

YAHP Dinner Meeting
September 17, 2009
Danbury Hospital

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Yale University

Tracy Crosby
Silvio Inzucchi, MD

Bridgeport Hospital

George Abdelsayed, MD

Danbury Hospital

Ramin Ahmadi, MD
Andrew Dworkin, MD
Kathi Hurgin
Andrew Keller, MD
Adrian Lungulescu, MD
Dino Messina, MD, PhD
Mike Schiffman, MD
Winston Shih, MD
Byron Thomas, MD
Pat Tietjen, MD

Greenwich Hospital

Charles Seelig, MD

Griffin Hospital

Lily Dara, MD
Seema D'Souza, MD
V. Lakshminarayanan, MD

Hospital of St. Raphael

Ernie Moritz, MD
Rob Nardino, MD

Norwalk Hospital

Joe Cleary, MD
Mark Kulaga, MD
Eric Mazur, MD
Andrea Petersen, MD

St. Mary's Hospital

Shawnette Alston, MD
Greg Buller, MD
Jason Ouellette, MD

Waterbury Hospital

Jock Lawrason, MD

Dr. Winston Shih, Program Director at Danbury Hospital, started the meeting at 7:00 sharp by welcoming everyone. He then introduced Dr. Andrew Keller, Chief of Cardiology, to give his presentation on "Chest Pain Center Certification."

Dr. Keller began his talk by describing how the cardiology community has always been exceedingly evidence-based and data-driven, with an increasing emphasis on quality improvement in patient care. One emerging aspect to this has been the development of 'chest pain centers' at many hospitals. These emphasize an efficient and multi-disciplinary approach to the evaluation of chest discomfort in emergency departments and have been demonstrated to increase diagnostic accuracy and decrease unnecessary admissions. Recently, certification from the Society of Chest Pain Centers has been possible, and this distinction has been achieved by the Center at Danbury.

Dr. Keller described the consensus building and networking which were keys in the Center's formative stages. Ultimate success required a significant

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coordination of services, including 911, EMS, ED, nursing, cath lab, cardiology, and hospitalist services, and involved the development of clinical pathways and requisite facilities to optimize patient care.

The Danbury Hospital Chest Pain Center has already decreased the so-called "door-to-balloon" time, so critical in reducing mortality in ACS patients. One important step was the provision modems to the EMS services in the field to facilitate the transfer of ECG results to the ED physicians so that a diagnosis of STEMI could be made before the patient actually arrives.

Continuous quality improvement now involves ongoing data collection, regular multi-disciplinary meetings, identification of problems/issues, and agreement on any changes in process that might be required, enacting them, and reviewing results.

After Dr. Keller's presentation, there was a break for dinner.

Following dinner, Dr. Shih introduced Dr. Greg Dworkin, Chief of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at Danbury Hospital, and his talk on "Planning for the H1N1 Flu."

Dr. Dworkin began his presentation by conveying his role in (and reason for) creating the website he developed, "flu wiki" (<http://www.fluwiki.info>), which is a tool on how to prepare for influenza pandemic. Dr. Dworkin next communicated how Danbury Hospital is planning for this winter's expected spike in H1N1 flu. Although early reports from around the world now being affected suggest that wide-scale absenteeism has not emerged as a result of this flu, there appears to be a marked increase in the need for ICU beds. Contingency plans at Danbury are already well underway. He cautioned on keeping updated with the regional activity from the CDC and the Connecticut state Department of Public Health.

Dr. Shih then introduced Dr. Silvio Inzucchi, Director of the YAHP.

Among the announcements was Dr. Jason Ouellette's promotion to Program Director at St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Greg Buller, Chief of Medicine at St. Mary's, praised Dr. Ouellette's past work as the Associate Program Director and expressed confidence in his ability to continue as Program Director. He also announced that Dr. Shawnette Alston is now the Associate Program Director.

Dr. Charles Seelig, Program Director at Greenwich Hospital, announced the "Entering the Workforce" retreat (which is free of charge to residents from participating institutions), scheduled for Saturday, October 3 at the Institute for Excellence in New Haven. An email was sent out today (September 17). Dr. Seelig encouraged everyone to send their residents, and indicated they were opening the workshop up to all residents (not just senior residents) and from other specialties (not just medicine). He gave a brief overview of the program and declared it was probably the best lineup since the first workshop about 10

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years ago. The question was asked if there were plans to make it accessible via WebEx, and Dr. Seelig agreed to look into that option.

Dr. Inzucchi then opened the floor to feedback on the elective process this year, our first at using E*Value to gather requests. Although some technical glitches persisted, all were generally pleased with the process change last year. Most residents received one of their top elective choices, which is of obvious importance as some plan for fellowship training. There was discussion about changing the elective 'algorithm' from favoring PGY3 to PGY2, and this was generally agreed upon. Dr. Inzucchi will review with Barbara Wanciak.

The draft agenda for upcoming YAHP Annual Retreat was next reviewed. This is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at the Brooklawn Club in Fairfield, our traditional location. This should prove to be another busy, productive day entitled, "Information Technologies in Medicine: Impact on Education and Patient Care." Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Halperin of UCSF and Archimedes, Inc, who will be speaking on "Mathematics, Modeling, and Medicine". The rest of the day will mix presentations from Yale University/Yale-New Haven Hospital and several Affiliates, each focused on information technologies and how they are affecting patient care and medical education. Each affiliate is encouraged to bring 4-5 key faculty/ chief residents. There is some flexibility. More details will forthcoming from Tracy Crosby, YAHP Coordinator, but everyone was reminded to 'save the date'.

Dr. Inzucchi thanked Dr. Tietjen and Shih for their hospitality.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.