

YAHP Dinner Meeting
January 10, 2008
Norwalk Hospital

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Yale School of Medicine/

Yale New-Haven Hospital

Tracy Crosby
Silvio Inzucchi, MD
Asghar Rastegar, MD

Bridgeport Hospital

George Abdelsayed, MD

Danbury Hospital

Dino Messina, MD
Mike Schiffman, MD
Winston Shih, MD
Pat Tietjen, MD

Greenwich Hospital

Joel Blumberg, MD
Chuck Seelig, MD

Griffin Hospital

Ken Dobuler, MD

Hospital of St. Raphael

Stephen Atlas, MD
Alan Kliger, MD
Robert Nardino, MD

Norwalk Hospital

Vanya Buntic, MD
Joseph Cleary, MD
Jonathan Fine, MD
Janet Johnson
Ellen Kulaga, MD
Mark Kulaga, MD
Eric Mazur, MD
James O'Connell, MD
Stephen O'Mahony, MD
Jason Orlinick, MD
Andrea Peterson, MD
Rahim Rahimyar, MD
Nancy Rennert, MD
Florian Seeberger, MD
Myra Skluth, MD
Levon Tchakmakjian, MD
Stephen Winter, MD

St. Mary's Hospital

Greg Buller, MD
Jason Ouellette, MD

Waterbury Hospital

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Dr. Eric Mazur, Chair of Medicine for Norwalk Hospital and tonight's host, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Dr. Asghar Rastegar, Associate Chair of Academic Affairs for Yale's Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Rastegar asked everyone to start thinking about the next Annual Retreat, which will be held at the Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. He also welcomes emails or any other comments and feedback regarding the last retreat this past October. Immediate feedback was that it was a very successful program, and we plan to continue to use the same model of at least one national speaker, distinct morning and afternoon sessions, and a focus on related activities at all the Affiliates. Dr. Rastegar

encouraged everyone to think about subjects/topics that might be of interest; he would like to have topics finalized by mid-February, including some ideas about speakers.

Dr. Silvio Inzucchi, YAHP Director, welcomed and introduced Dr. Pat Tietjen, the first woman chair of a department of medicine in the Affiliates! Dr. Tietjen became Danbury Hospital's Chair of Medicine at the beginning of this year, replacing Dr. Paul Iannini. A native New Yorker and Fordham University graduate, she received her MD from SUNY-Downstate in Brooklyn and completed an internship, medical residency, and chief residency at St. Vincent's Medical Center in NYC. Dr. Tietjen then moved to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where she undertook subspecialty training in pulmonary medicine and returned to St. Vincent's for further fellowship work in Critical Care Medicine. After several years on the full-time faculty at Sloan, where she became the director of the pulmonary fellowship training program, Dr. Tietjen moved back to St. Vincent's where she eventually became chief and program director of the Pulmonary section. Dr. Tietjen is an accomplished clinician, educator and researcher, with dozens of peer-reviewed manuscripts to her credit. She is known especially for her expertise in pulmonary diseases in HIV-infected patients. We all look forward to seeing Dr. Tietjen at future YAHP events.

Dr. Inzucchi reminded the group that the 2008-09 planning meetings are coming up in March, April, and May. Program Directors were asked to think of what else Yale can do for the Affiliates, such as curriculum consultations, etc. to make affiliation even stronger.

Dr. Inzucchi also announced the date of the next Dinner Meeting, which will take place at Bridgeport Hospital on Wednesday, April 9. Details will be forthcoming.

At this point, Dr. Mazur introduced Dr. Stephen O'Mahony, Associate Program Director at Norwalk Hospital, and the evening's formal presentation began.

In order to address the myriad issues which face academic medical centers (educational competencies, quality improvement, financial constraints, etc), Norwalk implemented *multi-disciplinary rounds* (MDRs) in order to facilitate quality care and maximize hospital efficiencies, especially as regards to discharge planning. The rounds needed to be multidisciplinary because it is difficult for one department to improve quality or affect core measures in a vacuum. The Norwalk Hospital Department of Medicine leadership was able to accomplish this quite successfully within the hospital – without adding extra cost or personnel. The endorsement of the administration coupled with physician leadership helped garner widespread support for this project.

During thrice-weekly MDRs, individual medical resident teams are called into a meeting room sequentially to quickly review current patients, their treatments, especially as regards to quality care measures, and plans for efficient discharge. Present are the Chair of Medicine, members of the full-time faculty, and representatives from nursing, nutrition, pharmacy, social work, coding, and discharge planning. Between 50-70 patients are reviewed in each of the hour-long meeting. MDRs are efficient but collegial and collaborative sessions.

Some early results have included improved core measures for patients admitted with CHF, pneumonia, and MI. An impressive 0.6 day reduction in average length of stay (LOS) was observed during the first year of MDR, and measures of improved coding were also noted. In addition, resident self-assessments have revealed improved knowledge of systems, core measures and quality improvement. Improved communications amongst the departments (particularly between the residents and nursing) has also been appreciated, now credited for the development of a more collaborative environment.

Dr. O'Mahoney proceeded to discuss the incorporation and importance of automated reminders targeting core quality measures through the hospital's computer order entry system. Dr. Mazur and Dr. O'Mahony concluded the presentation by reiterating the need for an agile system that can meet the ongoing demands of an increasingly large and complex patient census; the modern community hospital, which is under increasing cost pressures; and internal medicine residency training programs which must become creative to efficiently address the ACGME requirements for System-Based Practice learning. Both emphasized the critical role of departmental leadership in this process, which helped to guarantee the obvious success of MDRs at Norwalk Hospital.

The floor was opened to questions. A lively discussion followed, including questions on how residents, hospitalists, and volunteer faculty reacted to MDR. A similar program has been underway at Griffin Hospital for several years.

Dr. Mazur brought the meeting to close at 7:50.