Contents
From the Chairman .......................................................... 2
Medical Student Education .............................................. 2
Rotation Dates for AY2016-2017 ........................................ 2

Awards
Rodney M. Coe Award for M.D. with Distinction in Community Service ........................................ 4
Recognition in Community Service ................................. 4
Med School Students Use Service Projects to Build a Healthier St. Louis click here for story ............. 6
Interprofessional Practicum Students Start Work with Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) ......................... 6
Fred Rottnek, M.D. has a New Role .................................. 6

SLU AHEC and Community Medicine Activities – SLU Doctors for Diversity Interest Group and Elective .... 7
Medical Family Therapy Program .................................... 7
Research ........................................................................ 8
St. Mary’s Health Center .................................................. 8
Family Medicine Residency ............................................. 8
Congratulations ................................................................ 8
Belleville Family Medicine Residency .............................. 9
Resident Research Day .................................................... 9
Civilian Match Day .......................................................... 9
Research Wins at Uniformed Services Association of Family Physicians (USAFP) ......................... 9
Safe Medicine .................................................................. 10
The seventh edition of Family Medicine ......................... 10
Training ........................................................................... 10
Mercy Family Medicine Residency ................................ 11
MFM graduate scholarly projects .................................. 11
ACGME Review Committee Appointment ................... 11
FCM Presentations .......................................................... 13
FCM Publications ........................................................... 14
In Memory of Dr. Charles Robaker ................................. 15
From the Chairman

Welcome to Pat Merod, our new Financial Assistant who replaces Melody Altman who left in February. Pat comes to us from IT, she has worked at SLU for the last five years. And a welcome back to Joanne Salas who rejoined the department in April! The Tower practice welcomed LeTasha Johnson, Medical Care Coordinator, and Michelle Pruitt, Medical Assistant. We also are happy to welcome David Morgan, PA, to the Doctors Office Building practice. David relocated within the department from the Washington practice. We said goodbye to Cassie Morgan our Senior Research Assistant in April.

Congratulations go to Grant Hoekzema, program director of the Mercy Family Medicine Residency who recently received the Greater St. Louis Community Health Award; to Drs. Jim Deckert and Bill Manard who won Distinguished Teaching Awards from our medical students; and to Dr. Fred Rottnek who won the SLU Division of Student Development Collaborative Partner Award!

The St. Elizabeths Family Medicine Residency received ongoing accreditation with no citations! Congratulations to Dr. Marjorie Guthrie, Program Director!

Our Research Director, Dr. Jeff Scherrer received his first R01 (these are the BIG NIH research grants)! His study, "PTSD Treatment Effects on Health Behavior, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease" from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute of NIH for $2.35 million over 4 years!

Carissa van den Berk Clark received her first research grant from the AAFP Foundation's JGAP program for "Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Trauma Screening in Primary Care."

This pilot grant is for $7,497 for ARCHNet's first funded study!

Over the past couple of months I have been to STFM along with a large contingent from our department where Dr. Smith and I continued our Leading Change Fellowship, and I also represented the AAFP at the annual National Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse meeting and Congressional Briefing in Washington, DC.

Medical Student Education

Our annual Pinning Ceremony was held on May 12, 2016. Approximately 150 Faculty, Staff, Graduates, and their families joined together to celebrate.

As we begin Academic Year 2016-2017, a new session called Standardized Patient was added to the Family and Community Medicine Clerkship. This session was added so that students would have the opportunity to interview and assess a “patient actor” while being observed. This session is being held in the Clinical Skills lab which is located on the 2nd floor of the Everest Education Union. While students are given a brief history, expected to diagnose and determine a plan of care, their interview skills are the main focus.

Rotation Dates for AY2016-2017

801 – 5/16 – 6/26/2016 – In process
802 – 7/11 – 8/21/2016 - need 13
803 – 9/12 – 10/23/2016 - need 10
804 – 11/7 – 12/18/2016 - need 9
805 – 01/17 – 02/26/2017 - need 12
806 – 03/03 – 04/23/2017 - need 8
Pinning Ceremony – May 12, 2016

Eddie Clark, PhD
John K. DiTiberio Award
Outstanding Interprofessional Collaboration
and Mentoring Excellence

Katherine Gray
Family Medicine Scholarship

Catherine Khoo
Family Health Foundation Scholarship

Artan Markollari, MD
Preceptor of the Year

Jane L. Tucker, MD
Medical Student Clinical Teaching Award

Jorge Riospedre
Michael J. Garanzini Award for Outstanding Community Service

Brittany Robinson, PhD
Raphael J. Becvar Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Service
Rodney M. Coe Award for M.D. with Distinction in Community Service

This distinction recognizes students who, throughout the four years of medical school, have engaged in faculty-mentored community service and a project in response to community need. The program includes critical reflection and supports professional formation through service and care for vulnerable populations.

Tiffany Adams
Eric Anderson
Jonathan Buck
Elizabeth Carlson
Hailey Chang
Talia Coney
Brittany Goodrich-Braun
Jeremy Goss
Katherine Gray
Peony (Catherine) Khoo
Bobak (Bobby) Koohian
Erin Salter
Keishondra Sampson
Kristina Shemwell
Chelsea Thouvenot
Abigail Thuet
Frances Ue
Luke Viehl
Vanessa Voss
Charonn Woods

Recognition in Community Service

This award recognizes students who demonstrate a commitment to community service and improvement of the St. Louis community during their years at SLU SOM.

Garima Ajmani
Xue (Liesl) Chi
Matthew DeCuffa
Dana Delaney
Thomas Dudrey
Stephanie Gray
Olga Guzovsky
Douglas Hofstetter
Joanna Izewski
Patrick Kennedy
Junghyun (Marco) Kim
Alexandria Lee
Ryan Lin
On Ying (Megan) Liu
Kristin Paci
Nikhil Patel
Vishal Patel
Dylan Pigeon
Imran Shaikh
Candace Smith
Ting Xu Tan
David Westrich
Michele Wong
Christina Zanaboni
2016 Family and Community Medicine Graduates

Tiffany Adams
Garima Ajmani
Nicholas Bratten
Daniel Curnyn
Lakebra Glover
Brittany Goodrich-Braun
Katherine Gray
Lawrence Hall
Catherine Khoo
Parker Kohlfeld
Benson Lan
Cheryl Burns Liang
Alison Matsunaga
Kaitlin McClenahan
Ashley Meyr
Andrew Mrugala
Kristin Pacl
Dylan Pigeon
Chris Reyes
Jeffrey Sachs
Elizabeth Schuebel
Nina Tsai
Michele Wong
Med School Students Use Service Projects to Build a Healthier St. Louis click here for story.

Interprofessional Practicum Students Start Work with Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM)

In the past 3 years, CJM has transitioned to its own independent organization as a 501c3. During this time, services have expanded, funding has expanded, and the board has moved from an advisory board to a corporate board. Fred Rottnek is a board member. Part of the CJM Strategic Plan, completed in the summer of 2015, is to establish and enhance academic partnerships that will support the mission of CJM. Thus far, pre-clinical students, including John Heafner, have worked with CJM and our award-winning chapter of Physicians for Human Rights started an annual Christmas Card Writing Party with the assistance of CJM.

Currently, CJM is working with the SLU School of Business to develop a small business around dog treats that will serve as a teaching tool for CJM clients and an alternate source of revenue for CJM programs.

Fred introduced an additional community-academic partnership in spring 2016 with the SLU Interprofessional Team Practicum (IPE 4900). One team created a list of potential 4900 projects for future teams.

Their product is a list of potential projects for future IPE health-related projects. These projects focus on clients, staff, board members, or organizational activities, such as fundraising, advocacy efforts and strategic planning. The projects are relatively simple semester-long projects, and some are more detailed, longitudinal projects that may be completed sequentially over several semesters. In addition to gathering this wish-list, the students gathered a sense of priority and immediacy of need for the different projects. The second team collected and organized orientation materials for CJM volunteer and service programs. Students worked primarily with Sister Rose Rita Huelsman, Director of Volunteer Services. After interviewing other staff and volunteers, they created an array of different electronic documents that CJM can use for specific volunteer programs, but all documents have similar elements that are tailored to each audience. Part of these resources will be a guide for students, residents and other learners who volunteer with CJM; these learners may be part of formal service learning courses—such as IPE 4900—or may be volunteers from other academic connections. Most exciting among the created items is a YouTube video developed for those interested in volunteering with CJM.

Fred Rottnek, M.D. has a New Role

Dr. Rottnek began his role with Concordance Academy of Leadership and Concordance Institute for Advancing Social Justice at the George Warren Brown School at Washington University.

Fred has worked with Director of the Concordance Institute Research Center, Carrie Pettus-Davis, PhD, since she arrived in St. Louis. Information about the Concordance Institute can be found by clicking the following link:
The Concordance Academy of Leadership, a separate 501c3, will serve people returning to the Saint Louis Region from the Missouri Department of Corrections. More information about the Academy can be found at:
http://www.concordanceacademy.com/

Fred will be serving as the Medical Director for both arms of the Concordance work. His initial activities will be developing a reentry model for health care services for the clients.

CSMB is designed to heavily engage its high school students, who are already interested in STEM and health professions careers, in coursework and educational activities that will help to prepare them for a path into their chosen health profession.

The Doctors for Diversity elective engages first and second year medical students in weekly, structured tutoring at CSMB, in addition to monthly health exploration curriculum activities that medical students teach at CSMB within the East Central Missouri AHEC Health Career Club at the school. This elective session, lessons have included vital signs and the cardiovascular system, a guided neurological exam, and more! Doctors for Diversity as both an interest group and elective works heavily with our AHEC program as well in partnership with Dr. Railey and Colette McLemore in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. If you would like to learn more, or have specific ideas about how to be a resource for students through Doctors for Diversity, please check out the DFD google site and email Nicole!!

SLU AHEC and Community Medicine Activities – SLU Doctors for Diversity Interest Group and Elective

Nicole Wiethop has worked with several medical student leaders to establish the Doctors for Diversity Interest Group over the last academic year. The main goal of DFD is to inspire high school and college students from diverse underrepresented backgrounds and underserved communities to pursue a career in the health professions, through focused mentoring, tutoring, and hands-on health exploration activities and skills development.

This spring, DFD leads Cathy Zhang, Brittany Redmond, and Divya Gupta helped lead the first Doctors for Diversity Service and Advocacy Learning Community (SALC) Elective. The elective site is at the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience, a local SLPS magnet high school just behind the SLU SOM campus.
Research
Projects starting this summer: We are interested in physicians that would allow us to tape patient visits in your exam rooms. The study is limited to patients who will have a visit that includes discussion of an opioid refill.

Interest in helping brainstorm a study of SBIRT type screening for opioid users expected of abuse/ or study involving implementing medication assisted opioid cessation.

Van den Berk Clark, C. grants sent out: 1 to the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation on trauma screening in primary care and 1 to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on disability screening in primary care.

St. Mary’s Health Center - Family Medicine Residency
Dr. Christine Jacobs, Program Director, and two of our PGY2s, Drs. Preethi Schmeidler and Kanika Turner, attended the Missouri Legislative Day in Jefferson City on February 1st and 2nd. Along with the Missouri Primary Care Association’s Joni Adamson, Dr. Jacobs and our residents attended legislative hearings and met with our state legislators regarding Health Care Reform. This trip is part of our program’s unique Longitudinal Underserved Community Curriculum.

Congratulations
Kanika Turner, MD, MPH - has been elected to serve as our 2016-2017 Chief Resident. Dr. Turner’s term began on April 1st, 2016 and will end March 31st, 2017. Dr. Turner succeeds Dr. Betsy Wan, who did an outstanding job as our 2015-2016 Chief Resident.

On April 18th and 19th, Emily Doucette, MD (Faculty) and Kanika Turner, MD, MPH (PGY2) attended the AAFP Congressional Conference in Washington, DC (see attached photos). Drs. Doucette and Turner met with Representative Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr. from Missouri’s 1st District to discuss healthcare in Missouri.

Dr. Christine Jacobs – Prof. Panelist
Dr. Jacobs was one of the professional panelists at a “Town Hall” forum held on Monday evening, April 25th. The forum was cosponsored by the MO Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, Physicians for Human Rights, Consumers Council of Missouri, and Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice, and Students for a National Health Program. The evening began with “Health Care Reform Panel Discussion: How Would You Solve America’s Health Care Crisis?” The discussion focused on health insurance reform’s prominent role in current national politics which has many health care professionals rethinking the road forward, i.e. should we gradually build on the Affordable Care Act’s foundations or should we improve Medicare and expand it to everyone? Other panelists included specialists from Saint Louis University and SSM Health Care, as well as medical students from Saint Louis University and Washington University.
They won the Quality Improvement Project Award at SLU’s Primary Care Research Symposium on April 27th. (Photo attached) Their QI project was on “Evaluating the Implementation of an Opioid Prescribing Protocol.” Betsy and Matt will be graduating from our program in June.

Belleville Family Medicine Residency

Resident Research Day
Our 2016 Research Day was held in St. Elizabeth’s Millennium Room on 17 February. We were honored by the presence of Col. Curry, Commander of the 375th Medical Group; Col. Berberick, Commander of the Medical Operations Squadron; Col. Poindexter, Chief of Medical Staff; Ms. Sebastian, new President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital; and Mr. Ernst, new Chief Operating Officer of Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. The day’s judges were faculty member Chris Herndon, PharmD; temporary staff member Lt. Col. Guy Venuti, MD; and Everest fellow Arpana Jaiswal, MD, MPH.

The winning research project was “Impact of ACOG’s 2014 Labor Management Guidelines on Cesarean Section Rates at a Community-Based Hospital,” the work of residents Bart Worthington, DO; Erynn Elleby, MD; Rebecca Hayes, MD; Jennifer Dunn, DO; and faculty member Ann Nash, MD (’06).

Civilian Match Day
On March 18th we learned that we had filled, and noted that our future civilian-military Class of 2019 would have seven MDs, six DOs, and one MBBS.

Research Wins at Uniformed Services Association of Family Physicians (USAFP)
For five days in March, eight of our residency’s military doctors took part in the 2016 USAFP meeting in Denver, Colorado. Faculty members Lt. Col. Snyder, Maj. Creech, Maj. Reineke-Piper, and Capt. Smith flew with residents Captains Dunn, Hayes, McHaney, and Stouffer to the Mile-High City to lead workshops for, attend sessions by, and share research with physicians from all branches of our military from all around the country.

Jordan Stouffer, M.D., won 2nd Place in the Case Report division for work on an F. necrophorum infection in a man who had given his cat mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The report was a revision of the project Capt. Stouffer had worked on originally with Drs. Trevor Smith (‘14/Fac), Matt Rhadans (‘15), and Sarah Gebauer (’15).

Jennifer Dunn, DO, and Rebecca Hayes, MD, won 1st place in the Poster—Clinical Investigation division for their group’s report on the effect of ACOG guidelines on the rate of Caesarian...
sections. Captains Hayes and Dunn had worked on the project with civilian Drs. Anne Nash ('06/Fac), Erynn Elleby, and Bart Worthington; the USAFP award certificate showed only Dr. Worthington’s name!

Kristen Reineke-Piper, MD, won 1st place in the Educational Research division for her multi-site collaborative project, “Studying Pedagogy for Understanding Dyspnea.” Dr. Reineke also co-presented a faculty development workshop, “Half Full or Half Empty: Filling Your Learner's Glass.”

Matthew Snyder, DO, and Trevor Smith, DO, co-presented an all-day workshop, “OMT for Muggles,” a hands-on session for MDs to learn some common osteopathic manipulative techniques. Dr. Snyder also co-presented a half-day workshop on limited obstetric ultrasound techniques.

After the event, all of our participants took off on their flight back to St. Louis just before a blizzard socked in Denver International Airport for more than six hours!

Safe Medicine

On March 22nd our teach room was briefly a setting for the United for Patient Safety campaign as (left to right) civilians Kristina Anderson, MD, and Tina Washington, RN; contractor Shelly Heimann, RN; and active duty Trevor Smith, DO, showed what typical patients look like. Well, sort of.

The seventh edition of Family Medicine

Principles and Practice contains chapters on “Anaphylaxis and Anaphylactoid Reactions” by Cole Taylor, MD (faculty), Wesley Carr, MD (PGY-2), and Sarah Gebauer, MD ('15);
“Care of the Obese Patient” by Jay Gardner, MD (faculty and '07) and Fahad Pervez, MD (PGY-2);
“Family Stress & Counseling” by Marjorie Guthrie, MD (faculty and '05), Max Zubatsky, PhD (Medical Family Therapy), and Craig Smith, PhD (Medical Family Therapy); and “Venousous thromboembolism” by Lawrence Gibbs, MD (faculty and '12) Josiah Moulton, DO (PGY-3), and Vincent Tichenor, MD (PGY-3).

The December 2015 HelpDesk Answers in The Journal of Family Practice featured an evidence-based answer on PPI therapy duration for ulcers written by recent graduate Steve Whealon, MD ('15), and faculty Lawrence Gibbs, MD ('12).

Dr. Gibbs also had his case report on Paederus dermatitis (mentioned in the May 2015 Catalyst) published in the December 2015 issue of Military Medicine.

Training

Faculty members Dustin Creech, MD, LaShell LaBounty, DO ('15), and James Jablonski, MD, took the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics Instructor Course at Nellis Air Force Base in January. Faculty Matthew Snyder, DO, served as an instructor for the course.

▲ A few Research Day attendees (left to right): Jeffrey O’Banner, Matthew Snyder, Todd Poindexter (standing), Guy Venuti, Leo Bay (blue scrubs), Hayley Ralph, Chris Herndon, Arpana Jaiswal (standing), Jennifer Woosley, and Trevor
Mercy Family Medicine Residency

In June we will say goodbye to Dr. Marsha Mertens, a long time faculty member of Mercy Family Medicine Residency. Dr. Mertens has been a faculty member for over 30 years and has consistently been honored by our residents as one of the best teachers year after year. Her fellow faculty members have had the utmost respect and admiration of her, both as an exemplary family physician and wise mentor. She will be dearly missed by our staff and her patients. Dr. Mertens is transitioning to a smaller practice in Hillsboro, MO to be closer to home.

In July we will welcome Dr. John Campbell, MD as a new faculty member. Dr. Campbell did his medical school training at Washington University in St. Louis, his family medicine residency at Mercy St. Louis and completed a geriatric fellowship through St. Louis University. He is returning with his family to the St. Louis area after serving as a faculty member at Georgetown University in the Depts. of Family Medicine and Geriatrics.

In May our third year residents will be presenting their scholarly activity projects at the Mercy Research Colloquium – a regional conference highlighting the research of residents and other providers throughout Mercy.

MFM graduate scholarly projects
2 Help Desk Answers: Melissa Lao -- Does Vitamin D supplementation reduce risk of stress fractures? And Christopher Young -- Is capsaicin effective analgesia for osteoarthritis? Both have been accepted and are pending publication
2 Program Evaluations projects: Abbey Woods -- Evaluating appointment wait times in a family medicine residency clinic and Sam Sparks -- Utilization of osteopathic manipulative therapy in an allopathic family medicine residency
2 Quality Improvement projects -- Andy Bryant -- Effective strategies to improve safe prescribing of medications to geriatric patients in a family medicine residency and Ted Eckelkamp -- Does a focused physician educational intervention increase use of bisphosphonates in osteoporosis? In addition two of our PGY2 residents collaborated with Dr Sarah Cole in publishing a Systematic Review: Constipation: a review with osteopathic considerations Cole S, Moore C and Shah P. Osteopathic Family Physician Mar/Apr 2016.

ACGME Review Committee Appointment

In April, Dr Grant Hoekzema, MD attended his first meeting as a member of the ACGME Review Committee for Family Medicine; his six year appointment begins this summer. Dr Hoekzema was nominated for the position on the RC-FM by the AAFP, which serves as one of three appointing organizations to the ACGME RC-FM.
Presentations included:

Gary Behrman; Paula Ballew, Med; Scott Secrest; Jeffrey Scherrer, PhD - Stakeholder Lived Experiences with Suicide and Depression Screening in Primary Care Pediatrics.

Jay Brieler, MD; Max Zubatsky, PhD, LMFT - Training Residents and Graduate Students for Integrated Behavioral Health Systems.

Medical Family Therapy and Family Medicine Residency Cross Training.

Emily Doucette, MD; Joanne Salas, MPH; Jeffrey Scherrer, PhD - Completed Projects and Research Session on Disparities.

Presentations continued:

Sara C. Gebauer, MD; Joanne Salas, MPH; Jeffrey F. Scherrer, PhD – Association Between Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status and Type of Pain Treatment Received in Primary Care Patients with Musculoskeletal Pain.

Christine Jacobs, MD – Building Mastery in Underserved Care with a Longitudinal Underserved Community Curriculum.

Jeffrey Scherrer, PhD; Joanne Salas, MPH; Laurel Copeland, PhD; Eileen Stock, PhD; Thomas Burroughs, PhD, MA, MS; Patrick Lustman; Mark Sullivan; F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH – Prescription Opioids Increase Risk of Depression Recurrence in Non-Cancer Pain Patients.

F. David Schneider, MD, MSPH; Ardis Davis, MSW; Frank deGruiy III, MD, MSFM; Bernard Ewigman, MD, MSPH; Anton Kuzel, MD, MHPE; Amanda Weidner, MPH – Developing Research Infrastructure in Departments of Family Medicine.

Carissa van den Berk-Clark; Mayra Aragon; Emily Doucette, MD; Rachel Hughes, PLMFT; Tyler Lawrence – Do Patient-Centered Medical Homes Improve Health Behaviors, Outcomes, and Experiences of Low Income Patients? A Systematic Review.
FCM Presentations

Doucette, E.D., Turner, K. and Schneider, F.D. represented SLU Family Medicine at the 2016 Missouri Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) Advocacy Day in Jefferson City in February 2016. Emily Doucette organized and led the event as the Co-Chair of the MAFP Advocacy Commission.

Doucette, E.D., Emily Doucette served as the faculty advisor and monthly volunteer for the HRC Heart Health Clinic in which she helped the students redesign a longitudinal clinic for a pilot groups of patients that focused on prevention of cardiovascular disease through risk factor modification, group visits and intensive counseling regarding lifestyle modifications.


Doucette, E.D., served as a judge for the Primary Care Research Symposium.

Doucette, E.D. and Pole, D.C., served as faculty advisors for SLU's new chapter of Primary Care Progress, hosted a 2 day kickoff event for the organization featuring two guest speakers Drs. Andrew Morris-Singer and Stephanie Noethelle.


Everard, Kelly M. Gave a talk to the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development at Saint Louis University School of Medicine on "Creating a Scholarship Timeline" in February.

Everard, Kelly M. Gave a Talk in March as part of Lilly Speaker Series at Saint Louis University School of Medicine "Building a Professional Network to Maintain your Sanity"

Everard, Kelly M., and and Zoberi, Kimberly, S., participated in a national survey of residency directors regarding how they teach about opioid use in residency.


Hooks-Anderson, D - wrote a letter of recommendation for Talia Coney for the competitive National Health Service Corp Award and she was indeed successful in obtaining this award. This is the 2nd student awardee whose letter was written by Dr. Hooks-Anderson.

Hooks-Anderson, Denise R. will be the guest speaker for a Women's Day program at Wayman AME Church on Mother's Day.

Muir, Sherry L. Led a discussion about OT in Primary Care with students and faculty at Midwestern University, Phoenix Arizona.

Muir, Sherry L. and Dahl-Popolizio, Sue presented on OT on the integrated primary care team at the Integrated Healthcare Conference in Phoenix Arizona.


FCM Publications
Brieler JA, Lustman PJ, Scherrer JF, Salas J, Schneider FD. Antidepressant medication use and glycaemic control in co-morbid type 2 diabetes and depression. Family Practice. 2016; 33:30-36 PMID: 26743722


van den Berk Clark, C. How can doctors identify recent trauma exposure in adult patients in primary care? In press: Evidence Based Medicine.

In Memory of Dr. Charles Robacker

An Unexpected Loss

On the afternoon of the second Monday of February, administrative and medical members of our residency and clinics joined the long, long line of patients and community providers who had gathered at St. Elizabeth’s Centennial Room to show their love and respect for Dr. E. Charles Robacker.

Dr. Robacker was a faculty member with us for twenty years, and his favorite question was, “Do you know where babies come from?” He already knew the answer, of course, having delivered so many babies that people were surprised to learn that his specialty was not Obstetrics but Family Medicine.

That specialty was called Family Practice when Dr. Robacker came to our residency, and he came at a time of many changes. In early 1996 the 24-year-old Scott Air Force Base Family Practice residency program had just moved to Belleville, joining the 15-year-old civilian program in the brand-new Medical Arts Building on St. Elizabeth’s campus. Six months after the move, to the surprise of many of his colleagues on base, Colonel Robacker took on the assignment of Military Program Director at our combined residency. That was just when the original civilian academic sponsor was pulling out; during the transition from Southern Illinois University to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital to Saint Louis University, a stabilizing point for our newly combined residency was Dr. Robacker’s past experience heading an Air Force residency.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2000, he stayed on as a civilian faculty member. His interesting taste in neckties became apparent when he was no longer in uniform, but his habits of stretching the work day, disregarding holidays, caring for patients, teaching residents, and delivering babies remained the same.

In 2004 he became civilian Residency Program Director and stayed in that position through four military program directors and two electronic health records transitions. In March of 2013 he turned the big corner office over to Dr. Marjorie Guthrie (’05) and moved back down the hall to stay on as a faculty member and a residency resource. The morning of his last work day Dr. Robacker was at St. Elizabeth’s, about to start a familiar procedure, one having to do with where babies come from. Most of us never saw him again after that last Friday morning in January, and we still feel disbelief at our loss.