

21st WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

USF INTERNAL MEDICINE & PEDIATRIC DIVISIONS OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

This newsletter features Dr. Gerald Bucholtz, MD, who trained in the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, 1980 – 1982, and served as a Division faculty member for several years. He was practicing in Marshfield, Wisconsin as an allergist/immunologist and retired approximately 4 – 5 years ago.

Gerald Bucholtz, MD

- ***Fellow USF Division of Allergy and Immunology, 1980-1982***
- ***Assistant Professor of Medicine, USF College of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, 1982-1991.***

I had the pleasure and honor of having Samuel C. Bukantz, MD as my attending twice during my USF Internal Medicine Residency. Dr. Bukantz had a tradition of taking his house staff out to dinner at least once per rotation. While on his service, I had ordered a biopsy that required a specific stain of a fresh frozen specimen for diagnosis and the only place that could do the stain was in California, requiring it to be sent priority airmail. Sometime after that, Dr. Bukantz began receiving the first of many shipping bills which he kept handing to me "to take care of". It was many months before that was straightened out and I got called on the carpet for it. After my residency, I worked ERs for four years, 24-hour shifts on and 48-hours off. I decided to get a better job and applied for the newly created USF Allergy and Immunology fellowship hoping Dr. Bukantz had by then forgotten about that little shipping bill incident. I interviewed with Dr. Richard Lockey at the "Brass Monkey Tavern". A few beers must have been just enough to improve my chances.

It was during my fellowship that I met the most unforgettable person, John J. Stablein, MD. He was a relentless reader. I mean he read everything from the *New England Journal of Medicine* to the *Ladies Home Journal* to the *Journal of Non-Reproducible Results*. I think he

made the latter up! The rumor was he would slip some controversial article, usually from the *Ladies Home Journal*, under Dr. Lockey's door just about the time John was nearing a deadline. In five, and no more than ten minutes, the door would fly open and Dr. Lockey would run down the hall yelling "We have to respond to this, quick, send a letter to the editor!"

Part of being a fellow is doing research, something I had never done before. It was Dr. Stablein who gave me the idea and the half-written proposal to study the Bald Cypress Pollen as an aeroallergen. I polished it up a little (17 drafts) and to my surprise it was approved and funded. Then I had to do it. The completion of which led to other aeroallergen studies including the Australian Pine pollen study by Dr. Al Hensel and Bayberry pollen study by Dr. Robert Nelson. We did get more sophisticated including measurement of nasal resistance with the use of a modified fireman's mask. Not everyone could perform the nasal resistance maneuver. Dr. Nelson recovered with little ill effect after nearly aspirating the nasal oropharyngeal tube. My only regret is that we did not get funding for what I believe would have been the most informative study, the Longleaf Pine pollen. My suspicions were that the Longleaf Pine pollen may be an aeroallergen, but its extract was missing an important aeroallergen that may have been removed by ether in the extraction process. I had the opportunity to write "The Three-Year Aeroallergen Survey of Tampa Bay Area". The real credit goes to all the people who compiled the data and the editorial help and patience of Dr. Bukantz, who after the 16th revision threw his hands up in the air and said, "Please just submit the damn thing."

I am eternally in debt to Peggy Hales for her uncomplaining perseverance in the seemingly never-ending revisions. I remember one day I was in the secretary's office going over one such revision with Peggy's predecessor, Ginger Montuoro. An allergy fellow candidate came in asking Ginger, "I heard Dr. Lockey is pretty hard on the fellows?" Ginger replied, "Not really, but do you see that fellow over there", as she pointed to Dr. Steve Louie, "when he started, he was as big as that fellow", as she pointed to Dr. Al Hensel. There were black tire marks leaving the parking lot.

The Allergy and Immunology Division had a number of social events, one of which was sponsored by yours truly on Lake Keystone. I was water skiing before I thought anyone would arrive, but low and behold there was almost the entire Division lined up on the dock like sparrows on a wire. I couldn't resist it and skied by the dock, not thinking the spray would go that far. Dr. Bukantz saw the humor in it and said, "Well done". Mrs. Bukantz said something else, referring to her new hairdo. One notable person who wasn't there for the water fun was Dr. Al Hensel, but he did show up later with 5 gallons of gumbo.

As an attending, I had the pleasure of learning and working with gifted trainees such as Dr. Dennis K. Ledford. He would ponder questions overnight or over the weekend and put it to me on the next day, often a Monday. After a while, I realized this was a trap, the "Ledford Trap", because the answer to the second question would make any answer to the first question implausible. He clearly had been thinking about it a lot.

I truly enjoyed my time in the Division and will always feel a part of the USF Division of Allergy and Immunology.

With warm regards,

Gerald Bucholtz, MD

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Left to right: Gerald A. Bucholtz, MD and John J. Stablein, M.D.



Dr. Bucholtz loved to fish in his spare time. Here he is proudly displaying his catch of the day!