EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CURRICULUM
by Christina Harris, APD

In the Clinic: A Focus on Equity and Diversity Inclusion
Our upcoming ambulatory curriculum during Block 5 will highlight two important topics that are vital to the care of our patients. The pre-clinic case conference is on the care of the LGBTQIA+ patient and how we can better serve this population in the office. Also, we will be drawing upon our fantastic GIM/HSR (Health Services Research) faculty and fellows to facilitate an interactive, case-based dialogue on the social determinants of health. This discussion will build off of our prior conversations on why and how differences matter and will be aimed at developing the skills necessary to provide holistic care to all of our patients.

CELEBRATING OUR HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCHERS

Donna Washington, MD, MPH, received a 2019 Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust Award. This year’s awardees were selected based on their unique support of women Veterans, as well as for their service to the wider Veteran community.

Photo: Dr. Washington with Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA 02) & Former Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY 13).

DIVERSITY DINNERS

Each recruitment season our Faculty/Resident Diversity Committee hosts dinners for our visiting under represented applicants. Consider joining us on the following dates!
November 17/ November 24
December 08/ December 15

ROAD TO RESIDENCY

On September 7, Farah Abdi (PGY3), Salam Beah (PGY2), and Lovelee Brown (PGY3), helped to host UCLA’s first under-represented medical student residency conference. The event hosted students of all years on the west coast!
While on my Hospitalist rotation, I admitted a patient with sickle cell disease who had presented for a vaso-occlusive crisis. My attending advised me to aggressively hydrate her, which is the conventional wisdom. I proceeded to give her many liters of fluid over the course of her hospital stay. To my chagrin, the patient deteriorated with development of acute chest syndrome and a splenic infarction.

A patient’s course can be unpredictable, no matter the decisions we make, but most recommendations regarding inpatient care of sickle cell patients are based on expert opinion, not randomized control data. This is a disease that affects predominantly marginalized groups and experiences severe research funding discrepancies compared to rarer conditions.

This patient’s story is one of many that spurred me towards a career in Hematology. Sickle cell disease is an uncommon diagnosis on the inpatient floors of Ronald Reagan. Despite this, I found an attending mentor who supported me in the development of a project of optimal hydration strategies for admitted sickle cell patients, which will be presented at the American Society of Hematology this year. Another faculty member guided me through the clinical trial design process to create a project on iron overload in acquired and congenital anemia, which won a university research grant. I am grateful to have trained at UCLA, where the faculty have diverse academic interests and a willingness to mentor housestaff. With their support, I was able to secure a fellowship in Hematology at Johns Hopkins.

Residency at UCLA was a highlight in my career. I developed a robust foundation in internal medicine from the rigorous training, diverse clinical experiences, and dedicated clinical instructors. However, and most importantly, there I found the greatest mentors and the best friends that I have been privileged to have to date.

**MEDICAL STUDENT CORNER**

Please join UndocuMed, LMSA, APAMSA, SNaHP/CaHPSA and Pride Alliance as we bring to you a series of events to raise awareness about immigrant health, learn more ways to be an advocate and celebrate the contributions of our immigrant community!

**NOVEMBER 18-22**

Monday - Undocumented Student Panel  
Tuesday - Policy & Immigrant Health  
Wednesday - Know Your Rights Workshop  
Thursday - Documentary Showing "Forbidden: Undocumented and Queer in Rural America"  
Friday - Celebrating the Immigrant Community