

VCU School of Medicine

Virginia Commonwealth University

9th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program



Teaching Excellence
Awards



Arnold Gold Faculty
Humanism Award



WISDM Professional
Achievement Award



MCVP Distinguished
Clinician Award

Kontos Medical Sciences Building
Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Faculty Excellence Awards Program

12:10	WELCOME	Carol L. Hampton, M.M.S. Associate Dean, Faculty and Instructional Development
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS		
	Teaching Excellence Awards	Jerome F. Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D. Dean, School of Medicine Executive VP for Medical Affairs VCU Health System
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award• The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching• The Distinguished Mentor Award• The Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award	
	Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award	Isaac K. Wood, M.D. Associate Dean, Student Affairs Associate Professor of Psychiatry
	presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation	
	Women in Science, Dentistry and Medicine Professional Achievement Award.....	Mary Helen Hackney, M.D. President, WISDM Faculty Organization Associate Professor, Internal Medicine
	MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award	Richard P. Wenzel, M.D. Professor and Chair, Internal Medicine President, MCV Physicians
	Outstanding Teacher Awards in	Jerome F. Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D.
	Health Sciences Education	Jan F. Chlebowski, Ph.D. Associate Dean, Graduate Education
	Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education	James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed. Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education Professor of Radiology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards• Faculty with High Evaluation Awards	
1:10	CLOSING REMARKS.....	Jerome F. Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D. Carol L. Hampton, M.M.S.

All are invited to lunch on the Plaza

Faculty Excellence Awards

The Awards

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS*

The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award recognizes extraordinary accomplishment in all aspects of education. This award is the School of Medicine's highest recognition for teaching. The recipient receives a \$1,000 cash award and \$3,000 for scholarship and educational development.

The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching recognizes superior teaching in clinical medicine taught in the last two years of medical school and residency training, and encourages excellence in an increasingly complicated and challenging educational environment. The award is funded by a gift to the MCV Foundation. A cash award from the endowment fund is given to the recipient. This year's cash award is \$3,214.

The Distinguished Mentor Award recognizes significant contributions to the career development of others, such as mentorship to fellow faculty members, junior faculty, residents, fellows, graduate students, post-docs, medical students or other mentoring relationships. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 and \$1,000 for scholarship and educational development.

The Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award recognizes an individual faculty member, a group, or an academic unit for a significant educational innovation or educational research. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 with an additional \$1,000 for scholarship and educational development.

Each award recipient's name will be placed on a plaque in the lobby of Sanger Hall. A photo of each recipient will be placed in Sanger Hall's Curriculum Corridor.

LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD PRESENTED BY THE ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION

The Humanism in Medicine Awards, initiated by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, recognize a graduating medical student and a faculty member at participating medical schools. The purpose of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award is to underscore the value of humanism in the delivery of care to patients and their families. The principles of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy and service are paramount qualities in the recipients of this award. The Gold Foundation bestows a personalized certificate and a \$1,000 prize each on a graduating medical student and a faculty member, nominated and selected by their peers. Additional information may be found at <http://humanism-in-medicine.org/cgi-bin/html0s.cgi/0256.2.4839022919010785986>. The medical student who received this award in 2007 is Saumya Nagarajan. Her award was presented at Commencement in May.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE, DENTISTRY, AND MEDICINE (WISDM) PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The primary purpose of this annual award is to recognize those women who have served as strong role models and mentors for the professional development of women faculty and who consistently demonstrate qualities that show excellence in one or more of these areas: 1) success as a mentor and role model; promoter of the professional development of women; 2) professional excellence: to include accomplishments in whichever primary arena (clinical, basic sciences, etc.); 3) leadership: includes university administrative duties as well as other leadership roles; 4) scholarly endeavors; 5) teaching expertise. Additional information about the award and the list of previous recipients may be found at <http://www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/APAA.html>

The Awards

MCV PHYSICIANS DISTINGUISHED CLINICIAN AWARD

Sponsored by the Medical College of Virginia Physicians (MCVP), this annual award recognizes clinical excellence among faculty at the VCU Medical Center. Criteria considered include, but are not limited to, the following attributes for patient care: compassion, clinical effectiveness, efficiency, comprehensiveness, availability and responsiveness to patients. For additional information, contact MCV Physicians.

OUTSTANDING DEPARTMENTAL TEACHER AWARD IN HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION

Honors outstanding teaching in departments with substantial teaching commitments in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Selection is determined by a process developed by each basic sciences department. Each award recipient receives an outstanding teacher pin, a certificate, and a \$100 RamBucks gift certificate.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS IN UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards recognize a faculty member as the best teacher in each course and clerkship in the MI, MII, and MIII years through student and course director evaluations. Each award recipient receives an outstanding teacher pin, a certificate, and a \$100 RamBucks gift certificate.

Faculty with High Evaluation Awards recognize faculty who have received a ranking of excellent or higher on student evaluations. Each award recipient receives a certificate.

*The School of Medicine Teaching Excellence Awards Program was established in 1999.

Faculty Excellence Awards Recipients

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Leslie S. Satin, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Stephanie A. Call, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

Distinguished Mentor Award

James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed.

Professor, Department of Radiology and Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education

Educational Innovation Award

Leanne M. Yanni, M.D., and Team

Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

Team Members:

Sarah Harrington, M.D., Internal Medicine

Betty Anne Johnson, M.D., Ph.D., Internal Medicine

Elizabeth Micalizzi, B.A., Office of VPHS

Laura Morgan, Pharm.D., BCPS, School of Pharmacy

John Priestley, M.A., Educational Technology

Jeanne Schlesinger, M.Ed., Instructional Development

Chris Stephens, M.S., Educational Technology

Michael Weaver, M.D., Internal Medicine

Carl Wolf II, Ph.D., M.S., Pathology

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Gita V. Massey, M.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement Award

Aradhana Bela A. Sood, M.D., M.S.H.A.

Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics

Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award

Julia A. R. Nunley, M.D.

Professor, Department of Dermatology

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Leslie S. Satin, Ph.D.



There is something about the way Dr. Les Satin approaches teaching that makes him stand out, both to his students and his colleagues. “It was obvious soon after his arrival in the early 1990s that Les Satin was going to be an outstanding teacher,” explained Billy R. Martin, PhD, Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. “He has always enjoyed instructing students in both the lab and in lecture courses and has proven to be a highly effective mentor because of his dedication to science and education. . . . He is the best in his ability to engage the students and impart critical skills needed for biomedical research.” Clearly, Dr. Leslie Satin, Professor, Pharmacology & Toxicology, merits his selection as this year’s Faculty Teaching Excellence Award winner.

Perhaps the raves Dr. Satin receives are all the more remarkable given his subject matter, which is anything but easily digestible. “Les teaches rather complex topics related to neuromuscular junction pharmacology, antiarrhythmics and calcium channel blockers,” explained Associate Professor Laura Sim-Selley, Ph.D. “Yet it is not unusual for students to use superlatives such as excellent to summarize Les’ teaching.” He was selected as the Student’s Choice Award Professor in 2002 by the students in Pharmacology and Toxicology and received the highest evaluations of any faculty in 2006/07. In addition to classroom teaching, Dr. Satin has trained PhD and postdoctoral students and has found time to assist undergraduate and high school students.

In addition to his exemplary teaching, Dr. Satin is widely known as a superb scientist. “Unlike many outstanding scientists, he considers education of students to be of paramount importance [and] . . . is committed to training them to become outstanding scientists themselves,” said another colleague within the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Susan E. Robinson, PhD.

”It is one thing to contribute to the educational mission of a single department, quite another to influence a discipline at the school level,” writes Dr. William L. Dewey, Professor of Pharmacology/Toxicology. “Using his interdisciplinary background, Les has been able to exert leadership in the cellular neuropharmacology area, and by doing so, has created several courses, most notably the neuroscience graduate course which started in 1992 and blossomed.” . . . “The course has evolved into the current Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience course and become the focal point for our developing Neuroscience Curriculum and soon the VCU Neurosciences PhD Program,” according to Dr. Dewey. “Les led the effort to get the Neuroscience PhD program approved by SCHEV that will undoubtedly increase its ability to recruit and train neuroscience students.”

“Dr. Satin is aware that education is more than grades and is sincerely dedicated to furthering the knowledge of students,” said one research associate. “In the classroom, Dr. Satin is an enthusiastic and effective instructor who designs and delivers lectures in a manner that makes it easy for students to learn and really understand the material. He not only makes himself available, but eagerly puts forth extra effort to assist students who need additional help or just a little motivational nudge.”

This kind of dedication only comes when a person has embraced the value of teaching and feels a special passion. Indeed, Les Satin has those qualities. In his own words, “Teaching is one of the greatest things one can do, imparting knowledge and training tomorrow’s research scientists, physicians and health professionals.” Well said. Well done.

Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Stephanie A. Call, M.D., M.S.P.H.



If you're going to try to keep up with the winner of this year's Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching, you'd better be wearing the right shoes. Stephanie Call, MD, the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director, is widely known for the passion and energy she brings to clinical education, as voiced by one resident: "Dr. Call highly values the art of physical diagnosis and stresses the importance of bedside teaching. Her teams have to wear comfortable shoes because her energy seems limitless and she strives to take advantage of most learning opportunities on rounds."

It may surprise some that Dr. Call, who was recruited to direct the Residency Training program in 2004, already is garnering such a prestigious award. It shouldn't. "In a remarkably brief period of time, she has enhanced the national reputation of the program in a stunning way, leading us to a higher plateau of excellence," commended Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc, Chair, Department of Internal Medicine. Others heartily agree: "Dr. Call's efforts have translated into dramatic changes in both the volume and content of learning experience by Internal Medicine Residents at VCU," added Alpha A. Fowler, III, MD, Professor of Medicine, Chair, Division of Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine. "These changes have come about as a result of Dr. Call's relentless drive to enhance the curriculum, to broaden conference experiences, and to take teaching in a real way to the bedside."

The bedside may be where Dr. Call shines most brightly. She has an amazing bedside manner, and makes special efforts to impart those skills to others. "She tried something new this year," explained colleague Mary Alice O'Donnell, PhD. "She took her new interns to the new School of Nursing Simulation Lab, along with North 5 nurses, attendings, pharmacists, social workers and the rest of the team to simulate what it was going to be like once they actually got to their first rotation. In speaking with those who had gone through this experience, they all said that it took a lot of the fear out of the experience and made them focus on providing safe, quality care to their patients."

"She has demonstrated her skills as a hands-on teacher, as a housestaff program director who has revitalized our internal medicine training program with innovative thinking, and finally has taken all these skills to the national level where she teaches others fundamental teaching skills," added David F. Gardner, MD., Professor of Medicine. Trained in the Stanford clinical teaching methods, Dr. Call teaches clinical faculty how to teach others to become excellent teachers. She has conducted multiple workshops nationally and recently returned from consulting at the Weill Cornell School of Medicine in Qatar.

Part of her vision was initiating the use of the Team Based Learning (TBL) model in the M3 Internal Medicine clerkship, an innovative approach to improve student comprehension and retention of core topics. "This is a unique approach that has not been used in the Medicine clerkships at other institutions and has put VCU at the forefront of medical education," explained Kelsey Salley, MD, Associate Program Director for Women's Health.

Other praise from residents and colleagues celebrates both her vision and her energy. "Dr. Call is effective, efficient, possesses tremendous enthusiasm and is a visionary." "Stephanie glows when she teaches. Her excitement is contagious as is her willingness to give of herself to deliver the teaching moment."

Dr. Gardner, "She embodies the principles outlined in a document she wrote summarizing her philosophy of teaching: 'The role of the teacher is to facilitate the collision of the learner with the material, to facilitate active engagement with material which better serves the learner in obtaining mastery in knowledge, skills and attitudes.'" If that is how she defines her role, it is no wonder that she has so quickly become a role model for clinical educators.

Distinguished Mentor Award

James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed.



What distinguishes one mentor, one educator, one clinician from another? What makes James Messmer, M.D., Professor of Radiology and Senior Associate Dean of Medical Education so cherished? Why was he the choice for this year's Distinguished Mentor Award? As it turns out, words alone cannot provide the answer.

"It is nearly impossible to capture my appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Messmer on paper," wrote a former mentee, now a radiology resident with the Air Force. "Through his multiple roles, he had within his power, and more importantly, his heart, to make a very positive impact in my life. His assistance, advice and personal commitment to my own dreams transcended his role as a mentor."

"Since my office was in close proximity to his, I often observed Jim's interaction with faculty members," added J. Dennis Hoban, EdD. "He counseled them on such things as how to deal with a difficult student or faculty member or he offered advice on how to write a better test question or how to organize a syllabus, or he clarified a policy issue, or just helped someone see the "big picture." Jim always provided guidance in a kind and thoughtful manner and he had the knack of making everyone who sought his help feel like a valued educator."

Not only does Dr. Messmer assist others, he disarms them with his style. "His humor acts as a bridge to mentees, making them smile and relax, and establishing a personal bond," explained Elizabeth Waterhouse, MD, Assistant Dean for Medical Education. "It is much easier to absorb words of wisdom, and much more pleasant, when they are punctuated with humor."

Of course, humor is not what draws mentees to him. It is his commitment and skill. "I have seen Dr. Messmer mentor innumerable undergraduates, medical students, residents and faculty in a variety of ways," said former Curriculum Office Director Anita M. Navarro, M.Ed. "Because of his background, students often seek his counsel on careers in radiology and practicing medicine in the military, which he provides willingly. Even with his busy schedule as Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Messmer never turns away a student who wants to talk about career interests in Radiology and is always willing to allow them to observe him in practice. One can easily see the great pleasure he enjoyed by bringing these emerging professionals along in the field that he loves."

"Over the past 21 years, Jim has personally served as a mentor to me as a medical student, radiology resident, junior faculty member, and now as a colleague and Chairman of the Department of Radiology," said Ann S. Fulcher, MD. "He always has time to discuss career development and innovative teaching techniques. To this day, I have been able to call upon Jim for guidance whether it is in regard to clinical question or advice regarding administrative matters."

"His genuine and career-long record of mentoring younger faculty, residents and students is exceptional," added Mary Ann Turner, MD, Professor of Radiology. "Jim is highly regarded and loved by those of us who work closely with him and who have witnessed his commitment and dedication to young professionals at all levels in the institution. He is truly deserving of this award."

Educational Innovation Award

Leanne M. Yanni, M.D., and Team



Although nearly 70 million Americans suffer from chronic nonmalignant pain, traditional medical education has often overlooked this large and growing complaint. “Prescribers receive little training in pain management in medical school, but, once in practice, are confronted with having to treat patients with pain in almost every type of practice setting and specialty,” explained the director of Virginia’s Department of Health Professions, Sandra Whitley Ryais. “Because of this lack of training, some prescribers are hesitant to prescribe controlled substances for pain and others may be misled by patients to prescribe inappropriately.”

Dr. Leanne Yanni saw the need and responded with a novel program to educate current and future medical professionals, creating web-based teaching on the assessment and management of chronic nonmalignant pain. For spearheading the development of this online competency assessment program, Dr. Yanni, an Assistant Professor within the Department of Internal Medicine, is being awarded this year’s Educational Innovation Award.

One of the many outstanding aspects of this innovative curriculum is its structure as a series of online modules. “The addition of a mandatory, web-based ACGME competency focused tutorial has allowed us to effectively expand our core educational material within the confines of an already busy schedule,” said Assistant Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Community Health, Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH. “Having the CNMP portal online, with the ability to access it anywhere, made it much easier to complete,” added a third year medical student. “Dr. Yanni was extremely innovative in designing a program that is quick, informative, conveniently accessed and extremely useful.”

While the curriculum is the brainchild of Dr. Yanni, its success is linked to the team she assembled to develop the program. “She successfully brought together a team of faculty and staff representing varying fields to include internal medicine faculty and fellows, educational researchers, online curriculum developers and technology experts to build this robust innovative online teaching program,” said Sonya R. Lawson, PhD.

“What distinguishes Dr. Yanni’s project from many other efforts of similar ambition is her meticulous attention to planning and execution,” added Stanford School of Medicine’s Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, Peter Rudd, MD. “Her group thoughtfully organized the material into six modules, constructed pre/post test assessments for reinforcement, and fashioned learning tools useful for clinical practice and the application of the knowledge and skills.”

“Another strength of the curriculum is the inclusion and respect given to the multi-dimensional aspect of chronic pain and the importance of managing chronic pain in a holistic and multidisciplinary manner where the patient is an active team member,” said Linda Garufi Clark, MD, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

“The modules are easy to access, easy to use, and provide a great deal of relevant clinical information in a concise format,” added David Carleton, MD, a Fellow within the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology. “My experience with the curriculum has already impacted my clinical practice. I have found the differentiation and treatment of distinct types of chronic nonmalignant pain to be rewarding both to myself and to my patients.”

If anyone still questions why Dr. Yanni is this year’s winner of the Educational Innovation Award, they need only read the words of one of her colleagues, John Urbach, MD: “In a world of information overload, someone who can take a crucial but oft-neglected topic, render it comprehensible, and offer a ready path to mastery certainly deserves our recognition.”

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Gita V. Massey, M.D.



Where else in medicine could humanism be more important than in pediatric oncology and hematology? While the cases are medically challenging, the emotional toll can be overwhelming. Yet Dr. Gita Massey has made these dual challenges her life's work, earning, along the way, the love of her patients and their families, the admiration and awe of students and colleagues, and, this year, recognition as the recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

"It is physically and emotionally draining to deal with these situations, day in and day out," wrote one colleague, ". . . yet Dr. Massey never ceases to amaze me with her seemingly endless supply of empathy and compassion for her patients and their families." "In her quiet demeanor, she is a great observant that can see through situations and agony beyond the physical needs of the patients," commended Kamar Godder, MD, MPH, Chair, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. "She sees the patient as a whole, combining superb medical care with empathy, consideration and compassion toward the family."

"Probably the hardest part of shadowing her as well as the most powerful is watching her deliver difficult news to a family," added second year MPH student Lindsey Matthews. "Dr. Massey presents all of the facts with a perfect balance of honesty and sensitivity. It demonstrates an incredible amount of skill and composure. Families respond to her gratefully because of her soft and kind delivery. She always provides her full support and makes sure the family has all that they need."

The trauma of dealing with a seriously ill child can make dealing with families particularly challenging, as many express their grief and frustration with anger. "She has endless patience with even the most difficult of families (and we have some really difficult families), wrote fellow Associate Professor Nancy L. Dunn, MD. "Her patients are absolutely and totally devoted to her. I have incurred the wrath of some of her patients, at times, if she is suddenly unavailable and I try to see them instead." Her department chair agrees wholeheartedly, saying "Gita relentlessly works on relationships with the most difficult families, being sensitive to cultural and viewpoint diversity."

To locate Dr. Massey on clinic days, one only needs to look to where the crowd has gathered. "On her clinic days, she is always surrounded by a cloud of students, from medical to pre-med to high school students," added Dr. Godder. "She welcomes any opportunity to teach those students at a one-on-one mentoring, and she never refuses another student who wishes to shadow her." "I am sure that any student who spends even a few hours with her comes away from that experience knowing much more, not only about hematology and oncology, but also, and probably much more importantly, about how to be a compassionate and caring physician."

"In addition to all her other activities, Dr. Massey is an avid clinical researcher whose main interests are coagulation disorders and acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), specifically as it is expressed in Down syndrome patients," added Dr. Godder. She has published dozens of papers and is a highly sought after speaker on topics ranging from blood disorders to "Care of the Dying Child."

"Perhaps the most striking part about Dr. Massey is her ability to stay humble," added one student. "She has accomplished so much and has the adoration of a countless number of students, patients, families and colleagues, but still has her feet firmly on the ground. I have nothing but the utmost admiration and respect for her." As do we all.

Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement Award

Aradhana Bela A. Sood, M.D., M.S.H.A.



Three year president of WISDM. One of the YWCA's 2006 Outstanding Women. The first woman Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at VCU. One of the Best Doctors in America. Medical Director of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC) and Director of MCVH's Mood Disorders and Attention Deficit Disorders Clinics. A voice of experience sharing her knowledge with audiences ranging from 60 Minutes and NPR to CMEs.

Compassionate. Tenacious. A champion of a woman and a champion of women. Bela Sood, M.D., M.S.H.A.

Listening to those who nominated Dr. Sood for the WISDM Professional Achievement Award, it is difficult to imagine a better role model for women in medicine. "She never relies on what she has already accomplished but continually strives to do it better," wrote the Nurse Manager of VTCC, Nancy Doyle, RN. "She constantly encourages faculty to become better at what they do. She has set up departmental faculty meetings to assist us with research and achieving tenure. She brings in speakers continually to help us with each step in promoting our practice to a higher level. She is not only a great role model for the development of professional women, but everyone she supervises."

While her female colleagues and mentees feel a special kinship with Dr. Sood, given her advocacy efforts on behalf of women, her leadership is highly respected by all. "She is a role model, mentor and promoter of the professional development of all through words and deeds," Isaac K. "Ike" Wood, Director, Undergraduate Medical Education for Psychiatry.

"Bela has invested her efforts to help advocate among the faculty, educate the administrators and change the culture to bring excellence and diversity to the highest levels of leadership at VCU SOM and the VCU Health System," said Carol Hampton, Associate Dean for Faculty and Instructional Development.

"Dr. Sood possesses the unique capacity to provide exceptional learning opportunities while engaging with her patients and their families in a manner that is productive, compassionate and pragmatic," added Norman J. Geller, Ph.D. "It is not uncommon for her to allow a medical student to engage in the interview process and, in the next breath, engage in lengthy conversation with the young patient about Pokeman, Tales of Narnia or some sports figure in order to develop a common bond."

"I have observed her work to calm the fears, referee the angers, and solve the problems of others; she does it all with the same poise, equanimity and grace," added Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Virginia Treatment Center for Children. "She has the capacity to bring together a group of talented people and to pull, push, and cajole them into producing excellent products."

"She is sensitive about issues women in medicine face, is proactive about it, and serves as a great role model," concluded Dr. Radhika Sriram. "I feel grateful to have trained under her superb guidance." That same sense of gratitude is shared by colleagues, patients, staff and families who benefit every day from the commitment and care provided by Dr. Bela Sood.

Women in Science, Dentistry & Medicine Professional Achievement Award

Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D.



Since her arrival as department chair in 2001, Dr. Sarah Spiegel ushered in a new season of growth and warmth at VCU's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. "Dr. Spiegel's leadership has effected a change that is nothing short of miraculous," said Associate Professor Suzanne E. Barbour. Dr. Spiegel brought in new talent and re-energized existing staff and researchers. She was instrumental in securing funding to totally renovate the department's aging research space. And, in less than five years, she took a department ranked 103rd in NIH funding and drove it to 32nd.

"This is the infusion of a rising tide of energy and achievement that is 'raising all the boats' in our School and University," explained Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Dr. Jan F. Chlebowski. "She has revitalized the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology," according to Dr. Jerry Strauss, Dean, School of Medicine.

Her strong leadership and mentoring abilities have created a nurturing environment for both faculty and students. "Sarah takes a sincere interest in each and every one of us on her faculty," said Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Anatomy, and Emergency Medicine. "She makes us feel like we are her sole focus, and she is highly supportive to help us succeed."

A world-recognized pioneer in the study of sphingosine-1-phosphate, Dr. Spiegel's interest in sphingolipid research is positively infectious. "It is a wonderful privilege for me to share her knowledge of sphingolipids and to learn the 'spiegelian' way to do high quality science, where information flows and collaborations are strongly encouraged," added one of Dr. Spiegel's protégés, Carole Oskeritzian, PhD.

While the NIH may not refer to her methods as "spiegelian," she receives equally glowing praise from those outside VCU. "With the extraordinary qualities of Dr. Spiegel both as a mentor and as a scientist, her keen intelligence, her organizational skills, her driving force, her talent to visualize what is critical and the quality of her scientific work, it is not surprising she has forged an extremely successful career and become a corner stone leader and an authority in the field," wrote NIH scientist Dr. Ana Olivera. "Not only have I experienced a personal growth as a scientist under her guidance, it was remarkable to watch graduate students coming to the lab with little or no experience maturing into fully capable scientists," Dr. Olivera added.

Her leadership, research and mentoring skills are widely known and respected, but they, alone, could not merit the WISDM commendation. To understand what she has meant in the lives of the women she has worked with, one needs only to listen to their words: "She is strongly supportive of and effective in advancing the careers of women and particularly the faculty whom she has a direct role in mentoring." "She is not only an outstanding expert and pioneer in her field of research, but also a passionate promoter of the professional development of women." Dr. Spiegel ". . . demonstrates the difference that one person can make in an organization."

The research. The mentoring. The publications. The leadership. Dr. Spiegel's worthiness as a WISDM Professional Achievement Award winner can be summarized in a simple sentence, penned by a colleague. "Without a doubt, Dr. Spiegel is the model of a successful, dedicated and motivated woman in science and medicine."

MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award

Julia A. R. Nunley, M.D.



What Julia R. Nunley, MD, boils down to “treating the sick patient with a rash” is actually a humble description of a nationally recognized expertise in the dermatologic manifestations of internal diseases. Dr. Nunley, this year’s MCVP Distinguished Clinician, has brought comfort, care and answers to those suffering from a wide variety of skin disorders related to pregnancy, renal failure, hepatitis C and many other diseases.

Boarded in Internal Medicine, Nephrology and Dermatology, Dr. Nunley is a Professor in the Department of Dermatology at VCU School of Medicine, where she has been a faculty member for 18 years, and is the program director of VCUHS’s Dermatology Fellowship. “I moved to Richmond in order to train in Internal Medicine at VCUHS . . . and I’ve never left,” said Dr. Nunley.

“Blending my nephrology skills of laboratory interpretation with my ability to ‘read the skin’ has strengthened my ability to be a fairly decent diagnostician. It allows me two distinct ways to approach a case. Look at the labs first or study the skin first. It has also taught me to work within the health care system, pay attention to the tiniest detail and to respect the expertise of my colleagues. Having been in two different specialties in two departments, I’ve learned that we can all have dissimilar perspectives of a single disease.

“Dr. Nunley is the ultimate clinician, seeing the most complex and problematic patients referred by all of the primary and specialty services,” explained Lenore M. Buckley, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics. “She is an outstanding clinical resource for the nephrologists and transplant services. She coordinates statewide conferences for dermatologists and is highly respected in the community for her clinical dedication and expertise.”

Repeatedly listed as one of the “Top Doctors” by Richmond Magazine, Dr. Nunley is also a stellar educator, receiving several “top teacher” honors from the medical students for her MII Musculoskeletal course. “Teaching is one of the best parts of my job,” Dr. Nunley said. “Julia provides a unique role model for students and trainees about what it means to be an outstanding clinician,” Dr. Buckley continued. “She has inspired many of VCU’s best medical students to choose a career in dermatology.”

She has served the medical school, MCV Hospital and MCV Physicians, on some 14 institutional committees and participated in many national, international, and state associations. Dr. Nunley also has served as President and Treasurer of the Virginia Dermatology Society and Treasurer for WISDM.

Despite administrative and academic commitments, Dr. Nunley remains first and foremost a clinician. “Most of my days are spent in clinical care,” said Dr. Nunley. She sees referrals from VCUHS’s primary care and specialty services as well as from physicians around the state and, for 10 years, has spent between four and six months per year as the attending at the inpatient and outpatient consult services, at which she provides insight on emergent and urgent issues related to dermatology. Always in demand, she nevertheless finds time for those who are in great need of her services, adding patients to an already packed schedule.

When notified of her nomination for this award, Dr. Nunley quickly turned the focus away from her skills and toward those of her colleagues within MCVP. “I am thrilled and honored. My admiration and respect for the faculty of this institution is only surpassed by my heartfelt gratitude for the medical care provided to my family for the past several years.”

*Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in
Health Sciences Education*

Jeffrey L. Dupree, Ph.D., M.S.
Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology

Tomasz K. Kordula, Ph.D., M.S.
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Viswanathan (Ramesh) Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., M.P., M.S.
Department of Biostatistics

Resa M. Jones, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Department of Epidemiology and Community Health

Michael S. Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Department of Human Genetics

Francine Marciano Cabral, Ph.D.
Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Dana E. Selley, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D.
Department of Physiology

Selection of the outstanding departmental teacher is determined by a process developed by each basic sciences department.

*Outstanding Teacher Awards in
Undergraduate Medical Education*

Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards

M-I Courses

Neil Sonenklar, M.D.
Jeffrey L. Dupree, Ph.D.
Jack Haar, Ph.D.
Colleen Jackson-Cook, Ph.D.
Deborah Lebman, Ph.D.
Carmen Sato-Bigbee, Ph.D.
George Leichnetz, Ph.D.
Linda Costanzo, Ph.D.
Michael B. Edmond, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.

Behavioral Sciences I Course
Gross and Developmental Anatomy Course
Histology Course
Human Genetics Course
Immunology Course
Medical Biochemistry Course
Neurosciences Course
Physiology Course
Population Medicine Course

M-II Courses

Isaac Wood, M.D.
Mark A. Wood, M.D.
Robert Delorenzo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
David Gardner, M.D.
Melissa Contos, M.D.
Laurie Lyckholm, M.D.
Sara Monroe, M.D.
Kathy Kreutzer, M.Ed.
Christopher M. Wise, M.D.
Richard A. McPherson, M.D.
Margaret Grimes, M.D.
Sandra P. Welch, Ph.D.
Susan R. DiGiovanni, M.D.
R. Paul Fairman, M.D.
Fidelma Rigby, M.D.
Curtis Hayes, M.D.

Behavioral Sciences II Course
Cardiovascular Course
Central Nervous System Course
Endocrine Course
Gastrointestinal Course
Hematology/Oncology Course
Microbiology Course
Medical Bioethics Course
Musculoskeletal Course
Pathogenesis Course
Pathology Teaching
Pharmacology Course
Renal Course
Respiratory Course
Women's Health Course
Radiology Teaching

M-I and M-II Courses

Alger Rixey Southall III, M.D. and
Edward Rex Lakey Harkrader, Sr., M.D.
Brett Law, M.D.
Sandra Bell, M.D.
Elizabeth Williams, M.D.
Cynthia Burke, M.D.
Harold T. Green, Jr., M.D.

Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Foundations of Clinical Medicine

M-III Clerkships

Shelley Short, M.D.
Frank Fulco, M.D.
Lenore Joseph, M.D.
Nicole Karjane, M.D.
Joseph Iobst, M.D.
Sean McKenna, M.D.
David Albright, M.D.
Huan Vu, M.D.

Family Medicine Clerkship
Medicine Clerkship
Neurology Clerkship
Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship
Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship, Riverside
Pediatrics Clerkship
Psychiatry Clerkship
Surgery Clerkship

*Outstanding Teacher Awards in
Undergraduate Medical Education*

Faculty with High Evaluation Awards

M-I Courses

Joel J. Silverman, M.D.
M. Alex Meredith, Ph.D.
David G. Simpson, Ph.D.
Virginia Pallante, M.S.
John Ryan, Ph.D.
Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D.
Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D.
Raphael J. Witorsch, Ph.D.

Behavioral Sciences I Course
Gross and Developmental Anatomy Course
Gross and Developmental Anatomy Course
Human Genetics Course
Immunology Course
Medical Biochemistry Course
Neurosciences Course
Physiology Course

M-II Courses

Robert Balster, Ph.D.
Michael L. Hess, M.D.
George W. Vetrovec, M.D.
Warren Felton, M.D.
Diane M. Biskobing, M.D.
Edmund Wickham, III, M.D.
Mitchell L. Shiffman, M.D.
Richard T. Stravitz, M.D.
Jonathan M. Ben-Ezra, M.D.
Francine Marciano-Cabral, Ph.D.
Lenore M. Buckley, M.D.
Edward J.N. Ishac, Ph.D.
Linda Costanzo, Ph.D.
Kevin R. Cooper, M.D.
Curtis N. Sessler, M.D.
Christine Isaacs, M.D.
Julia R. Nunley, M.D.
H.D. Massey, M.D., D.D.S., Ph.D.
Michael Idowu, M.D.
James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed.

Behavioral Sciences II Course
Cardiovascular Course
Cardiovascular Course
Central Nervous System Course
Endocrine Course
Endocrine Course
Gastrointestinal Course
Gastrointestinal Course
Hematology/Oncology Course
Microbiology Course
Musculoskeletal Course
Pharmacology Course
Renal Course
Respiratory Course
Respiratory Course
Women's Health Course
Dermatology Teaching
Pathology Teaching
Pathology Lab Teaching
Radiology Teaching

M-III Clerkships

Christine Isaacs, M.D.
Thomas Peng, M.D.
Ellen Brock, M.D.
Jewell Barnett, M.D.
Bill Shaw, M.D.
Wei Zhao, M.D.
Martin Graham, M.D.
Linda Meloy, M.D.
Ahmad Shahab, M.D.
Elizabeth Waterhouse, M.D.
Sultan Lakhani, M.D.
Daniel Sheneman, M.D.
Ronald Merrell, M.D.
Therese Duane, M.D.
Clay Hall, M.D.

Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship
Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship
Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship
Obstetrics/Gynecology Clerkship, Riverside
Pediatrics Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Pediatrics Clerkship
Neurology Clerkship
Psychiatry Clerkship
Psychiatry Clerkship
Surgery Clerkship
Surgery Clerkship
Family Medicine Clerkship

2007 Teaching Excellence Awards Nominees

Cheryl Al-Mateen, M.D., Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics

John Clore, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine

Alan Dow, M.D., M.S.H.A., et al./Team, Department of Internal Medicine

Barry Kirkpatrick, M.D., Department of Pediatrics

Tomasz Kordula, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Ananda Pandurangi, M.D., Department of Psychiatry

Curtis Sessler, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine

John Ward, M.D., M.H.A., Department of Neurosurgery

Congratulations to our Nominees!

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Special Thanks

VCU Creative Services

Allen Jones

Curriculum Office

Kathleen Kreutzer, Angela Wetzel

Dean's Office

Joan Barrett, Ruth McIntosh-Brandt

Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Jeanne Schlesinger

Educational Technology

JK Stringer

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Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Excellence Awards

Jan F. Chlebowski, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate Education

Carol L. Hampton, M.M.S., Associate Dean, Faculty and Instructional Development

James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education

Deborah Stewart, Teaching Awards Program Coordinator, School of Medicine

Isaac Wood, M.D., Associate Dean, Student Affairs

Previous Award Winners

FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Linda S. Costanzo, Ph.D., 1999
James L. Levenson, M.D., 2000
R. Paul Fairman, M.D., 2001
Isaac Keith Wood, M.D., 2002
Robert L. Balster, Ph.D., 2003
Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D., 2003
Suzanne E. Barbour, Ph.D., 2004
Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., 2005
David F. Gardner, M.D., 2006
Edward J.N. Ishac, Ph.D., 2006

IRBY-JAMES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING

David R. Salter, M.D., 1999
Joel A. Blum, M.D., 2000
Cesar I. Kanamori, M.D., 2001
Robert K. Schneider, M.D., 2003
Robert A. Adler, M.D., 2004
Alpha (Berry) A. Fowler, III, M.D., 2005
Brian J. Kaplan, M.D., 2006

DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD

John Bigbee, Ph.D., 1999
W. Hans Carter, Jr., Ph.D., 2000
Suzanne R. Lavoie, M.D., 2000
Daniel H. Conrad, Ph.D., 2001
Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., 2001
Cynthia M. Heldberg, Ph.D., 2002
Sandra P. Welch, Ph.D., 2002
Deborah L. Haller, Ph.D., 2003
George R. Leichnetz, Ph.D., 2004
Roland N. Pittman, Ph.D., 2005
David X. Cifu, M.D., 2005
Chris Gennings, Ph.D., 2006
John E. Nestler, M.D., 2006

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION/EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

Joann N. Bodurtha, M.D., M.P.H., 1999
Michelle Y. Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., and Rita M. Willett, M.D., 1999
Carol L. Hampton, M.M.S., 2000
Alice S. "Dolly" Pakurar, Ph.D., 2001
Thomas M. Kerkering, M.D., 2002
Charles O. Frazier, M.D., 2003
Edward J.N. Ishac, Ph.D., 2004
J. Dennis Hoban, Ed.D., 2005
Isaac K. Wood, M.D., 2006

A full description of the School of Medicine's Teaching Excellence Awards Program is located at
http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/ofid/facdev/ann_teach_awrds.htm.

2007 Awards Selection Committees

Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards

Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry (2004 Teaching Excellence Award Winner)
Francine Cabral, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Bob Diegelmann, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry (2005 Teaching Excellence Award Winner)
Antony Fernandez, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, VAMC
Judson Frye, Class of 2008
David Gardner, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine (2006 Teaching Excellence Award Winner)
Carol Hampton, M.M.S., Faculty and Instructional Development, Chair (non-voting)
Edward Ishac, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology (2006 Teaching Excellence Award Winner)
River Pugsley, Ph.D. Student, Department of Epidemiology and Community Health
Omer Riaz, M.D., Department of Surgery (Chief Resident)
Joni Stuart, Class of 2008
Rita Willett, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

M-I Awards

Esther Johnston, M1 Curriculum Representative
Ravinder Brar, M1 Curriculum Representative
Diane Biskobing, M.D., Chair, Internal Medicine/Curriculum
Virginia Pallante, MS, Human Genetics
Deborah Lebman, PhD, Immunology
James Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., Curriculum
Angie Wetzel, M.Ed., Curriculum

M-II Awards

Erin Davis, M2 Curriculum Representative
Emily Goldenberg, M2 Curriculum Representative
Julie Ziobro, M2 Curriculum Representative
Doumit Bouhaider, MD, Internal Medicine
Diane Biskobing, M.D., Chair, Internal Medicine/Curriculum
James Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., Curriculum
Angie Wetzel, M.Ed., Curriculum

M-III Awards

Gonzalo Bearman, M.D., Internal Medicine
John Pierce, M.D., Obstetrics/Gynecology
Warren Felton, M.D., Neurology
Barry Kirkpatrick, M.D., Pediatrics
Angie Wetzel, M.Ed., Curriculum
James Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., Curriculum
Melissa Bradner, M.D., Family Practice
Jeannie Savas, M.D., Surgery
Cheryl Al-Mateen, M.D., Psychiatry