



# 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

### Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Robert Diegelmann, Ph.D.**, professor, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wound Healing Society on April 15, 2016. This award recognizes the lifetime work of an individual who has provided leadership or made significant discovery in the field of wound healing and furthered the advancement of wound care and research. Dr. Diegelmann will also be honored with the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care Founder's Award on April 15. This award given by the Wound Healing Society recognizes an individual who has consistently contributed to the organization and success of the scientific and clinical program and annual meetings for a significant period of time.

### Biostatistics

**Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Ph.D.**, associate professor, was honored with the applied Young Researcher Award by the International Indian Statistical Association and Statistical Methodology (Elsevier) in December 2015.

### Dean's Office

**Jerome Strauss, M.D., Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Medicine, was honored on March 18 with the 2016 Frederick Naftolin Award for Mentorship. The award is presented by the Society for Reproductive Investigation at its 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in Montreal, Canada. The award was established in 2003 to recognize the contributions of a member of the Society to training and career development of investigators in the field of reproductive and women's health. The award is named in honor of Dr. Naftolin, a former President of the Society and staunch advocate for creating a mechanism for the Society to celebrate outstanding service to our scientific community through excellence in mentoring. Strauss is a past president of the Society for Reproductive Investigation.

### Family Medicine and Population Health

**Katherine Neuhausen, M.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor, received honorable mention for her paper on health affairs for the Best Research Paper Award by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) in April 2015. In addition, Dr. Neuhausen's research abstract was selected by AcademyHealth as the Best of the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM) in June 2015.

The ARM program is where more than 2,400 attendees gather to discuss health policy implications, sharpen research methods, and network with colleagues from around the world.

**Resa Jones, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor, was selected to attend the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar in December 2015. This seminar focuses on women physicians and scientists at the associate professor level and holding leadership positions within their discipline, department or institution. Dr. Jones was also appointed as Chair to the American Public Health Association's Strategic Planning Committee in January.

### **Microbiology and Immunology**

**Jason Carlyon, Ph.D.**, professor, is president of the American Society of Rickettsiology. The society includes clinicians, basic scientists, and epidemiologists in academia, government, and industry who study rickettsial diseases. These diseases are arthropod vector-transmitted and are significant causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. As president, Dr. Carlyon is organizing the annual meeting that will take place in Big Sky, MT, this June.

### **Neurology**

**John Pellock, M.D.**, professor, was presented with the 2016 Epilepsy Foundation Lifetime Accelerator Award in February. The award was established in 2012 to honor physicians, scientists, industry leaders, and other individuals who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to bringing new therapies to people living with epilepsy. Lifetime Accelerator Award recipients are chosen by an independent committee of global thought leaders and clinical investigators in epilepsy and seizure therapy discovery and development.

### **Neurosurgery**

**Alex Valadka, M.D.**, professor and chair, authored an editorial published in Feb 17's edition of *The Hill*, a widely read newspaper in Washington D.C. Writing on behalf of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine, his topic was electronic health records and Medicare and Medicaid's Meaningful Use program. The piece titled, "Specialists caution against building MACRA on a flawed cornerstone" is available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/269580-specialists-caution-against-building-macra-on-a-flawed>.

### **Pediatrics**

**Gauri Gulati, M.D.**, assistant professor, received the Best Bedside Manner Award "second place," by *OurHealth Magazine* in January. This award honors medical providers who were voted by the local community for their kindness, empathy, and attentiveness.

**Michael Ryan, M.D., M.E.H.P.**, assistant professor, has been selected to receive the junior faculty teaching award from the Academic Pediatric Association. It will be presented formally at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2016 meeting, held April 30 - May 3, 2016, in Baltimore, MD. The award recognizes excellence not only by quantity of teaching activities but also by quality of teaching and engagement in the broader education community. For additional information: [https://www.academicpediatrics.org/aboutUs/about\\_awards.cfm](https://www.academicpediatrics.org/aboutUs/about_awards.cfm).

**Elizabeth Wolf, M.D., M.P.H.**, affiliate professor, was honored with the Bright Futures Young Investigators Award by the Academic Pediatric Association in January. This annual award program funds projects aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and evidence base for health supervision in primary care, consistent with the Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision for Infants, Children and Adolescents.

### **Pharmacology and Toxicology**

**David Gewirtz, Ph.D.**, professor, is author of the most highly-cited *Cancer Research* Review article published in 2014: "The Four Faces of Autophagy: Implications for Cancer Therapy." The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) journals will highlight the article in several promotional efforts related to the 2016 AACR Annual Meeting in April. The efforts will include banner ads on the journal site and printed flyers directing attendees to the five most cited 2014 articles from each AACR journal.

## Psychiatry

**Susan Kornstein, M.D.**, professor, and **Wendy Klein, M.D.**, associate professor emerita of Internal Medicine, were recognized for representing the School of Medicine at the 2015 Sex and Gender Medical Education (SGME) Summit at the Mayo Clinic. With representatives from 99 U.S. medical schools in attendance, the Summit aimed to provide educational resources to aid the integration of sex and gender evidence into medical school curricula and healthcare. A live webcast made it possible for additional representatives from 12 international medical institutions and nearly two dozen federal, student and professional organizations to participate.

## Radiology

**Laura Carucci, M.D.**, professor, was awarded the Best Bedside Manner Award “first place” by *OurHealth Richmond Magazine* in December 2015. This award honors medical providers who were voted by the local community for their kindness, empathy, and attentiveness.

## New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

## Biostatistics

**Shanshan Chen, Ph.D.**, joined the department in January. She earned her graduate degree from the University of Virginia. Dr. Chen’s research interests include data mining, signal processing and pattern recognition, machine learning, wearable and ambient sensing technologies, pervasive computing, digital health, big-data analytics, and wireless sensor networks.

## Family Medicine and Population Health

**Christine Paul, M.D.**, joined the department as assistant clinical professor in February. He earned his medical degree from the University of British Columbia and completed his residency training at Group Health Cooperative, Seattle, WA. Dr. Paul’s research interests include working with the underserved population, chronic disease management, geriatrics, women’s health, and primary care reform/PCMH (Patient Centered Medical Home).

## Neurology

**Chad Johnson, Ph.D.**, joined the department as assistant clinical professor in January. He earned his graduate degree from the University of Houston and completed his fellowship in developmental and pediatric neuropsychology at the University of Texas. Dr. Johnson’s research interest include brain research and analysis in neurodevelopment lab.

## Radiology

**Mark Sharafinski, M.D.**, will join the department as assistant professor July 1. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh and completed his residency training at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Sharafinski completed his fellowship in pediatric radiology at Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago. His research interest include musculoskeletal radiology - pediatrics.

## Surgery

**Stefan Leichtle, M.D.**, will join the department as assistant professor August 1. He earned his medical degree from the Technical University Munich, School of Medicine and completed his residency training at St. Joseph Mercy Health System. Dr. Leichtle completed his fellowship in surgical critical care and acute care surgery at Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center Los Angeles. His research interests include clinical research and quality improvements.

**Anthony Herndon, M.D.**, will join the department as professor June 1. He earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Herndon completed his fellowship in pediatric urology at Indiana University. His research interests include prenatal hydronephrosis, a transition clinic for chronic pediatric urologic conditions, robotics in pediatric urology.