Fundamentals of Geriatrics module.

September 17, 2016

This activity is unique to the MBoA and takes the form of a workshop. It is very important to stimulate a dialogue between basic researchers studying the molecular biology of aging and geriatricians providing care to our elderly population.

The Brown Medical School curriculum has recently been reorganized along organ-specific lines. Classes on geriatrics, with the exception of two introductory lectures, are not presented together but are interspersed with other topics. Hence, relevant content in geriatrics has been added to all of the basic science courses as well as to the clinical curriculum.

All lectures at Brown Medical School are taped so that students can watch them at any time. Using this resource Dr. John Sedivy (MBoA Director) and Dr. Philip Gruppuso (former Dean or Medical Education) put together a module of lectures of interest to MBoA students.

Six lectures were chosen for the "Fundamentals of geriatrics module". The first lecture, "Mechanisms of aging", is delivered by Dr. Gruppuso and deals with fundamental concepts of aging from a medical perspective. The second lecture, "Themes of aging", is delivered by Dr. Besdine and covers epidemiological and clinical issues, including an introduction to age-associated diseases. These introductory lectures are followed by four lectures chosen from the roster of organ-specific aging lectures, namely: "Aging of the immune system" (Dr. Gravenstein), "Aging of the heart" (Dr. Besdine), "Brain aging" (Dr. Besdine") and "Dementia" (Dr. Salloway).

The geriatrics module is arranged as a workshop of three sessions, each of which features two lectures. The workshop is jointly moderated by the MBoA leadership (Drs. Sedivy, Tatar, Helfand) and Dr. Gruppuso.

The purpose of the faculty panel is to engage the students in a discussion of how to interpret the presented information in light of both clinical practice and basic science.