SALZBURG Duke SEMINAR
Family Medicine
April 10-16, 2016

- The 19th Duke Seminar
- 32 fellows from 21 countries
- 1 to 5 faculty to fellow ratio
- 3 Workshops: Motivational Interviewing, Breaking Bad News, and Case presentations

In light of last week’s pertinent and admittedly quite successful seminar on world-wide issues concerning migrants and minorities, the challenge this week at Schloss Arenberg then was to repeat success, a challenge, however, the Schloss repeatedly and readily accepts. And indeed the word “success” was the mode of all evaluative words used this week. Pertinence to the current and predicted shortage of physicians the world over, especially in family medicine, and an especial emphasis on teaching and learning contributed heavily to this success. From the seminar’s start course director Dr. John W. Ragsdale, III underscored the faculty’s earned teaching accolades, and evidenced the faculty’s dedication to the instruction of teaching with presence of Dr. Vanessa Solomon, a resident. This tone pervaded throughout the rest of the seminar, generating a palpable calm, yet energetic and ambitious atmosphere, enabling maximal utilization of the time and lectures.

At 8 a.m. Monday morning, sharp as usual, lectures and presentations commenced. Opening was a broad yet centering introduction by co-course director Dr. Manfred Maier, “European Family Medicine.” Decreasing the scope, but relevant to more people were Dr. Halstater’s talk, “Substance Abuse” and the fascinating, eye-opening talk on women’s health by Dr. Solomon. Indeed, much of the week focused on diabetes, immunizations, or joint pain and arthritis for example, issues we are all familiar with, perhaps too familiar. Such talks were simultaneously accompanied by relieving and refreshing and refreshing discussions encompassing how doctors better connect and build relationships with their patients. Lastly, in holding to the theme of teaching and learning, Dr. Sharon Hull’s final lecture, “Integrating Primary Care and Public Health” was not applicable to just to the fellows’ countries, but to the developed as well. Predicted physician shortage, changes to the healthcare model, demographic shifts due to age and migration, all or in part burden even the world’s most ‘advanced’ healthcare systems, and a foundation of basic care and propinquity between doctor and patient is categorically necessary to support the ever climbing tower of technology and specialization in medicine.

With plenty of time during the week to tour Salzburg, Wednesday’s in house concert, and free time to converse, the group quickly coalesced into a palpably strong and tightly woven group. As always though, on Friday evening another wonderful Salzburg seminar had to reach its conclusion, but with a very enjoyable farewell dinner. With the Schloss supplying all possible amenities, this evening one and all celebrated among friends their mutual work, growth, and vision. As the guests departed over the weekend, they were followed by the hope that these relationships between faculty and fellows will be utilized to improve the condition of patients, indeed not just in the fellows’ countries but the entire world.
Group Faculty, Lecturers, and Organizers Photo, (L-R): Dr. Vanessa Solomon, MD; Dr. Brian Halstater, MD; Joyce Copeland, MD; John W. Ragsdale, III, MD (Course Director); Sharon K. Hull, MD, MPH, FAAFP, FACPM; Manfred Maier, MD (Co-Course Director)

Group Photo of Fellows and Faculty
Ann Kareli, MD
General Practitioner, Department of Family Medicine, Clinic EVEX, Tbilisi, Georgia

15th of January the day when I first found out that I’d participate in Salzburg Duke University Seminar in Family Medicine. Whole months were very emotional for me as it was my first time to participate in such a global event.

Appraisal expectation has become reality from the very steps in this beautiful city of Austria, Salzburg. The architects of the city was mind blowing, nature was absolutely stunning and staggering. Scenery was like from movies, which is kind of hardly to believe to be true, but it was real. People were as kind and helpful as possible which is unlike from the rest of the Europe. I was even nerves about this seminar as I didn’t know what to expect from this global event which hosted 32 presenters from 21 country and the lecturers were John Ragsdale, MD (USA), Manfred Maier, MD (Vienna) Joyce Copeland, MD(USA), Brian Halstater, MD (USA) Sharon Hull, MD (USA) Vanessa Solomon, DO (USA)

Soon I realize that I shouldn’t have worried at all, as the colleagues were extremely kind and friendly and the faculty was totally amazing.

On the first day we gathered at the welcome dinner where everybody arrived, Mr John Ragsdale made his introduction and we all mingled. Faculty tried their best for us to feel like at home.

Monday morning begun with discussion of agenda and introduction about the GP practice in various countries in the Europe and rest of the world it was most interesting to hear about latest achievements in this field throughout the EU and the USA. We had an interesting role plays, how to notify bad news to the patients, which is very helpful in everyday practice.

On Tuesday we were explained that the most important thing is to find out what the patient really wants, how to work with them and how to be proud of even reaching a small goals.

Wednesday was a short but very interesting day; main topic for the day were depression and women’s health care.

Free afternoon was full of excitements. We were amazed with the beauty of the city its castles, gardens, and museums. The day ended with CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT, it was so much thrilling to see young talented pianist.

On Thursday we were acknowledged to the treatment of hypertension, arthritis and diabetes.

Unfortunately Friday was the end of conference which was kind of sad as we all enjoyed it. We went through several very important topics about treatment of chronic pain, congestive heart failure and headaches.

I would like to highlight farewell dinner, which was full of joy and happiness. Then we got our certificates and all are proud to be holders of such Certificate which will be very useful thru my career.

Memories about Salzburg will be emotional for me all my life.

P.S The food and the staff were extremely incredible.