Cardiology Interest Group Met This Week. Schuyler Jones, Andrew Wang and Jennifer Rymer met with Interns and JARs this week for an evening of casual conversation about cardiology careers. There were spirited and frank discussions about sub-specialty career choices, selecting the “right” fellowship program, the importance of research and mentorship. The housestaff were very interested, engaged, and passionate about our specialty. The majority of individuals at the table were interested in interventional cardiology. However, there was also expressed interest in structural heart disease, prevention, and EP. The Division will try to hold similar events a few times yearly to create a forum for dialogue with our younger colleagues and promote their interest in cardiovascular medicine.

Fellow Time. Andrew Wang and the IEIC met with many of the senior fellows Saturday morning to discuss career goals and develop strategies to assist with job placement. This class of finishing Fellows is an impressive and accomplished group. There is little doubt that this group will land excellent jobs. Several expressed a desire (for personal or professional reasons) to look at opportunities away from Duke. The faculty is encouraged to reach out to mentees, provide career counselling, and help make connections with colleagues around the country looking for excellent young cardiologists.

SCAP and TPE. A memo was circulated earlier this week reminding the faculty of the need to complete the SCAP and TPE forms. We are working to get assistance to those who expressed absolute frustration with completion of either document. This time next year, we will try to schedule a time for DoM assistance for those struggling with the annual TPE exercise.
Duke Raleigh CME Event. Mark Leithe and colleagues held the inaugural Duke Raleigh Update in Cardiology on Saturday. James Mills presented on contemporary management of PAD, Steve Robinson spoke on the impact of exercise and lifestyle modification on cardiovascular health, Radha Kachhy gave a talk on NOACs and Jim Peterson gave the audience an update on current cholesterol management and CV risk assessment. Larry Liao (pictured at left, although you cannot tell because the IEIC is photographically challenged) spoke in the afternoon on the diagnosis and management of valvular heart disease. The Duke Cardiology of Raleigh group was kind to invite Kevin Harrison to provide an update on TAVR, Chet Patel to speak on heart failure and Kevin Jackson to speak about management of atrial arrhythmias. Nearly 100 attended the event held at the Renaissance Hotel in North Hills. Congratulations to our partners in Raleigh. The program truly highlighted the breadth and depth of the expertise and excellence that you bring to the care of patients in the community.

Cardiology Dashboards (from guest writer Cary Ward). The PDC, in cooperation with DHTS and Maestro, has launched a new pilot initiative for specialty specific physician dashboards. Cardiology will be one of the first divisions to participate in this initiative. The dashboard will appear as the first screen you see when you login to Maestrocare, and will give you personalized data for chosen metrics, both financial and patient care based. The metrics will be based on real time data and will be actionable; for example, you will be able to click on the individual metric and see the detailed data behind the results. Although the PDC will choose financial metrics and a few practice-wide quality metrics (preliminary candidates include blood pressure control, obesity intervention and smoking cessation), the division has been asked to choose our division specific metrics. After reviewing quality initiatives throughout the division and meeting with leadership, our top candidates for these metrics include:

- HTN control
- Statins in patients with CAD
- CAD and antiplatelet therapy
- Anticoagulants and atrial fib/flutter
- ACE or ARB for EF<40%
- Beta Blockers in patients with EF<40%

The process of creating the source databases from which these metrics will be pulled
has just started and so the dashboards will not launch for a few months. Please remember that the initial metrics needed to apply to all of us and be relatively easy to build. However, once the pilot divisions are working well, it is very possible that we will create dashboards for subspecialties such as EP or Interventional. Therefore if you think of other metrics that are exciting to you, please let me know. Otherwise, feel free to contact me with other concerns. I will keep you posted on our progress.

A Fitting Farewell for Duane Davis. In an event last PM at the University Club, the Department of Surgery honored the career and accomplishments of Duane Davis. Duane came to Duke as a surgical intern and just completed his 31st year of service to the institution. Duane brought many innovative programs to Duke including mediastinoscopy, a dramatic growth of lung transplantation, and surgical pulmonary thromboendarterectomy. He is credited for discovery the importance of gastric reflux as an important driver of lung allograft failure. Duane is departing for the Florida Hospital in Orlando where he will have both administrative and patient care responsibilities. He will be joining another fellow surgical Dukie, Scott Silvestry.. The picture to the left is the current photo of Duane from the Duke Regional website. Shows the value of updating our photos more frequently than every 30 years or so…

Krasuski and Lewis Arrive on Campus. Rich Krasuski and Rob Lewis have both arrived on campus and begun organizing their administrative, research and clinical activities.

Chris Holley Agrees to Join the Faculty. Chris Holley was in town this week to finalize his commitment to join the faculty. Chris was a Duke medical student who earned his PhD in Sally Kornbluth’s lab. He is an RNA biologist and on faculty at Washington University in St Louis. He is expected to arrive next month to begin setting up his lab. He will start performing clinical activities later this calendar year. Chris’ wife will be moving later in the Fall and has accepted a job as a breast radiologist in Raleigh. Chris will be an excellent addition to the CVRC and will expand our basic science research portfolio.
Great Paper

Management and outcomes in patients with moderate or severe functional mitral regurgitation and severe left ventricular dysfunction


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Congratulations to Zainab and co-authors on this paper just published in the European Heart Journal. Zainab and colleagues combined information from the Duke Echo Lab Database with the Duke Database for Cardiovascular Disease to describe the outcomes of 1441 patients with at least moderate MR and severe LV dysfunction. She noted that the survival of medically treated patients in this cohort was only 40% at 5 years. Surgical revascularization with or without mitral intervention improved survival. Isolated mitral intervention did not improve survival. A propensity-adjusted model demonstrated benefit of mitral regurgitation correction.

The editorialists noted:

“The study by Samad is an important one in the field. The study population results from the merging of two large databases from Duke University putting together a record of 1441 patients with moderate to severe functional MR and LV dysfunction.”

“The fact that the data set arises from a well-known tertiary centre has several advantages: a full ‘Heart Team’ is available, optimizing patient selection for surgery as well as offering an excellent surgical technique.”

Great paper and great representation of Duke Heart.

A Reminder… Last week, the PA announced a Divisional pilot program intended to improve physician experience with Maestro. The Division is willing to purchase a half-day clinic session to allow concentrated time with the Maestro concierge team for individual instruction. We have a few remaining slots. Faculty are strongly encouraged to reach out to Kerri Pulliam Ottwell to get on the schedule.