



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

Biostatistics

Chris Gennings, Ph.D., was selected by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to serve on the Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel to examine the potential effects on children's health of phthalates and phthalate alternatives that are used in children's toys and child care articles.

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Frank Fang, Ph.D., was appointed to the editorial board of *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* for the term 2010-2014.

Dean's Office

PonJola Coney, M.D., has been appointed to the Advisory Council of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Jerome F. Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed to the Board of Scientific Counselors of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for a four-year term. He has also been appointed to the Discovery Expert Group of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Discovery Team for a three-year term. This committee will serve as a consultative body, providing input on the programmatic and strategic priorities and activities in global health discovery.

Family Medicine

Steven Woolf, M.D., is the Katharine Boucot Sturgis Award winner in Preventive Medicine 2010. One of the highest honors that the American College of Preventive Medicine gives out, the award is named in honor of the first female president of the ACPM who was an outstanding teacher and researcher in pulmonary disease.

Internal Medicine

Robert Adler, M.D., has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*. He is also the representative of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research to the Endocrine Society's Male Osteoporosis Guidelines Committee and is co-chair of a task force on ASMBR-Industry relationships.

Kenneth Ellenbogen, M.D., has been appointed senior guest editor of *Circulation: Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology* and has been appointed by the Heart Rhythm Society and the American College of Cardiology as editor of their atrial fibrillation Web site.

Edward J. Lesnefsky, M.D., has been appointed a member of the Myocardial Ischemia

Metabolism Study Section of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. He has also been appointed to the National Institute on Aging's Aging Systems Gerontology Study Section and to the editorial board of *Basic Research in Cardiology*.

Rakesh Kukreja, Ph.D., received Virginia's Outstanding Scientist Award sponsored by the Science Museum of Virginia.

Pathology

Margaret M. Grimes, M.D., has been elected trustee to the American Board of Pathology. Grimes was nominated by the Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology during its 16th annual meeting in February.

Three faculty members are serving as 2010 officers of the Capital Section of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry: **Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D.**, is this year's chair; **Lori Bachmann, Ph.D.**, was elected chair-elect; and **Greg Miller, Ph.D.**, was elected chair of the Nominating Committee.

Physiology and Biophysics

John R. Grider, Ph.D., chaired a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' Special Emphasis Panel Study Section. He was also named to membership in the NIH's new College of CSR Reviewers.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Biostatistics

Guimin Gao, Ph.D., joined the department as an associate professor in December 2009. He completed graduate studies in biostatistics at Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences in China (Ph.D. in 2000) and postdoctoral studies in statistical genetics at Creighton University and Virginia Tech (2001-2005). He is a member of the American Society of Human Genetics and the International Genetic Epidemiology Society.

Gao's research focuses on 1) fine mapping of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) and complex disease gene in pedigrees, 2) developing weighted multiple hypothesis testing methods for genome-wide association studies (GWAS), and 3) admixture mapping. Gao and his collaborators have proposed computationally efficient haplotyping algorithms and QTL mapping methods for large pedigrees with complex traits and have developed related computer programs. Recently, Gao and his postdoctoral fellow have proposed a set of weighted multiple hypothesis testing procedures and applied these procedures to GWAS for artery coronary artery disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

His future research interests lie in development and application of statistical and computational methods to identifying genetic variants for complex diseases by utilizing genome-wide single-nucleotide polymorphisms, sequencing data and gene expression data. He is also interested in admixture mapping studies in African-American populations.

Wen Wan, Ph.D., joined the department as an assistant professor. She earned her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and held a position as an assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has research interests in applications of statistical and computational methods to medical science (clinical trials and other clinical studies), experimental design, semi-parametric regression, response surface methodology, and genetic algorithms. Wan served as a lead biostatistician in clinical trials across all phases of neurofibromatosis, glioma, ovarian cancer and several pediatric infectious diseases. Her contributions on clinical trials include study design, power and sample size calculation, protocol writing, case report

forms design, data quality assurance and quality control development, report generation and data analysis. She also reviewed several clinical protocols for the Clinical and Translational Research Center.

Healthcare Policy and Research

Askar Chukmaitov, Ph.D., joined the department as an assistant professor. He earned his Ph.D. from VCU and held a position as an assistant professor at Florida State University. He has research interests in quality care, patient safety, outpatient services, hospital systems, global health and health information technologies.

Student Honors

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

Class of 2010

Vibin Roy has received the Beverly Chaney Award administered through the Joseph Collins Foundation. For the past four years, Roy has distinguished himself as president of his class. He has co-chaired the Physicians for Human Rights program and been a member of the advisory board for the Inner City Rural Preceptorship in addition to many other activities.

Brody Wehman was honored by the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation at its 2009 Salute to Service Awards. He was recognized for his volunteer work with a weekend-long clinic that provides free dental care and a small amount of medical triage services to over 1,000 children and adults on the Eastern Shore. Wehman worked with the community health board to link patients who had no primary care physician with the nearest possible provider. He has also played an integral role in getting other medical students involved.

Class of 2011

Mary Ellen Cleary has been appointed by the Association of American Medical Colleges to the LCME as a student member. Successful AAMC nominees show evidence of involvement in efforts to improve medical education, interest in medical education and the role of accreditation, and strong academic achievement.

Class of 2012

Sara Watson was honored with VCU's Burnside-Watstein LGBT Award, which is given annually to one or more individuals who enrich the sense of community at VCU and, in particular, make a significant difference in the lives of LGBT faculty, staff and students.

Class of 2013

Lorraine Cafuir has been chosen to participate in the Memorial Sloan Kettering Summer Research Fellowship, an eight-week research program offered to medical students who have a career interest in becoming a physician-scientist in the field of oncology or related biomedical sciences. Before entering medical school, Lorraine spent two years working as a clinical research coordinator for the Cancer and Blood Disorders Clinics at the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk.

Denee Moore and **Brian Mayeda** will serve as student members on the Association of American Medical Colleges' Organization of Student Representatives (OSR). The OSR is charged with representing the nation's undergraduate medical student body to the academic medicine community on issues concerning academic medicine and medical education.