

*Happy Turkey Day!!*

Nov 2009

## Health-Care Reform

### Inside this issue:

It is an exciting time to be involved in health care. We are going to witness the passage of legislation that will reform/change how we practice medicine in this country, likely for the rest of our careers. More importantly we have the opportunity to help shape the change and should at least follow along and help educate those around us on the process and issues.

The process for change has already taken significant steps with the passage of HR 3961 last week. This bill was strongly contested in the house and was nearly derailed with an amendment about abortion funding.

The AMA took the controversial position of

*supporting*, though not *endorsing* the bill based upon existing AMA policy before the AMA House of Delegates could vote on the measure so that the opinion would be known by the House of Representatives before their vote. This was passionately debated at the AMA meeting last week. A very vocal minority was upset with the AMA, but in the end policy was created that allowed the AMA to continue on its current course in supporting and negotiating for physicians in the legislative process.

Senator Reid is awaiting the CBO financial estimates before working to start debate on the senate bill, which could begin before Thanksgiving. It is believed that the democrats will vote to stop a filibuster, which will at least allow for

debate of the bill in the senate. There are many issues causing controversy within these bills, including, but not limited to abortion funding, public option, mandated coverage, penalties, medicare cuts, portability, malpractice reform, and overall cost.

This is a very complicated issue and most people seem to have very strong opinions despite a resounding lack of information. Luckily there are many great resources. The NEJM has a few educational articles in every issue. The AMA has a reform webpage as does Kaiser Health. There are editorials in most major newspapers as well.

Stay informed and help shape your profession.

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## Recruiting Season-Part 2

### Special points of interest:

Recruiting season is in full swing and going quite well by all reports. It is important that we continue to keep our energy up and interact with the applicants.

When interacting with the applicants try to remember what it was that helped you decide what program to attend. The applicants have not done residency yet, obviously, so are not quite sure what is and is not important in making their decision. You can really help them with this. You do

know what does and does not matter. You do know what affects resident education and what does not. Be a resource for them.

Pre-matching, increasing U.S. and non U.S. medical school numbers and class sizes are all causing increased competition for residency spots. This makes it even more important that we get to know them and they us.

Please continue attending the lunches and dinners. You are truly the strength of our program.

- ♦ *Be sure to get your flu shot. Remember this protects both you and your patients!*
- ♦ *PGY 3's board registration is coming up. Don't put it off.*
- ♦ *Don't forget step 3 must be completed by the end of your second year.*

# Moustachery.....Victory at the KCVA

In 1800 BC, the Pharaoh Teqikencola outlawed moustaches among the elite of Egyptian society, which clearly led to the decline of his empire. Greeks and Romans were also anti-moustache and are also noted failed empires. In Asia moustaches have been associated



with wisdom as Confucius said, "A man without a moustaches is a man without a soul." The list of notable moustached figures in history impressively includes, Churchill, Darwin, Jeremy, Twain, Selleck, Roosevelt, my Aunt Bettie, Nietzsche, and Norris (Chuck).

Clearly moustaches are a pillar of stability in our society and though often maligned are worthy of being celebrated. To that end there was a moustache contest in October between the KCVA and KUMC residents. As can be seen by the photos the VA clearly won the contest, though KU showed some incredible ingenuity. Dr. Luchi gave specific

awards, which are listed on our Facebook page. Check it out!

Many of the women in our program complained that they weren't included (nice effort though Mi-



cholee) and we are currently determining what hair growth contest may or

may not be appropriate.....

# Narcissitic/Histrionic Musings of a Chief

- We need play-offs in Division 1 college football. Seriously, every other sport has play-offs. The BCS is evil and must be destroyed.
- You really owe it to yourself to see the following movies ASAP: The Princess Bride, LA Story, The Tao of Steve, and Empire Records. Each one of them will bring you happy tears.
- My shirts and pants are shrinking at an incredible rate around my abdomen. Anyone else with this strange problem?
- Anything less than 50lbs is a cat. Get a real dog!
- The fastest shark is the Mako shark.
- Look at Dom's profile. Does anyone else think he was a hottie in college? What happened Dom?
- Is it cool for a guy to have a tramp stamp? Let Dyer know, he has a decision to make.....
- Kicking should be removed completely from the game of football. We'll call it something else.
- Sean Connery is really not a particularly good actor. He just plays himself and we like him.

By JTM (the above views are mine alone and not program-endorsed)



# Reminders and Recognition



- Carry your team pager and code pagers as scheduled!
- Night float hours run from 7:00 pm to 8:00 am Monday-Friday.
- It is getting dark early and we want you to be safe—use the hospital security escorts if you leave after dark. Just go to the ER patient lobby and tell them you would like an escort to your car!
- Thanksgiving day: Like a week-end. 1 senior and 2 interns must stay until NF arrives. Everyone else checks out to them. Friday s/p Thanks giving: short call from each team stays until check-out.
- Congrats to Dr. Nauser for being KCVA employee of the month. Certainly a shining highlight in his C.V.
- Holy geez! Your fellowship application isn't in? Do you want to work at Taco Bell? Get it in!!!!
- Back-up: Usman Nazir
- Give us your ideas for the Holiday video!
- Great job dealing with the Skerit-induced full hospital.
- Get your vit D during this low sunlight time!
- Get your fellowship applications done. See Abbie/Joe for help.

# Resident Spotlights

## Abbie Begnaud...You can take the girl out of the bayou...

**Full Name:** Abbie Lynn Begnaud

**Nickname:** Bobby Boucher

**Birthplace:** Lafayette, LA (heart of Cajun country)

**Hometown:** See above

**College:** The U (was turned down by South Central Louisiana State University. Go Mud Dogs!)

**Medical School:** LSU

**Boyfriend's Name:** **BIG** Matt Jones

**Favorite Restaurants:** OK Joes, anywhere w/ cake

**Pets:** I don't like dogs (my roommate's are in jeopardy)

**Interesting Fact:** Black belt in Tae Kwon Do, Speaks French, shows Joe what it means to love the color pink (who had the pink laptop first!?!)

**Special Skills:** almost good at Bocce Ball—dismal at all other athletic endeavors

**Hobbies:** Adult malt beverages, college football, making vacation/schedule switches

**Career plans:** Pulmonary/ Critical Care fellowship at U of Florida. Professional entertainer.



## Jennifer Fink.....Making momma Bobbie proud.....

**Full Name:** Jennifer Fink

**Birthplace:** Manhattan, KS

**Hometown:** The Little Apple

**College:** KU

**Medical School:** KUMC

**Spouse's Name:** Brian, Pharmacist, hunter

**Pets:** 2 dachshunds, Molly and Nora

**Hobbies:** knitting (w/ Bobbie), reading, home remodeling

**Career plans:** Generalist (in or out pt)

**Favorite food/restaurant:** Mexican or Great Steak. Kona Grill

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** Europe (Ireland and Spain)

**Other Interesting Facts:** Plays piano, ran a marathon and a half in med school. Did CPR in Home Depot (successfully).



## Cole Spessor.....bringing narcolepsy back.....

**Full Name:** Cole Spesser

**Birthplace:** Oberlin, KS

**Hometown:** Atwood, KS

**College:** University of Nebraska at Kearney

**Medical School:** KUMC

**Fiance's name:** Danae, Purchasing agent

**Pets:** 2 Dogs (dachshund, and beagle)

**Hobbies:** sports watching, used to be playing, Skiing, snow-boarding, golf

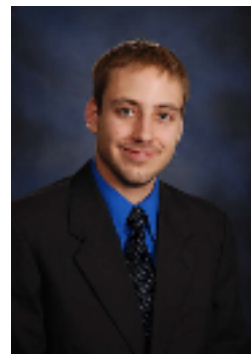
**Career Plans:** Hospitalist

**Favorite Food:** Crab legs

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** Carribean

**Interesting Facts:** Is published. Double jointed.

**Favorite Restaurant:** Skies



## Happy Fall!

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***Please come to the Holiday Party on Dec. 5th and monthly happy hours. Work hard and play hard!!!***

## Quotes and Jokes

Q: What are the feathers on a turkey's wings called?

A: Turkey Feathers

Did you hear about the Dr. who wrote out a Rx in the usual Dr fashion? The pt used it for two years as a railroad pass. Twice it got him into Radio City Music Hall, and once into Yankee stadium. It came in handy as a letter from his employer to the cashier to increase his salary. And to top it off, his daughter played it on the piano and won a scholarship to the Curtis Music Conservatory.

Two kids were trying to figure out what game to play. One suggested, "Lets play dr." "Good idea, " said the other, "You operate and I'll sue."

Q: Why do Dr.'s slap babies when they are born?

A: To knock the penises off of the smart ones.

## Important Information!!!!

- Look ahead at the holiday call and back up call schedules. Be sure you know when you're working before you make plans.
- Keep an eye on the morning report schedule. We want to continue to have high quality presentations throughout recruiting season. Everyone's done a great job so far this year!
- Research opportunities were just listed. Come talk to your chiefs to get involved!
- Sign up for Step III and Boards asap!
- Let the chiefs know if you have patients who could be good cases for PSC or CPC.
- Please let us know if you have any feedback on the candidates you meet during interview season.
- Take some time to look around at all that you have during the holiday season.
- Make sure you are up to date w/ACLS. It is easy to re-new at the KCVA. Just go see Joe.
- Enter your hours weekly. Miss Fink knows where you live!
- Start studying for boards now!
- Don't forget to make some time for fun/leisure. This is three years of your life that you don't get back.