



DEAN'S Quarterly

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

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Jerome F. Strauss III, M.D., Ph.D.

Dean, School of Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs,
VCU Health System
McGlothlin Medical Education Center
4th Floor, Suite 4-100, Room 4-210
Phone: 804-828-9788
Fax: 804-828-7628
E-mail: jfstrauss@vcu.edu
Web site:
<http://www.medschool.vcu.edu>

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

Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D., professor and chair, has been awarded a Journal of Lipid Research (JLR) Lectureship by the *Journal of Lipid Research* in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of sphingosine 1-phosphate signaling and its importance in clinical medicine. Dr. Spiegel will present a keynote lecture titled "Sphingosine-1-phosphate in health and diseases" at the FASEB Meeting held at the Banff Conference Centre in Alberta, Canada, August 23, 2015.

Biostatistics

David Fenstermacher, Ph.D., professor, was appointed Chief Research Information Officer in July by the VCU Massey Cancer Center. Dr. Fenstermacher will be overseeing all aspects of the Cancer Center's informatics activities.

Dean's Office

The School of Medicine's 16th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards honoring outstanding clinicians, mentors, educators and researchers for excellence in teaching, humanism, professional development of women faculty, clinical excellence, and contributions to medical education was held in October. This annual awards program highlighted the extraordinary accomplishments of over 100 faculty in the School of Medicine, VCU Health System, and MCV Physicians. For more information about this event, visit http://news.vcu.edu/article/16th_annual_VCU_School_of_Medicine_Faculty_Excellence_Awards

Emergency Medicine

Kirk Cumpston, D.O., associate professor, was chosen as an American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT) Fellow in recognition of his significant and sustained contributions to the academy and the discipline of clinical toxicology. Dr. Cumpston was also elected as a member to the AACT Board of Trustees for a three-year term in October.

S. Rutherford Rose, Pharm.D., professor and chair of the Division of Clinical Toxicology, was re-elected as Treasurer to the Board of Trustees of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT) for a two-year term, which began October. Dr. Rose has served as a trustee and officer of the AACT for the past four years.

Family Medicine and Population Health

Rebecca Etz, Ph.D., assistant professor, was appointed as Member-at-Large to the Board of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) in November. The NAPCRG is an interdisciplinary volunteer association committed to nurturing primary care researchers.

Dr. Etz was also appointed to the Board of Curators for the Center for the History of Family Medicine (CHFM), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation in October.

Samuel Jones, M.D., professor, and **Rebecca Etz, Ph.D.**, were appointed to the Practice Core Team of the Family Medicine for America's Health in October. Family Medicine of America's Health is a new commitment by eight leading family medicine organizations in the U.S. to strategically align efforts to improve practice models, payment, technology, workforce education and development, and research in order to achieve the triple aim of better health, better healthcare, and lower costs.

Alexander Krist, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor, was appointed to the Research Core Team of the Family Medicine for America's Health in October.

Saba Masho, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.PH., associate professor, was appointed in September to serve on an expert panel of the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services. This panel oversees the development of the national evaluation plan for Healthy Start programs at the Division, which is a part of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Human and Molecular Genetics

Paul Fisher, M.Ph., Ph.D., professor and chair, was appointed in August to the Editorial Board of the *Cancer Research Journal*, reported to be the most frequently cited cancer journal in the world. Dr. Fisher will advise the editor-in-chief on the direction of the journal, as well as review manuscripts.

Internal Medicine

Steven Grant, M.D., professor, was appointed in August to the Editorial Board of the *Cancer Research Journal*, reported to be the most frequently cited cancer journal in the world. Dr. Grant will advise the editor-in-chief on the direction of the journal, as well as review manuscripts.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jerome Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D., professor and dean, School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, VCUHS, was appointed to a two-year term in July as chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The Board advises the NICHD Scientific Director, Division of Intramural Research (DIR), and the Division of Intramural Population Health Research (DIPHR), formerly known as DESPR, on matters related to the intramural research activities of the Institute.

Pathology

Celeste Powers, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of the Division of Anatomic Pathology, will be honored with the L.C. Tao Educator of the Year Award by the Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology in recognition of her meritorious service and contributions to the field of cytopathology education. Dr. Powers will be presented with the award March 21, 2015, during the Society's annual meeting at the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting.

Susan Roseff-Dickerson, M.D., professor and chair of the Division of Clinical Pathology, has been appointed as an At-Large Director to the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Board of Directors. Her appointment is a two-year commitment which began in October. The AABB's mission is to advance the practice and standards of transfusion medicine and cellular therapies to optimize patient and donor care and safety.

Alphonse Sirica, Ph.D., M.S., professor, was designated an American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Fellow in September. This designation was created for members that epitomize excellence and contributions to the AASLD and to the field of liver disease.

David Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D., professor, was selected as an Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM) Fellow in August. He is recognized for his leadership contributions to pathology in the U.S., and his participation in the Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine.

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Yang Zhang, Ph.D., assistant professor, was chosen as a 2014 Harry Goldblatt New Investigator Award Finalist in September. He was selected from among applicants who submitted abstracts accepted for presentation at the High Blood Pressure Research 2014 Scientific Sessions, San Francisco, CA. This program is sponsored by the Council on Hypertension and recognizes a new independent investigator working in hypertension or cardiovascular research who has significantly contributed to what is understood as the causes of hypertension and related cardiovascular disease.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Paul Wehman, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Division of Research, received the Patricia McCollom/FLCPR Research Award in September established by the Foundation for Life Care Planning Research (FLCPR). This award is given to those who meet the highest standards of design, methodology and analysis, contribute to the field of life care planning, and provide meaningful data that can be applied directly to the life care planning and case management practices.

Social and Behavioral Health

Richard Brown, Ph.D., assistant professor, was elected as USA: National Representative to the Steering Committee of the European Association for Communication in Healthcare (EACH) in August for a two-year term. The National Representative makes decisions that affect the functioning and global promotion of EACH and the direction of the supporting Journal, *Patient Education and Counseling*.

Surgery

Lucas Collazo, M.D., assistant professor, Inova Campus, was awarded in October the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education (TSFRE) 2014 Alley-Sheridan Scholarship to attend the Health Policy and Management Leadership Program at the Heller School of Public Policy and Management, Brandeis University. The TSFRE's mission is to foster the development of surgeon scientists in cardiothoracic surgery; increasing knowledge and innovation to benefit patient care.

New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

Anesthesiology

James Cooney, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at Stanford University Medical Center. Dr. Cooney completed his fellowship in critical care medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. His research interests include anesthesiology and critical care medicine.

Tamara Lawson, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in November. She earned her medical degree from VCU School of Medicine and completed her residency training at National Capital Consortium, Bethesda, MD. Dr. Lawson's research interest include general anesthesia.

Christa Riley, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in October. She earned her medical degree from VCU School of Medicine and also completed her residency training at VCU SOM. Dr. Riley's research interest include general anesthesia.

Vishal Yajnik, M.D., joined the department as assistant professor in July. He earned his medical degree from the VCU School of Medicine and completed his residency training at VCU Health System. Dr. Yajnik completed his fellowship in critical care medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. His research interests include general anesthesiology and critical care medicine.

Neurology

Sherita Chapman, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in August. She earned her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and completed her residency training at Howard University Hospital. Dr. Chapman completed her fellowship in vascular neurology at the University of Virginia. Her research interest includes improving treatment times for rapid evaluation of acute stroke via mobile telemedicine.

Don Matthew, M.D., joined the department as an assistant clinical professor in August. He earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at Winthrop University Hospital. Dr. Matthew completed his fellowship in pediatrics at VCU. His research interest includes helping patients avoid the emergency room and get into sub-specialist offices in a timely manner.

Jason Wong, M.D., joined the department as an assistant clinical professor in July. He earned his medical degree from VCU and completed his residency training at VCU Health System. Dr. Wong completed his fellowship in neuromuscular at the University of Michigan. He research interest includes neuromuscular diseases.

Pediatrics

Leslie Berkelhammer, Ph.D., joined the department as an associate professor in July. She earned her medical degree from Columbia University and completed her fellowship in neuropsych at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Berkelhammer's research interest include neurodevelopment outcomes of NICU graduates. She also has interest in the neuropsychology evaluation of infants and preschoolers, and cognitive consequences of prematurity and complex medical disorders during infancy.

Kerri Carter, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in July. She earned her medical degree from VCU School of Medicine and completed her residency training and fellowship in pediatric cardiology at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. Her areas of interests include obesity, critical care cardiology, and teaching.

Nikki Miller Ferguson, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in July. She earned her medical degree from the Medical University of Ohio and completed her residency training at the University of Virginia. Dr. Ferguson completed her fellowship in pediatric critical care at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Her areas of interest include traumatic brain injury, child abuse, trauma, and neurocritical care.

John Fortunato, Jr., M.D., joined the department as professor and chair of the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition in September. He earned his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at Maine Medical Center. Dr. Fortunato completed his fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. His areas of interest include GI motility, functional GI disorders, and relationship between GI motility and autonomic nervous system.

Jenny Fox, M.D., joined the department as an assistant Professor in August. She earned her medical degree from VCU School of Medicine and completed her residency training and fellowship in neonatal medicine at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU. Her areas of interest include early detection of necrotizing enterocolitis and breastfeeding.

Nianzhou Xiao, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in September. She earned her medical degree from Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an China and completed her residency training at Driscoll Children's Hospital. Dr. Xiao completed her fellowship in pediatric nephrology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Her areas of interest include obesity related kidney injury, chronic kidney disease, dialysis, and hypertension.

Surgery

Benjamin Phillips, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in August. He earned his medical degree and completed his residency training at Brown University. Dr. Phillips completed his fellowship in hand/microsurgery at Washington University. His research interests include hand surgery and microsurgery.

J. Tyler Roseman, II, joined the department as an assistant professor in August. He earned his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed his residency training at the University of Louisville. Dr. Roseman completed his fellowship in genitourinary reconstructive surgery at Good Shepherd Medical Center. His areas of interest include urethral strictive disease, peyronie's disease, and pelvic organ prolapse.

Deepa Taggarshe, M.D., joined the department as an assistant professor in September. She earned her medical degree from Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, India, and completed her residency training at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals, Doncaster, United Kingdom. Dr. Taggarshe completed her fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. Her research interest include colorectal cancer.

Thomas Yeh, M.D., joined the department as a professor in October. He earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University and completed his residency training at the Medical College of Virginia (1986-1997). Dr. Yeh completed his fellowship in pediatric cardiac at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. His research interest include myocardial gene expression.