



DEAN'S Quarterly

An update on faculty honors & hires in the VCU School of Medicine

December 2011 Contents

Faculty Honors

Dean's Office
Emergency Medicine
Family Medicine
Human and Molecular Genetics
Internal Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pathology
Pediatrics
Psychiatry

Faculty Recruits

Biostatistics
Family Medicine
Human and Molecular Genetics
Orthopaedic Surgery
Physiology and Biophysics
Radiology
Surgery

Student and Resident Honors

Jerome F. Strauss III, M.D., Ph.D.

Dean, School of Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical
Affairs, VCU Health System
Sanger Hall, Room 1-071
Phone: 804-828-9788
Fax: 804-828-7628
E-mail: jfstrauss@vcu.edu
Web site:
<http://www.medschool.vcu.edu>

*Please submit news of faculty hires
and faculty honors through
your chairman's office.*

Faculty Honors

Raising our school's profile in the region, the nation and the world

Dean's Office

Craig Cheifetz, M.D., associate dean for medical education on the Inova Campus, will receive the American College of Physicians 2012 Walter J. McDonald Award for Young Physicians, which recognizes outstanding achievement by a physician member who is within 16 years of graduating medical school and is based on his significant contributions in medical leadership, teaching and mentoring. He also has been appointed the 2012 National Chair for the AAMC Group on Regional Medical Campuses.

Emergency Medicine

Joseph P. Ornato, M.D., professor and department chairman, has been awarded the 2011 Virginia Governor's Award for outstanding EMS physician. Ornato is also operational medical director of both the Richmond Ambulance Authority and Richmond Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Family Medicine

Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., associate professor and associate dean for admissions, has been appointed to the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority by the Richmond City Council for a three-year term.

Human and Molecular Genetics

Lindon Eaves, Ph.D., professor emeritus, has been notified that the Behavior Genetics Association will open its 42nd Annual Meeting with a Festschrift in his honor next June in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Internal Medicine

Colin Banas, M.D., assistant professor and chief medical information officer for the VCU Medical Center, was recently named one of the top 25 clinical informaticists in the country by editors at health care news provider "Modern Healthcare."

Stephanie Call, M.D., associate professor, has been selected to receive the ACGME's 2012 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award. This is one of the ACGME's highest awards, and only 10 program directors across the country are selected annually.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Lisa Ellis, M.D., FACP, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and internal medicine, has been elected Virginia Governor for the American College of Physicians. ACP governors make up the full Board of Governors, an advisory board to the Board of

Regents, which is the ACP's policy-making body. Ellis is executive director at VCU Medical Center at Stony Point and medical director of clinical services at Stony Point Women's Health Center.

Pathology

Celeste Powers, M.D., Ph.D., professor and division chair of anatomic pathology, is the recipient of the 2012 F.K. Mostofi Distinguished Service Award. This award was established by the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology as a tribute to the long and dedicated service given by Dr. Mostofi to the International Academy of Pathology. It is presented annually to a member of the USCAP who has rendered outstanding service to the International Academy of Pathology and its US-Canadian Division.

Kimberly Sanford, M.D., FASCP, assistant professor, is the recipient of a Mastership Designation from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, an honor that recognizes exceptional members who have made significant contributions, not only to the field of pathology and laboratory medicine, but also to the ASCP. She was honored at the ASCP Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in October. Sanford is also associate medical director of transfusion medicine and medical director for an outpatient laboratory at the VCU Medical Center.

David Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair, received the College of American Pathologists' Distinguished Service Award at a special CAP ceremony held in Dallas in September. He was recognized for his more than 30 years of dedication to the improvement of laboratory performance and management.

Pediatrics

Gauri Gulati, M.D., assistant professor, was honored by Working Mother Magazine as an Outstanding Working Mother.

Bruce Rubin, M.D., M.Eng., M.B.A., professor and chair, received the Robert A. Bageant Award from the Virginia Society for Respiratory Care in recognition of his contributions to respiratory care in the Commonwealth. He also gave the Phil Kittredge Memorial Lecture, which is considered a keynote address, at the American Association for Respiratory Care's annual meeting in Tampa in November.

Psychiatry

Cheryl Al-Mateen, M.D., associate professor, received VCU's Presidential Award for Community Multicultural Enrichment.

Ananda Pandurangi, M.D., professor and division head of inpatient psychiatry, has received the NAMI Exemplary Psychiatrist Award by the National Association of Mental Illness as well as the Public Service Award by the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. He also has been re-appointed by Gov. Robert McDonnell to the State Board of Behavioral Health & Development Services.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Biostatistics

David Wheeler, Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in September. He was awarded a Ph.D. from Ohio State University and completed a Cancer Prevention Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. His recent research includes developing and applying statistical methods to investigate spatial-temporal variation in cancer risk and applying data mining methods to explain and predict expert occupational exposure assessments used in evaluating risk factors in epidemiologic studies of cancer.

Family Medicine

Rebecca Etz, Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in August. She is a recipient of the Glasgow Faculty Excellence Award for promising new faculty made possible through the generous donations of the Glasgow Family. She is a cultural anthropologist with expertise in qualitative research methods and design, and her research focuses on mental and behavioral health in primary care settings, practice re-design and the promotion of improved, patient-centered care through innovative uses of health information technologies.

Human and Molecular Genetics

Ray Lewandowski, M.D., clinical professor, joined the faculty in October. Lewandowski received his medical degree from The University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Ill., and was formerly president and chief executive officer of Genetics Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has also held faculty positions in the Departments of Pediatrics at Texas A&M University and the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Shibu Thomas, Ph.D., instructor, joined the faculty in October. Thomas earned a Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana. As a research scientist at the University of Virginia, he was interested in general HIF translation regulation in hypoxic conditions and its effect on metastatic genes.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Brian Curtin, M.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in August. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University and completed a fellowship in Adult Reconstruction from OrthoCarolina. Curtin's research interests include hip arthroscopy and its role as an early intervention to prevent the progression of arthritis, the role of bisphosphonates in joint replacement patients and outcome studies for various arthroplasty techniques and implants.

Physiology and Biophysics

Leon Avery, Ph.D., professor, joined the faculty in August. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford University and was formerly a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern. He studies genetics through the use of *Caenorhabditis elegans* and focuses on neurogenetics.

Radiology

Kathryn Olsen, M.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in August. She completed a radiology residency at Wake Forest University and a Cardiothoracic Imaging Fellowship at the University of Maryland. Her interests include applications of cardiac CT and MR and lung transplantation.

Yang Tang, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in July. Tang received a medical degree from Peking Union Medical College and a Ph.D. from University of Cincinnati. He completed a radiology residency at VCU and a neuroradiology fellowship at the University of Virginia's Functional Neuroimaging. His area of interest includes stroke, blood genomic responses after stroke and seizure, as well as blood genomic expression profile for neuronal injury.

Brian Suddarth, M.D., assistant professor, joined the faculty in September. He completed a radiology residency at VCU and a neuroradiology fellowship at Emory University. His interest is in the area of functional neuroimaging.

Surgery

Patricia Lange, M.D., associate professor, will join the faculty in January. She earned her medical degree from VCU, completed a general surgery residency at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a pediatric surgery fellowship at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Her area of interests include randomized clinical trials comparing bowel preparations in children versus no bowel prep in those undergoing intestinal surgery, and in participating in multi-institutional studies on optimal treatment options and long-term outcomes for infants with Necrotizing Enterocolitis, neonatal surgery, solid organ tumors, inflammatory bowel disease, non-cardiac thoracic disorders and intestinal disorders.

Student and Resident Honors

Raising our school's profile in the region, the nation and the world

The Class of 2014

Catherine Pearson and Gabriela Halder attended the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in Philadelphia, Penn., held from Dec 4-8, where they presented scientific posters of research work they conducted in Honduras last summer.

The Class of 2012

Our military medical students in the M4 class learned in December where they are headed for residency training. The Air Force, Army and Navy coordinate their own residency matching program and, as a result, students learned months before their classmates what their future holds. Students are headed to programs from Walter Reed to San Diego, training in fields ranging from family medicine and pediatrics, to emergency medicine and anesthesiology, with four students opting for surgery. A total of 14 M4 students participate in a variety of military scholarship programs, which cover medical school tuition and fees. In exchange, after graduating, the students will serve one year of active duty for each year of scholarship support received. Three of the students elected to take a civilian deferment.

The Housestaff

Emergency Medicine's chief resident, Veronica Sikka, M.D., Ph.D., M.H.A., M.P.H., has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American College of Physician Executives. She was chosen for the one-year term following the ACPE's national search for a chief resident training in any specialty. Though she does not have voting powers, she is charged with representing the interests and needs of medical students and residents in the board's activities, discussions and deliberations.