

YAHP Dinner Meeting
May 31, 2007
Danbury Hospital

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Yale School of Medicine/

Yale-New Haven Hospital

Tracy Crosby
Silvio Inzucchi, MD
John Moriarty, MD

Greenwich Hospital

Joel Blumberg, MD
Charles Seelig, MD

Griffin Hospital

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Bridgeport Hospital

George Abdelsayed, MD
Nicholas Dainiak, MD
Mausumee Hussain, MD

Hospital of St. Raphael

Alan Kliger, MD
Robert Nardino, MD
Barry Wu, MD

Danbury Hospital

Neil Culligan, MD
Ivel DeFreitas Bello, MD
Heather Duggan, RN
Kathi Hurgin
Dino Messina, MD
Linda Oswald
Gerard Robilotti
Michael Schiffman, MD
Andrew Seevaratnam, MD
Winston Shih, MD

Norwalk Hospital

Pamela Charney, MD
Mark Kulaga, MD
Stephen O'Mahony, MD

St. Mary's Hospital

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Waterbury Hospital

David Podell, MD

Dr. Winston Shih, Program Director at Danbury Hospital and tonight's host, began the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Mr. Gerard Robilotti, recently retired Medical Director, gave a warm introduction of Dr. Shih as the newly appointed Program Director. Dr. Shih takes the place of Dr. Paul Iannini, who served as both Chair of Medicine and Program Director until his recent departure for York Hospital in York, PA. Dr. Shih was previously an Associate Program Director, and the Hospital is very excited for him to take the helm, as we are at Yale.

Dr. Shih then introduced the main speaker of the evening, Dr. Neil Culligan, Chief of Neurology, to give his lecture, "What is a Stroke Center of Excellence?" Dr. Culligan gave a history of Danbury's new Stroke Center, starting in April 2005 and culminating in JCAHO Accreditation, which was earned in December 2006. Dr. Culligan outlined the different accomplishments and milestones along the way to becoming such a Center. He summarized the data collection management and the different committees that were critical to the process.

Following Dr. Culligan's presentation, lively discussion ensued regarding hospital resources – what is required from hospital(s) for such an endeavor, and what are the ultimate benefits – patient care, financial, and educational? The task of collecting, tabulating, interpreting, and acting upon the data required to become a Center of Excellence is a complex and difficult one. The issue of ongoing support was raised because maintaining the status of “excellence” requires the regular achievement of various metrics. Mr. Robilotti indicated that since CMS is now rewarding hospitals for reporting this data, it was financially sound to start a Stroke Center; but he does admit that one cannot maintain the necessary support for data collection without the finances to back it. Discussion ensued around the necessary resources to support such a center.

Dr. Silvio Inzucchi then spoke briefly about the Annual Retreat on Wednesday, October 24, 2007. This year's focus will be on educating doctors for global medicine, and Dr. Inzucchi listed some of the speakers who have confirmed (Drs. Pierce Gardner, Stephen Winters, Michele Barry, Frank Bia, and Majid Sadigh). Participants gave a few more suggestions. All affiliates were invited to contact Dr. Rastegar or Inzucchi with ideas on their own faculty presenting local efforts in this area.

Dr. Inzucchi also told the group that Dr. Frank Bia, the previous YAHP Director, will be retiring at the end of December, and wanted feedback on presenting him with a gift/plaque at the Retreat, perhaps during lunch. The group was in complete agreement; Dr. Inzucchi will discuss with Dr. Rastegar.

Dr. Inzucchi updated the group on the status of having interns do electives at Yale in the second half of the year. We are still working on giving them an opportunity to do electives as early as March, given availability.

Mr. Robilotti brought up a new ACGME criterion, which is to have a plan in place for one's residency program in case of disaster. This stems from the Hurricane Katrina experience and what happened to the residents of the many hospitals in New Orleans and surrounding areas that had to suspend their programs. A proposal for a letter of agreement with other Affiliated Hospitals was made – something that encompassed all the Affiliates, because one hospital could not take on all the residents from another hospital. Dr. Inzucchi indicated he would talk to Dr. Rosemarie Fisher to get more information and will let the group know the outcome.

The group was reminded that the next Dinner Meeting would be at Greenwich Hospital on Thursday, July 26. Dr. Charles Seelig asked for everyone to return his or her resident surveys, which he sent out in April. He will analyze the data and present it at the July meeting. Dr. Seelig's email is charless@greenhosp.org.

The meeting was convened at 8:30 PM.

Invitations to the next YAHP Dinner Meeting will be sent from Greenwich Hospital in the coming weeks and reminders will arrive via email. Each affiliate should make all efforts to send at least 2-3 faculty/chief residents to ensure adequate representation.