



DEAN'S Quarterly

An update on faculty honors & hires in the VCU School of Medicine

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*Please submit news of faculty hires
and faculty honors through
your chairman's office.*

Faculty Honors

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

Biostatistics

Le Kang, Ph.D., assistant professor, was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Biostatistics graduate students acknowledging his outstanding teaching.

Emergency Medicine

Joseph Ornato, M.D., professor and chair, was honored with the Clinical Leadership in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Award by the Pinnacle - Inspiring EMS Leadership in August.

Robin Foster, M.D., associate professor and division chair of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, was honored with the 2015 Regional EMS Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children by Old Dominion EMS Alliance (ODEMSA) in July.

Joel Moll, M.D., assistant professor, has been reappointed to the Oral Boards Examiner by the American Board of Emergency Medicine for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2016. He was also appointed by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) to four other committees: Program Committee, GME Committee, and Ethics Committee, and Co-chairman of the Pre-Day Workshop Committee for one-year terms that began in May.

Michelle Troendle, M.D., assistant professor, was appointed to the Remediation Taskforce Committee by the College of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors (CORD). She began her one-year term July 1.

Family Medicine and Population Health

Steven Cohen, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., assistant professor, has been elected to the Governing Council by the American Public Health Association (APHA) beginning November 1. He will be a Governing Councilor representing the Aging and Public Health Section of APHA. Dr. Cohen was also featured in the Quarterly Member Spotlight of the APHA, <https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/aging-and-public-health/news-and-events>.

Steven Crossman, M.D., associate professor, was elected as President of the American Balint Society for a two-year term starting in May. The American Balint Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the therapeutic relationships between healing professionals and their clients/patients.

Rebecca Etz, Ph.D., associate professor, was awarded first place for her poster presentation in the David Lanier Top Poster Presentation by the North American Care Research Group. Dr. Etz and colleagues, Dr. Marshall Brooks and Martha Gonzalez presented a poster entitled, “*Identifying Primary Care Measures that Matter*” at the 2015 NAPCRG Practice-Based Research Network conference in June 2015.

Alexander Krist, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor, was appointed Guest Editor in May by the American Board of Family Medicine for the health information technology special issue of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*.

Briana Mezuk, Ph.D., associate professor, was honored with the 2015 Busse Research Award in Social and Behavioral Sciences by Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development in September. Dr. Mezuk was recognized for her significant contributions to aging research.

Internal Medicine

Richard Binder, M.D., professor at Inova Campus, was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Disease Prevention Advisory Panel. The Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health (Prevention Advisory Group) created by the Affordable Care Act, is comprised of 21 non-federal members appointed by the President.

Kenneth Ellenbogen, M.D., Kontos professor and division chair of Cardiology, were honored for his book, *Cardiac Pacing and ICDs*, 6th edition, receiving “Highly Commended” in the Cardiology category for the British Medical Association’s (BMA) 2015 Medical Book Awards. All Highly Commended titles are short-listed for the first prize in their category. The winners from each category were announced at a ceremony and reception in early September at the BMA House, <http://bma.org.uk/about-the-bma/bma-library/medical-book-awards/medical-book-awards-winners-by-category>

Shobha Ghosh, Ph.D., professor, was chosen to serve as the Advocacy Ambassador Member for the Leadership Committee of the American Heart Association’s Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology for a two-year term which began in July.

Christine Huynh, M.D., assistant professor, earned the distinction of Fellow of the American College of Physicians (ACP) in May recognizing her accomplishments over and above the practice by medicine.

Michael Kontos, M.D., associate professor, began a one-year term in May as President of the Board of Directors for the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. He will oversee the organization’s strategic plan, policies, and budget.

Heather Masters, M.D., assistant professor, earned the designation of Senior Fellow in Hospital Medicine by the Society of Hospital Medicine Fellows Program in March. Dr. Masters has earned this designation having demonstrated her commitment to hospital medicine, system change, and quality improvement principles.

Andy Pinson, M.D., associate professor was honored with the 2015 Academic Teaching Award by the American College of Physicians (ACP), Virginia Chapter, in March. Chapters honor members, fellows, and masters of ACP who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, or service to their community, their chapter, and ACP.

Rachel Waller, M.D., assistant professor, earned the distinction of Fellow of the American College of Physicians (ACP) in May recognizing her accomplishments over and above the practice by medicine.

Susan Wolver, M.D., associate professor, was awarded the Diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine Certification by the American Board of Obesity Medicine in March. This annual certification signifies Dr. Wolver’s excellence in the practice of obesity medicine and distinguishes her as having achieved a high level of competency and understanding in obesity care.

Microbiology and Immunology

Richard Marconi, Ph.D., professor, participated on a six-member panel in a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) sponsored webcast on Lyme disease vaccines in June. Dr. Marconi gave an overview of a Lyme disease technology that his team has been working on. After the panel members' presentations, 600 phone lines were opened up by the CDC to take questions. The webinar has been placed on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/prev/vaccine.html>.

Pathology

Kimberly Sanford, M.D., assistant professor, was honored with the 2015 American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) H.P. Smith Award for Distinguished Pathology Educator by the American Society for Clinical Pathology in June. This award is considered by the ASCP as one of its highest honors and presents it to individuals who have had distinguished careers in pathology and laboratory medicine embracing education, research and administration, as well as service to organized pathology. The award will be presented during the ASCP's annual meeting on October 30 in Long Beach, CA.

Pediatrics

Bruce Rubin, M.D., M.Engr., M.B.A., professor and chair, was selected to deliver the plenary address, "Aerosol Therapy for Children: Unhelpful Myths and Future Directions," at the Respiratory Drug Delivery Conference in Antibes, France in May. The conference hosted 440 participants from 31 countries around the world, including delegates from Asia, Australasia, Europe and the Americas.

Ann-Marie Irani, M.D., professor, was elected by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to serve on the ABMS Executive Committee of the Board Directors beginning in July. This high honor is a reflection of the respect of her colleagues.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

David Cifu, M.D., Herman J. Flax M.D. professor and chair, has been selected as the new Lead Editor of the 5th edition of *Braddom's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The textbook, the most-trusted resource for psychiatry knowledge and techniques in the field of PM&R, emphasizes the treatment of concussions and military amputees. Dr. Cifu is also National Director for PM&R Services, Office of Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

Radiation Oncology

Geoffrey Hugo, Ph.D., assistant professor, has been appointed to the Radiation Therapeutics and Biology Study Section by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a four-year term July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2019. Dr. Hugo will serve as a member of the primary NIH study section reviewing radiation research.

Surgery

Rahul Anand, M.D., assistant professor, was awarded certification as a fellow in the Association of Surgical Education's Academy of Clerkship Directors by the Association for Surgical Education. He is one of six members of the charter group of surgeons who were honored at the organization's annual meeting in Seattle, WA, in April.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Anesthesiology

Spencer Liebman, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree at State University of New York Downstate, College of Medicine and completed his residency training at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine (VCU SOM). Dr. Liebman also completed his fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesia at VCU SOM. His research interests include general anesthesia, cardiac anesthesia, and anesthesia for liver transplant.

Daniel Millan, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in September. He earned his medical degree at Escuela Colombiana De Medicina (Universidad El Bosque) and completed his residency training at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Dr. Millan completed his fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology/pediatric cardiac anesthesiology with PICU experience at Driscoll Children's Hospital. His research interest include pediatric cardiac anesthesia.

Nirvik Pal, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree at GSVM Medical College, Kanpur, UP, India, and completed his residency training at Washington University in St. Louis/BJC Consortium. Dr. Pal completed his fellowship in cardiac anesthesiology at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. His research interests include anesthesiology and cardiac anesthesiology.

Pranav Shah, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree and completed his residency training at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Shah completed fellowships in adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology and critical care medicine at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His research interests include general anesthesiology, cardiac anesthesiology, and critical care medicine.

Bryant Tran, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in September. He earned his medical degree Wake Forest University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Virginia Health System. Dr. Tran completed his fellowship in regional anesthesia and acute pain medicine at Stanford University Medical Center. His research interests include regional anesthesia and acute pain medicine.

Biostatistics

Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D., joined the department as associate professor in August. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. His research interests focus on developing novel statistical methodology for dentistry and substance abuse, spatial epidemiology, efficient and interpretable models for clustered/correlated data, survival analysis methods, and nonparametric methods.

Internal Medicine

Shelley Edwards, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in March. She earned her medical degree and completed her residency training at East Carolina University.

Luis Guzman, M.D., joined the department as professor in August. He earned his medical degree at the University of Buenos Aires and completed his residency training at Churruca-Visca Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Guzman his fellowship in clinical cardiology at the Institute of Cardiovascular, Buenos Aires, and also completed fellowships in clinical cardiology, interventional cardiology and interventional cardiology research at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Surgery

Gretchen Aquilina, D.O., joined the department as assistant professor in July. She earned her medical degree at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency training at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Aquilina completed her fellowship in bariatric and minimally invasive surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her research interest include long-term complications of bariatric surgery.

Marlon Levy, M.D., joined the department as professor and division chair of Transplant Surgery in September. He earned his medical degree at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed his residency training at the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals. Dr. Levy completed his fellowship in pediatric surgery at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL, and his fellowship in transplant surgery at Baylor University Medical Center. His research interest include islet cell.

Mohammed Quader, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree at Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal, India, and completed his residency training at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Quader completed his fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Cleveland Clinic Foundation. His research interests include clinical outcomes research and donor heart preservation.

Alan Rossi, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in September. He earned his medical degree at Dartmouth Medical School and completed his residency training at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Rossi completed his fellowship in surgical critical care and acute care at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. His research interests include effects of alcohol on traumatic brain injuries.

Student Honors

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

Radiology Resident Fareed Riyaz placed first in the 2015 Resident Abstract Award Competition by the VA Chapter of the American College of Radiology (ACR) for his abstract entitled, *Utilization of Multiparametric MRI in Patients Under Construction for Active Surveillance: Correlation with Imaging Guided Target Biopsy.* Dr. Riyaz presented his work at the VA Chapter meeting in August at which time he also received a monetary award.

Radiology Resident Nicholson Chadwick placed third in the VA Chapter of the ACR's Resident Abstract Competition for his work entitled, "Effect of Foot Ulcer on the Probability for a MRI Positive for Osteomyelitis."

Class of 2016's Samone Franzese, Suzanne Giunta, Deborah Me, and Jennifer Tran were selected as an alumni team for the second round of the AAMC's Hotspotting Project, a program aimed at reducing the number of patient visits to the hospital by identifying barriers to health and providing support and resources that will improve health their health, leading to reduction in patient health care costs. The four M4 students will participate with 10 other students from nursing, pharmacy, social work, and psychology. The project will be led by Pablo Bedoya, M.D., Internal Medicine, with Kate Neuhausen, M.D., Family Medicine and Population Health as co-investigator. The project will be coordinated through the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborate Care.

Class of 2017's Jacqueline Britz is applauded for leading a research study on charging immigrants in England for healthcare which could cause them to delay seeking medical attention, leading to public health threats and increased health care costs down the road. The study was published in Oxford University Press' *Journal of Public Health*. For more information: http://news.vcu.edu/students/Thirdyear_medical_student_has_research_published_in_Oxford_University.