MEDiC Celebrates Dr. Richard Anderson

By Elizabeth Bobzien

Dr. Richard B. Anderson, M.D., spokesperson for the UW-SMPH Class of '47, recently made a generous donation to the MEDiC program. His kindness will allow MEDiC to continue its mission of providing teaching and educational opportunities to health professional students as well as its overarching goal of providing acute medical care to the underserved of the Madison area.

Dr. Anderson recently spoke with MEDiC Council members in a banquet honoring his gift as well as his lifelong dedication to mentoring medical students. His words of advice included encouragement to seek out a mentor, find happiness in the profession, and find stability through establishing a loving support system, especially during the years of medical training.

He also shared a few highlights of his career – including memories of finding a residency during the pre-Match days; working for the military during the Korean War; and moving to Boston mid-career to complete a second residency training in psychiatry - his first was in pediatrics.

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MEDiC Expands Community Services

By Jonathan Knoche

Following the suggestions of the 2007-2008 MEDiC Council, the five 2008-2009 Community Resource Coordinators are working on a number of new projects. They are attending health fairs in the community, coordinating noon talks for medical students, and organizing and updating resource information specific to each clinic. The Community Coordinators hope to increase the use of laptop computers and a digital database to present MEDiC patients with health resources available in their communities. Through these initiatives, the MEDiC Council aims to address socioeconomic factors that influence patients’ health.
Volunteers of the Month

Each month, the MEDiC Council recognizes one of the organization’s outstanding volunteers. By working tirelessly with and on behalf of MEDiC patients, these special individuals have impacted the community and inspired the students with whom they work. MEDiC Volunteers of the Month are an integral part of the organization.

November 2007: Dr. Mark Linzer
December 2007: Dr. Cal Bruce
January 2008: Dr. Greg Sheehy
February 2008: Ms. Alyssa Tess
March 2008: Dr. Thomas Hirsch

MEDiC Welcomes Dr. Nancy Pandhi as Southside Clinic Medical Director

Dr. Nancy Pandhi, an instructor in the Department of Family Medicine, became the MEDiC Southside Clinic Medical Director in August 2007. As an award-winning clinical instructor, Dr. Pandhi demonstrates her commitment to medical education while ensuring that patients receive high-quality care. She is involved with many community organizations throughout the greater Madison area; her knowledge of the patient population will help MEDiC cater to the Southside community. MEDiC is thrilled to have Dr. Pandhi on board!

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In addition to sharing his life and wisdom with medical, pharmacy and physical therapy students, he was able to converse with current MEDiC volunteers about the details of the MEDiC program, its council structure, and the individual experiences of volunteers at each of MEDiC’s six clinics.

The MEDiC Council presented Dr. Anderson with a plaque in recognition of his gift, along with a book of reflections containing written contributions from the 2007-2008 council. A matching plaque to honor the Class of ’47 has also been placed on the wall of HSLC Room 2158, the Class of ‘47’s room in the Health Sciences Learning Center and the room in which prospective medical students first meet on their interview day.

The MEDiC Council is deeply grateful to Dr. Anderson for his donation through the UW Foundation, and is confident that through this gift, Dr. Anderson’s lifelong ideals in his medical career will be represented through MEDiC’s own mission statement to further the education of health professional students and to serve the underserved of Madison.
President’s Letter

“We come together with the collective goal of improving the quality of MEDiC services”

The new 2008–2009 MEDiC Council officially took over the reins in early March. We are approximately 30 students from the schools of Nursing, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, Nursing and Medicine, and we come together with the collective goal of improving the quality of MEDiC services while working within a confined budget. The new MEDiC Council has some large shoes to fill: last year’s Council was comprised of extraordinarily hardworking and innovative students. They raised over $11,000, drastically decreased their pharmaceutical expenditures, and worked together as effectively as a well-rehearsed orchestra. We have already learned much from them and will continue to look to them for advice as we face this upcoming year’s opportunities and challenges.

And challenges there will be: the US Census Bureau recently reported that almost 47 million Americans lacked insurance – a whopping 16% of us. Another 5-10% are underinsured, lacking basic services like dental or eye care. What all these numbers mean is that there are a lot of sick Americans, many of whom have chronic conditions that go untreated for years. This often manifests itself in increased ER visits, mounting personal debt, and deaths that could have been prevented with appropriate healthcare.

However, there is good news among all the bad: even with the soaring healthcare costs and the dearth of treatment options for the uninsured, MEDiC still draws a huge number of volunteers every year. Despite the bleak statistics, despite the occasional feelings of hopelessness and disillusionment, there are literally hundreds of health professions students, physicians, and residents who are committed to helping marginalized communities through MEDiC. Additionally, they work on an entirely volunteer basis to ensure that all MEDiC funds go to patient care. And this is encouraging news indeed; for it is this service to the underserved, this investment in community, that will eventually change the world. Or at least the American healthcare system.

Megan Schultz, M1
President, 2008-2009 MEDiC Council

Introducing the 2008-2009 MEDiC Council

- President: Megan Schultz
- Vice President: Kelly Lavin
- Public Relations: Katie Davis
- Data Project: Tim Chang
- Community Coordinators:
  - Morgan Swanstrom
  - Rebecca McSorley
  - Jonathan Knoche
  - Erin Tremble
  - Nicole Jaeger
- Referrals Coordinators:
  - Brian Cone
  - Amanda Mayer
  - Kate Holoya
- Medication Supply Coordinators:
  - Amanda Herzog
  - Ted Grabarczyk
  - Jeremy Ott-Holland
- Scheduling:
  - Melinda Chen
  - Jill Odenthal
  - Samantha Stoll
- Physical Therapy Coordinators:
  - Kerry Hyland
  - Melissa Strzelinski
  - Amie Ramczyk
  - Jessica Smith
  - Annie Reybrock
  - Kala Leistico
  - Alyssa George
- Clinic Coordinators:
  - Briana Peterson
  - Mike DeVita
  - Ryan Bourdon
  - Melissa Taavola
  - Nicole Pardo
  - Laura Yahr
  - Kjersti Knox
  - Jessica Hawley
  - Ryan Baxter
  - Anne Getzin
- Student Coordinators:
  - Anna Skrypek (PA)
  - Amanda LaLonde (PT)
  - Melissa Natzke (Pharm)
Bucky’s Race for Rehab MEDiC Fundraiser

The 9th Annual Bucky’s Race for Rehab is a 5K run and 2K walk that will be held on Sunday, May 4 at the UW Natatorium at 11 AM. Please visit www.active.com to register and support the MEDiC clinics!

Support MEDiC!
The organization depends on fantastic volunteers like you! Please contact Melinda Chen (mechen@wisc.edu) or Jill Odenthal (scheduling.medic@gmail.com) for Physician/Resident Scheduling or Samantha Stoll (sjstoll@wisc.edu) for Student Scheduling. To make a gift to MEDiC, please visit medic.uwmedstudents.com and click on “Helping MEDiC”.