



2013 Teaching Excellence Award New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Oracle: “A person giving wise or authoritative decisions or opinions” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/oracle>). Some call Dr. Richard M. Hoffman “The Oracle”. Others call him Professor or Chief. Now, we honor him as the New Mexico American College of Physicians 2013 Teaching Excellence Awardee.

Dr. Hoffman received his BA in British Literature from Haverford College, (graduating Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa), and his MD from the John Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Oregon Health Sciences University, continued his training as a General Internal Medicine Fellow at the Seattle VA, and earned an MPH from the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He then moved to the sunnier climes of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center prior to coming to New Mexico. Currently, he is a Professor of Medicine, in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Preventive Medicine at UNM, and the Acting Chief, Section of General Internal Medicine at the New Mexico VA HCS.

In his spare time, Dr. Hoffman also manages to teach, and does an outstanding job doing so. He serves as a clinic attending, faculty mentor and preceptor for the Internal Medicine resident’s critical reading journal club, and as a tutor for the UNM Transitions Block. As a mentor, his work has directly resulted in multiple presentations and publications by residents and fellows. As one of his residents stated so eloquently and succinctly: “Dr. Hoffman is really smart.” You might recognize him from his many lectures at conferences, seminars, Grand Rounds, and community and society meetings. Or perhaps you have read one of his nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications, his General Medicine chapters in MKSAP 14, or his UpToDate chapter on prostate cancer screening. As a national expert on prostate and colon cancer screening, he is in demand as an invited speaker. For our New Mexico ACP Meetings, he has discussed “Updates and Controversies on Cancer Screening” and “Colorectal Cancer Screening.” For the national ACP meeting, he presented at the Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind: Oncology. His work has led to his being awarded with the Best Cancer Research Poster for the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), the Mountain West SGIM Clinician-Investigator of the Year Award, and The Dean’s Award of Distinction, UNM School of Medicine.

It is rumored that Dr. Hoffman works in his sleep, perhaps explaining his productivity and ability to excel at multiple tasks. His scholarly activities include curriculum development for the Evidence-Based Clinical Practice course at the medical school. He serves as Associate Editor for the ACP Journal Club, was previously a Deputy Editor for the Journal of General Internal Medicine, and reviews for multiple journals, as well as international/national and regional funding organizations, including the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the National Institutes of Health. So if you are applying for a grant, or working on a manuscript, Dr. Hoffman is a master-editor. Papers will come back full of red ink and helpful

comments. But, as one of his colleagues notes, “sometimes I don’t know what I am trying to say, but after Dr. Hoffman edits my work, it is always much clearer to me!” Finally, Dr. Hoffman makes excellent lattes and may have a career as a barista if this doctor thing does not work out for him.

In recognition of his outstanding teaching, the New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Physicians is honored to present the 2013 Teaching Excellence Award to Dr. Richard Hoffman.