Anonymous Feedback

Our website has a section for anonymous feedback. Think of this like an electronic suggestion box that you can use at any time. The message will be sent directly to Dr. Warm, and is completely anonymous. If you have constructive feedback that you would like to share, please use this tool.

The link is: [http://www.med.uc.edu/intmed/residency/internal-medicine/residency-feedback](http://www.med.uc.edu/intmed/residency/internal-medicine/residency-feedback)
ITE Roundup w/the Co-chief: Treating PJP

We recently received a full performance report on the ITE. From that report we can see the entire program’s performance on each ITE objective, broken down by national percentile. Throughout the year in the Stethoscoop we will emphasize ITE objectives in which our performance was below the 50th percentile. Two weeks ago the teaching objective was “diagnose Meckel’s.” Today, let’s focus on how to “treat severe Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia in an HIV-positive patient.”

Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia is an opportunistic infection of the lung caused by the fungus Pneumocystis jirovecii. Nearly all infections occur in immunocompromised patients, such as HIV infection, chronic corticosteroids or solid organ transplantation recipients. Onset may be subacute or indolent with symptoms of nonproductive cough, DOE, and fever. Chest imaging findings are variable but the classic finding is bilateral perihilar infiltrates in a butterfly-wing distribution. For diagnostic evaluation, microscopic identification of cysts or trophic-stage organism in induced sputum or BAL specimens is often used to confirm the diagnosis. PCR testing is available for respiratory samples but may not distinguish colonization from infection. Laboratory findings that support the diagnosis include elevated serum beta-D-glucan (Fungitell) and LDH. An ABG is useful to determine the PaO2 and the need for adjunctive corticosteroids as part of the treatment regimen. Begin empiric therapy immediately when PCP is suspected given the associated high morbidity and mortality. First-line agent is co-trimoxazole (trimethoprim 15-20 mg/kg/day plus sulfamethoxazole 75-100 mg/kg/day) orally or IV divided into 4 equal doses daily for 21 days. Adjunctive corticosteroid use may help with inflammatory response during treatment. Steroid therapy should be used if the PaO2 is < 70 mm Hg measured by ABG and the A-a gradient is > 35 mm Hg. Dosing regimen for prednisone is 40 mg IV or orally twice daily for 5 days, then 40 mg/day for an additional 5 days, then 20 mg/day through day 21. Clinical response to treatment is generally slow (7-10 days). Chemoprophylaxis is recommended to prevent PCP in severely immunocompromised patients. Indications include any of: 1) HIV CD4 < 200 cells/mcL, 2) history of PJP, chronic corticosteroid use, initial period following transplantation, cancer receiving immunosuppressive medications. First-line prophylaxis is trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole 1 single-strength or 1 double-strength tablet orally once daily, or 1 double-strength tablet orally 3 times weekly.
A 27yo male presents with low-back pain; it’s progressively worsened for 2yrs, worse at night, and not improved with rest. His lumbar Xray is shown. What is the image finding, his Dx, and first-line therapy? Bonus points if you know the 2nd line agent!
**Weekend To-Do!**

*Friday:* **Ice Rink**, noon-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday, Fountain Square, Fifth and Vine streets, Downtown. Through Feb. 15. $6 admission, $4 skate rental. 513-381-0782; www.myfountainsquare.com.

**Finding Neverland**, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., Downtown. Tells incredible story behind one of world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan. Through Nov. 19. Presented by Broadway in Cincinnati. $30 and up. 800-294-1816.

**Greater Cincinnati Holiday Market**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Duke Energy Convention Center, 525 Elm St., Downtown. More than 100 displays from one-of-a-kind boutiques and specialty retailers. $9, free ages 12 and under with paying adult. 513-797-7900; cincinnatiholidaymarket.com.


*Saturday:* **Cincinnati Coffee Festival**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. For coffee and tea lovers. Tastings, samplings, music, demos and products for purchase. Benefits Ohio River Foundation. $17.50 weekend, $12 single day. 513-460-3365; cincinnaticoffeefestival.com.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony**, 11 a.m., Eden Park. Chapter 10 color guard will post colors and perform other traditional duties. Chapter board members share reflections on meaning of day. Free. 513-761-8007.


*Sunday:* **CCO + VAE: Welcome Home**, 5-6:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, 1225 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine. Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and Vocal Arts Ensemble perform Mozart's Requiem and world premiere performance with Cincinnati Children's Choir. $30. Reservations recommended. 513-381-3300; vaecinci.org.

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**SHOUT OUTS!!!**

- To **Purple** and **Yellow teams** for crushing early discharges in October.
- To **Elyse Harris** and **Betsy Larder** for presenting sweet cases during NR this week!
- To **Natalie Hood** and **Rachel John** for helping out an inpatient team with such a good attitude!
- To **Edwin Vargas** and **Keith Luckett** for sharing their expertise during AHD this week.
- To **our IM residents** for being in the 95th percentile nationally on the ITE objective involving diagnosing an epidural abscess in a former IV drug abuser. #crushedit
- To **Dan Tim** for consistently making the time to hang out with the applicants during the afternoons!
- To the members of the **2017 Flag Football team** for giving it their all, labrums included!
- To **Megan Caroway** and **Logan Roof** for taking great care of crazy sick patients during times of high turnover; they also got a DB11 out in time despite being post-call with 5 nightfloat admits!
- To the **Warm family** for hosting yet another amazing Resident Party!
- To **Dr. Bunger** for taking photos at the aforementioned party for the Scoop!