The UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care receives national recognition for providing quality cardiovascular and stroke care

This voluntary program is designed to recognize clinicians who have met standards demonstrating delivery of high-quality care to patients with cardiovascular disease and/or stroke. UNC Heart & Vascular was also recognized by the NCQA Heart/Stroke Program from 2011-2014.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) have announced that the UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care has received Recognition from the Heart/Stroke Recognition Program.

This voluntary program is designed to recognize clinicians who have met standards demonstrating delivery of high-quality care to patients with cardiovascular disease and/or stroke. UNC Heart & Vascular was also recognized by the NCQA Heart/Stroke Program from 2011-2014.

To receive recognition, which is valid for three years, the UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care submitted data that demonstrates performance that meets the Program’s key cardiovascular and stroke measures. These measures include blood pressure and cholesterol control, among others. When people with cardiovascular disease or who have had a stroke receive quality care as outlined by these measures, they are less likely to suffer additional complications, such as a second heart attack or stroke.

“Quality patient care translates into lives saved,” said Sidney Smith, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Past President and Past Chief Science Officer of the American Heart Association. “This is why the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is supporting a recognition program for clinicians providing quality care. This program closes the gap by putting into practice AHA/ASA guidelines and statements to fight heart disease and stroke.”

More than 60 million Americans have one or more types of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, responsible for approximately 950,000 deaths each year. Approximately 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year; stroke is the third-leading cause of death and a leading cause of severe, long-term disability. Despite evidence that reducing cholesterol levels and controlling high blood pressure prevent further health complications, many cardiac and stroke patients are not treated effectively for these symptoms.

“Controlling blood pressure and quitting smoking are common-sense treatments for cardiovascular disease. But the number of clinicians who don’t urge their patients who smoke to quit would surprise you,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane. “The Heart/Stroke Recognition Program identifies clinicians who follow these evidence-based guidelines. The UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care is to be commended for their achievement in earning Recognition.”

NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information for consumers, purchasers, health care providers, and researchers.
FREE FACULTY PHOTO SESSION COMING SOON!

A free drop-in photography session for UNC School of Medicine faculty members only will be held Thursday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the N.C. Women’s Hospital Conference Room 4. Unfortunately, they cannot accommodate residents, fellows, staff members, program directors or others at this session.

These portrait photos can be used for websites, directories, news releases, publications and any other purpose that requires a portrait shot. Photographs will also be returned to the faculty member. There is no charge to be photographed and no appointment is necessary.

**If you are a new UNC Heart & Vascular faculty member, please plan on attending this photo session. If you CAN NOT REMEMBER when you last had your faculty photo taken, it is time for an updated photo! Please plan on attending if your faculty photo is out-of-date.**

Directions: Enter the N.C. Women’s Hospital and go down the hallway past the information desk. Turn right at the intersecting hallway and the conference room is the 2nd door on the right. We will also have a sign outside of the conference room.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer DeWitt (Jennifer.DeWitt@unchealth.unc.edu) or Pam Pearce (Pamela.Pearce@unchealth.unc.edu) if you have any questions.
13th Annual North Carolina Cardiovascular Update: October 3-4, 2014
The two-day conference will be held at the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Endovascular Therapies 2014: October 24-26, 2014
The three-day conference will be held at the Carolina Inn at Pinehurst in Pinehurst, NC

The one-day event will take place at the PNC Arena in Raleigh, NC

Check out the Media Coverage and Presentations throughout UNC Heart & Vascular!

New Blood Pressure Guidelines - featuring Dr. Sidney Smith
Well Magazine

LifeVest saves Mebane man's life during cardiac arrest - featuring Rosey Gilliam, MD
Fox 8 Greensboro - **VIDEO**
Burlington Times-News
The Daily Tar Heel
Heart Care Guide
Twitter: Fox 8, DTH, and UNC Health Care - 1 retweet, 2 favorites reaching 18,151 users

"Game Changer" - UNC Heart & Vascular Network featuring Rosey Gilliam, MD, Andy Kiser, MD Paul Mounsey, MD
Well Magazine

Lower isn't necessarily better for people with high blood pressure - featuring study co-author Patricia Chang, MD
Science Daily

Real-time ECG from your fingertips - featuring Kevin Campbell, MD
Fox News
Twitter - 2 retweets, 3 favorites reaching 18,144 users

"Pericardioscopic Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients Previously Undergoing Cardiac Surgery"
Andy C. Kiser, MD Anil Gehi, MD, and Paul Mounsey, MD, ISMICS, May 28-31, 2014, Boston, MA

"Collaborative Lead Management Increases Volume and Case Complexity"
Rebekah Macfie, MSIV, Anil Gehi, MD, Eugene Chung, MD, Paul Mounsey, MD, and Andy C. Kiser, MD ISMICS, May 28-31, 2014, Boston, MA

"Cardiac Transplant Vasculopathy - Interpreting Troponin Leak and Expanded Role for IVUS" Thomas J., O'Neill, MD, PhD, Cardiovascular Disease Fellow, UNC Cardiovascular Grand Rounds, June 9, 2014, Chapel Hill, NC

"Lessons learned from experimental bleeding models" Timothy Nichols, MD, 19th Congress of the European Hematology Association, June 13, 2014, Milan, Italy

"Care of the Cardiac Arrest Patient and the Use of Therapeutic Hypothermia" and "Pacemakers and ICDs in the Perioperative Setting: Essentials for Anesthesiologists"
Jason N. Katz, MD, MHS, 27th Annual Carolina Refresher Course 2014: Update in Anesthesiology, Pain, and Critical Care Medicine, June 25-29, 2014, Kiawah Island, South Carolina

Presentations
“STudy of Reduced AntiCoagula-tion/Anti-platelet Therapy in Patients with the HeartMatE II LVAS (TRACE)"
Meet the 2014-2015 Fellows and Integrated Residents in the UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care

6-Year Integrated Thoracic Surgery Residents

Staci Beamer (PGY 6)  M.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Thurston Bauer (PGY 5)  M.D., University of Arkansas
Kristen Sell (PGY 4)  M.D., University of Michigan
Timothy Brand (PGY 3)  M.D., Medical University of South Carolina
Thanivyah Sakeenah Ahmad (PGY 2)  M.D., Wake Forest School of Medicine
Ashish Pulikal (PGY 1)  M.D., Indiana University

Vascular Surgery Fellow

Vikalp Jain, MD (PGY 6)  Residency: Stony Brook University, New York

Vascular Surgery Integrated Resident

Jason Crowner, MD (PGY 5)  Medical School: Southern Illinois University, Springfield

Vascular Interventional Radiology Fellows

Sarah Thomas, MD  Residency: University of North Carolina
Medical School: University of North Carolina
Niraj Bhalakia, MD  Residency: Thomas Jefferson University
Medical School: George Washington University

Cardiovascular Disease Fellows

Interventional Cardiology

Pradeep Yadav, MD  Fellowship: Penn State University/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Residency: Penn State University/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Medical School: Government Medical College, Surat, India

Atif Yousuf, MD  Fellowship: University of Cincinnati/College of Medicine Program
Residency: University of Cincinnati/College of Medicine Program
Graduate School: University of Cincinnati/College of Business
Medical School: Aga Khan Medical College, Pakistan

Heart Failure

Geoffrey Jao, MD  Fellowship: Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Residency: Rochester General Hospital
Medical School: University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines
Meet the 2014-2015 Fellows and Integrated Residents in the UNC Center for Heart & Vascular Care (continued)

Cardiovascular Disease - PGY 6

Matthew Baker, MD
Residency: Brown University
Medical School: University of Pittsburgh

Weeranun Bode, MD
Residency: University of North Carolina
Medical School: Srinakharinwirot University - Bangkok, Thailand

Andrew DeWolfe, MD
Residency: University of Miami
Medical School: University of Miami

Paul Johnson, MD
Residency: University of North Carolina
Medical School: Medical College of Georgia

Jack Kuritzky, MD
Residency: University of North Carolina
Medical School: University of Rochester

Anton Lishmanov, MD
Residency: University of Missouri
Medical School: Siberian State Medical University

John Rommel, MD
Residency: University of North Carolina
Medical School: Brown University
**Chief Fellow 2014-2015**

Cardiovascular Disease - PGY 5

Christopher End, MD
Residency: University of Maryland Medical School: UNC School of Medicine

Lucius Howell, MD
Residency: Tulane University School of Medicine
Medical School: Tulane University School of Medicine

Sunil Iyer, MD
Residency: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Medical School: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Yan Liu, MD
Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Austin Residency Programs
Medical School: Harbin Medical University

Dwijesh Patel, MD
Residency: UNC School of Medicine
Medical School: UNC School of Medicine

Cardiovascular Disease - PGY 4

Akinniran Abisogun, MD
Residency: Brown University
Medical School: Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Sarah Ciccotto, MD
Residency: University of Maryland Medical School: University of Maryland

Kamal Henderson, MD
Residency: Washington University School of Medicine
Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine

Eveleen Randall, MD
Residency: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center – Harvard Medical School
Medical School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

T-32 Cardiovascular Disease - PGY 4

Szymon Wiernek, MD
Residency: Norwalk Hospital – Yale University Program
Graduate School: Medical University of Silesia, School of Medicine, Katowice, Poland
Medical School: Medical University of Silesia, School of Medicine, Katowice, Poland
Meet Angela Combs, Fellowship Coordinator for Vascular Interventional Radiology

Angela Combs is the Fellowship Coordinator for Vascular Interventional Radiology (VIR). She is also the Fellowship Coordinator for Neuroradiology and Nuclear Radiology, as well as the Program Coordinator for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency.

Angela joined the Department of Radiology in September 2012. Prior to this time, she worked for Nationwide Insurance, culminating a ten-year tenure with the company in Columbus, Ohio as a Financial Business Specialist.

The Vascular Interventional Radiology fellowship program offers a total of 3 one-year fellowship positions. VIR fellows spend the majority of their time on the clinical service, performing procedures, performing inpatient consultations, and seeing patients in our outpatient clinic. The fellows also spend time interpreting CTAs and MRAs. The clinical service provides experience in all facets of interventional radiology, including, but not limited to, interventional oncology, vascular disease, and non-vascular interventions. Research time is provided, and each fellow is required to participate in one research project during the year.

Angela’s main responsibilities for the VIR fellowship include managing the various aspects of accreditation, fellow recruitment, program compliance, and credential verification. She directly interacts with many of our VIR physicians and committees, as well as administrative peers.

Angela says, “As taxing as it may seem, I think recruitment season is the absolute best part of this job so far. I enjoy meeting people from all over the country and experiencing their best-foot-forward moments.”

Until now, VIR did not use the Electronic Residency Application Service, or ERAS® for their fellowship application process. Physicians applying for the VIR Fellowship sent their current curriculum vitae, personal statement, three letters of recommendation (including one letter from residency director and one from the chair’s office) as well as a UNC GME application directly to Angela. However, the VIR division was notified in March that they will be able to use ERAS for the 2015 recruitment season!

Angela says, “The application process was a bit daunting at first. We use ERAS for residency, so having to manually gather and verify this information gave me a new appreciation for the technology that goes into compiling and authenticating the information necessary to ensure a complete fellowship application.”

The VIR division had 65 applicants this past season. In an effort to move to an efficient and paperless system, Angela created a Sharepoint site for much of the application and interview process. “I think this made the process a lot smoother than it would have otherwise been,” she says.

The VIR recruitment committee interviewed four candidates per day. Once the committee interviewed and reviewed the applicants, they were ranked using the same matching program as other VIR fellowships across the country, through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) – this year matching three candidates to UNC.

Angela says, “The most rewarding part of the application process was the cooperation and support that I experienced from the VIR director and faculty…”

“The most rewarding part of the application process was the cooperation and support that I experienced from the VIR director and faculty…”

-Angela Combs
Check out the Publications throughout UNC Heart & Vascular!

Publications

Charting a Roadmap for Heart Failure Biomarker Studies.

Biomarkers of myocardial stress and fibrosis as predictors of mode of death in patients with chronic heart failure.
Ahmad T, Fiuzat M, Neely B, Neely ML, Pencina MJ, Kraus WE, Zannad F, Whellan DJ, Donahue MP, Piña IL, Adams KF, Kitzman DW, O'Connor CM, Felker GM.

Systolic Blood Pressure Levels Among Adults With Hypertension and Incident Cardiovascular Events: The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study.

Hypertrabeculation vs Left Ventricular Noncompaction on Echocardiogram: A Reason to Restrict Athletic Participation?
Peritz DC, Vaughn A, Ciocca M, Chung EH.

Levels of Office Blood Pressure and Their Operating Characteristics for Detecting Masked Hypertension Based on Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring.
Viera AJ, Lin FC, Tuttle LA, Shimbo D, Diaz KM, Olsson E, Stankevitz K, Hinderliter AL.

Development and preliminary assessment of a critical care ultrasound course in an adult pulmonary and critical care fellowship program.
Hulett CS, Pathak V, Katz JN, Montgomery SP, Chang LH.

Putting class IIb recommendations to the test: the influence of unwitnessed and Non-VT/VF arrests on resource consumption and outcomes in therapeutic hypothermia and targeted temperature management.
Buntaine AJ, Dangerfield C, Pulikottil T, Katz LM, Cook AM, Reed BN, Katz JN.

Letter by stone et Al regarding article, "perspective on the 2013 american heart association/american college of cardiology guideline for the use of statins in primary prevention of low-risk individuals".

Nonantithrombotic medical options in acute coronary syndromes: old agents and new lines on the horizon.
Soukoulis V, Boden WE, Smith SC Jr, O'Gara PT.

Transitional Care Interventions to Prevent Readmissions for Persons With Heart Failure: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.
Feltner C, Jones CD, Cené CW, Zheng ZJ, Sueta CA, Coker-Schwimmer EJ, Arvanitis M, Lohr KN, Middleton JC, Jonas DE.

Race and gender affect early outcomes of lower extremity bypass.
Jain AK, Kalbaugh CA, Farber MA, Marston WA, Vallabhanneni R.

Treatment of Esophagopleural Fistulas Using Covered Retrievable Expandable Metallic Stents.