First and foremost, MEDiC is happy to announce that Dr. Dipesh Navsaria (MPH, MS(LIS), MD) has agreed to be our Reach Out & Read Medical Director. His excitement about and experience with the program are a wonderful asset. MEDiC’s Reach Out & Read program continues to operate out of two of our clinics, Salvation Army and Southside. Each week, student volunteers at these clinics take time to read to children and send them home with a brand new book and a prescription for the children to keep reading or for their parents to read to them. At the Southside clinic, children are often in the waiting area with their parents, but the Salvation Army clinic has always posed a unique challenge. Children at this location are not simply waiting for an appointment, but living in the shelter. This fall, Reach Out & Read has been working hard to integrate with the other programs already in place at the Salvation Army in order to become more accessible to the families staying there.

Our biggest development is that we have moved the program into the library at the Salvation Army, which provides a more comfortable and less distracting reading environment, as well as a place children can return to week after week and record their progress. Children now have the opportunity to keep track of their participation in ROR and can earn prizes for their attendance. This change has helped to generate greater excitement about reading! As we continue to give out books and reading prescriptions to each child, we are also hoping to see the library opened even when MEDiC volunteers are not present, so that the children have more opportunities to get in the habit of reading. To this end, MEDiC will be collecting new or like-new children’s books between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to fill up some of the bare shelves at the Salvation Army library. Please consider bringing a book (or many books!) to the HSLC during this time to help instill a lifelong love of reading in a child with so few other material possessions! If you have any questions about the Reach Out & Read program or this upcoming book drive, please email Ellie at ergoetsch@wisc.edu.
**MEDiC’s Progress and the Tasks at Hand**

*Written by Joel Adler*

Recently, members of the MEDiC council had the opportunity to attend a conference about issues pertaining to student-run free clinics. Our time at the conference was well spent, as we were able to learn much and share much of our own experiences with others from across the country.

While reflecting upon our experience at the conference, it became clear that we have many reasons to be proud. More than 1,500 patients are seen each year in our clinics. Over 300 student, faculty, and staff volunteers provide care to these patients. We are able to connect nearly 200 patients with community providers for specialty services that we cannot provide in the setting of acute care clinics. These services fill an important niche in the community health of Madison, and we are proud of what we have accomplished.

As to be expected, meeting with others brings to the forefront the formidable task before us. With the number of uninsured topping 46 million people in the United States, there is much more work to be done. We continue to seek ways to provide better services to our patients by providing more prescriptions, referral services, and clinic visits. We look for ways to increase our visibility in the community and to promote awareness of the growing number of uninsured in Dane County. Other initiatives are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

None of this would be possible without the countless hours, unsurpassed dedication, and continuing support of our volunteers, donors, and community partners. For this, thank you. We look forward to continuing our work, improving our scope, and providing care to the underserved.

**New Developments in the Referrals Network**

*Written by Kirstin Muehlbauer*

Often at MEDiC clinics, patients present with health issues that we are unable to adequately address. With the hard work of the current and previous council members, the MEDiC Outreach program has been fortunate enough to form relationships with ten local providers and medical institutions, who have generously donated their time and services. For many patients, this helps “bridge the gap” to provide them with needed care.

The referrals program is growing steadily each year. Accordingly, the number of patients receiving care is also on the rise. Sixty patients received referrals in the month of October, a record high that pushed the total for the year over 300 referrals. That’s twice the number of referrals made in 2005, and nearly five times that of 2004!

This year, 25% of the 300 referrals have been to the Specialty clinics MEDiC works with. Physical therapy, ophthalmology, and dental have each received 15% of the total referrals. Dermatology, imaging and laboratory, and primary care have received about 10% of the total referrals each.

The MEDiC Council has grown to accommodate the increasing number of referrals. In the 2004-2005 school year, one medical student served as the Referrals Coordinator. Presently, there are four. Additional changes have been made to the position to allow more time for training, and greater continuity within the council position.

MEDiC is an organization that depends on help from our community – exemplified by the contributions of local health care professionals that build our referrals network.
Volunteers of the Month in ’06

We have many wonderful health professional workers who volunteer with and contribute to MEDiC. Below are recognized volunteers of the month who have shown outstanding work with MEDiC so far this year. Please join us in thanking them for their time and efforts towards MEDiC and the underserved population in Madison.

March     Jie Wang, MD
April     John Frey, MD
May     Gregg Sheehy, MD
June     Don Schalch, MD
July     Doug Dulli, MD
August     Susan Carson, MD
September     Karen Kopachek, RPh
October     Matthew Kutz, DDS
November     Alex Young, MD
            Nancy Pandhi, MD

Thank you!  …to our Donors

The Cremer Foundation
Dr. Juanita Jax Halls
Dr. Alida Evans
Epic Systems Corporation
Covenant Lutheran Endowment
Dr. John K. Harting

UW School of Medicine and Public Health Class of 2006

Please send donations to:

MEDiC Fund
UW Foundation
1848 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53708
attn: Jill Watson

MEDiC Aims to Educate Students
Outside of the Classroom

By DeAnna Friedman

This year, MEDiC will sponsor a number of noon talks aimed at educating the medical student body about important issues that affect the populations we serve at MEDiC. Already this fall, we have invited a number of speakers. Steve Schooler, director of Porchlight, Inc., came to talk to the students about homelessness in Madison and the services that Porchlight, Inc., provides. In his talk, he stimulated conversations about the root causes of homelessness, including mental illness and the high cost of housing in Dane County. Our second speaker was Rep. Chuck Benedict, a retired neurologist and Representative of the 45th District of Wisconsin. After speaking about the path that can be taken from health care to politics, Rep. Benedict discussed his proposal for Universal Health Care in Wisconsin. On October 25th, Sarah Larson, a social worker for the Salvation Army, discussed the relationship between domestic violence and homelessness. She described several instances of Salvation Army residents suffering from domestic violence, and the difficulties of dealing with this violence when the whole family is homeless. Kiah Calmese-Walker, a caseworker with AIDS Network, directed the most recent discussion. She vibrantly told stories that highlighted the populations affected by HIV and many of the myths surrounding HIV testing and treatment.

Yet to come this semester is Pam McGranahan, Prevention Coordinator with the Joint City of Madison/Dane County Department of Public Health. She will recount the recently finished assessment of health needs in the communities of Southwestern Madison, including the Allied Neighborhood. The discussion will center on how the health care community can address some of the issues of disparity brought to the surface by this assessment. All talks have had food provided through funds from the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association and the Medical Student Association. We also look forward to scheduling more fun and educational talks next semester.

Contact MEDiC by: Phone: (608) 265-4972 Email: MEDiC@rso.wisc.edu Web: http://www.uwmedstudents.com/studentorgs/MEDiC
**Data Project Update**  
*Written by Jason Wells*

MEDiC has an ongoing data project to better understand the population our clinics serve and the most critically needed services and pharmaceuticals. Below is data collected from October 2005 through October 2006. Unfortunately, we receive some incomplete data forms, which accounts for the remaining percentages. We hope that this will at least give you a better perspective of what MEDiC clinics and their patients look like.

- **Patient Composition:**
  - 42% African American
  - 31% Caucasian
  - 25% Latino/a
  - 2% Other

- Only 24% of patients were insured

- MEDiC provided about 87% of prescriptions free of charge

- The top 5 diagnoses in clinics:
  - Depression
  - Asthma
  - Hypertension
  - Cold
  - Acid Reflux/GERD

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**Want to Volunteer at a MEDiC Clinic?**

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<td>Nikhila Deo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:medic@rso.wisc.edu">medic@rso.wisc.edu</a></td>
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