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Please submit news (faculty hires, accomplishments, etc.) through your chairman's office. Please contact Peter Buckley with feedback, questions, etc.

GREETINGS

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing." -- Albert Schweitzer

Dear Colleagues - Friends,

This time of the year is particularly exciting in the life of any medical school – and so it is for us! We celebrated and wished well to our newest doctors – The class of 2017 who celebrated in style and are now settling in to their first job as physicians in top-notch residency programs all across the U.S. We also welcome our new interns, joining us for the next stage of their careers. We recognize that they too had choices and could have gone to other programs, but they chose VCU because of our commitment to training, our unwavering commitment to quality in our clinical programs, and the excellence of our faculty.

We are also privileged that 29 of our own medical students who graduated from VCU Class of 2017 "voted with their feet" to stay on here for their residency – another ringing endorsement of the quality of training at our institution. Another exciting "turnover" event is the arrival shortly of our new medical school class. Please welcome them, as well as our new residents, to VCU!

Before the turn of the academic year is also the occasion when excellence is acknowledged at the many local, regional, and national academic gatherings. As you read this Dean's Quarterly Diary (DQD), I hope that you will be as impressed as I am by the breadth of accomplishments of our faculty, residents, and students. Collectively, they elevate the national – and international – prominence of VCU. Their work also highlights the many ways that VCU improves the health and lives of many.

Among the many recent activities of scientific and clinical significance, two stood out as overwhelmingly meaningful to me personally. Firstly, in the middle of a tour of Hunter Holmes McGuire VA led with great pride by the Veterans Affairs Medical Center Executive Director, John Brandecker, I saw at the end of a long hallway a man walking with a person beside him on either side to help. Amazingly to me, as he slowly yet relentlessly walked closer, I could see that this man was actually paralyzed. And yet, with the aid of an exoskeleton and the support and encouragement of the caring VA staff, he was walking. His determination and resilience as he walked was a remarkable sight. This veritable "medical miracle" was only possible through the skill and kindness of his caregivers, and through the extraordinary innovation – the confluence of science and biomedical engineering – as exemplified by the robotic exoskeleton. You can read more about the remarkable innovation at the VA, fueled by VCU faculty, in these recent articles, http://www.richmond.com/life/health/new-technology-allows-veterans-to-control-prosthesis-with-their-minds/article_a6b0d6b0-ac69-5eba-8923-b140dd9e7a8f.html;

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/charles-f-bryan-jr/charles-f-bryan-jr-vcu-and-mcquire-va-hospital-are/article_234908cb-19b0-5ff0-a856-64ed5d4e8916.html

Shortly after that experience, I had the privilege of attending the annual Shining Knight Gala. There, I learned about the life saving teamwork of some 50 “heroes” – from community EMS to ward clerk to neurosurgeon – all in unison in their unrelenting work to help a trauma victim and her family recover their lives. This event and many of our SOM participants are highlighted in the later sections of DQD. It was an unforgettable experience. The evening was also a powerful statement of VCU’s commitment – and far-reaching impact – to the Commonwealth of Virginia. We were later told that Governor and Mrs. McAuliffe, who were in attendance before going to another pre-planned event, were so moved by the compelling story that they cancelled their other commitment to remain with us as we celebrated the fusion of human resilience and medical expertise. You can also read more about this at

[http://www.shiningknight.vcu.edu/;](http://www.shiningknight.vcu.edu/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/shiningknightgala/sets/72157682845698630/.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/shiningknightgala/sets/72157682845698630/)

These two stories exemplify the best of VCU. However, they are just two stories, drawn from an unending stream of activities and accomplishments that all of you make happen every day. The pages below of DQD are replete with similar acts and accomplishments and they are no less impressive. Collectively, your efforts – as represented below – are compelling, enduring, and inspirational. They also draw others of great talent to join us in pursuing their careers at VCU. Please let me know directly if we have neglected to highlight something and/or someone that is deserving of recognition. DQD is evolving and gratifying. There’s lots happening.

I’m most grateful also to Ms. Deborah Stewart for her assistance and guidance in collating all the information in this Deans Quarterly Diary. Additionally, as we continue to refine this format and content, all feedback is most welcome, thank you.

Given all the impressive activities that I have observed over these past five months of service as your new dean, it is exhilarating to be at VCU, and your accomplishments make me very proud of our school. My wife, Leonie, and I are also extremely grateful to you for the warm welcome and great advice – both personal and professional – that you have given us. VCU – and Richmond – is a great place to be.

Read on – and enjoy! Don’t forget to congratulate our colleagues who are acknowledged here in and to welcome all our new VCU colleagues.

My very best to you over the remainder of summer and throughout this new academic year!



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FACULTY HONORS

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

Anatomy and Neurobiology

Ray Colello, Ph.D., associate professor, was appointed as Director of the Premedical Graduate Health Science Certificate Program (CERT), the two-semester graduate-level training program designed for individuals seeking to enhance their credentials for admission into medical, dental or graduate schools. *Congratulations Ray on your leadership of this key pipeline program.*

Gretchen Neigh McCandless, Ph.D., associate professor, received two travel awards from Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research which is a joint venture of NIH and the International AIDS Society. *Thank you Gretchen for representing VCU at this major conference.*

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Paul Dent, Ph.D., professor, serves on a NIH study section Subcommittee I - Transition to Independence [NCI-I].

Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D., professor and chair, presented a keynote lecture at the 5th World Breast Cancer Conference in London. She was also elected to organize a Keystone Symposium on Lipidomics and Bioactive Lipids in Metabolism and Disease.

Brian Wattenberg, Ph.D., associate professor, serves as a member on two NIH study sections: Biochemistry and Biophysics of Membranes [BBM] and Membrane Biology and Protein Processing [MBPP].

Biostatistics

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., professor, was elected as the Council of Sections Representative for the biometrics section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). *Thank you for your leadership Dipankar.*

Nitai Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D., associate professor, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the department in May. *Well done Nitai.*

Roy Sabo, Ph.D., associate professor, was honored Best Teacher for the MPH Program by the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health in May. Dr. Sabo was also awarded a grant to participate in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity's (NCFDD) fall 2017 faculty success program, designed to teach faculty the skills and strategies to improve research productivity, work-life balance, and personal growth. *We look forward Roy to you bringing back this important information from this program. Congratulations.*

Emergency Medicine

Harinder Dhindsa, M.D., associate professor, is the recipient of the 2017 VCU Outstanding Term Faculty Award. Dr. Dhindsa will be formally recognized at the 35th Annual Faculty Convocation on August 23, 2017 at the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. *Congratulations HD – thanks for your leadership.*

Jeffrey Ferguson, M.D., associate professor, was awarded the Old Dominion Emergency Medical Services Alliance's (ODEMSA) 2017 Regional Award for Outstanding EMS Physician. Dr. Ferguson serves as the medical director for MedFlight and Henrico Fire Department. He was recognized in a ceremony in May for his work in the EMS community, educating, and helping improve the quality and safety of patient care in the region while enhancing the

standing of VCU Health. *Congratulations Jeff for all you do in making our region a safer, healthier place to live and learn.*

Family Medicine and Population Health

Saba Masho, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.PH., professor, was honored with the Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine (WISDM) Professional Achievement Award by the WISDM Faculty Organization at its 25th Annual Leadership Conference on May 5. This unique award was established in 1993 to acknowledge the special contributions and accomplishments of women faculty in the School of Medicine. Its primary purpose is to recognize a woman who is a role model and mentor, promoting the professional development of other women faculty. Saba has been a remarkable role model and mentor for female colleagues. Her work in the Richmond community is outstanding. *Thank you for your leadership Saba.*

Health Behavior and Policy

Andrew Barnes, Ph.D., assistant professor, contributed to “Behavioral Economics and Healthy Behaviors,” which published in June. The book applies behavioral economics theories to health care and specifically explores how to improve consumer choices of health insurance plans. Barnes and the two co-editors who he collaborated with solicited chapters from their colleagues at numerous universities to complete the book, which details what light behavioral economic research sheds on engaging health behaviors including smoking, medication adherence and health insurance choices. *Congratulations Andrew – it’s a great read.*

Vanessa Sheppard, Ph.D., professor and chair, was appointed to the Theresa A. Thomas Memorial Chair in Cancer Prevention and Control in recognition of her exemplary contributions to teaching, research and public service in April. *Congratulations Vanessa on this unique honor.*

Human and Molecular Genetics

Michael Grotewiel, Ph.D., associate professor, has been appointed assistant dean for Graduate Recruitment and Admissions in the School of Medicine. *Congratulations Michael.*

Tim York, Ph.D., associate professor, is developing a new course in Genomic Data Science, to fill a need for training in this area. The course will train graduate students to program with R, clean/format data, use basic statistical methods to test hypotheses, and generate informative data visualizations. Additional courses are planned for the future. *We look forward to hearing more Tim, thanks.*

Internal Medicine

Michael Donnenberg, M.D., professor, submitted a MD/PhD proposal to the VCU University Graduate Council to add the Ph.D. in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology as an option in the School of Medicine M.D.-Ph.D. combined program. The proposal was approved. *Thank you Michael, this is an important development.*

Amanda George, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, was presented as the residents’ choice for the Academic Teaching Award during the American College of Physician’s (ACP) resident abstract competition in March. *Recognition by residents is always very meaningful – congratulations Amanda.*

John Nestler, M.D., professor and chair, was inducted as a master in the American College of Physicians (ACP) in April at the college's scientific meeting in San Diego where 55 new masters of ACP were named. Masters in ACP are chosen for the excellence and significance of their contributions to the science and art of medicine. *So glad to hear John that you're also recognized nationally for all you do – we certainly appreciate your leadership.*

Neurology

Scott Haines, M.D., assistant professor, was selected as a Fellow in the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society for 2017. *Congratulations Scott.*

Victor Hugo Gonzalez Montoya, M.D., assistant professor, received the American Academy of Neurology Teaching Recognition Award in April. *Congratulations Victor, great recognition.*

Neurosurgery

Brian Cameron, M.D., assistant professor, was honored as a Shining Knight by the VCU Health Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the annual Shining Knight Gala in May. The Shining Knight Gala honors heroic efforts and collaboration of an outstanding team of "Shining Knights" made up of care providers from first responders to trauma surgeons, nurses, and countless others. Net proceeds from the event support VCU's Level 1 Trauma and the Injury and Violence Prevention Program. *Thank you Brian for your daily acts of literally "saving lives."*

R. Scott Graham, M.D., professor, was also honored as a Shining Knight by the VCU Health Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the annual Shining Knight Gala. *We so appreciate your tireless efforts, too – thank you Scott.*

Alex Valadka, M.D., professor and chair, has been named President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). The association announced his appointment during the 85th AANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Los Angeles in April. *This is a huge deal and also brings great honor to VCU -- Congratulations Alex.*

Harold Young, M.D., professor, was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in April. The humanism award recognizes those who meet the highest standards of compassion and empathy and is a role model in patient care, education and academic endeavors. The award will be presented to Dr. Young at the School of Medicine's 19th Annual Faculty Excellence Award program on September 27, 2017. *We look forward Harry to recognizing your remarkable leadership at VCU. You are an inspiration to all.*

Obstetrics and Gynecology

David Chelmow, M.D., professor and chair, has been elected as President-Elect of the Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology (CUCOG) for a two-year term, May 1, 2017 – May 1, 2019. CUCOG promotes and supports leadership development of current and future chairs, and encourages excellence in medical student, resident, and fellowship training; clinical practice; research and advocacy in women's health. *Congratulations Dave – this is a major professional accomplishment – an honor for you and for VCU.*

Dr. Chelmow was also appointed as Assistant Secretary to the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) from April 1, 2017 to April 1, 2018 -- *another great opportunity to lead.*

Christine Isaacs, M.D., associate professor and division chair of General Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been appointed to The Pearls of Excellence Editorial Board by the Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology in May. The editorial board reviews the data from the three oral OB-GYN Board certification exams, and compiles a list of the most challenging topics. *What a formative role to be able to influence learning and clinical practice. Thank you for your leadership Christine.*

Nicole Karjane, M.D., associate professor, has been appointed as representative to the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) District IV Region 3 Council. CREOG is dedicated to the promotion and maintenance of excellence in residency education in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Karjane's appointment begins in August. *We appreciate your leadership Nicole.*

Jerome Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D., professor, was awarded the International "Arnaldo Bruno" Prize 2017 for Gynaecology by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei on June 15 during the closing ceremony of the 2016-17 academic year in Rome, Italy. *What a great honor Jerry – congratulations.*

Scott W. Walsh, Ph.D., professor, was awarded a new five year R01 grant entitled "Pregnancy Specific Protease Activation of PAR-1 and TET2 in Preeclampsia - Implications for Therapy". The purpose of this grant is to determine if the pregnancy specific expression of protease-activated receptor-1 (PAR-1) on neutrophils mediates inflammation by being activated by elevated levels of proteases present in the circulation of preeclamptic women. If so, these studies may provide new strategies for treatment with PAR-1 inhibitors by identifying a key molecular target. *Very cool work Scott.*

Otolaryngology

Daniel Coelho, M.D., associate professor, was also inducted into the Triologic Society with his thesis entitled "MRI Surveillance of Vestibular Schwannomas without Contrast Enhancement: Clinical and Economic Evaluation". He won the Mosher Clinical Research Award for this work.

Evan Reiter, M.D., associate professor, was inducted into the Triologic Society upon acceptance of his thesis entitled "Impact of Duty Hours Limits on Resident Research Productivity".

Pathology

Lorin Bachmann, Ph.D., associate professor, was appointed to the national Board of Directors of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC). This national appointment is for three years, January 2017 through December 2020. The AACC Board of Directors provide strategic planning for scientific programs, educational programs, laboratory medicine practice guidelines, position statements, advocacy efforts and other activities on behalf of the clinical laboratory profession. *This is a great honor, Lorin, congratulations.*

Susan Roseff, M.D., professor and division chair of Clinical Pathology, was appointed to the American Board of Pathology Test Development and Advisory Committee for Transfusion Medicine. *Important appointment, Susan.*

Alphonse Sirica, Ph.D., M.S., professor, is chair and organizer of the upcoming conference, "Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances" conference December 7 – 10, 2017, in Glen Allen, VA. More information can be found at <http://www.livercancerconference.vcu.edu/>.

Pediatrics

Anne-Marie Irani, M.D., professor, was elected secretary-treasurer for the American Board of Medical Specialties. The ABMS is the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. A professor in the VCU Department of Pediatrics' Division of Allergy and Immunology, Dr. Irani has served as an ABMS board member since 2010 and was elected to serve on the executive committee in 2015. Currently, she serves on the finance and audit committee. She served as a board member on the American Board of Allergy and Immunology from 2006 to 2012 and as an ad hoc member from 2012 to 2017. ABMS establishes the standards its 24 member boards use to develop and implement educational and professional evaluation, assessment and certification of physician specialists. More than 860,000 physicians are certified in one or more of the approved 37 specialties and 86 subspecialties offered by the ABMS Member Boards. *Congratulations Ann-Marie.*

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Matthew Banks Ph.D., assistant professor, is the 2017 recipient of the Joseph Cochin Award for the outstanding young scholar from the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, an international prestigious organization of scientists physicians and others working to solve drug abuse problems. *Congratulations Matt.*

Patrick Beardsley Ph.D., professor, is the sole American member of The World Health Organizations (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. This international group of experts evaluates the dependence liability of chemical entities and makes recommendations to The Committee on Narcotic Drugs of The United Nations for scheduling. Patrick also is chair of the Committee on the Abuse Liability of Drugs for The College on Problems of Drug Dependence and sits on the advisory Board of this prestigious organization. *Quite an honor Patrick.*

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Katherine Dec, M.D., professor, was named president of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM) in May for a one-year term. She is the first physical medicine and rehabilitation trained physician to serve in the role. *Thank you Katherine for assuming such a vital national role.*

Dr. Dec, also director of Sports Medicine, will serve as Medical Director for the corporate 2017 Richmond Marathon races. *Very cool Katherine, thank you for your community involvement.*

Lance Goetz, M.D., associate professor and co-director of the VCU/McGuire SCI Fellowship Program, was selected to receive the Excellence Award from the American Paraplegia Society (APS) for 2017. Dr. Goetz currently serves on the APS board of directors and will be the incoming treasurer for the organization. *Congratulations Lance.*

Douglas Murphy, M.D., associate professor and clinical director of McGuire VAMC Amputation Team, and **Denise Lester, M.D.**, assistant professor and co-director of McGuire VAMC Pain Center, placed the nation's first SPRINT Peripheral Nerve Stimulator Device in the VA system to alleviate the chronic residual limb pain of a Veteran amputee. This innovative procedure is part of an innovation research grant they received. *This is a great innovation – congratulations Doug and Denise.*

Ajit Pai, M.D., assistant professor and chief of PM&R Service at McGuire VAMC, and **Joseph Webster, M.D.**, associate professor and national director of Amputee Care for the VA and Amputation Service Lead for McGuire VAMC, were awarded a 3-year, \$500K/year Telerehabilitation Grant sponsored by VHA's Office of Rural Health and Office of Rehabilitation and Prosthetics Services to establish one of 4 national amputation telehealth centers. *What an important study, congratulations Ajit and Joe.*

Joseph Webster, M.D., associate professor and national director of Amputee Care for the VA and Amputation Service Lead for McGuire VAMC, and his collaborators at the Salt Lake City VAMC have just completed a pilot investigation

implanting prostheses directly into the femurs of 10 U.S. service member amputees as part of the U.S.'s first Osseointegration program. *Hopefully, we can participate more in these national efforts – thanks Joe.*

Paul Wehman, Ph.D., professor and division chair of Research, was awarded the Virginia Division of Career Development and Transition Leader of the Year Award (VADCDT) in June. The Division on Career Development and Transition promotes national and international efforts to improve the quality of and access to, career/vocational and transition services, increase the participation of education in career development and transition goals and to influence policies affecting career development and transition services for persons with disabilities. *Congratulations Paul on this recognition and on your other (see below) accomplishments.*

Dr. Wehman also co-authored a journal article (in press): Inge, K. J., Graham, C. W., McLaughlin, J. W., Erickson, D., **Wehman, P.**, & Seward, H.E. (in press). Evaluating the effectiveness of Facebook to impact the knowledge of evidence-based employment practices by individuals with traumatic brain injury: A knowledge translation random control study. *WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment & Rehabilitation.*

Dr. Wehman and other researchers were highlighted in March 29 VCU News, for their study on high school youth with autism who participated in an intensive job skills program, resulting in gaining and maintaining meaningful part-time employment after graduation. More information can be found at:
[https://news.vcu.edu/article/Youth with autism gain keep jobs after employerbased skills program](https://news.vcu.edu/article/Youth%20with%20autism%20gain%20keep%20jobs%20after%20employerbased%20skills%20program)

Psychiatry

Kenneth Kendler, M.D., professor and eminent scholar, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the Psychiatric Society of Virginia for his outstanding work and contributions to the field of mental health. The award was presented to Dr. Kendler at the Society's annual spring meeting by **Susan Waller, M.D.**, assistant professor and division chair of Ambulatory Care, PSV President. *Dr. Kendler's acceptance remarks were inspirational – thank you Ken.*

Susan Kornstein, M.D., professor, was named to the Top 40 Healthcare Transformers of 2017 in March, an annual list of executives, investors, entrepreneurs, designers, and thinkers who are ushering the industry into its new technological golden era, according to the editor-in-chief of *MM&M*. *Wow Susan! -- your presence at VCU has been transformative. Glad this is also recognized nationally.*

F. Gerald Moeller, M.D., professor and division chair of Addiction Psychiatry, has been appointed as the inaugural C. Kenneth and Dianne Wright Distinguished Chair in Clinical and Translational Research. Dr. Moeller, director of the Wright Center, has worked to enhance the culture of translational research at VCU and is internationally known for his translational research on impulsivity and actions using brain imaging as a tool for medication development. *Congratulations Gerry, your work translating research from bench to bedside to community is helping strengthen VCU's research program.*

Michael Neale, Ph.D., professor, is the recipient of the 2017 VCU Distinguished Scholarship Award. Dr. Neale will be formally recognized at the 35th Annual Faculty Convocation on August 23, 2017 at the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts. *Congratulations Michael – you make us proud.*

Arandhana "Bela" Sood, M.D., professor and division chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has been appointed by Governor McAuliffe to the Inaugural Board of the PANDAS/PANS Council to help evaluate resources for children and families of The Commonwealth. *Thanks for your leadership Bela.*

John Urbach, M.D., associate professor, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement/Career Award by the Psychiatric Society of Virginia for his long-time service to VCU, residents and students. The award was presented to Dr. Urbach at the Society's annual spring meeting by **Susan Waller, M.D.**, assistant professor and division chair of Ambulatory Care, PSV President. *Thank you John for your many leadership roles in psychiatry and for being such a great ambassador for mental health.*

Radiation Oncology

Douglas Arthur, M.D., professor and chair, was selected as a 2017 American Brachytherapy Society (ABS) Fellow in April. *Congratulations Doug on this important national recognition.*

Emma Fields, M.D., assistant professor, was honored as Educator of the Year by the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO) in April. ARRO promotes and recognizes educational excellence in radiation oncology training programs. *Congratulations Emma on being a superb teacher.*

Radiology

Ann Fulcher, M.D., professor and chair, was selected as a Fellow into the American College of Radiology (ARC) in May. *Congratulations Ann on being recognized and rewarded by your peers for your leadership.*

Malcolm Sydnor, M.D., associate professor, published a prospective randomized clinical trial in *Phlebology*, a leading journal in venous disease, in July 2017. The trial which spanned seven years enrolled and randomized 200 patients to compare the two leading techniques (radiofrequency and laser) to ablate incompetent saphenous veins in the treatment of chronic venous insufficiency of the lower extremity. While neither modality achieved superiority, the trial found that both were highly successful and safe from both anatomic and clinical standpoints over a multi-year period. The Interventional Radiologists at VCU are national leaders in the treatment of venous disease. *Important study – congratulations Malcolm.*

Surgery

Michel Aboutanos, M.D., M.P.H., professor and division chair of Acute Care Surgery, presented to 15 legislators and 187 participants at the Commission on Youth Family Impact Seminar at the State Capital on the role of trauma center in the community with focus on the Injury and Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) and the Center for Trauma and Critical Care Education (CTCCE). *Thank you Michel for your selfless efforts to improve the lives of Richmonders.*

Paula Ferrada, M.D., associate professor, has been named President-Elect of the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. *Congratulations on your appointment, Paula.*

VCUHS Adult Liver Program was approved as a Center of Excellence (COE) by the Clinical Sciences Institute (CSI) of Optum in May. The Adult Liver Program is a part of the VCU Division of Transplant Surgery. Also, the Hume-Lee Transplant Team successfully performed a liver transplant in May that brought them to 5,000 transplants since the beginning of the program. *This is a truly remarkable milestone – Congratulations to all the team!*

Dean's Office

Special Honor

The School of Medicine recognizes the special contributions of our dear departed colleague **Margaret Mary Grimes, M.D.**, former professor of Pathology and vice chair for Pathology Education who died May 15, 2017. Dr. Grimes was a dedicated physician and member of the teaching faculty. She was held in high esteem by her colleagues and made quite an impact on students and residents that she taught as evidenced by receiving the Gerszten Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, the highest teaching award conferred by the VCU School of Medicine. We applaud her for her service and dedication as faculty member, physician, and teacher. She will be greatly missed.

Brian Aboff, M.D., was appointed senior associate dean for Graduate Medical Education and designated Institutional official (DIO) for VCU Health System. He succeeds Mary Alice O'Donnell, Ph.D., who served in the role for 20 years, through January 2017, after which Stephanie Call, M.D., served as interim DIO until his arrival in April. Brian brings immense experience to VCU. You can read more about his appointment here:

http://news.vcu.edu/faculty-and-staff/VCU_School_of_Medicine_names_new_senior_associate_dean_for_graduate
Welcome aboard Brian.

Please welcome the newest member of our Dean's staff team, our very own **David Cifu, M.D.**, Herman J. Flax, MD Endowed Professor and chair, appointed associate dean for Innovation and Systems Integration for the School of Medicine (SOM). Dr. Cifu in this new role will advance the strategic goal of integrating across systems SOM's scientific, clinical and educational developments in artificial intelligence and biomarkers for traumatic and cognitive neuroscience. He will work collaboratively to support the physician workforce and leadership of the formative Sheltering Arms-VCU Health initiative. He will also advance SOM's vital partnerships with Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD), both locally and nationally. You can read more about Dave's appointment here: <http://wp.vcu.edu/som-dean/2017/05/pmr-chair-cifu-appointed-associate-dean-for-innovation-and-systems-integration/>

Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D., senior associate dean of Admissions, and **Donna Jackson, Ed.D.**, assistant dean, were tapped for induction into the Hall of Heroes of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) in April. The Hall of Heroes distinction is SNMA's most prestigious recognition, honoring administrators, physicians and others who champion the cause for a diverse physician workforce. SNMA's mission is to support current and future underrepresented minority medical students, address the needs of underserved communities and increase the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians. *Thank you Michelle and Donna your leadership is inspirational to all of us.*

Susan DiGiovanni, M.D., was appointed senior associate dean of Medical Education and Student Affairs in April. Dr. DiGiovanni successfully served as interim senior associate dean since 2015 and led our school in 2016 with great success to a stellar eight-year reaccreditation by LCME. You can read more about Susan's appointment here: <http://wp.vcu.edu/som-dean/2017/04/susan-digiovanni-m-d-appointed-senior-associate-dean-of-medical-education-and-student-affairs/>. *Thank you for your leadership Susan.*

Elizabeth "Betsy" Ripley, M.D., interim senior associate dean for Faculty Affairs, was accepted as a Fellow in the 2017-2018 Class of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. The program is dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in today's

complex health care environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. This is a highly competitive program and Betsy is the first faculty in several years to be accepted into this coveted fellowship. *Congratulations Betsy.*

Faculty Promotion and Tenure

TENURE

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D.
Andrew Barnes, Ph.D.
James M. Bjork, Ph.D.
Seth Corey, M.D.
Zheng Fu, Ph.D.
Nathan Gillespie, Ph.D.
Adam P. Klausner, M.D.
Jasmin Vassileva, Ph.D.
David Wheeler, Ph.D.

Biostatistics
Health Behavior & Policy
Psychiatry
Pediatrics
Human and Molecular Genetics
Psychiatry
Surgery
Psychiatry
Biostatistics

PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D.
J. Christian Barrett, M.D.
Norman Boardman, M.D.
Teresa Carter, Ed.D.
Jonathan M. Dort, M.D.
Lance Hampton, M.D.
Michael Idowu, M.D., MPH
Andrei Ivanov, Ph.D.
Adam P. Klausner, M.D.
Alexander H. Krist, M.D., MPH
Mark Levy, M.D.
Adam McQuiston, Ph.D.
Varatharaj Mounasamy, M.D.
John Moynihan, M.D.
Claudio Oiticica, M.D.
Henry J. Rozycki, M.D.
Shiyu Song, M.D., Ph.D.

Biostatistics
Internal Medicine
Orthopaedic Surgery
Faculty Development
Surgery (Inova)
Surgery
Pathology
Human & Molecular Genetics
Surgery
Family Medicine & Population Health
Surgery
Anatomy & Neurobiology
Orthopaedic Surgery
Surgery (Inova)
Surgery
Pediatrics
Radiation Oncology

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Andrew Barnes, Ph.D.
Krzysztof M. Bochenek, M.D.
Ashley Carroll, M.D.
Leslie Cloud, M.D.
Stephanie Crewe, M.D., MHS
Anindita Das, Ph.D.
Moshe Feldman, Ph.D.
Michael Fowler, M.D., MBA
Zheng Fu, Ph.D.
Zachary Gertz, M.D.
Nathan Gillespie, Ph.D.
Anshu Gupta, M.D.
Gaurav Gupta, M.D.
Reena H. Hemrajani, M.D.

Health Behavior & Policy
Radiology (Inova)
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Neurology
Pediatrics
Internal Medicine
Faculty Assessment and Eval.
Anesthesiology
Human and Molecular Genetics
Internal Medicine
Psychiatry
Pediatrics
Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

Sarah E. Hobgood, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Keith A. Howell, M.D.	Anesthesiology
Christine Huynh, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Sudha Jayaraman, M.D.	Surgery
Sarah Lageman, M.D.	Neurology
Laura Lahaye, M.D.	Anesthesiology
Juan Lu, Ph.D. , MPH, M.D.	Family Medicine & Population Health
Heather S. Masters, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Georgia J. Mcintosh, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Joel L. Moll, M.D.	Emergency Medicine
William T. Nay, Ph.D.	Psychiatry
Mark Nelson, M.D.	Anesthesiology
Carolyn Peel, M.D.	Family Medicine & Population Health
Andrew Poklepovic, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Mohammed Quader, M.D.	Surgery
Iolanda Russo-Menna, M.D., M.Ed.	Anesthesiology
Mark H. Ryan, M.D.	Family Medicine & Population Health
Kimberly W. Sanford, M.D.	Pathology
Jibanananda Satpathy, M.D.	Orthopaedic Surgery
Daniel G. Tang, M.D.	Surgery
Gregory Trimble, M.D.	Internal Medicine (Inova)
Susan Waller, M.D.	Psychiatry
Jill Watras, M.D.	Surgery (Inova)
David Wheeler, Ph.D.	Biostatistics

PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Darshita Bhatia, M.D.	Pediatrics (Inova)
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NEW FACULTY

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

The School of Medicine welcomes all new faculty as of January 1, 2017. The following list comprises full-time VCU and MCVP faculty only.

Anesthesiology

Andrew Chapman	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Brian Cocchiola	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Deanna Couser	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor
John Drago	D.O., J.D.	Assistant Professor
Geoffrey Fisher	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Roy Kaplan	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Aaron Lim	M.D.	Assistant Professor

Dean's Office

Peter Buckley	M.D.	Professor Department Head
Sung-Hee Jeu	CPA	Instructor
Cindy Naret		Instructor

Dermatology

Shields Callahan	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Justin Hought	M.D.	Associate Clinical Professor

Emergency Medicine

John	Joyce	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Lindsay	Taylor	D.O.	Assistant Clinical Professor

Health Behavior and Policy

Elizabeth	Do	Ph.D., MPH	Instructor
Hong	Xue	Ph.D., M.S.	Assistant Professor

Human and Molecular Genetics

Yanxia	Ning	M.D., Ph.D.	Research Associate
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Internal Medicine

Brian	Aboff	M.D., MMM	Clinical Professor
Kimberley	Ackerman	D.O.	Assistant Clinical Professor
Mario	Acunzo	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Vishwadeep	Ahluwalia	Ph.D.	Instructor
Tara	Albrecht	Ph.D., RN	Assistant Professor
Jawad	Al-Khafaji	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Hem	Bhardwaj	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Renee	Carter	M.D., MPH	Assistant Clinical Professor
Leah	Couture	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Jonathan	Forbes	D.O.	Assistant Professor
Andinet	Gizaw	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Amr	Marawan	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Roshanak	Markley	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Leslie	Moses	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor
Santosh	Padala	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Sravanthi	Paluri	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor
Seema	Patel	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Rashmi	Pershad	M.Phil., CRA, CCRP	Instructor
Ghani	Piracha	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor
Tiziano	Scarabelli	M.D., Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Aaron	Schatz	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Melissa	Warwick	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Sahzene	Yavuz	M.D.	Assistant Professor

Microbiology and Immunology

Jennifer	Fettweis	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Lisa	Shock	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Bernice	Wolen		Assistant Professor

Neurology

Kristin	Williams	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor
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Neurosurgery

Gary	Tye	M.D.	Associate Clinical Professor
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Obstetrics and Gynecology

Lisa	Rubinsak	M.D.	Instructor
Sarah	Temkin	M.D.	Professor Division Head
Mishka	Terplan	M.D., MPH	Professor

Orthopaedic Surgery

Jesse	Torbert	M.D.	Assistant Professor
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Pathology

Woon	Chow	M.D., Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Sadia	Sayed	M.D.	Assistant Professor

Pediatrics

Jeffrey	Donowitz	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Oliver	Karam	M.D., Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Ashlie	Tseng	M.D.	Assistant Professor

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Padmanabhan	Mannangatti	Ph.D.	Research Associate
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Psychiatry

Therese	Cash		Assistant Clinical Professor
Rashelle	Hayes	Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Leila	Islam	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Kathryn	Jones	M.D., Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Dorothy	O'Keefe	M.D.	Associate Professor
Roseann	Peterson	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor

Radiation Oncology

William	Song	Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Lulin	Yuan	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor

Radiology

Ryan	Clayton	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Franklin	Dana	M.D.	Assistant Professor
Timothy	Hofstra	M.D.	Assistant Clinical Professor

Surgery

Jaime	Bohl	M.D.	Associate Professor
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The School of Medicine will also host its **Annual New Faculty Orientation**, "Speed Orienting To Get to Know the SOM," on August 30, 2017, in the McGlothlin Medical Education Center, 6th Floor. All faculty who have never attended a SOM orientation session are invited to attend the orientation and reception. Please register at <http://vcuhealth.libcal.com/event/3361264> or deborah.stewart@vcuhealth.org.

STUDENT AND RESIDENT HONORS

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

Class of 2006's Adrian Holloway has a passion for global medicine. He has done extensive travel to some of the most dangerous countries as an educator and cardiac intensivist treating children in northern Iraq, malaria victims in Malawi, and earthquake survivors in Haiti. Holloway shared his experiences with current and prospective medical students at a recent Second Look program on the MCV Campus. Second Look gives applicants who are members of the underrepresented minorities a chance to explore the SOM's programs in depth. Read more:

<https://wp.vcu.edu/somdiscoveries/2017/03/the-class-of-06s-adrian-holloway-a-passion-for-global-medicine/>

Thank you for your leadership Adrian.

Class of 2017's Yeri Park, presented at the 2017 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on Medical Student Education where she showed that I2CRP graduates are more likely to match to primary care specialties than their classmates. Dr. Park was enrolled in the Family Medicine Scholars Training and Admission Track (fmSTAT), VCU Family Medicine and Population Health, the school's four-year program designed to nurture and sustain students committed to careers in family medicine. After graduating in May, Dr. Park entered the family medicine residency training at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center in Massachusetts. *We will watch your career Yeri with great interest.*

MD/MHA Candidate, Class of 2018's Katherine Pumphrey was selected as the VCU Master in Health Administration (MHA) Student of the Year in April. This annual award is given by the first-year class and is presented to a first-year student who has demonstrated leadership skills and contributions to their class. *Congratulations Kath in furthering your leadership development while also being very busy as a senior medical student.*

Pumphrey was also elected to the position of District IV Medical Student District Representative for 2016-2017 by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Pediatric Trainees. This prestigious honor will give her the opportunity to network with AAP leadership, attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition, and make an impact in the lives of medical students, residents and fellowship trainees through the AAP resolution process. *Great national representation – congratulations again Kath.*

Class of 2019's Alvin Cho was awarded first prize for his Medical Student Research Day Poster presentation, "Effect of Gut Microbiome on Morphine Tolerance," from the G. Watson James III Scholarship Fund. Cho was honored on the Kinloch Nelson, M.D. Student Honors Day in April. *Very cool and important research – congratulations Alvin.*

Class of 2019's Emily Marshall, was awarded second prize for her Medical Student Research Day Poster presentation, "Epigenetic silencing of SOCS3 expression contributes to fibrosis in Crohn's disease," from the G. Watson James III Scholarship Fund. Marshall was also honored on the Kinloch Nelson, M.D. Student Honors Day in April. *Congratulations Emily on your cutting edge research.*

Class of 2019's Jacob Hall, was awarded from the G. Watson James III Scholarship Fund third prize for his Medical Student Research Day Poster presentation, "Meningioma Volume Response to Radiation." *Well done Jacob.*

Class of 2020's Meher Malik was asked to present her research project at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Annual Clinical Meeting. Her project on extending antibiotics after delivery in women with chorioamnionitis was one of a very small number of research projects chosen for presentation at the ACOG plenary session. *Congratulations Meher on being on the national stage – you make us proud.*

VCU Health Housestaff Craig Kelman (Neurosurgery), Tu Nguyen (Internal Medicine), Valerie Plant (General Surgery), Roxanne Sholevar (Psychiatry), and Krista Terracina (General Surgery) were awarded the 2017 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Kinloch Nelson Student Honors Day and Student Clinician's Ceremony in April. This award is given to residents who have demonstrated commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients and families, students, and colleagues. *Congratulations – Gold Awards are highly coveted and are a mark of distinction that each of you are great doctors. Thank you for all you do.*

The Office of Graduate Medical Education conducted its 14th Annual VCU Health Resident/Fellow Research Day on June 1 with 75 poster presentations and 15 oral presentations. Poster presentation winners included **Sherry Zhao**, Radiation Oncology (1st place); **Sam Powell**, Internal Medicine (2nd place); and **Morgan Vargo**, Internal Medicine (3rd place). Basic science oral presentation winners included **Lisa Feldman**, Neurosurgery (1st place); **Randy Vince**, Urological Surgery (2nd place). Clinical science oral presentation winners included **Christopher Chipko**, Radiation Oncology (1st place); **Nicole Vissichelli**, Internal Medicine (2nd place). *Our residents and fellows are doing great research.*

The Department of Health Behavior and Policy's **Ph.D. Candidate Tyler Braun's** research on *Spillover Theory* analyzes how Medicare policy indirectly influences private insurance markets and effects private insurance enrollees. Tyler expressed, "As I progressed through my doctorate, I needed a stress reliever and decided that I would attempt to take up woodworking as a hobby much like my grandfather and dad had." Tyler says woodworking has unlocked his creativity, taught patience, and attention to detail which have also carried over into his dissertation and doctoral work. Read more at <https://wp.vcu.edu/somdiscoveries/2017/04/woodworking-unlocks-creativity-teaches-patience-for-health-behavior-and-policy-student-tyler-braun/>. *This is important and timely work – well done.*

M.D.-Ph.D. Student Audra Iness was elected President-Elect for the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA). APSA is the only national organization dedicated to addressing the needs of future physician scientists with respect to their training and career development. APSA's active membership consists of 1500 physician scientist trainees from over 100 institutions across the United States. Iness is excited to better serve physician scientist trainees over this coming year and as APSA President in 2018. *What a great honor – congratulations Audra.*

VCU School of Medicine Internal Medicine residents received prizes in the American College of Physician's (ACP) resident abstract competition in March including **Danielle Kania** (1st place Oral), **Michael L'Heureux** (3rd place Oral), **Dennis Hopkinson** (1st place Poster), and **Katie Bean** (2nd place Poster). There were over 130 abstracts submitted from the six Virginia residency programs of VCU, EVMS, UVA, Portsmouth Naval, Carillon, and Inova. Only the top 25 posters/oral presenters were invited to compete at this level. VCU had residents presenting in every category of research, clinical vignettes, and quality improvement. *Great work – thank you for representing the best in Virginia.*

OTHER HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

Advancing our academic mission and collaborations

Administrative

- The 2017 M.D.-Ph.D. Student Poster Session held this spring was a success. Under the guidance of faculty, twenty-six posters were presented by students: **Julie Bonano, Audra Iness, Eric Kwong, Sarah Kim, Joseph Lownik, Mackenzie Lind, Lauren Folgosa Cooley, Marc Cantwell, Bridget Quinn, Janina Vaitkus, Sophia Karandashova, Sheela Damle, Justin Craig, Ryan Mischel, Luke Legakis, Jared Farrar, Zachary Curry, Timothy Kegelman, Asim Alam, Michael Evans, Junghoon Ha, Andrew van der Vaart, Siva Teja Devarakonda, Alexander Azzo, Spencer Harris, and Guy Harris.** *Congratulations to all of you.*
- Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine (WISDM) celebrated its 25th year in existence with the annual WISDM Leadership Conference: "25 Years of WISDM: Celebrating Women in Leadership – What's Next?" in May. Over 85 basic scientists and clinicians, Deans and guests attended with a historical look at where they started, where they are currently, and what's next. Our school has a long tradition of promoting the careers of female leaders. The conference and reunion was a reinvigorating event, and it was very well attended. More about WISDM can be found at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/wims/wisdm/>.
- **Sung-Hee Jeu**, Budget Financial Analyst for the SOM, was promoted to Director of SOM Academic Finance. *We look forward to continuing working with you Sung-Hee in your new responsibilities.* Candy Gordon moved to VCU Provost Office. *Best wishes Candy in your new role.*

- **Tom Holland** retired after a great career as associate dean for Development. A search is underway, co-chaired by John Nestler, M.D., and Samantha Mars. *Thank you again Tom.*
- In April hundreds of alumni returned to the MCV Campus for Reunion Weekend 2017. Reunion weekend is an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with classmates and get an up-close look at how the campus has changed. There were house class parties, reunion dedications, tours of the McGlothlin building and updates by SOM leadership about the school. See <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/stories/reunion2017/> for more details.
- **Linda Meloy, M.D., Andrea Perseghin**, and their team have attained successful reaccreditation for our continuing medical education program. *Great work – congratulations.*

Clinical

- **VCU Health System is one of the six partners in a Richmond Coalition that includes** Bon Secours Health System and Medical Group, Capital Area Health Network, The Daily Planet, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, and Richmond City Health Department that has been funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement its Accountable Health Communities (AHC) model. The “bridge organization” or lead for the Richmond Initiative is Health Quality Innovators (formerly Virginia Health Quality Center). The Richmond Coalition is one of 32 programs that will participate in this 5-year program. The goal of the AHC model is to evaluate whether identifying and addressing health-related social issues will impact the total health care costs, utilization and quality of health care services provided to community-dwelling Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.
- The **School of Medicine**, part of a nationwide patient safety research team, received the 2016 John M. Eisenberg Award for Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality in April. This annual award is presented by The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum, two leading organizations that set national standards for patient care. This is another important milestone in our “quality journey.”
- 2017 Board of Directors Retreat was held in April with a discussion of the VCU Health System and our “Vision by DESIGN” initiative. There was a large attendance including several SOM leaders. The input of VCUHS and BOV community leaders – who freely shared their perspectives with us -- was much appreciated.
- VCU hosted a listening session for lullabies where expectant moms recorded songs for their unborn children through the Lullaby Project. The Lullaby Project is a partnership between Carnegie Hall, the Arts Research Institute at VCUarts, VCU Centering Pregnancy and the VCU Institute for Women’s Health. **Jennifer Hinesley, Psy.D.**, a clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry at CHoR’s Virginia Treatment Center for Children, is the project’s principal investigator. This was a beautiful experience for expectant mothers and their partners. It is also a terrific example of how broad academic collaborations and new partnerships can lead to highly creative outcomes.
- VCU Health System has been re-certified as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission in April. The Comprehensive Stroke Team achieved outstanding survey results. Many people contributed to the successful reaccreditation. This is a real point of pride for our institutions and our stroke program is truly “a lifesaver.”
- Two new leaders have been added to the health system clinical team. Ms. Nina Hines joined recently as VP for Strategic Outreach. Ms. Susan Steagall will join us shortly in the role of Chief Information Officer.

Education

- The **School of Medicine Admissions Office** held its annual Admissions Committee Retreat in May. The Committee did great work with launching mini-interview panels this past year, and they provided much needed scholarships for students. This year will build upon these successes.
- A luncheon meeting was held in April with the **SOM Admissions Office Tour Guides** to thank them for what they do for the School of Medicine. These are a group of about 40 dedicated students who volunteer their time to tour alums, special ask, and medical school interviewees during the fall and spring semesters, making a real difference in recruiting the best students to VCU. Two luncheon meetings a semester are planned with VCU SOM faculty speakers “in the know” to update the tour guides on new things going on at their school in research, clinical endeavors, and public policy. Their volunteerism is important to our efforts to attract the best and the brightest students to our schools.
- The School of Medicine welcomed 75 Cosby High School and 40 Richmond Public School students for a lab visits as part of the Health Sciences Academy (HSA), Division for Health Sciences Diversity, in April. The students were welcomed by **Keith Baker, Ph.D.** (RPS) and **Donna Jackson, Ed.D.** (Cosby) both in SOM Admissions. The day was spent in workshops conducted by **Richard Krieg, Ph.D.**, on Human Anatomy; **Kimberly Sanford, M.D.**, on Pathology; **Jonathan Silverman, M.D.** and **Dr. Rashida Woods**, on Introduction to Suturing, and **Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook** on SAM/Heart Sounds. Seth Leibowitz, Ed.D., is the HSA program director and Shelly Schuetz serves as the HSA program coordinator. *This is another very important initiative.*
- The VCU Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Ph.D. Program (IMSD Ph.D.) held its site visit in May. IMSD Ph.D. provides Ph.D.-level training in the biomedical sciences for individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research.
- In June, the Department of Internal Medicine (DOIM) held its **First Annual DOIM Charity Date Silent Auction**. Donations were contributed by sixteen faculty, chief resident, and our residents’ bid on events with the proceeds going to benefit FeedMore. FeedMore offers comprehensive hunger programs that help provide food to Central Virginia's most vulnerable residents: children, families, and seniors.
- Faculty and residents volunteered at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) health fair in Emporia in June. The RAM was also featured in an Op-Ed in The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/27/opinion/remote-area-medical-health-care-republican.html> and in an article in the Richmond Times Dispatch, http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/southwest-virginia-s-remote-area-medical-founder-donald-trump-should/article_4aa0180a-2bb0-5469-b8b2-1a6a3b0e6d6a.html. *These efforts exemplify how our school -- through the efforts of all of you -- gives back to our community.*
- In April, the School of Medicine held its **First Annual Medical Education Research Symposium** giving faculty in the SOM and other schools on the MCV Campus the opportunity to share educational innovations and scholarship, enhance knowledge and understanding of new approaches in medical education, and network with faculty, trainees, and students interested in promoting educational excellence. Of the 33 presentations, six received awards including: **Mireille Truong, M.D.**, Obstetrics and Gynecology (Best Research Oral Presentation); **Michael Amendola, M.D.**, Surgery (Best Innovation Oral Presentation); **Jeffrey Ferguson, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine (Best Poster Presentation); **Christopher Brown, M.S.** (Best Trainee Presentation); **Clifton Lee, M.D.**, Pediatrics (Honorary Mention Poster Presentation); **Michael Joyce, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine (Honorary Mention Oral Presentation). More information can be found at <http://wp.vcu.edu/iteach/2017/05/02/congratulations-2017-vcu-med-ed-symposium-winners/>

Research

- **Dr. Michael Donnenberg and colleagues** have begun reorganizing the M.D.-Ph.D. program, including broadening the offerings, placing more emphasis on mentoring, seeking more integration with clinical experiences along the M.D.-Ph.D. curriculum, and enhancing our outreach and recruitment strategies as we move toward the next recruitment season.
- The institution has launched an important research facilities and space planning process. This is an important review of content, capacity, quality, utilization, and location of all research space on campus – both on the MCV Campus and on the Monroe Park Campus. This process will envision our future research space needs, our growth portfolio, and how best our space should be configured and aligned to support our research. More to follow.
- In an ideally complimentary manner, **Drs. Michael Donnenberg, Gerry Moeller, Joe Ornato, Mary Ann Peberdy, Stephanie Goldberg, Betsy Ripley, and Antonio Abbate** are engaged in research related components of the emergent VCU strategic planning process. Our colleagues are looking at VCU's national prominence in research and recognition and how that relates to our current research portfolio and our expectation to increase the national visibility and impact of VCU. Other faculty participating in the educational component of this initiative include **Drs. Alan Dow and Michael Ryan**.
- **VCU Innovation Gateway** - the innovation commercialization office of VCU - is highlighting its programs to develop, validate, and mature potential start-up opportunities into fundable companies and thereupon to protect and facilitate commercialization of inventions for the benefit of the public. Among most recent start-up companies introducing new products/services in 2017 are two that were pioneered by SOM senior faculty: Sanyal Biotechnology, formed on the basis of research by **Dr. Arun Sanyal**, offering pre-clinical research services for developmental therapeutics for NASH and other liver diseases; and Global Lyme Diagnostic which released in June 2017 a new diagnostic test for Lyme disease based upon novel chimeritope technology developed by **Dr. Richard Marconi**. *Congratulations to Sanyal and Richard -- very impressive and important innovations.*
- **Internal Medicine Grants received April – June 2017:**
 - Cardiology*
 - **Dr. Antonio Abbate** -- Renal Denervation in Patients with Uncontrolled Hypertension (Symplicity HTN-3) Protocol #P125 Medtronic. *Congratulations Antonio.*
 - **Dr. Kenneth Ellenbogen** -- THERMOCOOL SMARTTOUCH SF Cather Evaluated for Treating Symptomatic Persistent AF, \$187,650 Biosense Webster Inc. *Congratulations Kenneth.*
 - **Dr. Rakesh Kukreja** -- **RO1** Amelioration of Doxorubicin Induced Muscle Dysfunction with Embryonic stem cells-Derived Exosomes." **\$1,035,000 NCI.** *Congratulations Rakesh.*
 - **Chen Qun** -- Activation of Mitochondrial calpain augments cardiac injury in aged hearts NIH National Institute on Aging. \$172,070. *Congratulations Chen.*
 - **Toldo Stefano** -- Serpin Pharmaceuticals Cardioprotection of SP16 in diet-induced obese mice. \$61,000. *Congratulations Toldo.*
 - Gastroenterology*
 - **Dr. Jasmohan Bajaj** -- Modulation of the Gut-Brain Axis using Fecal Transplant Capsules in Cirrhosis National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. \$156,019. *Congratulations Jasmohan.*
 - **Dr. Jasmohan Bajaj** -- Development of an App to predict ACLF and mortality in Cirrhotic Inpatients Sponsor **AASLD** – American Association of Liver Disease Foundation.
 - **Dr. Velmir Luketic** -- GFT 505B-216-1 PBC \$152,877 GENEFIT Corporation . *Congratulations Velmir.*
 - Hematology/Oncology*
 - **Dr. Steven Grant** -- NEDD8 and HDAC inhibition in relapsed/refractory MDS and AML. Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. \$600,000. *Congratulations Steven.*

- **Dr. Steven Grossman** sub award with Dr. Royer -- Structure-based characterization of CtBP as a therapeutic target in cancer. \$45,000. *Congratulations Steven.*
- **Dr. Steven Grossman** sub award with Dr. Gordon Ginder -- VCU Massey Cancer Center Support Grant. \$50,000. *Congratulations Steven and Gordon.*

Pulmonary

- **Dr. Patrick Nana-Sinkam** -- Extracellular Vesicles in small cell lung cancer early detection. NCI. \$2,679,493. *Congratulations Patrick.*

VCU Massey Cancer Center's collaborative and multidisciplinary pilot project program

- **Dr. Shoba Ghosh with Dr. Devanand Sarkar** -- "Role of macrophage AEG-1 in regulating inflammation in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Approx 50,000. *Congratulations Shoba and Devanand.*
- **Dr. Francesco Celi** -- "Maladaptive brown adipose tissue activity in human patients with cancer." approx 50,000. *Congratulations Francesco.*

VCU Presidential Research Quest Funds

- **Dr. Shoba Ghosh** multidisciplinary project with Dr. Angela Reynolds from the Department of Mathematics. The project will evaluate mathematically the model inflammation and its resolution and then extend the use of this model to include atherosclerotic plaque progression and inflammation. \$50,000. *Congratulations Shoba.*
- **Drs. Gaurav Gupta and Richard Sterling** -- "Hepatitis C Virus Donor Positive Kidney Transplantation for Hepatitis C Virus Negative Recipients: A Novel Application of Direct-Acting Antiviral Drugs." \$50,000. *Congratulations Gaurav and Richard.*

Victoria Johnson Center Pilot Study Awards Recipients

- **Drs. Daniel Grinnan, Samira Shojaee and Puneet Puri.** *Congratulations Daniel, Samira, and Puneet.*

Pathology Grants, January – June 2017:

- **Dr. Jennifer Koblinski** – Commonwealth Health Research Board [CHRB] Grant Award. Co-PI, 5% effort, "Targeting Triple Negative Breast Cancer.", \$100,000/yr for 2 years. *Congratulations on your award Jennifer – important work.*
- **Drs. Youngman Oh/Chuck Harrell** – VCU Quest for Distinction, Commercialization grant. "Development of a novel targeted antibody therapy for triple-negative breast cancer", \$50,000. *Congratulations Youngman and Chuck.*
- **Drs. Youngman Oh/Davis Massey** – DOD Lung Cancer Research Program Concept Award, "Novel targeted antibody for lung cancer", \$152,500. *Congratulations Youngman and Davis.*
- **Dr. Chuck Harrell** – Massey Pilot Grant, Development and RNA Sequencing Analysis of Patient Derived Xenograft Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis Models, \$50,000. *Congratulations Chuck.*
- **Dr. Paula Bos** – Massey Pilot Grant, Use of a Novel Combinatorial Immunotherapy to Treat Poorly Immunogenic Tumors, \$50,000. *Congratulations Paul – important focus on immunotherapy for tumors.*
- **Senthil Radhakrishnan** – Grace Science Foundation Award, A Strategy to Identify Compounds that can Restore the Nrf1 Pathway in NGly1 Deficient Cells, \$75,911. *Congratulations Senthil.*

Important Dates of Interest to Faculty, Staff and Trainees and Activities to be Aware of/To Be Involved In

- The Departments of Anesthesiology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, VCU Health Neuroscience, Orthopaedic and Wellness Center and VCU Health Continuing Medical Education will hold its **2017 Best Practices in Pain Management Conference** on September 16-17, 2017 in Williamsburg, VA. More information can be found at <https://cme.vcuhealth.org/perch/resources/33842.pdf>
- **Monthly Pre-Med SOM Campus Visits** -- This is a new pilot program of VCU School of Medicine Admissions. Once each month we will host student groups who will have an opportunity to engage with administrators and current students. Additionally, the students will participate in a clinical case or clinical skills activity and have a tour of our facilities. Pre-Health Advisors will receive a letter in August providing details of the Campus Visit program and instructions for registering student groups. Visits will be held on the third Thursday of each month September –

April (except December) from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. **2017:** September 21, October 19, November 16; **2018:** January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19.

- **Outreach Clinical Skills Workshop**, November 11, 2017 - The Academic and Clinical Skills Symposium is a day-long program designed to provide pre-med and post-baccalaureate students interested in health careers the information necessary to become competitive professional school applicants. It also provides additional insight into the clinical side of health careers by exposing students to basic clinical skills through hands-on demonstrations. Additional information can be found on-line at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/admissions/md/outreach/pipeline/>.
- **IMPACT Virginia's 2nd Annual Summit: The Reality of Child Sex Trafficking in Virginia**, September 26, 2017, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., McGlothlin Medical Education Center.
- **VCU School of Medicine Office of Faculty Affairs Luchtime Learning and Other Faculty Development Opportunities.** More information can be found at: <http://go.vcu.edu/iteach> or www.medschool.vcu.edu/facultyaffairs/events/

2017

August 30, 2017 (Wed) **School of Medicine New Faculty Orientation**
3:00 - 6:00 p.m., MMEC 6-200A/6-205B; check-in and registration @ 2:30 p.m.

September 6, 2017 (Wed) **Promotion and Tenure Guidelines**
(required for new faculty) **Policies Guiding and Governing Faculty: Outside Professional Activities and Effort Reporting; Topics in Research Integrity: Conflicts of Interest and Addressing Research Misconduct**
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., MMRB 1009/1011

September 20, 2017 (Wed) **Luchtime Learning: Social Media/Twitter**
12:00 - 1:30 p.m., MMEC 3-101

September 27, 2017 (Wed) **Annual Faculty Excellence Awards** (*VCU Community is invited.)
12:00 - 2:00 p.m., KMSB Auditorium

October 11, 2017 (Wed) **Leveraging Library Resources for Research**
(required for new faculty) **Getting Started in Research in the SOM: Processes and Resources; Alternative Funding Opportunities for Research**
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., MMRB 1009/1011

October 25, 2017 (Wed) **Luchtime Learning: Copyright/Fair Use/Libraries**
12:00 - 1:30 p.m., MMEC 3-101

November 1, 2017 (Wed) **Planning for Successful Promotion and Tenure**
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., MMRB 1009/1011

November 8, 2017 (Wed) **WISDM Professional Development Seminar**
12:00 - 1:30 p.m., KMSB 104/105

November 29, 2017 **Luchtime Learning: Effective Listening, Conflict Negotiation, and University Resources**
12:00 - 1:30 p.m., MMEC 3-101

December 1, 2017 (Fri) **Basic Teaching Skills Workshop for New Faculty and Faculty New to Teaching;**
(required for new faculty) **Leveraging Library Resources for Teaching**
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., KMSB 104/105

2018

April 27, 2018 WISDM Leadership Conference

- **VCU School of Medicine Medical Education and Curriculum Office**

August 7, 2017 (Mon) White Coat Ceremony (RSVP to SOM Admissions Office)
September 9, 2017 (Sat) Medical Students in Day of Community Service (DOCS) – more to follow.
December 1, 2017 (Fri) *“Save the Date”* Medicine Ball