



# DEAN'S Quarterly

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

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*Please submit news of faculty hires and faculty honors through your chairman's office to Joan Barrett, Assistant to the Dean, at [jmbarret@vcu.edu](mailto:jmbarret@vcu.edu).*

## Faculty Honors

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

### Biostatistics

**Chris Gennings, Ph.D.**, has been appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board Exposure and Human Health Committee, serving from October 2009 to September 2012. Committee members provide independent expert advice on technical issues underlying EPA policies and decision-making.

### Dean's Office

**Craig Cheifetz, M.D., FACP**, assistant dean for the Inova Campus, has been selected as the chairman for the national planning committee of the AAMC's 2009-2010 Group on Regional Medical Campuses Meeting.

### Emergency Medicine

**Joseph Ornato, M.D.**, is a recipient of the 2009 June Daugherty Public Spirit Award. Given by the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, the award recognizes an individual who uses his or her public position to raise awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and cardiovascular disease. Ornato's career includes numerous research initiatives and membership on cardiovascular-related industry working groups, as well as academic instruction of best-practices and development of next-generation technologies.

**Nathan White, M.D.**, received a Young Investigator's Award on Nov. 14 at the American Heart Association Resuscitation Science Symposium in Orlando for his top-scoring abstract entitled "Platelet Function Is Inhibited within Minutes of Return of Spontaneous Circulation in a Swine Model of Cardiac Arrest."

### Internal Medicine

**Alistair Erskine, M.D.**, chief medical information officer of the VCU Health System, has been appointed to the newly created Health IT Advisory Commission by Governor Timothy Kaine.

**Norbert F. Voelkel, M.D.**, who holds the E. Raymond Fenton Chair in Pulmonary Disease, was named as the 2009 European Respiratory Society Congress Chair Awardee for his strong commitment to respiratory medicine within the U.S. and internationally.

### Legal Medicine

**Marcella F. Fierro, M.D.**, professor emeritus in the department, was awarded the Milton Helpen Laureate Award by the National Association of Medical Examiners on her meritorious career and contributions to the field of forensic medicine and pathology.

## Pediatrics

**Bruce K. Rubin, M.Engr., M.D., M.B.A., FRCPC**, who holds the Jessie Ball duPont Distinguished Professorship and Chair in Pediatrics, delivered the 36th Annual Donald Egan Lecture, Scientific Keynote Address, at the American Association for Respiratory Care Meeting.

## Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

**Juan Carlos Arango, Ph.D.**, was awarded second place for his poster titled “Race-Ethnicity Differences in Satisfaction with Life Among Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury” at the recent American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Meeting. Co-authors were J. Ketchum; K. Williams; T. Hart; J. Corrigan; L. Foster; and G. Mascialino.

## Radiation Oncology

**Mitchell Anscher, M.D., Douglas Arthur, M.D., and Ted Chung, M.D., Ph.D.**, were honored in the resource “Best Doctors in America.” **Anscher**, who holds the Florence and Hyman Meyers Chair of Radiation Oncology, was also honored in “Best Doctors for Cancer.”

## Surgery

**Michel Aboutanos, M.D.**, was awarded first prize for his presentation “Ratification of IATSIC/WHO's Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care Assessment in the South American Region” at the International Surgical Week of the 43rd World Congress of Surgery of the International Surgical Society. One of six accepted out of hundreds of international abstracts submitted, the presentation detailed work that he and colleagues performed in Ecuador. Aboutanos has also been appointed to the International Relations committee of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

**Therese Duane, M.D.**, was appointed to the Virginia Surgical Society as secretary/treasurer, to the editorial board of American Journal of Surgery as the Associate of Women Surgeons liaison, and to the Acute Care Surgery Committee of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. She also was invited to be associate examiner, certifying examination of the American Board of Surgery.

**Rao Ivatury, M.D.**, has been elected vice-president of the American Association of Surgery for Trauma. He also was named president-elect of the World Society of Abdominal Compartment Syndrome and has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Trauma Injury, Infection and Critical Care. In addition, Ivatury has been invited to be associate examiner, certifying examination of the American Board of Surgery, as well as moderator and speaker at the Annual Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

**Ajai Malhotra, M.D.**, was named chair of the Trauma Oversight and Management Committee of the EMS advisory board and has been appointed to the Injury Assessment and Outcome Committee of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

## VCU Health System

**John Duval** has been named chairman-elect of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association.

**Shirley Rogers Gibson**, interim vice president for nursing operations, received the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association’s 2009 Meritorious Service Award, which honors people – other than chief executive officers – affiliated with member institutions who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field on both a state and local level through commitment to service and leadership.

The **Emergency Medicine Forensic Nurses** were selected to receive the 2009 Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses Dream Team Award. The award recognizes a team of 3-10 members whose effort contributes to social change and/or improves the life of a patient/family,

demonstrates a true collaborative spirit and willingness to share information and to support one another in their roles as well as an interdisciplinary respect and desire to work as a team to improve outcomes.

## *New Faculty*

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

### **Biostatistics**

**Guimin Gao, Ph.D.**, joined the department in December as an associate professor. He earned his Ph.D. in biostatistics from Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences in China in 2000 and completed postdoctoral training at Creighton University and Virginia Tech. His research focuses on fine mapping of quantitative Trait Loci and complex disease genes in pedigrees and developing weighted multiple-hypothesis testing methods for genome-wide association studies and admixture mapping.

### **Radiology**

**Charles A. Ehlenberger, M.D.**, has joined the faculty of the Interventional Radiology Section. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia, completed a radiology residency at Drexel University College of Medicine, Hahnemann Hospital and an interventional radiology fellowship at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

### **Social and Behavioral Health**

**Jennifer Elston Lafata, Ph.D.**, has joined the department as a professor. She earned her Ph.D. in health services organization and policy from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Her research currently centers on patient decision-making regarding colorectal cancer control and prevention as well as patient decision-making regarding diabetes management.

**Maghbeba Mosavel, Ph.D.**, has joined the department as an associate professor. She earned her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. Mosavel is an expert in community engagement and participatory research with a focus on prevention and screening behaviors for cancer and hypertension. Her work emphasizes health disparities.

### **Surgery**

**Daniel Tang, M.D.**, joined the department as an assistant professor of cardiothoracic surgery in August. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md., and completed a general surgery residency. Tang performed cardiothoracic surgery research at the VCU Medical Center from 1999-2006 and went on to complete a thoracic surgery residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 2006-2008 and a fellowship in heart and lung transplant at Stanford University from 2008-2009.