

YAHP Dinner Meeting
August 7, 2008
Griffin Hospital

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

*Yale School of Medicine/
Yale-New Haven Hospital*
Tracy Crosby
Silvio Inzucchi, MD
Asghar Rastegar, MD

Bridgeport Hospital
Ana Casanegra, MD

Danbury Hospital
Michael Schiffman, MD
Winston Shih, MD
Dino Messina, MD

Greenwich Hospital
Charles Seelig, MD

Griffin Hospital
Fatima Anjum, MD
Margie Bliga
Kenneth Dobuler, MD
Seema D'Souza, MD
Nina Dutta, MD
Lionel Lim, MD
Haq Nawaz, MD
Ken Schwartz, MD
Dorothea Wild, MD

Hospital of St Raphael
Barry Wu, MD
Norman Marieb, MD

Norwalk Hospital
Eric Mazur, MD
Joseph Cleary, MD

St Mary's Hospital
Greg Buller, MD
Jason Ouellette, MD
Afshin Sam, MD

Waterbury Hospital
Jock Lawrason, MD

In the midst of a surprise August hailstorm in southern Connecticut, Dr. Kenneth Dobuler, Chief of Medicine for Griffin Hospital and tonight's host, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He briefly acquainted everyone with members of his educational staff. He then introduced Dr. Silvio Inzucchi, YAHP Director.

Dr. Inzucchi provided a very brief description of the YAHP Quality Improvement Working Group (QIWG), which involved 6 of the Affiliates (Y-NHH, Griffin, HSR, Bridgeport, Danbury, and Norwalk). The focus was on inpatient glucose management, a hot topic in today's hospitals. The QIWG concluded the first phase of the project last

year, and the abstract was successfully presented at this June's Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in San Francisco. Dr. Inzucchi then introduced Dr. Dorothea Wild, Associate Program Director at Griffin Hospital, one of the study's lead investigators.

Dr. Wild described the basics of the study: a retrospective multi-center chart review involving in-hospital episodes of hypoglycemia severe enough to require IV D-50 administration. In all, 182 such episodes were identified. After describing the study's methodology, Dr. Wild presented the results. Hypoglycemia occurred most often during prolonged hospitalizations in insulin-treated patients on medical services. Failure to adjust insulin in response to altered nutrition, organ dysfunction, or resolving infection were found to be likely common precipitants. There was also great variability in documentation and treatment of hypoglycemia among hospitals and even within a given hospital. The group concluded that since hypoglycemia is often considered the 'rate-limiting step' for improving hospital blood glucose control, standardized approaches including protocols and algorithms may facilitate hypoglycemic management in the inpatient setting.

Dr. Wild discussed some of the study's limitations, including lack of an adequate control group in this preliminary inquiry. In addition, the various logistical impediments of setting up and conducting the study were reviewed. Important for any future study is the challenge of involving several different centers and the need to rely on the interest and good graces of the residents to perform the chart abstractions. This was a major issue at a key point in the study, when the QIWG realized that the abstractions were being performed with variable quality, necessitating a re-abstraction at several sites.

Dr. Asghar Rastegar, Yale Department of Internal Medicine, congratulated the QIWG for putting together the first multi-center YAHP study on a patient-care topic. He commented, while it is important to involve residents and fellows, hiring someone to do abstractions should be considered in the future. Discussion ensued regarding having a nurse or research assistant travel to each hospital to perform the abstractions, for purposes of data consistency and quality.

Dr. Eric Mazur, Chief of Medicine at Norwalk Hospital, commented that as a result of Norwalk's data, one of their physicians has headed a task force to work on hypoglycemia documentation.

Dr. Inzucchi next introduced Dr. Norm Marieb, Hospital of St. Raphael.

Dr. Marieb addressed the group, requesting assistance in a trial being proposed on thyroid disease in pregnancy. Dr. Marieb cited an Italian study (copies of the study were provided), which appeared to suggest a benefit on gestational outcomes when women with anti-TPO antibodies (marker of thyroid autoimmunity) but with normal TSH levels (indicating normal thyroid function) were treated with levothyroxine. While the findings were remarkable, it was a relatively small, single-site study. With the Affiliation, a larger, multi-center study could be completed. The proposed study would need about

2700 women to be screened, with 11% expected to be enrolled. Drs. Marieb and Atlas at HSR would coordinate the trial. Dr. Steve Thung, a high-risk obstetrician on the Yale faculty has also expressed interest in collaborating with the group.

Discussion followed, primarily around the issue of obtaining the willingness of the various Obstetrics Departments to participate. One hindrance may be perceived liability on the part of the obstetricians. Ultimately, the study would require buy-in from at least 4 or 5 hospitals over a period of 1-2 years. The idea was raised of getting one or two Obstetrics practices or clinics rather than an entire hospital to participate. Tracy will be circulating an email in August to ascertain interest level at each of the Affiliates.

Dr. Inzucchi then made the group aware of Dr. Asghar Rastegar's recent decision to step down as Associate Chair for Academic Affairs. Dr. Inzucchi thanked Dr. Rastegar for his many years of valuable service to the YAHP and trusted guidance. The Affiliation has clearly become stronger and deeper because of his efforts. Dr. Stephen Huot will be taking over for Dr. Rastegar. We hope to continue to see Asghar at many upcoming YAHP events.

Dr. Rastegar next discussed the upcoming Annual Retreat, *Making Clinical Decisions: From Theoretical Framework to Practical Approach*. The three sessions are entitled, "How Do Physicians Make Decisions?", "Evidence-Based Medicine: Help or Hindrance?" (which promises a lively debate between Drs. Michael Green and John Concato!), and "Applying Clinical Guidelines: The Power and the Pitfalls". And, of course, lunch will be provided as well as a wine and cheese reception at the end the day. There are some wonderful speakers coming for this event, so please mark your calendars for October 22. Invitations are forthcoming from Patricia King in his office. (A copy of the agenda is provided in this email.)

Other Affiliate news included the *Entering the Workforce Workshop*, held in the fall and organized by Drs. Rosemarie Fisher (Yale) and Charles Seelig (Greenwich).

Dr. Seelig encourage all Affiliates to send residents, even if they are planning to undertake fellowship training. The tentative date is set as October 18 and it will be held at the Institute for Excellence (300 George St, New Haven). This is a full-day event and includes Michael Wiley from Healthcare Management & Consulting Services, a nationally recognized speaker. Anything the program directors can do to encourage attendance by their residents would be greatly appreciated.

Dr. Mazur mentioned that the Connecticut ACP meeting is scheduled for October 8 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Registration opens at 7:00am, and the first session begins at 8:00am. All were encouraged to attend.

The next two YAHP Dinner Meetings, hosted by St. Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital, will be scheduled accordingly, and Tracy will notify everyone of the dates.

The meeting was brought to close 7:55pm.