



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

Internal Medicine

Domenic Sica M.D., professor, has been elected president of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH). He will be president-elect from 2012-2014 and will be president from 2014-2016. Established in 1985, ASH is the pre-eminent society in the U.S. for all matters that are hypertension-related and provides a forum for the exchange of information among basic scientists, clinical investigators and others involved in the study or management of high blood pressure.

Otolaryngology

Kelley Dodson, M.D., assistant professor, is the first recipient of the department's Dr. Charles M. Johnson, III Teaching Award. The newly established award will be presented annually to a faculty member who is chosen by the Otolaryngology residents as exhibiting excellence, commitment and support of the Otolaryngology resident education program.

Radiation Oncology

Professor and Department Chair **Mitchell Anscher, M.D.**, Professor **Douglas Arthur, M.D.**, and Associate Professor **Laurie Cuttino, M.D.**, were named to Best Doctors in Richmond, published in Richmond Magazine's April issue.

Surgery

David Lanning, M.D., was honored by the Dominican Republic president Leonel Fernandez Reyna with the country's highest civilian honor for his efforts to separate conjoined twins in a 22-hour surgery late last year. During an April ceremony at the National Palace in Santo Domingo, Lanning received the Order of Christopher Columbus rank of Knight, an honor usually reserved for Dominican citizens or military. Only a handful of non-civilian, foreign-born individuals have received the award since it was established in 1937. The Order is given for distinguished service to the Dominican Republic or for humanity and merit outstanding in the arts or sciences.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Anesthesiology

Monica Murphy, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department in April. Murphy completed a residency in Anesthesiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and North Carolina Baptist Hospitals in Winston-Salem in 2004. She comes to the medical

school from recent posts with MCP-Hahnemann School of Medicine and Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates in Richmond.

Healthcare Policy and Research

Miguel Henry-Osorio, Ph.D., instructor, will join the department in July from Washington State University where he was a teaching assistant in Economics, Statistics, Resource and Applied Economics.

Neurology

Kartik Sivaraaman, M.D., assistant professor, will join the department in July. Sivaraaman earned a medical degree from Chengalpattu Medical College in India and completed a fellowship at the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. Sivaraaman has interest in late onset mesial temporal sclerosis and its implications on the outcome of epilepsy surgery, in hormonal changes with epilepsy and with the use of antiepileptic drugs and in cognitive changes with epilepsy surgery.

Syndi Seinfeld, D.O., assistant professor, will join the department in July. Seinfeld earned a medical degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a neurophysiology fellowship at the VCU Medical Center. She is interested in the consequences of prolonged febrile seizures in childhood and the emergency management of febrile status.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Nicole Rankins, M.D., assistant professor, will join the department in September from Eastern Virginia Medical School. She is interested in health disparities.

Nathan Webb, M.D., assistant professor, will join the department in July. He earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia and completed a residency in Ob/Gyn at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is interested in detecting biochemical changes in the human cervix with spectroscopy.

Otolaryngology

Maher Younes, M.D., instructor, will join the department in August. He earned his medical degree at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and completed a residency at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is interested in the role of novel EGFR/VEGFR inhibitors in the treatment of squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN), adenoid cystic carcinoma and thyroid cancer, the expression of Integrin Linked Kinase in SCCHN, and the effects of novel ILK inhibitors on growth and apoptosis of SCCHN. He is also interested in the role of AKT in thyroid cancer and the effects of AKT inhibitors on anaplastic thyroid cancer.

Surgery

David Lee, M.D., assistant professor, will join the department in July. He earned his medical degree and completed a fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical School. He is interested in Ischemia reperfusion injury of the liver and how to optimize the use in marginal liver donors.

James Bittner, M.D., assistant professor, joined the department in August. He earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed a fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. He is interested in surgical education, specifically surgical curriculum development and validation, skills training and simulation, as well as clinical outcomes-based research related to foregut, hernia, endocrine and bariatric surgery. He is interested in multicenter randomized controlled trials investigating different mesh properties in patients undergoing incisional ventral hernia repair.

Lance Hampton, M.D., has been appointed to associate professor and division head in urology. He earned his medical degree at Texas Tech University School of Medicine. Since 2008, he has been at the VCU School of Medicine, specializing in robotic surgery.

Student Honors

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

Class of 2014

Priyam K. Vyas received VCU's Leadership and Service Award at a ceremony in April. The annual awards honor students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and service to the community.