



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.*

Faculty Honors

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

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Darrell Peterson, Ph.D., professor, was honored with VCU's Billy R. Martin Innovation Award in October.

Dermatology

Julia Nunley, M.D., professor, has been named a director of the American Board of Dermatology, the organization responsible for the dermatology board examination and maintenance of certification for dermatologists. Nationally, the organization names 19 directors. She will serve from January 2014 to December 2022.

Human and Molecular Genetics

Andrei Ivanov, Ph.D., associate professor, has been asked to serve as editor-in-chief of a new scientific journal Tissue Barriers launched by Landes Biosciences.

Internal Medicine

Diane Biskobing, M.D., associate professor, was honored as best teacher in the Endocrinology M2 course as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September.

Michelle Brooks, M.D., assistant professor, was honored as best small-group leader for M2 students in the Foundations of Clinical Medicine course as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September. She also received a high evaluation award for her teaching in the M3 Internal Medicine Clerkship.

Aimee Collins, M.D., assistant professor, was honored as best teacher in the M3 Internal Medicine Clerkship as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September.

Arun Sanyal, M.D., professor and chair of the Division of Gastroenterology, will be honored with this year's Ranbaxy Research Award in the field of Medical Sciences – Clinical Research. He will receive the award in February.

Curtis Sessler, M.D., professor, was elected as president-designate of the American College of Chest Physicians at the annual meeting of the College in October. He will begin his one-year presidency in October 2014.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Stephen Cohen, M.D., M.B.A., associate professor, was honored with the 2012 Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Excellence in Teaching Award in June. He also received the best teacher for M3 Obstetrics/Gynecology as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September.

Pediatrics

William Moskowitz, M.D., professor and division head, was honored with the 2012 Professional Achievement Award from the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, College of Medicine, University Central Florida in November. He received the award from his undergraduate alma mater for his professional achievements.

Bruce Rubin, M.D., M.Engr., M.B.A., professor and chair, received the 2012 Jimmy A. Young Medal from the American Association of Respiratory Care in November. The Jimmy A. Young Medal is awarded annually to recognize an individual who has exceeded all expectations for meritorious service to the AARC and advancement of the respiratory care profession.

Pharmacology and Toxicology

William Dewey, Ph.D., professor and chair, will be honored with the ASPET Torald Sollmann Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) in April.

Edward Ishac, Ph.D., professor, was honored with the Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September.

Sandra Welch, Ph.D., professor, was honored with the Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award as part of the School of Medicine's Faculty Excellence in Teaching Awards in September.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Jeffrey Kreutzer, Ph.D., professor, was honored with the 2012 Foundation for Life Care Planning's Research Award in September. The award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution not only to the body of literature in life care planning, but to the every day practices of life care planners either directly or indirectly for the lives and well-being of the disabled.

Physiology and Biophysics

Louis J. De Felice, Ph.D., professor, will be honored with the Emily Gray Award from the Biophysical Society in February.

Psychiatry

Kenneth Kendler, M.D., professor, was honored with the APA Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association in August. The award recognized his outstanding work as chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for DSM-V.

Christopher Kogut, M.D., assistant professor, was honored with VCU's Presidential Award for Multicultural Enhancement (PACME) in June.

Susan Kornstein, M.D., professor of psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology and executive director of the VCU Institute for Women's Health, was named founding president of the Academy of Women's Health, a newly established organization with a focus on women's health.

Karen Stewart, Ph.D., assistant professor, was one of 38 researchers chosen as an Early Career Investigator as part of the Summer Institute on Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials in August.

Radiology

Sherry Elliott, M.B.A., associate professor, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Administrators in Academic Radiology in October. She was chosen for the inaugural award for her longstanding service to the society and to academic radiology.

Surgery

Charles Bagwell, M.D., professor and division head, received the History of Medicine Award from the Southern Surgical Association in December. He presented the paper "Nosokomia to Sacred Infirmary: History of the Knights Hospitaller and Chimbarazo Hospital in the Evolution of Hospitals from Medieval to Modern," which will be published in the May issue of Proceedings of the ACS. The award was sponsored by the Joseph M. Donald Archival Collection and Endowment Fund of the Association.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Internal Medicine

Orlando Debesa, D.O., assistant professor, joined the department on 9/4/2012. He earned his degree from Nova Southeastern University and served as a cardiothoracic critical care intensivist at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Debesa will work in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care.

Mohammad Raja, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 9/4/2012. He earned his degree at Quaid-e-Azam Medical College in Pakistan and will serve as as hospitalist in Division of General Internal Medicine.

Nehal Shah, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 10/1/2012. She earned her medical degree from Gujarat University in India in 2001, completed an internal medicine residency at the Smt NHL Medical College/KM School of Medicine in India in 2004 and a cardiology residency in India in 2005. After moving to the USA, she completed another residency in Internal Medicine at Wayne State University in 2009 and a rheumatology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2011. She was appointed a clinical instructor in the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Shah has joined the Division of Rheumatology Allergy and Immunology as a clinician-educator.

George Smallfield III, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 9/17/2012. He earned his degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed his internal medicine residency and fellowship in gastroenterology at University of Alabama at Birmingham. His areas of interest are general gastroenterology, endoscopy and clinical education.

Melissa Smallfield, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 9/15/2012. Smallfield will work as a heart failure and transplantation cardiologist. She was most recently an assistant professor at University of Alabama-Birmingham. She earned her degree at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Huzaefah Syed, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 10/1/2012. She completed a Masters in Public Health at George Washington University in 2002, earned her medical degree from VCU in 2006 and completed internal medicine and rheumatology training at the VCU Medical Center in 2012. She joined the Division of Rheumatology Allergy and Immunology as a clinician-educator.

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Lankupalle Jayanthi, Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 6/1/2012. She earned her degree from the University of Madras in India and an MSc in Biochemistry from Sri Venkateswara

University. She served as an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina. Her interests are in structure, function and regulation of the norepinephrine transporter.

Sammanda Ramamoorthy, Ph.D., professor, joined the department on 6/1/2012. He earned his degree from the University of Madras in India. He served as a professor at the University of South Carolina and has interests in neurotransmitter transporters to CNS function.

Physiology and Biophysics

Yuhong Wang, Ph.D., instructor, joined the department on 10/1/2012. She earned her degree at Hebei Medical University in Shijiazhuang, China, and completed a post-doc at VCU. Wang has interests in cardiac voltage-gated potassium (Kv) channels.

Miao Zhang, Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 10/1/2012. He earned his degree from Kyoto University in Japan and completed a post-doc at Thomas Jefferson University in Pennsylvania. His interests are in molecular biology, electrophysiology, structural biology and ion channels.

Yinong Zong, Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 11/1/2012. He earned his degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed a post-doc at Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute. His interests are in structural biology and ion channels.

Psychiatry

Alexandra Lewis, Ed.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 11/12/2012. She earned her degree at Aurora University and has served as executive director of McHenry County Mental Health Board, Crystal Lake, Illinois. Lewis will be the executive director of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children.

Radiology

Peter Haar, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 8/1/2012. He earned his degrees at VCU and completed his residency and a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Musculoskeletal Radiology - MR imaging. He has conducted research in neuroscience - intratumoral administration and convection-enhanced delivery to the ischemic brain. He joins the Section of Musculoskeletal Radiology.

Surgery

Aaron Krill, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department on 11/1/2012 with a joint appointment in pediatrics. He earned his degree at Rush University and completed his urology residency at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He completed a clinical and research fellowship in pediatric urology at Hofstra-North Shore-LIJ Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. Krill's interests are in minimally invasive and robotic surgery as well as in pediatric urology.

Student Honors

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

The Class of 2013's Eric S. Edwards was honored by the Center for Innovative Technology as one of its GAP 50 Entrepreneur Award winners. Edwards is co-founder and vice president of Intelliject Inc., a medical device company with an injection system to manage allergy attacks.

The Class of 2014's Kathryn Shaia presented at UHC's annual meeting as part of the Resident Physicians' and Fellows' special session in September.

The Class of 2015's Audrey Le and Jaclyn Arquette presented research findings at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference in November. The two conducted research studies on indoor air pollution and water filters, respectively, as part of HOMBRE's annual medical relief trip to Honduras.

For the seventh time in nine years, the **Student Family Medicine Association (SFMA)** was recognized for its efforts in stimulating interest in family medicine through its programs. In The student interest group was one of just nine in the U.S. to be honored with a 2012 Program of Excellence Award at the American Academy of Family Physicians' national conference held in July.