arlingtonfreeclinic

Providing high-quality medical care to low-income, uninsured Arlington County adults



2011 SPRING NEWSLETTER

A Smooth Transition to a New Medical Director

ne mark of a strong organization is that it can support smooth transitions. And there's no better word than smooth to describe the recent change of leadership in AFC's top volunteer medical position — Medical Director. Because this important job shifted from the capable hands of Dr. Tom Connally to the equally capable hands of Dr. Joan Ritter, the quality of care that AFC provides for patients has continued with uninterrupted excellence. AFC is proud and honored to have these two remarkable physicians supporting our medical programs.

Dr. Tom Connally

After retiring from a highly successful private practice in internal medicine, Dr. Connally began volunteering at AFC in 2000. He started by seeing patients several times a month, and because of his expertise and interest in quality measurement, he joined the Clinical Services Committee. In 2005 he was elected to the Board of Directors, and stepped into the role of Medical Director for a term-limited tenure of six years. Asked to look back on those years,

Dr. Connally notes several changes and issues he found to be especially important.

- Top of the list is AFC's recently implemented Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system which he says is "light years ahead of the old paper charts."
- Next is a "subtle but definite shift of the burden of disease" experienced by patients coming to AFC. In 1998, the Clinic had one patient with cancer; in 2010, there were 45 patients in various stages of treatment.
- Another top issue during his tenure as Medical

Director was Dr. Connally's initiative to begin to evaluate care provided to patients at AFC against nationally accepted evidence-based practice guidelines.

So what's the former Medical Director doing now? Thankfully, Dr. Connally continues to volunteer regularly, serve on the Clinical Services Committee and consult with AFC staff about patient issues. *

Dr. Joan Ritter -

Like Dr. Connally, Dr. Ritter also began volunteering at AFC in 2000. A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and board certified in internal medicine, she had shifted from full-time to part-time medical practice. Because she could volunteer in the evening (when her husband was home with their young triplets), the Clinic seemed like a nice fit. She was impressed by the high level of organization and efficiency that is the norm. "Because it was so

well managed, it was easy to volunteer. I could come in and focus on using my skills to take care of patients."

Joan's day job is Chief of the Resident Continuity Clinic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She's also an Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (and of course there are those triplets who are now 12-years old). Over the past several years, she's increased the amount of time worked at AFC and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010. Then came the 2011 transition to Medical

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Tom Connally, MD and Joan Ritter, MD

Director. Because it was a transition from one competent, highly involved and deeply committed volunteer to another, the process was, quite simply, smooth. •

AFC is enormously grateful to Dr. Connally and Dr. Ritter for their dedication and commitment to top quality, uncompromised medical care.

2011 BOARD of DIRECTORS

he Board of Directors is an essential ingredient in the success of Arlington Free Clinic. The Board monitors Clinic programs and services, ensures effective organizational planning and resource management, provides financial oversight and governance of AFC, and advocates for AFC in the community.



David D. Lee, MD Chair Anesthesiologist, Dominion Anesthesia



Christian Dorsey Director of External and Government Affairs Economic Policy Institute



Timothy D. Muir, MD Internist, Patrick Correnty, MD, LLC



Joanna Ehat Attorney, Hunton and Williams (retired), Community Volunteer



Patricia A. Rodriquez, MD Hematologist-Oncologist, Virginia Cancer Specialists, P.C., Past President, Arlington County Medical Society



Sheila R. Zedlewski Vice Chair Director, Income and Benefits Policy Center The Urban Institute



Robert A. Eldridge, III

Musician, Teacher at Duke Ellington School
for the Arts



Mary "Didi" Salmon, CPA Chief Financial Officer, The National Academies



Diane Naughton Secretary Independent Film Producer



Katherine Freshley Senior Program Manager (retired), Eugene and Agnes B. Meyer Foundation



Grace Abi-Najm Shea Vice President, Lebanese Taverna Group



Douglas A. Dowling, CPA Treasurer Partner, Regardie, Brooks & Lewis



Kit Gordon Chair 2004 AFC Gala, Community volunteer



Scott Sterling Office of the Regional Commissioner, National Capital Region, General Services Administration



Joan Bowes Ritter, MD Medical Director Internist, Walter Reed Army Medical Center



Jennifer Stuart Lee, MD George Washington University, Medical Faculty Associates, Department of Emergency Medicine; Assistant Professor, Director, Health Policy Fellowship Program



Kevin R. Sullivan, JD Partner, King and Spaulding, LLP



Colleen Avis Member, Children's National Medical Center Hospital Foundation Board, Community volunteer



Stephen F. Messinger Managing Partner, ECG Management Consultants, Inc.



David Townshend Sr. Vice President, Corporate Segments & International Sales, Marriott International



James G. Cochran Immediate Past Chair Executive Vice-President, ING Employee Benefits (retired)



Ruth E. McGoff, MSW Director of Case Management Virginia Hospital Center



David Briggs, JD Partner, Holland & Knight LLP, Counsel to the Board



Robert G. Deason Principal, Estate Management Services; Senior Foreign Service Officer, U.S. State Department (retired)



Christopher McManus, MD Internist, C.P. McManus, MD & R.P. McManus,



Nancy Sanger Pallesen, MSW Executive Director

2011 COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Northern Virginia Radiology Consultants; Founder
Arlington Free Clinic; AFC Past President
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Health Director, Aflington County Public Health Division

Message from the Chairman



David D. Lee, MD Chair, Board of Directors

I must be getting older because the phrase, "back in the good old days" keeps popping up in my conversations. Medical care and health care delivery have changed quite a bit over the past few years. The days of doctors practicing in solo or small group practices

appear to be waning and in their place, large health care systems and regional multi-specialty behemoths now dominate the landscape.

Through these large health care systems, most Americans benefit from the finest medical care in human history. The average American can expect a long healthful life of over seventy seven years. That beautiful long life expectancy, however, is jeopardized for over 50 million Americans for lack of health insurance. Here on our little corner of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive, we are doing our part to serve those who can't afford the care.

Services provided at our LEED Gold certified Clinic include Primary Care, Women's Health, Mental Health, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy services, and diagnostic testing. And through the generous support of the Virginia Hospital Center and physician groups, comprehensive care including diagnostic, surgical and oncology services are delivered.

I often interact with dedicated physicians, educated and trained in world class universities such as Georgetown, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, and Harvard, who so willingly give of their time, expertise and compassion for the care of those in our community in need. There's no better place to live and work than in Arlington, and there's no better place to give or get care than Arlington Free Clinic. �

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-David Lee, MD

Report from the Medical Director



Joan Bowes Ritter, MD Medical Director

As the incoming medical director, I would like to extend special thanks to Tom Connally for his dedicated service as Medical Director over the last six years. His direction and guidance was especially important over the last year or so

with the implementation of our electronic medical record (EMR). He continues to be very involved with clinical matters, and I feel fortunate to be able to rely on him for advice and counsel.

As many of you may know, the adoption of an EMR is critical to a modern medical practice. For Arlington Free Clinic (AFC), it allows us to implement and monitor the best practices in medical care. With the first year of the EMR behind us, we are now focusing on implementing disease registries which allow us to ensure that patient care is consistent with the accepted "best practices." A corollary to these disease registries is the measurement of outcomes. In the case of our diabetic patients, we are now able to evaluate the blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure control of those patients. We can see where we are falling short of goals

and adjust treatment to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients using safe, evidence-based, cost-effective care. In the future, we plan to develop additional disease registries (e.g., hypertension and hyperlipidemia) using our EMR to improve outcomes in patients with these diagnoses.

I continue to be amazed at the generosity of our volunteer physicians. I recently saw a gentleman in one of our evening clinics who was a new patient to AFC. He presented with signs and symptoms concerning for a gastrointestinal malignancy. During the following month the patient received a CT scan, was evaluated by a volunteer gastroenterologist, and had definitive surgery by a volunteer surgeon (with anesthesia and pathology services provided by AFC volunteers) to remove a malignancy in his colon. He was then seen by a volunteer oncologist who felt his prognosis is very good. This outcome would not have been possible without our network of dedicated physicians and the extraordinary AFC staff who help to coordinate every aspect of the patient's care. �



—Joan Bowes Ritter, MD



A view from the community



As President & CEO of Hilton Worldwide, a leading global hospitality company

with more than 3,700 hotels around the globe, I recognize the importance of not only delivering, but also receiving, high-quality service and hospitality. The need for this level of service is particularly critical when it concerns access to medical care.

I have been a strong supporter of Arlington Free Clinic (AFC) for many years because of the level of medical service it provides and the care and concern it shows to those in need. As a native Washingtonian and the leader of a company headquartered in this region, I want to do all that I can personally to support our local community and make it a great place to live. This is a commitment shared by the AFC team, which is the only clinic in Arlington County that provides comprehensive medical care to the county's low-income, uninsured residents. In the last year alone, AFC has helped over 1,600 individuals and their families get the medical care they need.

I would like to thank AFC for their tireless efforts as well as all of the people who join me in supporting their mission. ❖

-Chris Nassetta

Spotlight on Volunteers

Northern Virginia Radiology Consultants, — an impressive history of care and generosity!

alk about an impact. Over the years, the services Northern Virginia Radiology Consultants, PLLC (NVRC) has provided for thousands of AFC patients have been and continue to be, literally, life saving. One of the Clinic's most generous community partners, NVRC provides diagnostic imaging services including mammography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MRI), ultrasound and nuclear medicine. Interventional services include endovascular stents, interventional oncology and other highly specialized procedures that are an essential element of the comprehensive care patients need.

Dr. Russell McWey, interventional radiologist and Director of the NVRC group says they don't distinguish between AFC patients and other patients. "Everyone we see is treated with compassion and receives the same high level of care." He goes on to say that their interventional radiologists and breast imagers have the most contact with AFC patients and points out that this contact has always been positive. "Staff members are proud of the work they do for AFC and for the community."

In fact, the group has been supporting the clinic with in-kind services and donated funds since 1994. Dr. Joseph Backer, a radiologist with NVRC and one of AFC's founding physicians, established the early partnership between the radiology practice



Northern Virginia Radiology Consultants, PLLC

Bottom row left to right: Sarah Mezban, MD; Claude Raphael, MD; Joseph Backer, MD; Ms. Sukran de Lorme; Exec Secretary, Russell McWey, MD; Ms. Magda Lewandowski, PA-C Top row left to right: George Kuo, MD; Ivan Petrovitch, MD; Neal Desai, MD; David Orange, MD; Stanley Washington, MD; Michael Jay, MD. Missing from photo: Fred Schwab, MD; Kimberlee Overdeck, MD; Michael Kladakis, MD; Michael Staloch, MD; Deon Gomes, PA-C

and AFC. It was also among the first medical groups to support AFC's annual Benefit Gala and has continued to sponsor a table every year at the event.

But about that impact. Let's go back to 1998 when Tsehai Fekede received the dubious distinction of being AFC's first breast cancer patient. Tshehi's mammogram, which was performed and read by the radiology practice group, detected the abnormality which was confirmed to be cancer. She went on to receive extensive services, including surgery, chemotherapy and radiation from other AFC partners. Twelve years out from her diagnosis, Tsehai will tell anyone who asks that AFC and that mammogram saved her life.* Now let's fast forward to last month and another AFC patient with serious health issues. The most

urgent was the need to place a filter in the large vein that carries blood from the lower half of the body. This was to prevent a large clot from traveling from the patient's leg to his lungs — a frequently fatal complication of clots in the deep veins of the legs. The patient was afraid and reluctant to have the surgery. Dr. McWey took time to speak at length with him and help him understand the procedure—which was successfully completed.

Two short stories; over a decade of care; thousands of patients; hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of donated services; one highly valued and deeply appreciated community partner.

* Tsehai now has health insurance through her employer and is no longer an AFC patient.













Virginia Hospital Center Women's Imaging Center named Breast Imaging Center of Excellence

Earlier this year, Northern Virginia Radiology Consultants, PLLC and the Virginia Hospital Center Mammography Center achieved the designation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR). This means that breast imaging services are fully accredited in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, breast ultrasound and ultrasound-guided breast biopsy, and that the group has achieved high practice standards in image quality, personnel qualifications, facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs.

NVRC and VHC have also earned ACR Gold Seals of Accreditation in Ultrasound, Computed Tomography, Mammography, Nuclear Medicine and Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Congratulations to NVRC's physicians and staff for their continued commitment to excellence in care.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Dermatology Associates of McLean — clearly an essential partner of AFC

ike all of AFC's wonderful volunteer medical specialty groups, Dermatology Associates of McLean is indeed, special. The three physicians in this practice group are special not only because they provide top quality care. But also because they are incredibly generous to work so many AFC patients with chronic and complex skin conditions into their busy practice. And they've been doing it for over ten years.

Dr. Nancy Bruckner and Dr. Max Rubin, who started the practice almost 40 years ago, originally established the partnership with AFC. When they retired, they passed the AFC volunteer torch to the practice's new physicians, who consistently open their office door and schedule for Clinic patients with a wide range of dermatology issues that AFC is not equipped to handle on-site.

Dr. William Alms explains that the practice group provides medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology. However, care for AFC patients is within the medical and surgical scope of services. Examples include skin cancer screening and treatments and treatment for conditions such as severe acne, psoriasis, hives, and rashes. Surgeries include removal of skin cancers and growths. Skin related issues are extremely common in the general population and in AFC's population as well. And because so many of our patients have jobs that put them in the sun for long hours, skin cancer is an ongoing concern. AFC primary care physicians, who see patients at the Clinic, do basic screenings and then refer patients with suspicious spots to Dermatology Associates for a biopsy and treatment as needed.

But Dr. Alms, Dr. Fisher and their colleague Dr. Sunny Walia all say that their work with AFC patients is "hassle free," thanks to AFC staff nurse managers. They emphasize one of the main reasons they're happy to continue working with the Clinic's patients is that AFC staff nurses are accessible, responsive and prompt with follow up. When the Clinic refers a patient, it's not a pass off; AFC remains actively involved in the ongoing care process. Dr. Alms goes on to also praise AFC patients. "They're always really grateful for what we do for them."

Which of course makes absolute sense. Thanks to their focus on high quality care and loyal, dedicated commitment to partnering with the Clinic, Dermatology Associates of



McLean is enhancing the health and the lives of AFC patients. And they do it year after year, patient after patient. �

Dermatology Associates of McLean William J. Alms, MD; Nina M. Fisher, MD; Sunny S. Walia, MD



Lynne Rauscher

A Patient's Perspective

When AFC patient Lynne Rauscher was told she had a "suspicious" spot on her back, she was immediately anxious and concerned. "Of course, it's scary," she says. "Nobody wants

to hear they might have skin cancer." But when her AFC referral to Dermatology Associates took her to the office of Dr. Nina Fisher, Lynne says she was surprised by how relaxed and reassured she felt. "If you're going to have an experience like that, it's good to have it with Dr. Fisher. She took the time to explain my condition and the biopsy procedure that I needed." Following removal of the area of concern and a confirmed diagnosis of a basal cell skin cancer, Lynne now knows that she needs to add an annual skin check to her health routine. "Having one skin cancer means I'm at risk so I need to be checked out every year."

Lynne, who spends much of her time caring for her 85-year old mother, goes on to explain that she understands the importance of early detection and her own responsibility to take care of herself.

But when specialized care is needed, she's a big fan of Dermatology Associates. "Everyone in the office is great and the doctors are excellent." She goes on to say, "I don't recommend having skin cancer, but I do highly recommend the care of Dermatology Associates!"

A complicating factor for many dermatology issues is their chronic nature. This means that when Dr. Alms and fellow dermatologist Dr. Nina Fisher see an AFC patient, the odds are high that there will be follow up appointments. The symptoms of one AFC patient, a 60 year old woman, began with itching and transitioned to a persistent and painful rash. When basic treatments provided by AFC primary care physicians didn't clear the problem, she was referred to Dermatology Associates. Under the care of Dr. Fisher, the patient had access to multiple treatment options, including light therapy (phototherapy) which uses a specialized phototherapy unit on site at Dermatology Associates. The key to this therapy, however, is consistent repeated treatments over time. For this one patient, it meant over 20 individual treatments. This clearly demonstrates Dr. Fisher's commitment to providing her patients the very best care possible. •

In Memoriam





Soo Cheng

It is with great sadness that we write about former AFC Board member, Soo Y. Cheng, who died peacefully on February 1, 2011 at her Arlington home. Soo, a committed supporter of AFC, courageously battled lymphoma for over one year. Soo's volunteer service for AFC included being a Board member, holding leadership roles for four of the Clinic's annual Benefit Galas,

and serving as a long-time volunteer for AFC's Women's Health program. For several years Soo organized an AFC "Cheering Station" during the annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, bringing along her husband, two children and friends of her children. Even family dog Blossom, festively attired in a pink scarf, was part of Soo's enthusiastic team.

Soo was a loyal and highly valued volunteer and friend of the Clinic, and will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to Soo's husband, Lawrence, and children Matthew and Agnes. �

Allan Goody, MD

AFC mourns the loss of Allan Goody, MD, who died March 10th, after a long struggle with kidney disease. Dr. Goody became acquainted with AFC while serving as a fellow under the mentorship of long time friend and AFC volunteer Thomas Rakowski, MD. Allan later returned to AFC and served as a volunteer physician from 2004 to 2009, providing superlative nephrology care for our patients.

Dr. Goody was highly respected as a physician, teacher, friend, and father and beloved by all those whose lives he touched. Our sincere and most profound sympathies go to his wife Diana, daughter Claire, his parents, and siblings. *

FY10 Financial Statement

July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

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To	tal Current Assets	\$6.191.105	\$6.305.935	
Oth	ner Assets	\$15,511	\$35,475	
Fix	ed Assets, Net	\$4,208,089	\$4,146,139	
Inv	restments	\$541,367	\$765,617	
Pre	epaid Expenses	\$23,050	\$30,056	
Inv	rentory	\$2,784	\$3,455	
Co	ntributions Receivable	\$527,274	\$445,866	
Ca	sh & Cash Equivalents	\$873,030	\$879,327	
		July 1, 2009	June 30, 2010	

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$6,191,105	\$6,305,935	
Total Net Assets	\$5,969,200	\$6,144,807	
Permanently Restricted	\$368,274	\$368,274	
Temporarily Restricted	\$519,434	\$574,378	
Unrestricted	\$5,081,492	\$5,202,155	
Net Assets			
Total Liabilities	\$221,905	\$161,128	
Accrued Wages	\$107,369	\$125,734	
Payroll Withholdings	\$16,232	\$19,315	
Accounts Payable	\$98,304	\$16,079	

Liabilities & Net Assets

July 1, 2009

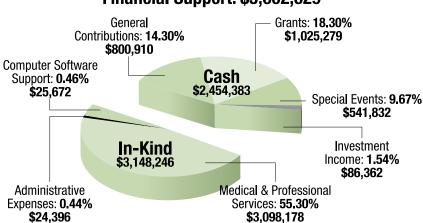
June 30, 2010

---- Operations

Expenses: \$5,427,022



Financial Support: \$5,602,629



Spotlight on Events

Save the Date for the "Bella Venezia" Benefit Gala!

ark your calendar now for Arlington Free Clinic's Annual Black Tie Gala to be held on Saturday, October 29,

2011. The theme of this year's event, "Bella

Venezia," will bring all the romance, glamour, and mystique of Venice to the Ritz-Carlton, **Tysons Corner** ballroom! Essential AFC patient services and programs depend on the success of this special evening.

The Benefit Gala Special Gifts Campaign will take place during the summer months leading up to the event. Special Gifts Committee Chair, Ruth McGoff, will

spearhead our efforts to secure commitments from individuals and businesses to buy tables and sponsorships for the Gala. Donna Alpi, our 2011 Gala Chair, has assembled a highly

talented, enthusiastic, and creative group of Committee chairs to help plan this distinctive

"Bella Venezia" will include an elegant

dinner, dancing, an exciting raffle, and a fabulous silent auction. As in previous years, the Silent Auction will include Getaways, Art and Photography, Sports, Home and Garden, and Children's items.

Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased at AFC's website www. arlingtonfreeclinic. org, or by calling Pia Clark at 703.979.1425 extension 143.

Revenue raised

through the Gala provides a significant percentage of AFC's annual operating budget.

Your support and generosity make it all possible. Thank You! �



SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE

Ruth E. McGoff, MSW

2011 BENEFIT GALA



Edward G. Allcock, DO



Colleen Avis



Paul W. Barnett, JD



Stephen M. Bouchard





David K. Chow, MD & Diane Chow



Karen Close



John M. Couric, Jr.





Grant M. Ehat



Ron & Kit Gordon



Hon. Edward M. Holland, JD



David D. Lee, MD





2011 GALA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Front left to right: Suzy Wagner, Chair, Public Relations; Susan Heffren, Chair, Silent Auction Committee; Jamie Littmann, Chair, Decorations Committee

Rear left to right: Pia Clark, Staff liaison to Gala Committee; Carly Poppalardo, Chair, Reservations; Amy Otteni, Chair, Women's Committee; Donna Alpi, Benefit Gala Chair; Debbie Baker, Secretary; Kit Gordon, Advisor; Cathy Coyle, Hotel Liaison; Michelle Zook, Chair, Graphics and Printing

Missing from photo: MaryBeth Sullivan, Advisor

2011 Benefit Gala Special Gifts Committee Continued from Page 7



Renee Lohman



Robert E. McLaughlin, JD



Stephen F. Messinger



Diane H. Naughton



Mary Ann Nirschl



Scott Ritter



Thomas C. Shooltz



Mark Silverwood



Scott Sterling



Kevin R. Sullivan, JD



Harry L. Thomas Jr.



David N. Townshend



Helen C. Vasiliadis

The Front Page Arlington, Virginia

Come to AFC Night at The Front Page in Ballston!

Wednesday, June 8th, 2011

Bring your friends, have fun, enjoy great discounts on drinks and food, and support medical care for the uninsured!

Guest Bartenders! Door Prizes!

Where: The Front Page — Arlington, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203

When: 6:30PM to 9:30PM **How**: \$10 donation at the door

Parking: Off 9th street is available. Take the elevator to lobby level and enter through the atrium.

- Metered parking on the street
- Metro access via Orange Line, one block walk from Ballston Station

Cheers for our guest bartenders!

6:30PM-8:00PM

John Murphy and Remy of YouTube fame – "Arlington: The Rap"

8:00PM-9:30PM

Martin Couric and Dan McDermott

RSVP on our event page on FaceBook or email pmcdermott@arlingtonfreeclinic.org

