

In this Issue

[Health Sciences Library](#)

New Look for Library

[Appointments](#)

Chair of Medicine
Cardiology Chief
Pastoral Care Director
AAAAI President

[In the News](#)

Match Day
O'Brien on Health Reform
Frey on Doctor Shortage

[Research](#)

Calcium/Vitamin D
Prion Disease
Smoking Cessation
Children and Lead

[Briefly Noted](#)

Haddad
Fernandez
Rafferty
Cichowski
2007 Golden Apples

[In Other News](#)

Asthma Clinic
NIDA Center of Excellence
Peru Clinical Rotation

[Donor's Corner](#)

Troia Scholarship

Message From The Dean

Focus on Health Sciences Library/ Learning Resources Center

By [Cam E. Enarson, M.D., M.B.A.](#),
Dean, Creighton School of Medicine
Vice President for Health Sciences

The world is going digital, and the Creighton University Health Sciences Library and Learning Resources Center is no exception. This electronic revolution, coupled with rapid medical advancements, creates unique opportunities as well as challenges.

One critical issue is content management – choosing resources to best meet client needs, filtering information for accuracy and relevancy, and providing information in user-friendly formats.

Today, our Health Sciences Library provides its users with seemingly instant and effortless access to a level of medical knowledge that we could only have imagined a decade ago. New discoveries that we once waited months to read about in peer-reviewed publications are often available via electronic journals, long before the findings appear in print. Online databases allow clinicians to answer medical questions at the point of patient care.

This level of service comes with a cost. In fiscal year 2005-06, more than \$1 million was spent on library materials, including access privileges to electronic



journals (2,200 specific to the health sciences) and 800 print publications.

The library's continuing goal is to support and anticipate the information needs of Creighton health professionals – faculty, staff, students and practitioners – for their educational, research and clinical endeavors.

The library staff regularly seeks input from users on how they can improve their services. That input led to a totally redesigned [website](#) in February 2007 to make it more user friendly, subject oriented and curriculum integrated.

While our library becomes more and more “virtual” in its content, it is important to recognize the human element that makes it work. Indeed, today's health sciences librarian requires more training and continual updating of skills than ever before.

I want to extend my personal thanks to Director Jim Bothner and his staff for their commitment and dedication to what they do.

Health Sciences Library

Library Takes on New Look

By Jim Bothner

M.A.L.S., A.H.I.P

*Director for Health Sciences Library/
Learning Resources Center*

Walk into the Creighton University Health Sciences Library and Learning Resources Center, and something immediately becomes clear. This is not your parents' library – or even, perhaps, your older sibling's.

Dialogue is encouraged– not discouraged. And where are all the books? In what would have been counterintuitive a



generation ago, fewer books may actually contribute to the learning process.

While there are still plenty of books and print journals, our growing virtual presence has freed up valuable space, allowing us to make the library more conducive to collaboration and knowledge sharing in an attractive, user-friendly environment.

We've relaxed the rules about food and drink and, in January, added a coffee shop to our 35,000-square feet of space. The shop, which serves foods ranging from coffee to scones to soup and sandwiches, has proved to be a hit among faculty and students. Adding to the ambiance and collegial atmosphere are cluster rooms, pub-style tables, 42 public-access personal computers (including a computer laboratory), and newer carpeting and air conditioning/heating.

And, the library is open 104.5 hours a week – 7:30 a.m.-midnight, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m.-midnight on Sundays.

If you have not visited us recently, come see us. If you have ideas about how we can continue to improve our services, don't hesitate to let us know.

[Back to Contents](#)

Appointments

Mohiuddin Named Chair of Medicine

Syed M. Mohiuddin, M.D., D. Sc., has been named chair of the Department of Medicine at Creighton University School of Medicine.

Mohiuddin, who assumed the position on March 15, has served as chief of the School of Medicine's Division of Cardiology and director of The Cardiac Center of Creighton



University Medical Center since 1996. In 2005, he was named the first holder of the Richard W. Booth, M.D., Endowed Professorship in Cardiology.

“Dr. Mohiuddin’s long association with the Creighton School of Medicine as well as his exceptional record as a teacher, researcher, clinician and administrator make him an excellent choice to serve as chair of medicine,” said Cam E. Enarson, M.D., Creighton vice president for health sciences.

Mohiuddin joined Creighton’s School of Medicine as a full-time faculty member in 1970. Since then, he has held many positions at the university and received numerous awards for his work at Creighton and in health care promotion. The School of Medicine presented him with its Master Clinician Award in 1999 and Distinguished Professor Award in 2001. Most recently, Mohiuddin was named 2006 Medical Professional for the Cause by the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition.

Board-certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular diseases and specializing in noninvasive cardiology, Mohiuddin received his medical degree from Osmania University in India. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Creighton University Medical Center and cardiovascular fellowship training at The Cardiac Center. Mohiuddin went on to earn a doctor of science in medicine degree at Laval University in Quebec before returning to Creighton.

He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the American Heart Association Council on Clinical Cardiology. He is a member of the Council of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology; the Council on Clinical Cardiology; and the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention Interdisciplinary Working Group on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research.

Esterbrooks Named Chief of Cardiology

Dennis J. Esterbrooks, M.D., has been named chief of the Division of Cardiology at Creighton University School of Medicine and director of The



Cardiac Center at Creighton University Medical Center.

Esterbrooks, who assumed the position on March 15, has served as associate director of cardiology at Creighton since 1996.



"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Esterbrooks for the past 27 years as a faculty member and for 10 years as associate director of cardiology. I am certain he will continue to maintain the very high standards of clinical practice, education and research, which are the hallmarks of the Division of Cardiology and The Cardiac Center," said Syed M. Mohiuddin, M.D., D.Sc., chair of the Department of Medicine at Creighton University School of Medicine.

Esterbrooks joined the Creighton School of Medicine as a full-time faculty member in 1979. Since then, he has held many positions in the Division of Cardiology. He has directed Cardiac Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Quality Management, the Non-Invasive Imaging Laboratory, Outpatient Clinical Services, and Outreach Services. In 1998, The School of Medicine presented Esterbrooks with its Master Clinician Award.

Board-certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular diseases and specializing in noninvasive cardiology, Esterbrooks received his medical degree from Creighton University. He completed his residency in internal medicine and his cardiovascular fellowship at Creighton University Medical Center. Esterbrooks is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Perry Appointed Pastoral Director

The Rev. Mr. Russ Perry has been named director of pastoral care for Creighton University Medical Center (CUMC).

As director, he will deliver pastoral care services at the medical center, including pastoral support for patients, families and hospital staff, and oversee a Pastoral Care Team.





Perry was ordained as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church, Omaha Archdiocese, in 2003. Most recently, he had served as hospital chaplain at CUMC and Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs. He is a volunteer chaplain for the Omaha Police Department and chairman of the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

A retired career U.S. Air Force officer, Perry holds a bachelor of science degree in foreign service from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; a master's degree in communication from University of Northern Colorado, Greeley; and a master's degree in homeland security affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.

He is the first lay person to serve as CUMC director of pastoral care. He assumed his position in February.

The Rev. Luis Rodriguez, S.J., joined the CUMC Pastoral Care Team in 2000 and was named pastoral director in 2004. Fr. Rodriguez has been assigned to serve as an assistant to the provincial superior of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus.

Casale Elected President of AAAAI

Thomas B. Casale, M.D., chief of the Creighton University School of Medicine's Division of Allergy/Immunology has been elected president of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI).



In announcing Casale's selection, the academy noted that he has "been very active in the development of educational programs in allergy and immunology," organizing and directing more than 50 continuing medical education programs for local and national meetings. He has published more than 200 scientific papers, reviews and chapters in his field.

At Creighton, Casale's research is directed toward determination and treatment of pathophysiologic

mechanisms involved in asthma and allergic diseases. He leads a large basic and clinical research team examining the use of immunomodulators for the treatment of inflammatory disorders.

The AAAAI is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others with a special interest in research and treatment of allergic disease. The organization has more than 6,000 members worldwide.

[Back to Contents](#)

In the News

Match Day Journey Chronicled

Slowly, he opened a white envelope and unfolded a piece of plain white paper. A grin spread across his face.

“Internal medicine. And it’s official,” said Dusan Stanojevic. He then put on a blue T-shirt that read “Creighton Lifer.” Stanojevic was one of 116 fourth-year medical students at Creighton University to participate in March 15’s National Residency Match Program ceremony.



Stanojevic with Rachel Waggoner.

The scene was repeated at 124 other medical schools across the country, where future doctors learned whether they were matched to the specialties and residency programs of choice for their graduate medical educations.

Locally, Creighton’s Match Day and Stanojevic’s amazing story were covered by the *Omaha World-Herald*, KETV, and KPTM.

In the months leading up to Match Day, seniors investigated programs in which they were interested, completed face-to-face interviews, and then listed in order of preference the residency programs in which

they would most like to train. At the same time, residency program officials conducted their own extensive reviews of applicants and submitted their top selections to fill first-year residency openings. A computer ultimately made the final match-ups.

While there was a story behind each Creighton student's journey to Match Day, Stanojevic's was particularly compelling. Stanojevic, now 26, fled from his homeland of Serbia in 1999 to avoid being drafted into the military. With his parents' life savings hidden in pretzel bags, he came to America with dreams of becoming a doctor. He wound up at Creighton as an undergraduate in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Stanojevic notes that he had a lot of help along the way to Match Day. His parents' money only paid for one semester of undergraduate study. Creighton assisted with scholarships. Others stepped forward to assist, including Creighton employee Alice Smith and her husband, Martin. The Smiths invited Stanojevic to live with them, beginning the summer after his freshman year.

Stanojevic also met his future bride, Rachel Waggoner, at Creighton. In May, his parents will be in Omaha for the couple's wedding and Stanojevic's graduation from medical school.

His parents and others were also able to watch Stanojevic at Match Day, thanks to Creighton University Creative Services, which for the first time did a live webcast of the event. Ninety-eight connections were made to the webcast, and others called to say they could not get on due to the high traffic volume.

To view the webcast, go to <http://www2.creighton.edu/doit/webcasting>.

On Match Day, Creighton students matched in 15 specialty areas at institutions in 29 states. Internal medicine was the most popular specialty with 18 matches, followed by obstetrics/gynecology (17), diagnostic radiology (15), anesthesiology (14), pediatrics (14) and general surgery (10). Six will enter residencies in family practice.

In addition to the 116 students participating in the

National Residency Match Program, six were placed through other match programs.

O'Brien Writes on Health Reform

In a Feb. 9 guest editorial appearing in the Omaha World-Herald, Richard L. O'Brien, M. D., a professor at the Creighton Center for Health Policy and Ethics, wrote about the need for national health care reform.



“Costs are increasing at an unsustainable level. The Medicare Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2018, necessitating more funding or denial of care to the elderly. Middle-class families are being priced out of the health insurance market,” O'Brien warned.

The editorial came out in support of a study released in February by a health care commission appointed by U. S. Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. The report was unveiled during a press conference at Creighton University.

“This comprehensive proposal has the potential to assure all Americans access to high quality, affordable care provided by their choice of insurers, professionals and facilities. Poll after poll reveals that this is what Americans want and that they believe fundamental change is necessary to achieve it,” O'Brien wrote.

Frey Speaks on Doctor Shortage

In a February United Press International (UPI) national wire story, Donald Frey, M.D., chair of Creighton's Department of Family Medicine, commented on a growing shortage of family physicians.



He noted the lack of general practitioners is felt most acutely in rural areas.

“Even if there were no pay gap,

it would still be difficult to get some physicians to go to rural areas,” he told UPI. The income disparity “just makes the problem more difficult.”

[Back to Contents](#)

Research

Calcium/Vitamin D May Reduce Fractures

Calcium and vitamin D supplementation may significantly reduce stress fractures (overuse injuries to the bone) in young women with physically active lifestyles, a study involving U.S. Navy recruits suggests.



The research was reported in February at the 53rd annual Orthopaedic Research Society meeting at the San Diego Convention Center. Associated Press and the New York Times covered the story.

The randomized, double-blind study, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, looked at 5,201 female U.S. Navy recruits during eight weeks of basic training from 2002 to 2006 at Great Lakes Naval Station near Chicago, Ill. About 3,700 women completed the full study.

“What really surprised us is that calcium/vitamin D supplements made a significant difference in such a short period of time. Frankly, we were not sure we would see any statistically significant results in only eight weeks,” said principal investigator Joan Lappe, Ph.D., R.N., a professor of nursing and medicine at Creighton University.

The women, ages 17 to 35, were divided into two groups with one group receiving daily pill supplements of 2,000 Mg of calcium and 800 IU of vitamin D, and the other group receiving placebo pills. Calcium supports bone

formation and repair, while vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium.

During the study, 170 recruits in the placebo group experienced stress fractures, about 25 percent more than in the group taking the calcium/vitamin D supplements. A history of regular exercise decreased the risk of stress fractures, while cigarette smoking increased the risk.

Stress fractures are one of the most common and debilitating overuse injuries seen in U.S. military recruits in all branches of the Armed Forces. The rates of stress fracture for females are consistently higher than for males. Estimates are that as many as 21 percent of all female recruits suffer this injury, Lappe noted.

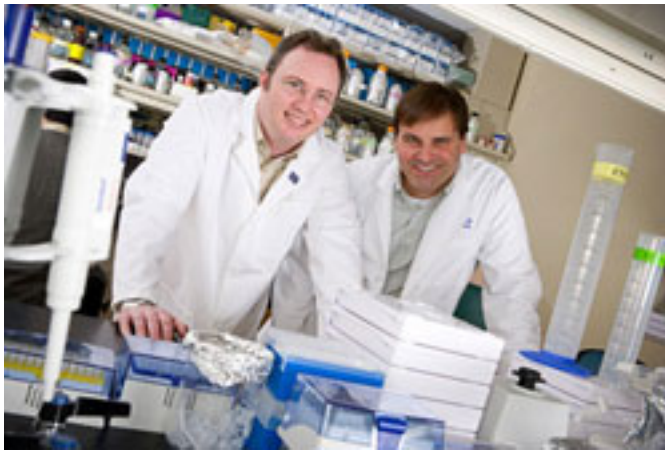
“Stress fractures often lead to chronic pain and disability,” she said. “In addition, the financial impact is enormous in terms of lost costs for recruits discharged from training. One U.S. Army training base estimates the cost at \$34,000 per (discharged) soldier, not including expenses related to health care.”

The study shows that taking calcium/vitamin D supplements can greatly reduce stress fractures in female military recruits, many of whom are suddenly and dramatically increasing their levels of physical, weight-bearing activity.

Lappe noted that the study may also have implications for nonmilitary athletic populations, such as high school track and field athletes, in whom stress fractures are also problematic.

“It appears that supplementation with calcium and vitamin D provides a health-promoting, easy and inexpensive intervention that does not interfere with training goals,” she said.

Study co-investigators include Diane Cullen, Ph.D., and Robert Recker, M.D., both with the Creighton Osteoporosis Research Center, and Capt. Kerry Thompson, Ph.D., and Renee Ahlf, both with the U.S. Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research.



Jason Bartz, Ph.D., left, and Anthony Kincaid, Ph.D.

Prion Disease Findings Reported

Creighton University researchers may have discovered a previously unsuspected pathway, the nasal cavity, for the natural spread of prion diseases – a class of diseases which includes “mad cow” disease – among animals.

Anthony Kincaid, Ph.D., Creighton associate professor of physical therapy, and Jason Bartz, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical microbiology and immunology, reported their findings in the Feb. 14 online edition of *Journal of Virology*.

Their study demonstrates for the first time that prion infection can be experimentally spread by the inhalation of the agent into the nasal cavity.

Until now, scientists have largely focused on ingestion as the most likely way that animals acquire a prion disease in nature. However, the results of the two-year Creighton study that used hamsters indicates that the rodents contracted the illness when a relatively small amount of prion-infected brain homogenate was placed just below their nostrils.

While more studies need to be done to determine if the nasal cavity is a route for the natural spread of prion diseases in larger animals such as deer, elk, cattle and sheep, there are reasons to suspect this mode of transmission, the researchers said.

“Each of these species has a well-developed olfactory system that is used for finding food, detecting predators

and for reproductive purposes, therefore their nasal cavity is frequently directly exposed to elements of the environment that may contain prions," noted Kincaid, the study's principal investigator.

Prion diseases are a group of fatal neurodegenerative diseases that include chronic wasting disease (CWD), and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly referred to as "mad cow" disease. While the reported incidence of BSE in this country is rare, CWD infects relatively large numbers of farmed and wild elk and deer in parts of several U.S. states and Canada with the highest incidence occurring in a geographical region that includes sections of Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

The Nebraska tobacco settlement trust fund financed the study. A news article on the study appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Intensive Program Helps Smokers Quit

Hospitalized patients who undergo structured treatment to quit smoking are significantly more likely to remain smoke-free, says a new study by



The Cardiac Center at Creighton University Medical Center.

The research appeared in the February issue of *CHEST*, a journal of the American College of Chest Physicians. It suggests that high-risk smokers with acute cardiovascular disease are three to four times more likely to quit smoking when treated with an intensive smoking cessation program.

"Smoking is the greatest risk factor for patients with heart disease," said Creighton principal investigator Syed M. Mohiuddin, M.D., F.C.C.P., "and our study showed that intense treatment intervention not only succeeded in getting patients to quit smoking, but it reduced hospitalizations and mortality as well."

From January 2001 to December 2002, Mohiuddin and colleagues gathered 209 patients who were admitted to the coronary care unit at the Creighton University Medical Center, suffering from unstable angina, heart attack, or severe coronary heart disease. All of the patients were self-identified smokers and agreed to undergo smoking cessation intervention. Patients were then randomized into two groups: an intensive-intervention group (109) and a usual-care group (100).

Prior to hospital discharge, all patients received approximately 30 minutes of counseling and were given self-help materials. Treatment in the intervention group also included a minimum of 12 weeks of behavior modification counseling, coupled with individualized pharmacotherapy. This included nicotine replacement therapy and/or bupropion at no cost to the patient. However, patients in the usual care group did not receive anything beyond the initial inpatient counseling session.

Compared with the usual care group, patients in the intensive treatment group had significantly higher quit rates at all follow-up intervals. After two years, 39 percent of the intensive treatment group was continuously abstinent, compared with only 9 percent of the usual care group. Additionally, treatment was shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization by nearly half; those in the control group were four times as likely to die than were patients in the intervention group.

"Cessation of smoking results in an almost immediate improvement in the risk of heart attack," said Mohiuddin, "and our study proves that intense smoking cessation treatment in high-risk patients is successful and that it saves lives."

Some U.S. Children Still Exposed to High Lead Levels

Lead poisoning continues to be a serious cause of learning and behavioral problems in at-risk children, according to a March 25 article in USA Today that quotes Aimin Chen, M.D., Ph.D., a Creighton assistant



professor of preventive medicine and former researcher with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Chen was the principal author of a study published in the February online edition of Pediatrics. His study looked at the effects of lead in 7-year-old children.



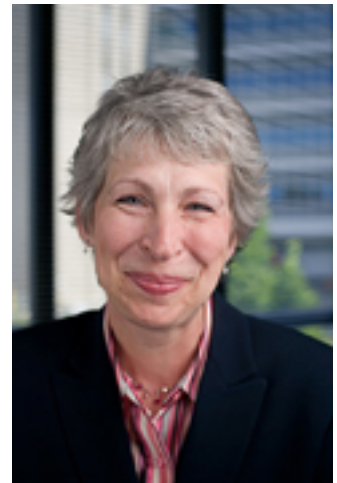
Children most at risk include urban children living in old buildings with lead-based paint (banned in 1978) and playing in areas contaminated with lead-paint dust or emissions from leaded gasoline (phased out in the early 1990s), the USA Today article noted.

[Back to Contents](#)

Briefly Noted

Haddad Earns Pellegrino Medal

Amy Haddad, Ph.D., R.N., director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics at Creighton University Medical Center, will receive a Pellegrino Medal for her contributions to health care ethics.



The award was presented in April during an annual conference of the Healthcare Ethics and Law Institute (HEAL) at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

The medal is named for Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D., the first recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Pellegrino, a long standing member of the Georgetown University faculty, has been called the “father of the American bioethics movement.”

The author of numerous articles and several books, Haddad is co-author of “Health Professional and Patient

Interaction,” which received the 2003 Alpha Sigma Nu National Jesuit Book Award in health sciences.

Fernandez Wins Women’s Award

Christina Fernandez, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics at Creighton University School of Medicine, has earned the University of Nebraska at Omaha Women of Color Award.



Fernandez, who earned the award in the education category, was one of six women honored at the fifth annual Women of Color Awards luncheon in March.

The awards acknowledge outstanding contributions and leadership by women of color in the Omaha area.

Organizations and individuals were asked to nominate women of color for the awards in six categories: arts and humanities, business/entrepreneurship, community service, education, science and technology, and youth leadership.

In recognizing Fernandez, the awards committee noted that pediatric residents describe Fernandez as “an extraordinary mentor and teacher. She has been known to say to them: ‘Call me anytime if you need help – even in the middle of the night.’” The committee also cited her involvement in efforts to fight childhood obesity.

Rafferty Gets Education Award

Karen Rafferty, R.D., L.M.N.T., senior research dietitian for the Osteoporosis Research Center at Creighton University Medical Center, has been awarded the 2006 Joan Werblow Nutrition Education Award.



The award, which recognizes exceptional leadership in nutrition education by promoting the health benefits of dairy foods, was presented by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council of Nebraska at the organization’s annual meeting.

Rafferty is an award-winning author and respected voice in calcium nutrition, food fortification, and mineral bioavailability, the council noted in presenting her with the award. Her published research on potassium and calcium served as supporting documentation for the 2005 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines for Americans and earned her the American College of Nutrition's "Best Scientific Paper of the Year" honor in 2005.

Rafferty is a member of the American Dietetic Association and a speaker for the Nutrition Working Group of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

Cichowski Recognized as Role Model

Erica Cichowski, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, has been recognized by the American Association of Medical Colleges and Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative as a physician role model. Persons receiving this honor are nominated by medical students nationwide.

2007 Golden Apple Award Recipients Selected

Recipients of the 2007 Golden Apple awards are James Phalen, M.D. (selected by Class of 2007); P.J. Malin, M.D. (selected by Class of 2008); Michael Del Core, M.D. (selected by Class of 2009); and John Yee, Ph.D., (selected by Class of 2010).

The Golden Apple is awarded each year by medical students to faculty who exemplify outstanding teaching, concern for student learning, kindness and a willingness to go the extra step to help students achieve academic success.

[Back to Contents](#)

In Other News

Creighton Offers Special Clinic for Asthma Sufferers
The Creighton University Center



for Allergy, Asthma & Immunology has started a once-a-month clinic to diagnose and treat patients with the latest therapeutic options for asthma. The clinic will focus on patients whose asthma is not well-controlled or who are having adverse effects from current medications.



Called the Airway Center, the clinic will be open 1-4 p.m. the last Friday of each month to patients 12 years and older. The purpose of the clinic is to assist primary-care physicians in treating patients with severe or “refractory” asthma. While all asthma patients suffer from the same symptoms – shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing and chest tightness – “refractory” asthma is more difficult to treat and may be worsened by other disease states.

The center will be staffed by board-certified specialists in pulmonary medicine and allergy/immunology, allowing patients to determine in one visit whether their symptoms are the result of asthma or other diseases with similar symptoms, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Both specialists will evaluate the patient during the same clinical visit.

Patients seen at the Airway Center may also be eligible to participate in Creighton clinical trials on asthma diagnosis and treatment.

Medical School One of Four Centers of Excellence

The Creighton University School of Medicine has been selected as one of four academic medical sites to serve as national Centers of Excellence for Physician Information, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced.



The centers will be national models supporting the advancement of drug addiction awareness, prevention,

and treatment in primary-care medical practices. The centers will target physicians-in-training, including medical students and resident physicians in primary-care specialties such as internal medicine, family practice and pediatrics.

“Drug addiction is a major public health issue. About 6 percent of all Americans have a drug abuse or dependence problem. Yet, the problem is significantly underdiagnosed and undertreated by the medical community,” said S. Pirzada Sattar, M.D., Creighton assistant professor of psychiatry and principal investigator for the Creighton Center of Excellence for Physician Information.

At Creighton, the departments of medicine, psychiatry and pharmacology will be involved in the center’s creation.

The Centers of Excellence are being developed in collaboration with the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Research Education Consortium. Creighton also is one of 16 academic medical sites involved in the consortium.

Other sites include Massachusetts Consortium of Medical Schools, including the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, and Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance.



From left, fourth-year medical students Clare Hoff, Maureen McNeely and Dave Rust and premedical student Maureen Looby.

Medical School Offers Clinical Rotation in Peru

Creighton medical students for the first time had the opportunity to complete a fourth-year clinical rotation in Chimbote, Peru. During February, Maureen Fleming, M.D., and three students set up a free gynecological clinic for women in Chimbote. The students also worked at several area medical facilities, including a maternity hospital, a local orphanage, and a new hospice facility.

The rotation is an outgrowth of Project CURA (Creighton Medical School United in Relief Assistance), a program run by first-year medical students. CURA provides health, education and disease-prevention services to underserved populations in India, Peru, Kenya, Cambodia, Omaha and Pine Ridge, S.D.

The rotation provided a reunion of sorts for the three students, who had visited Chimbote as first-year medical students. They lived with the same families that hosted them during that first trip.

Fleming, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, plans to continue offering the Peruvian rotation.

[Back to Contents](#)

Donor Corner

Scholarship Fund Honors Carl J. Troia, M.D.

The family of Carl J. Troia, MD'53, has established a scholarship fund in his honor. The Carl J. Troia, M.D. Endowed Scholarship will give preference to native Hawaiian students. While attending Creighton, Troia made life-long friendships with several medical students from Hawaii during a time in history when some medical schools were not accepting students from our future 50th state.



[Back to Contents](#)

Volume 4 Issue 2

May 2007