing partners of positives and retaining patients in care. Ruth also supervises the numerous student workers that help with the Petersen Clinics.

Robert Gadsden is a medical case manager for the Ryan –White Program at Main Campus.

Natasha Korosteleva is the Program Coordinator for the Refugee Preventive Health Screening Program and oversees the 800-1200 refugees who enter Pima County each year.

Patricia McCracken retired from the Ryan White Program in 2013 and is enjoying her free time. She is replaced by Anne Kautza who has now taken over the reins of the large Tuesday HIV clinic at UAMC – University Campus.

Carol Schneiderman retired from the Ryan White Program in June 2014 but may be working on some special projects.

Shannon Smith is the Program Director for the Ryan White Clinics and will head up projects of special interest for ID in 2014.

Recent student workers and volunteers in the Division include Cameron Price, Fernanda Egurrola, Willa Gorman, Juan McElroy and Michael Sandoval.


Ampel NM, Dionne SO, Giblin A, Podany AB, Galgiani JN. Mannose binding lectin serum levels are low in persons with clinically active coccidioidomycosis. Mycopathologica 2008 In press.


Fellow Publications, Abstracts & Presentations (Continued)

