We have had a very successful start to the academic year, and DRMC is well on its way to growing into a robust academic center. Our new interns are settling in wonderfully and are enjoying their rotations thanks to all of our amazing volunteer faculty. Just as our inaugural class is feeling at home, we are already about to start interview season again for next year’s intern class. We have already received nearly 600 applications with numerous strong and competitive applicants. As we review all of the applications, we continue to screen for those candidates that hold a commitment to community service, and we remain dedicated to training the next generation of physicians to serve their communities with social responsibility and to retain our graduates so that they may continue on to become leaders in the community to improve health, promote wellness, and increase access to healthcare.

We continue to add faculty in the Desert for UCR Health. We are excited to have Dr. Xolani Mdluli, infectious disease and HIV specialist, join our family. In addition, we have started our pediatric hospitalist program at DRMC and have welcomed two new pediatricians to the team, Dr. Shabnam Zargar and Dr. Hilal Abuzahra. They individually bring their unique backgrounds and commitment to education to help us not only develop our graduate medical education programs but more importantly expand the services we are able to provide the community. Please be sure to read their biographies under the faculty spotlight of this newsletter.

Our community projects, such as our UCR Health Street Medicine Program, Pediatric Obesity Program, and Sex Education Program continue to be refined and will begin to come to fruition this spring. Each of these programs would not be possible without our community partners and therefore we greatly appreciate their continued support to help us acknowledge and address some of the social injustices and disparities within our community. I will be sure to provide continued updates as these programs are rolled out. In addition, if any of the faculty are interested in our community projects or would like to participate more in the residency program, we would love to hear from you and welcome any assistance.

Your support is essential to the success of our program!
A Word from the Chief Medical Officer

I am Charles Anderson, MD, a board certified Anesthesiologist from the University of Iowa and fellowship trained in Cardio Thoracic Anesthesiology. As the Chief Medical Officer at Desert Regional Medical Center, my role is widely varied but primarily concerned with everything and anything that touches on “quality” of the patient experience and care under the DRMC licensure. I share many of these responsibilities with other administrative team members such as Ms. Carolyn Caldwell, the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Kristin Schmidt, the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Mr. Jeff Patterson, the Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mr. Richard Phillip, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Dr. Randy Culbertson, the DME and Chief Development Officer.

The Medical Staff Office (MSO) and the Research Department have a direct line reporting to the CMO. Anyone who has privileges to do anything to or for a patient under the hospital licensure must apply to the Medical Staff through the MSO who processes and maintains all of those records as they pass from the MSO to the Credentials Committee to the Medical Executive Committee (MEC) and then ultimately are granted by the Governing Board of the hospital.

I sit as the Chairman of the Quality Council (TQC) and the Utilization Review Committee (URC) which are medical staff committees as defined within the medical staff bylaws. As the names might imply, TQC reviews all quality metrics and reports generated and tracked from within the Quality Department under the direction of Catherine Carson, the Director of Clinical Quality Improvement (DCQI) who directly reports to the CNO. The URC looks at lengths of hospitalizations, the medical necessity of admissions and ongoing hospital stays as well as services rendered during hospitalizations. (Continued on page 8)

Volunteer Faculty Spotlight

Q: Where did you go to medical school and do residency?
A: Medical School: Universita' di Roma " La Sapienza" (Founded 1303) Rome, Italy. (Class of ’83); Residency: General Surgery- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (UMDNJ- Rutgers, Class of ’88).

Fellowship: Trauma & Surgical Critical Care- Medical College of Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, Pa., Class of ’89)

Board Certification(s): Surgery/ Surgical Critical Care
Fellow(s): American College of Surgeons/ American College of Critical Care Medicine

Q: What are you looking forward to most about teaching residents?
A: Despite all the pyramidal competition and grueling demands at that time, residency training was one of the most enjoyable and inspiring times of my life. I still like to hope that I could stand up even today and hold my own against some of the better “surgical interns.” As a “PGY-32”, I have witnessed life changing events across three decades of opportunity for gaining knowledge and experience. It's time for me to share that knowledge and my experiences with emerging young physicians while they trade back their insight and vision with me thus helping all of us to become better doctors and deliver the best of care to our patients. (Continued on page 3)
Volunteer Faculty Spotlight
(continued from page 2)

Q: How do you de-stress? Do you have any hobbies?
A: I like to play my saxophone (soprano, alto, tenor), grocery shop for fresh foods and help prepare a wonderful dinner, go to the beach with family. I travel outside the country at least once a year. I enjoy listening to Bocelli. I strive to embellish my Italian language skills at every opportunity!

Q: What books are you currently reading?
A: Aside from rare occasions, I guess I'm just not a pleasure reader. I more enjoy watching interesting documentaries or listening to good music.

Q: What is your favorite restaurant?
A: This depends upon where I am. Cuistot ( Palm Desert, Ca), Il Fornaio ( Irvine, Ca.) Bistro de Jean (St. Malo, France), Osteria del Cinghiale Bianco ( Firenze, Italia)

Q: What do you like most and least about medicine?
A: Unfortunately, the industrialization and commercialization of medicine, coupled with current social change and the resultant depersonalizing and deprecating effects, has in many ways robbed both the patient and the physician of the once so coveted and interpersonal "physician-patient relationship". It's just something the young physician of today's time will never get to live and appreciate to its fullest. Yet at the same time, and unlike only so few from other professional walks of life, we as physicians, nurses and all members of our healthcare team can still experience the personal satisfaction, pride and dignity from knowing that our primary mission is to help the sick, save other people's lives and bring good to their families and loved ones. Let's never lose sight of our real perspective and meaning.

UCR Health Family Medicine Center

The UCR Family Medicine Residents and Faculty are currently accepting new patients at the newly remodeled UCR Family Medicine Center in the Las Palmas Medical Plaza across the street from Desert Regional Medical Center. Most major insurance plans accepted.

Location:
UCR Health Family Medicine Center
555 E. Tachevah Drive
2 East Suite 107
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Contact Information:
Phone: (760) 561-7373
Fax: (760) 327-5140
Xolani Mdluli, MD
Infectious Disease/ Internal Medicine
Assistant Clinical Professor
UCR School of Medicine

Dr. Mdluli is board-certified in internal medicine and infectious disease. He specializes in infectious disease and HIV. He earned his medical degree from St. George’s University, West Indies and completed a residency in internal medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, NJ. Dr. Mdluli also completed a fellowship in infectious disease at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, IL. He is fluent in English and SiSwati.

Dr. Mdluli joined UCR Health in July 2015 and is an assistant clinical professor in internal medicine with the UCR School of Medicine.

Shabnam Zargar, MD
Pediatrics
Assistant Clinical Professor
UCR School of Medicine

Dr. Zagar is board-certified in pediatrics. She earned her medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, West Indies. She completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, NV. She is fluent in English, Farsi and Spanish.

Dr. Zagar joined UCR Health in August 2015 and is an assistant clinical professor in pediatrics with the UCR School of Medicine.

Hilal Abuzahra, MD
Pediatrics
Assistant Clinical Professor
UCR School of Medicine

Dr. Abuzahra earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA. Abuzahra completed his residency in categorical pediatrics at University of Maryland Medical Center, Boston, MA. He is fluent in Arabic. Dr. Abuzahra is board certified.

Dr. Abuzahra joined UCR Health in August 2015 and is an assistant clinical professor in pediatrics with UCR School of Medicine.
Residents must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate (e.g. epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care. Residents are expected to:

MK-1: Demonstrat an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations;
   - Appropriately prioritize the probable and potential diagnoses to ensure that attention is given to the most likely, most serious and most readily treatable options;

MK-2: Know and apply the basic and clinically supportive sciences which are appropriate to their discipline;
   - Demonstrate an understanding of pertinent pathophysiology in making management decisions using literature and evidence based medicine to support your decisions.
UCR Family Medicine Residency- Palm Springs

Teams That Play Together, Stay Together

The UCR Residents and Core Faculty spent the afternoon in Riverside participating in the UCR Challenger Course as part of their orientation. Through carefully designed and team led activities, residents and faculty explored teamwork, communication, group dynamics, decision-making and leadership through various low and high adventure course work. These activities were designed to challenge the minds of our faculty and residents and require team members to work together to solve problems.

Below are photos of our residents and their impressive acrobatic skills.

Dr. Nelly Song made it safely to the platform! First one to the top is the Chief Resident!
UCR Challenger Course- “Keep Calm…”

Dr. Brian Petrie, Dr. Kenneth Acha, Dr. Nelly Song

Dr. Penick is a resident by day, tightrope walker by night!

How many faculty and staff does it take to get one PGY-1 resident in the air?
A Word from the Chief Medical Officer
(continued from page 2)

In my position, I neither set policy nor provide enforcement, however work closely with the medical staff leadership, administrative colleagues, the quality department, to provide influence, education and strategic planning to all healthcare providers to meet all laws, regulations, standards, and policies. The information that is accumulated in my role is reported not only to the Medical Executive Committee but then also to the Governing Board of the hospital.

When I think about where you are in your careers in my retrospect-o-scpe, I believe that you should look at this as your second phase of medical school where you have chosen the specialty you will be focusing upon. If you finish learning all you can about the medical and technical aspects of that specialty, you have only learned what is expected of you as an entry level to participate in that specialty. When in fact, your specialty is much more multi-dimensional than that. Throughout the time you spend in residency, endeavor to expand your vision of medicine in general. Start with the environment of the hospital by understanding the Medical Staff Bylaws which will govern you wherever you decide to practice and then become familiar with the medical staff leadership. Who is the Chief of Staff and the Chief of your department. Learn the functions of all of the people that run a hospital and how that will affect your career and working conditions. What is the function of the Governing Board of a hospital. Then focus on local, state and federal laws that affect hospitals and your medical practice and why hospitals become “accredited” and by whom. What personal role you play in that accreditation process. What clinical metrics are tracked and trended from a hospital and medical staff and why.

When you complete your residency, you will better understand what your actual position is on the medical staff or staffs of your choosing, better be able to care for patients, and be a good citizen on your medical staff and in your community.