New Village Pointe Clinic, Open for Business

The Village Pointe Internal Medicine Clinic opened its doors in July. The new facility has 12 patient rooms in roughly 6,000 square feet of space. According to Jill Lynch-Sosa, Clinic and Operations Manager for Village Pointe UNMC Physicians Clinics. Another 4,000 square feet of space is available but unfinished. A convenient phlebotomy station is located just outside of the clinic. Lab specimens go to the nearby Cancer Center three times daily, where most tests are processed in a comparable amount of time to those at the Durham Outpatient Center. Psychiatry and physical therapy are on site, also.

At this time, General Internal Medicine physicians seeing patients at the Village Pointe clinic include, newcomers Dr. Joel Armitage and Dr. Michelle Johnson, and veteran physician Dr. Jean Thierfelder.

“General Internal Medicine is pleased to announce the addition of four new physicians to our group,” Dr. Tom Tape, vice chair for clinical operations, said. “In addition to Drs. Armitage and Johnson at Village Pointe, new faculty, Drs. Lauren Sweetser and Andy Vasey see patients in the fifth floor Internal Medicine clinic located in the Durham Outpatient Center on the UNMC campus. All of these providers are eager to accept new patients into their practices.”

Dr. Armitage will see patients Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the new location. He plans to provide comprehensive care to his patients, including healthcare maintenance, chronic illness management and perioperative assessment, just to name a few areas he will focus on.

The clinic is new and beautiful and has some features that will make it very convenient for patients. Dr. Armitage is excited about the prospect of treating a variety of patient issues and building relationships with the patients, part of what attracts him most to General Internal Medicine.

Dr. Johnson, who comes to UNMC after eight years as a practitioner at Hennepin Faculty Associates in Minneapolis, Minn., looks forward to

Continued on pg 3
The new academic year for the Department of Internal Medicine started off with a bang! In this edition of the newsletter, we feature new personnel, programs and facilities, which continue to expand our clinical and academic activities. The opening of both the Village Pointe General Medicine Clinic and Home Instead Center for Successful Aging provides enticing venues for us to extend our clinical care mission. The clinical care mission, in return, provides the overall basis for our entire academic activity - including both research and education. To initiate and support our clinical programs, we continue to increase our faculty. Please familiarize yourself with the 12 new faculty members who joined our department on July 1. Some faces are familiar, and we’ve been fortunate to attract outstanding clinicians and academicians from other academic institutions to join our team and enhance our academic visibility.

By now, you have all met many of our new house staff. We continue to attract outstanding trainees to a program that is nationally recognized for its consistency in preparing physicians for a life-long career in internal medicine. Our three internal medicine chief residents are continuing the tradition of active involvement in development of new programs in the patient-centered medical home, utilization of electronic medical records in providing seamless care and enhanced student education.

Although we routinely list grant awards and publications in the newsletter, I encourage you to peruse the wide range of academic activities pursued by our faculty. It is impressive to see the activity that is ongoing in the diverse areas of basic science, translational research, clinical trials and patient outcomes.

Internal Medicine is off to another great start this academic year, and I look forward to continued activity and recognition in all aspects of our tripartite mission.

Lynell Klassen, MD
Chair, Department of Internal Medicine
New Village Pointe Clinic, Open for Business (continued)

building her practice in the new facility. She will be there all day Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. The remainder of Dr. Johnson’s time will be devoted to teaching medical students and residents.

Dr. Thierfelder has been a General Medicine faculty member for 23 years. Her primary practice location is the Durham Outpatient Center. After many of her patients asked for a location in West Omaha, she expanded her practice to Village Pointe, where she will see patients every other Tuesday morning.

Plans for the unfinished floor space at Village Pointe are to have a dietitian and a teaching kitchen, a social worker and another Internal Medicine specialty. Patients who live out west should find the Village Pointe location a welcome option. To schedule an appointment at Village Pointe, please call 402-596-4411.

Home Instead Center for Successful Aging, Ready for Patients

The Home Instead Center for Successful Aging opened to patients September 13. The 31,425 square-foot building is located on the northwest corner of 38th Avenue and Leavenworth Street. The facility was made possible entirely with private funding. Paul and Lori Hogan, founders of Home Instead Senior Care, made the lead donation.

“Independence and function are the keys to success in aging,” Dr. Jane Potter, chief, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, said. Because the Hogans hold this shared vision for successful aging (caring for the elderly), the partnership with Home Instead Senior Care is a perfect fit.

The Center houses a place to practice geriatric medicine and psychiatry, conduct research and provide educational resources for patients and caregivers. It also houses program space and a fitness center to help older people live better and healthier lives. According to Dr. Potter, it takes a team to optimize health in later life. And, she says, “it also is extremely gratifying work. In repeated national surveys of practicing physicians, geriatricians rank at the top in job satisfaction.”

The Division’s eight physician faculty members, a faculty pharmacist, nurses, and social workers will be housed at the Center, as will the administrative staff. Appointments can be made by calling 402-559-9600.
NEW FACULTY

Mojtaba Akhtari, MD, assistant professor, Division of Oncology/Hematology, received his MD from the University of Tehran School of Medicine. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a fellowship in Oncology/Hematology at Emory University School of Medicine.

His clinic hours will be Thursdays from 8:30-5:00. Dr. Akhtari’s clinical and research interests are in myelodysplastic syndrome, myeloproliferative disorders, allogeneic stem cell transplantation and graft-vs-host disease. He started July 1, 2010.

Joel Armitage, MD, assistant professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, received his MD and completed his Internal Medicine Residency at UNMC.

His areas of interest are in disease prevention and health promotion. He will see patients at Village Pointe Monday through Friday. He started July 1, 2010.

Ramin Artang, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Cardiology, received his MD and PhD from the University of Copenhagen. He completed Internal Medicine Residency at Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wis. and a Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, a Non invasive/Invasive/Non interventional Fellowship, an Echocardiography (level III) Fellowship, a Cardiac CT angiography (level III) Fellowship, a Nuclear Cardiology (level II) Fellowship and an Invasive cardiology (level II) Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Artang comes to UNMC from Mercy Heart Center in Sioux City, Iowa. His clinics will be Tuesday in the Durham Outpatient Heart Center and Thursday at Bellevue Medical Center. He started July 1, 2010.

Carrie Hoarty, MD, instructor, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology received her MD at UNMC and then completed a Primary Care Internship here, as well. Following that, she completed the Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency and a Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at UNMC. She started July 1, 2010.

Michelle Johnson, MD, assistant professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, received her MD from the University of Minnesota Medical School, and received an MHA from the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health. She completed her residency and an Internal Medicine Internship at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Dr. Johnson comes to UNMC with eight years of experience as a physician with the Department of Medicine, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. She will see patients at Village Pointe Monday through Thursday. She started September 1, 2010.
NEW FACULTY

**Alissa Marr, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Oncology/Hematology, received her MD, completed her Internal Medicine Residency and an Oncology/Hematology Fellowship at UNMC. Dr. Marr will see patients and plans to develop a research program in lung cancer and melanoma. Currently, her clinic are all day Thursday in the Cowdry Patient Care Center of the Lied Transplant building. Dr. Marr started August 16, 2010.

**Samer Sayyed, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Cardiology, received his MD from the American University of Beirut. He completed a residency at the University of Indiana, and completed a fellowship in Cardiovascular Diseases from Tulane University and a fellowship in Cardiovascular Computed Tomography & Magnetic Resonance Imaging at Cleveland Clinic.

His clinics will be on Wednesday in the Durham Outpatient Center and Friday at Bellevue Medical Center. Dr. Sayyed started July 8, 2010.

**Nicole Shonka, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Oncology/Hematology, received her MD and completed an Internal Medicine Residency at UNMC. She also completed a Neuro-Oncology Fellowship at the University of Texas at Houston, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Shonka will see patients in the Cowdry Patient Care Center on Wednesdays from 8:30-4:30 and on Fridays 8:30-noon; and Friday afternoon at Village Pointe Cancer Center from 1-4:30. She also plans to develop research programs in neuro-oncology. She started July 1, 2010.

**Lauren Sweetser, MD**, assistant professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, received her MD and completed her Internal Medicine Residency at UNMC. Her areas of interest are in hospital medicine and medical education.

Dr. Sweetser will have clinic at the Omaha Veterans’ Administration Hospital on Monday morning. She will also have clinic in the Durham Outpatient Center on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. She started on August 1, 2010.

**Andrew Vasey, MD**, assistant professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, received his MD and completed his Internal Medicine Residency at UNMC. Dr. Vasey’s areas of interest are in resident education, diabetes care and education, post hospitalization care and research in reducing post hospitalization readmissions.

He will have clinic at Turner Park on Monday afternoons, at the Durham Outpatient Center, Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Thursday morning, and in the Acute Care Clinic on Wednesday afternoons. Dr. Vasey started July 1, 2010.

**Eric Williams, MD**, assistant professor, Division of Cardiology, received his MD from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Dr Williams completed an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Wisconsin and his Cardiology Fellowship at UNMC. During his fellowship at UNMC, Dr Williams also completed a Fellowship in cardiac magnetic resonance and cardiac computed tomography. He joins Dr Thomas Porter, Dr Samer Sayyed and Dr Matthew DeVries as the Regions Cardiac Imaging Specialist. Dr Williams is not currently seeing patients in a clinic but is dedicated to Cardiac Imaging and Cardiac Hospital Services.
Honors, Awards and Recognition

**Dr. Benita McVicker**, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, has been invited to become a member of the Veteran’s Health Administration Field Advisory Committee of the Office of Research Oversight.

This office reports directly to the Under Secretary for Health that reviews and investigates regulatory compliance related to the protection of human subjects, the welfare of laboratory animals, and research safety, security, information protection and misconduct. It is also responsible for the education of Research Compliance Officers at VA research facilities.

Dr. McVicker will serve a three-year term.

**Dr. J. Scott Neumeister**, Division of General Internal Medicine, will be honored at a special Alumni Reunion Celebration and Awards Dinner in October. He will be the recipient of the 2010 UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association’s Early Career Achievement Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made distinguished achievements and contributions to the medical profession early in his career.

**Dr. Chad Vokoun**, Division of General Internal Medicine, was elected as a member of the UNMC Faculty Senate for 2010-2011. The senate serves as the governing body to represent the UNMC Faculty. It includes 42 members with representation from every major academic unit at UNMC.

People to Know

**Jessica Mercer**, PhD
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
DRC I 4010 (zip 5870)
402.559.4132 (office)
402.559.6650 (fax)
jessica.mercer@unmc.edu

Dr. Jessica Mercer in the UNMC Research Editorial Office provides editorial assistance for UNMC faculty members with grant proposal development and editing. Support services include copy editing for grammar, style, consistency, and word choice, formatting to agency guidelines, and commentary on the content and flow of the proposal. The turnaround time for editing is usually five business days.

To receive assistance complete and send the request form at http://www.unmc.edu/research_editorial.htm with your document to jessica.mercer@unmc.edu.
**Chad Reade, MD**, is the UNMC Chief Resident for 2010-2011. He attended the University of Nebraska—Lincoln where he received his bachelor's degree in biology. He received his MD with High distinction from UNMC. He received the House Officer of the Year award and the Internal Medicine Senior Resident Award for 2010, and the Resident Educator Award in 2009. He was on the Internal Medicine in-service training exam Honor Roll for 2007-2009.

Dr. Reade was a board member for the UNMC Patient-Centered Medical Home Project in 2008-2009 and has been on the Turner Park Resident Clinic Board of Directors since 2007. He was a UNMC student representative to the Nebraska ACP Governor’s Advisory Council, 2006-2007.

On the personal side, Dr. Reade enjoys singing, piano and jogging.

**Eric Rome, DO**, is the Omaha VA Medical Center Chief Resident for 2010-2011. He attended the University of Scranton and received a degree in Exercise Physiology. Subsequent to this he worked in Cardiac Rehabilitation before applying to medical school where he completed his degree in Osteopathic Medicine with honors from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Rome will be pursuing a fellowship in Cardiology at UNMC starting July 2011 where his interests are in Cardiac Imaging and Electrophysiology.

Dr. Rome’s hobbies include exercise, cooking, movies and reading. He is married to his wife, Jennifer, a future language arts teacher and is the proud father of daughter Violet.

**Rebecca Runge, MD**, the Ambulatory Care Chief Resident for 2010-2011, went to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and then received her MD from the University of Iowa Medical School. In June, she completed the combined Medicine/Pediatric Residency at UNMC.

When she is done with her year as chief resident, she plans to practice general med-peds in Omaha.

Dr. Runge is married to Henry Runge who works as a senior licensing associate and business developer at UNeMed. They had their first child, Lucas, last February, and have a greyhound named Emile—named after the street.
A new VA IRB internet web site is up and running.

http://www.nebraska.va.gov/services/Research/research.asp

To access VA IRB forms, click on IRB, then IRB Forms, etc. The site contains up-to-date forms and a searchable IRB Standard Operating Procedures manual, along with guidance documents. Previously, these forms were only available from the VA intranet.
Summer Undergraduate Research Program 2010

Below: Dr. Carol Casey, Gates Cook, and Lynn Jeffries

Above: Courtney Schroeder, Casey Trambly, Dr. Terrence Donohue, and Dr. Paul Thomes

Below: Caitlin Wells and Dr. Tricia LeVan

Right: Jessica Boten in Dr. Todd Wyatt’s lab

Left: Dr. Eugenia Raichlin and David Bayne

DID YOU KNOW...-

- Internal Medicine has supported 273 Summer Undergraduate Research Program positions since 1999.
- 27 SURP students were sponsored by the Internal Medicine in 2010.
- At least 48 former Internal Medicine SURP students have gone on to medical school at UNMC.
- At least 13 former Internal Medicine SURP students have gone on to graduate school at UNMC.
Summer Undergraduate Research Program 2010

Above: Hannah Miller, Dr. Phil Smith’s student. Below: Karl Lyden, Catherine Tran and Dr. Jennifer Larsen

Left: Jill Wagoner in the lab of Dr. Natalia Osna.

Left: Erika Kettelhut, Dr. Lyons’ SURP student, with her parents.
Right: Dr. Mark Rupp, Hayley Fabe, Kyle Cassling and Dr. Trevor VanSchooneveld
Internal Medicine Grant Activity—First Half 2010

New Grant Awards

A Comparison of Prasugrel and Clopidogrel in Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) Subjects with Unstable Angin/Non-ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (UA/NSTEMI) Who are Medically Managed-The Trilogy ACS Study, protocol H7T-MC-TABY, Lilly USA, LLC, Shurman, Scott W, Int Med Cardiology, 07/29/10-06/28/11, $97,770, $24,900, $122,670

A Multi-center, Randomized, Controlled Study of Mechanical Left Ventricular Unloading with Counterpulsation to Reduce Infarct Size Pre-PCI for Acute Myocardial Infarction (CRISP), Dataspoke Corp., Weeks, Keith Richard, Int Med Cardiology, 07/27/10-07/26/11, $40,095, $9,905, $50,000

MRCE Administrative Component, Washington University, Smith, Philip Welsch, Int Med Infectious Diseases, 03/01/10-02/28/11, $5,050, $2,449, $7,499


A Randomized Phase III, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Multicenter Trial of Everolimus in Combination with Trastuzumab and Paclitaxel, as First Line Therapy in Women with HER2 Positive Locally Advanced or Metastatic Breast Cancer, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Reed, Elizabeth Cecile, Int Med Oncology/Hematology, 08/04/10-06/04/13, $54,197, $13,571, $67,768

Phase II Study Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of TXA127 in the Acceleration of Platelet Engraftment Following Autologous Peripheral Blood Stem Cell (PBSC) Transplant in Patients with Hodgkin Lymphoma or Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma undergoing Limited Re-infus, US Biotest Inc., Vose, Julie M, Int Med Oncology/Hematology, 08/04/10-08/03/12, $59,169, $14,864, $74,033

A Phase 1 Dose-Escalation Study of the Safety and Pharmacokinetics of XL765 Administered Orally Daily to Subjects with Solid Tumors or Lymphoma, Exelisix, Inc., Vose, Julie M, Int Med Oncology/Hematology, 08/06/10-08/05/13, $110,266, $28,149, $138,415

A Long-term Safety Study of the Pan-Histone Deacetylase (HDAC) Inhibitor PC1-24781 in Subjects with Cancer, Pharmacyclics, Inc., Vose, Julie M, Int Med Oncology/Hematology, 08/19/10-07/31/12, $20,325, $4,765, $25,090

Rheumatoid Arthritis: Comparison of Active Therapies in patients with active disease despite methotrexate therapy, V.A. Medical Center - Omaha, O'Dell, James Robert, Int Med Rheumatology, 01/01/10-12/31/11, $348,978, $51,763, $400,741

NIH Investigator Initiated

Sonolysis in Acute Coronary Syndromes, DHHS/NIH/NIBIB, Xie, Feng, Int Med Cardiology, 09/01/10-08/31/11, $393,490, $166,592, $560,082

Regulation of Alcohol-induced Fatty Liver Disease by Lipid Droplet Trafficking, DHHS/NIH/NIAAA, Casey, Carol A, Int Med GI, 09/01/10-08/31/11, $447,557, $50,656, $498,213

Adenosine Regulation of Airway Wound Repair, DHHS/NIH/NHLBI, Allen-Gipson, Diane S, Int Med Pulmonary, 09/01/10-08/31/11, $126,000, $10,080, $136,080
Ethanol-Mediated Cilia Motility Dysfunction, DHHS/NIH/NIAAA, Sisson, Joseph Harold, Int Med Pulmonary, 08/01/10-07/31/11, $298,990 , $140,526 , $439,516

Other Extramural

AIDS Clinical Trials Unit, University of Colorado Denver, Swindells, Susan, Int Med Infectious Diseases, 12/01/09-11/30/10, $2,021 , $980 , $3,001

Title III:Categorical Grant Program to Provide Outpatient Early Intervention Services with Respect to HIV Disease, DHHS/HRSA, Swindells, Susan, Int Med Infectious Diseases, 01/01/10-12/31/10, $199,651 , $0 , $199,651

Nebraska Regional Hemophilia Center-MCHB, Children's Mercy Hospital & Clinics - Kansas City, MO, Rajan, Sandeep Kumar, Int Med Oncology/Hematology, 06/01/10-05/31/11, $29,167 , $2,333 , $31,500

Targeting Airway Inflammation from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Dust, DHHS/CDC/NIOSH, Rombberger, Debra J, Int Med Pulmonary, 08/01/10-07/31/11, $319,030 , $145,220 , $464,250
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20621341 Thorp WA, Goldner W, Meza J, Poole JA. Reduced vitamin D levels in adult subjects with chronic urticaria. The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology 2010 Other

20615681 Yentes JM, Sayles H, Meza J, Mannino DM, Rennard SI, Stergiou N. Walking abnormalities are associated with COPD: An investigation of the NHANES III dataset. Respiratory medicine 2010


The University of Nebraska Medical Center, Nebraska’s academic health science center, is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in research, education, and patient care. Success in patient care grows from UNMC’s pioneering efforts in basic science and clinical research. UNMC is the only public health science center in the state. Its educational programs are responsible for training more health professionals practicing in Nebraska than any other institution.

Through its commitment to education, research, patient care and outreach, UNMC has established itself as one of the country’s leading centers for research in cancer, transplantation biology, robotic surgery, neurosciences, nanomedicine, biosecurity and arthritis. Research funding at UNMC increased 15 percent to more than $115 million during the past fiscal year.

Research is an integral part of UNMC’s academic medical center. Research demands an inquisitive mind, the ability to apply scientific principles and a certain intellectual rigor that is mandatory for education. For more information about research in the Department of Internal Medicine, contact Selaba Travis, Research Support Office at: (402) 559-4875; email: stravis@unmc.edu