



DEAN'S Quarterly

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

Spring 2016 Contents

Faculty Honors

Dean's Office
Family Medicine and Population Health
Health Behavior and Policy
Internal Medicine
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Faculty Recruits

Biostatistics
Internal Medicine
Neurology
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Student Honors

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

Dean, School of Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs,
VCU Health
McGlothlin Medical Education Center
4th Floor, Suite 4-100, Room 4-210
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

Special Honor

The School of Medicine gives special honor to **John "Jack" Pellock, M.D.**, renowned pediatric neurologist and former professor and chair in the Division of Child Neurology who died May 6. He was also senior associate dean for Professional Education and president of University Health Services Professional Education Programs (UHS-PEP). We applaud him for his service and dedication of over 35 years as a faculty member, division chair, and mentor.

Family Medicine and Population Health

Resa Jones, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate professor, was an invited speaker at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Cancer and Primary Care Research International Network in April. Dr. Jones gave two presentations: "Iterative target audience input to develop videos addressing test-specific colorectal cancer screening barriers," and "Engaging the community and rural primary care to increase colorectal cancer screening."

Samuel Jones, M.D., professor, was honored with the 2016 Champion of Family Medicine Award given by the Family Medicine Education Consortium, Inc. (FMEC) in April.

Briana Ratliff, Ph.D., associate professor, has been elected as a Fellow in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section by the Gerontological Society of America as of June 1.

Health Behavior and Policy

Maghboobah Mosavel, Ph.D., associate professor, was honored by VCU's Council for Community Engagement with its award for the exemplary partnership in research. The project, Wellness Engagement Petersburg, led by Dr. Mosavel, also received the "Currents of Change" award for overall excellence. With the goal of reducing obesity in Petersburg, the project is a collaboration of the VCU Department of Health Behavior and Policy in the School of Medicine, the Pathways nonprofit community development corporation, as well as the Community Health Leadership Council and the Wellness Ambassadors.

Internal Medicine

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Scholarly Award established by the Department of Internal Medicine in recognition of the scholarly accomplishments of its faculty. The award was presented at the department's Celebration of Excellence event in March. Honorees included **Amir Toor, M.D.**, associate professor; **Daniel Grinnan, M.D.**, associate professor; **Mohammad Siddiqui, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Michael Stevens, M.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor; **Daniel Carl, M.D.**, associate professor; **Gaurav Gupta, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Steven Bishop, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Reena Hemrajani, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Stephanie Mayer, M.D., M.H.Sc.**, assistant professor; **Jose Huizar, M.D.**, associate professor; **Jordana Kron, M.D.**, associate professor; **Danielle Shafer, D.O.**, assistant professor; **Danielle Noreika, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor; **Thomas Iden, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Sammy Pedram, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor; **George Smallfield, M.D., M.S.P.H., M.S.**, assistant professor; **Tilak Shah, M.D., M.H.Sc.**, assistant professor; **Julie Reznicek, D.O.**, assistant professor; **Jason Kidd, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Sarah Hobgood, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Jawad Al-Khafaji, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Dennis Wixted, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Brant Ward, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor; **Huzaefah Syed, M.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor; **Lori Sweeney, M.D.**, associate professor; **Phoebe Ashley, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor; **Roshanak Markley, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor; **Larisa Litovchick, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor; **Aamer Syed, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Jasmohan Bajaj, M.D.**, associate professor; **Puneet Puri, M.D.**, assistant professor; **Fadi Salloum, Ph.D.**, associate professor; **Keyur Shah, M.D.**, assistant professor.

Arun J. Sanyal, M.D., professor, has been selected as the 2016 Distinguished Leader in Insulin Resistance. Dr. Sanyal is being recognized by the Metabolic Institute of America for his leadership and unique contributions to the development and understanding of the science and clinical implication of insulin resistance and the liver, Non Alcoholic Liver Disease and NASH. The award will be presented during the 14th Annual World Congress on Insulin Resistance Diabetes and CVD (WCIRDC) which will take place in Los Angeles, California, on December 1-3, 2016. He has been asked to prepare a lecture that will be a keynote presentation during the award ceremony.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

David X. Cifu, M.D., chair and Herman J. Flax, M.D. professor, has been appointed by the Virginia General Assembly to a five-year term on the seven-member Commonwealth Health Research Board that oversees the disbursement of a \$36 million endowment in research grants.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Biostatistics

Tamas Gal, Ph.D., joined the department as assistant professor in March. He earned his graduate degree from the University of Maryland. Dr. Gal's research interests include research informatics, building infrastructure, biomedical data, healthcare data standards and technologies.

Internal Medicine

Hannah Lee, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in February. She earned her medical degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and completed her residency training and fellowship in gastroenterology at Tufts-New England Medical Center. Dr. Lee's research interests include liver diseases, liver failure, transplant hepatology, and hepatocellular carcinoma. In addition, minority health disparities in liver disease, screening, linkage to care, and education/outreach for viral hepatitis.

Neurology

Maha Alattar, M.D., joined the department as associate clinical professor in May. She earned her medical degree from the University of Tennessee-Memphis College of Medicine and completed her residency training at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. Alattar completed her fellowship in neurophysiology and sleep disorders at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Her research interests include sleep consultation for insomnia, hypersomnolence, sleep walking, sleep apnea, CPAP usages and its challenges; strategies to combat jet lag/time changes overseas.

Daniel Falcao, D.O., will join the department as assistant clinical professor July 1. He earned his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University and completed his residency training at VCU Health. Dr. Falcao completed his fellowship in neurovascular at the University of South Florida. His research interests include stroke and quality improvement.

Hlynur Georgsson, M.D., will join the department as assistant clinical professor July 1. He earned his medical degree from the University of Iceland and completed his residency training at Rutgers University. Dr. Georgsson completed his fellowship in EEG/Epilepsy at the University of Maryland and in sleep medicine at George Washington University. His research interests include sleep disturbances/disorders in patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

Amy Harper, M.D., will join the department as associate professor August 1. She earned her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean and completed her residency training at Brody School of Medicine. Dr. Harper completed her fellowship in neuromuscular at Oregon Health and Science University. Her research interest includes muscular dystrophy.

Arun Kalra, M.D., will join the department as clinical professor August 1. She earned her medical degree from the University of Delhi, New Delhi, India. Dr. Kalra completed her residency training at Nassau County Medical Center (Nassau University Medical Center), NY. Her research interest includes pediatric neurology.

Philip O'Donnell, M.D., joined the department as assistant clinical professor June 1. He earned his medical degree and completed residency training at the University of Maryland. Dr. O'Donnell completed his fellowship in electroencephalography at the University of Maryland and in electromyography at VCU Health. His research interest includes neurological diseases.

Kenichiro Ono, D.O., will join the department as assistant clinical professor July 1. He earned his medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and residency training at VCU Health. Dr. Ono completed his fellowship in neurophysiology/electroencephalography (EEG) at VCU Health. His research interest includes EEG/epilepsy.

Sanjai (Sonny) Rao, D.O., will join the department as assistant clinical professor July 1. He earned his medical degree from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency training at Montefiore Medical Center of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Rao completed his fellowship in pediatric neurology at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center. His research interest includes the mechanisms of stroke-like events in congenital disorders of glycosylation.

Jonathan Snider, M.D., will join the department as assistant clinical professor August 1. He earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan. Dr. Snider also completed his residency training and fellowship in movement disorders at the University of Michigan. His research interest includes movement disorders/deep brain stimulation.

Alicia Zukas, M.D., will join the department as assistant professor August 1. She earned her medical degree from VCU Health and completed her residency training at VCU Health. Dr. Zukas completed her fellowship in neuro-oncology at the University of Virginia. Her research interests include neuro-oncology and tumor immunology.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Edward Springel, M.D., will join the department as assistant professor August 1. He earned his medical degree and completed his residency training at VCU Health. Dr. Springel completed his fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at MetroHealth Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University. His research interests include operative obstetrics and gestational diabetes.

Student Honors

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

Class of 2016's Michael Brady was honored with the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award for his countless hours devoted to public service and to his classmates during his four years in the VCU School of Medicine. He was celebrated at the annual Honors Day in May along with a certificate and monetary prize.