



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.

Faculty Honors

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

Anesthesiology

Jeffrey A. Green, M.D., has been named to the Boyan-Keenan Professorship in Anesthesia Safety. This endowed professorship was established to honor Drs. Paul Boyan and Richard Keenan, who were the first two chairs of the department and were role models in the country for anesthesia safety. Green received his medical degree from Ohio State and completed his residency at the University of Michigan Medical Center where he was chief resident. He joined VCU in 2001 and has progressed through the ranks to become an associate professor.

Jay H. Shapiro, M.D., who has an additional appointment in pediatrics, has been appointed as the John R. Jones Professorship of Education in Anesthesia. The Jones Professorship was established to support and retain a Director of the Residency Program in Anesthesiology. Jones was a distinguished educator in the department and an associate dean for education in the school. Shapiro graduated from the University of Southern Alabama in 1985 and completed a residency at the same institution. Following a pediatric anesthesia fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, he joined the Department of Anesthesiology. He enjoys a long and distinguished career with particular emphasis in education as director of the residency program since 1999. He has been director of pediatric anesthesia since 1990.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., **Kevin R. Ward, M.D.**, and **Gary Bowlin, Ph.D.**, presented the Sidney S. Negus Memorial Lecture at the Virginia Academy of Sciences in May.

Dean's Office

Azhar Rafiq, M.D., MBA, has been appointed to the Human Simulation and Patient Safety Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Modeling and Simulation.

Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., associate dean of admissions, has been named a 2009 Richmond Star by the Richmond Area Council of American Business Women's Association for her outstanding achievements in medicine. She was recognized along with outstanding women in the fields of corporate management, small business management, education and media during the 'Light Up the Night with Stars' event on Sept. 11.

Internal Medicine

Rakesh Kukreja, Ph.D., received the University Distinguished Scholarship Award this month.

Bruce Hillner, M.D., will receive the 2009 Academy of Molecular Imaging Distinguished Clinician Scientist award.

John Nestler, M.D., was designated an Honorary Member of the Sociedad Argentina de Endocrinología Ginecológica y Reproductiva (the Argentinian Society of Gynecological Endocrinology and Reproduction) by the society's president in Buenos Aires, Argentina in May.

Mary Ann Peberdy, M.D., was named as a chartered member of the Veteran's Administration Cardiology Merit Review Subcommittee that is responsible for reviewing and grading all of the cardiovascular research grants in the VA system.

Domenic Sica, M.D., received the first Marvin Moser Clinical Hypertension Award from the American Society of Hypertension. This award recognizes a qualified Hypertension Clinician for his or her dedication to the treatment and care of hypertensive patients.

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., will receive the 2010 Maxwell Finland Award for his pioneering contributions that have advanced the understanding of infectious diseases. He will join an esteemed group of past recipients who have made a remarkable impact on clinical practice, public health and research.

Neurology

James P. Bennett, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., was named to the Bemiss Endowed Chair, which was established to support the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Multidisciplinary Research and Clinical Center. Bennett graduated from Johns Hopkins University and completed training in pharmacology and a post-doctoral fellowship at the NIH before completing his residency in neurology at the University of Virginia. He was appointed chair of the Department of Neurology in August of this year.

Scott A. Vota, D.O., received the VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education Award.

Otolaryngology

Laurence J. DiNardo, M.D., has been named to the Peter N. and Julia R. Pastore Professorship in Otolaryngology, which was established in 1987 to support an eminent scholar in the field of Otolaryngology. DiNardo was appointed chair of the department in July. He attended medical school at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif. prior to pursuing his residency in otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. DiNardo joined the faculty in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in 1991 and currently holds the rank of professor. He has received several clinical awards including ranking as one of the best doctors in Richmond 2000 and 2002, as well as the "Top Otolaryngologist" in 2004 and the "Top Otolaryngic Surgeon" in 2006 and 2008 by Richmond Magazine. He has authored or co-authored 51 papers, 13 book chapters, 7 instructional publications and 62 abstracts.

Pediatrics

Bruce K. Rubin, M.D., was named to the Jesse Ball DuPont Professorship, which was established with the purpose of providing salary support to the chairman of pediatrics. Rubin is a pediatric pulmonologist and his specific clinical and research interests include cystic fibrosis, childhood asthma and other chronic lung diseases. He and his research team study aerosol therapy for lung diseases, airway inflammation and excessive mucus that contributes to lung disease. Rubin received his master's of engineering and medical degrees from Tulane University in New Orleans. He was a Rhodes Scholar, conducting postdoctoral work in biomedical engineering at Oxford University. He also earned an MBA at Wake Forest University. He joined the School of Medicine in July of this year.

Robert Shayne, M.D., was appointed to the Walter E. Bundy, Jr., Professorship in Community Pediatrics. The Bundy Chair was established to honor Dr. Walter Bundy, a distinguished pediatrician that provided teaching and service and was an active communicator between the academic medical center faculty and the community pediatric practice in Richmond. A graduate of the VCU Pediatric Residency Program, Shayne has established a practice in Chester and has distinguished himself by teaching medical students and supporting our residency program. He is a strong advocate of pediatrics within the community, and his practice is considered to be outstanding.

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Hamid Akbarali, Ph.D., has been elected chair of the Systems and Integrative Pharmacology Division of the American Pharmacology Society and has been named associate editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Physiology Pathophysiology and Pharmacology.

William Dewey, Ph.D., was presented with the 2009 College of Problems of Drug Dependence Distinguished Service Award in June. The award recognizes his work with CPDD over the past several years to elevate the profile of substance abuse research to the public and the government. This is being accomplished through a coalition of individuals, known as the Friends of NIDA, for which he serves as president. Dewey and his colleagues provide scientific and educational briefings to legislators on Capitol Hill and to White House staff, in the hopes of enlightening our lawmakers and other leaders about the importance of research in this area.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Juan Carlos Arango, Ph.D., received the American Psychological Association Division 45 Emerging Professional Award. The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the promotion of ethnic minority issues within 10 years of graduation. Candidates for this award may have made contributions within educational, research or practice domains. He also received the American Psychological Association Division 22 Mitch Rosenthal Early Career Award that is presented to the individual that the committee judges as having made the most significant contributions to the science of rehabilitation psychology during the first 10 years since earning their doctoral degree. In addition, Arango will receive the Paralyzed Veterans of America Scholarship to participate in the 2009 Congress on Spinal Cord Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Psychiatry

Sandra B. Barker, Ph.D., was appointed to the Bill Balaban Endowed Chair in Human-Animal Interaction, which was established to support a distinguished faculty member to direct the Center for Human-Animal Interaction and to support the work of the center. Barker earned her master's and doctoral degrees at Florida State University. She joined the department in 1990, showing administrative, clinical and research leadership, and is dedicated to the field of human-animal interactions.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Anesthesiology

Frank Block, Jr., M.D., joined the department as a professor in September. Block received his medical degree from the University of Virginia in 1976. He completed a residency in anesthesiology at the University of Virginia Hospital and a fellowship with the Bioelectronic Systems Group of Duke University Medical Center. He has been on the faculty of Ohio State University, Duke University and the University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences. He has been a consultant for several medical monitoring and equipment companies and is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists

Committee on Equipment, Monitoring and Engineering Technology and of the Committee on Equipment and Facilities. Block is a member of the ASTM Committee F29.03 and of the Human Engineering Committee of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. Since April 2008, Block has been a part-time member of the Department of Anesthesiology, becoming a full-time member in September.

Lindsay Fox, M.D., will join the Department of Anesthesiology as an assistant professor this month. Fox received her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston and recently completed a residency and a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at the VCU Health System.

Lana Rike, D.O., joined the department as an assistant professor in August. Rike obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Maryland in 1986, followed by a master's in 1994. That same year, she obtained an MBA from the University of Baltimore and in 2005 earned her D.O. degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. She recently completed her anesthesiology residency at the VCU Health System.

Emergency Medicine

Kelly Sawyer, M.D., joined the Department of Emergency Medicine as the newest fellow in emergency cardiac care. Sawyer attended Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine in Nashville and completed her residency training in emergency medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. Her research interests are in Acute Coronary Syndrome, optimizing STEMI care, and resuscitation. She also has an appointment as an attending physician in emergency medicine.

Brandon Wills, D.O., M.S., joined the department in August as assistant professor of emergency medicine and associate medical director of the Virginia Poison Center. Wills is a graduate of the University of Colorado, where he also obtained a master's degree in exercise physiology. After medical school, he trained in emergency medicine at Akron General Medical Center and then completed a medical toxicology fellowship in 2005 at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Since 2005 he has been an attending emergency physician and toxicologist at Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington state. He is board-certified in both emergency medicine and medical toxicology.

Human and Molecular Genetics

Xiang-Yang (Shawn) Wang, Ph.D., joined the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics in June as an associate professor. He is interested in stress responses/proteins and pattern recognition scavenger receptors, particularly their roles in immune modulation and host response. He is also involved in the development and evaluation of novel immune-based approaches to improving cancer therapies.

Internal Medicine

Sarah Hobgood, M.D., joined the department in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics Section in July as an assistant professor. She is the director of the inpatient geriatric consult service, collaborating with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and providing outpatient geriatric care in the ACC. Sarah attended the VCU School of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency and geriatric fellowship at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Lou Wright, M.D., joined the department in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics Section as an assistant professor this summer. He is medical director for the Riverside PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) center in south Richmond where he will provide comprehensive

geriatric care and teach medical students, residents and geriatric fellows. Wright received his medical degree at Ross University and took his internal medicine residency at Reading Hospital in Pennsylvania. He comes to us now from the private sector in Petersburg, Va.

Radiology

Patricia M. deGroot, M.D., joined the faculty of the Thoracic Imaging Section of the department. deGroot received her medical degree from the University of Texas at Galveston where she was inducted into AOA as a junior. She completed her radiology residency and thoracic imaging fellowship at New York University Langone Medical Center. In addition to her expertise in thoracic imaging, she is an authority in Russian history and speaks multiple languages.

Andrew J. Taylor, M.D., will join the faculty of the Abdominal Imaging Section of the department. Taylor received his medical degree from Northwestern University and completed his radiology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is an internationally-recognized abdominal radiologist with expertise in virtual colonography and biliary tract imaging. He spent the first 19 years of his career at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Since 2000, Taylor has served as a professor of radiology at the University of Wisconsin. Throughout his career, he has received multiple teaching awards, and in 2008 his teaching expertise was recognized by the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists, which presented him with the Richard H. Marshak International Lecture Award.