



# 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.

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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

### Anatomy and Neurobiology

**Pamela Knapp, Ph.D.**, professor, was appointed Deputy Editor of *Neuroscience Letters* in December 2013.

### Dean's Office

**The James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Medical Education Center** was applauded for its outstanding design in the area of specialized facilities by the *American School & University*, an education news and resource magazine dedicated to highlighting the planning, design, and construction of education facilities.

### Emergency Medicine

**Brandon Wills, D.O.**, associate professor, was honored in the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (WestJEM)*, as one of the "Top Section Editors of 2012" in April 2013.

**Allen Yee, M.D.**, assistant clinical professor, was appointed to the Governor's Transition Public Safety Committee in November. He was also reelected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians (NAEMSP) for a two-year term, January 2014 thru January 2016. NAEMSP® is an organization of physicians and other professionals partnering to provide leadership and foster excellence in out-of-hospital emergency medical services.

### Family Medicine and Population Health

**Derek Chapman Ph.D., M.S.**, assistant professor, was appointed as the Associate Director of Research for the Center on Society and Health, VCU, in December 2013.

**Anton (Tony) Kuzel, M.D.**, professor and chair, was appointed President-Elect of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, a national organization of Family Medicine chairs and senior administrators with a mission to transform care, education, and research to promote health equity and improve the health of the nation.

**Briana Ratliff, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, will be honored with the Barry Lebowitz Early Career Scientist Award by the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry on March 16, 2014. This award is given to one junior investigator each year. Dr. Ratliff was also selected to participate in the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Mental Health, Weill Cornell Medical College, in February. This is a two-year mentorship program for junior investigators focused on issues related to mental health and aging.

**Alexander Krist, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor, was presented with the annual Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Best Research Paper Award in February. Dr. Krist's paper on whether using My Preventive Care was associated with an increased uptake of preventive services was rated the best research paper written by an STFM member. My Preventive Care is an interactive preventive health record used to promote patient-centered preventive care. This is his second best research paper award. Since the award's inception in 1989, there have only been two other family physicians who have won the award multiple times.

**Samuel Jones, M.D.**, professor, was elected to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Review Committee for Family Medicine by the ACGME in February.

### Human and Molecular Genetics

**Paul Fisher, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, professor and chair, was honored with Virginia's Outstanding Scientist of 2014 award by Governor Terry McAuliffe at the Science Museum of Virginia's General Assembly Reception in January. Dr. Fisher was recognized for his pioneering work in the field of molecular biology and the translation of his research. He is the fourth Massey researcher to receive this award.

### Internal Medicine

**George Vetrovec, M.D.**, professor, was honored with the Master of American College of Cardiology award by the American College of Cardiology in January. This award recognizes a limited number of Fellows of the American College of Cardiology (FACCs), who have consistently contributed to the goals and programs of the college and who have provided leadership in important college activities. No more than four Master designations are awarded each year.

**Richard Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor, has been named the recipient of the 2014 Martin S. Favero Award of the International Federation of Infection Control. This award honors lifetime achievement of those working in the field of infection prevention and control, who have made significant contributions to global infection prevention. Dr. Wenzel will accept the award and deliver the opening keynote presentations this March in Malta. This is a huge honor for Dr. Wenzel and the department.

### Neurology

**Mark Malkin M.D.**, professor, was awarded the William G. Reynolds Jr. Chair in Neuro-Oncology in October 2013.

### Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Jerome F. Strauss, III, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and dean of the School of Medicine, has been appointed to a three-year term as honorary professor at Wuhan University of Science and Technology in December 2013.

### Otolaryngology

**Laurence DiNardo, M.D.**, professor and chair, was selected as a member of Leading Physicians of the World by the International Association of Healthcare Professionals (IAHCP) in November 2013. These physicians are selected for their experience, forward thinking, and highest quality of care.

### Pathology

**Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D.**, professor, has been appointed to the newly created National Commission on Forensic Science. She was chosen from a pool of more than 300 candidates for the 30-person commission. The U.S. Departments of Justice and Commerce created the National Commission to improve the practice of forensic science and to help develop policy recommendations for the U.S. Attorney General.

### Pediatrics

**Ida Sue Baron, Ph.D.**, associate professor, SOM Inova Campus, was honored with the Distinguished Career Award by the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) at their annual meeting in February. Dr. Baron was recognized for her sustained contributions to the field of neuropsychology as well as to the INS.

**Karen Hendricks-Munoz, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor and division chair of Neonatal Medicine, was selected for membership to the American Pediatric Society, the most prestigious academic honor from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

**David Cifu, M.D.**, professor and chair, was selected as one of 12 faculty from Virginia's public and private colleges and universities to receive the 2014 Outstanding Faculty Award (OFA) by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Dominion Resources. This year is the 28th anniversary of the statewide awards program, which honors faculty members for excellence in teaching, research, knowledge, integration, and public service. Dr. Cifu was one of the twelve applicants selected from a pool of 115 applications based on accomplishments that strongly reflect the mission of VCU and the School of Medicine.

### Radiation Oncology

**Geoffrey Hugo, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, was appointed in January as the Associate Editor to the editorial board of the journal, *Practical Radiation Oncology*, published by the American Society of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the largest radiation oncology society in the world.

**Douglas Arthur, M.D.**, professor, was awarded the Natalie N. and John R. Congdon, Sr. Endowed Chair in Cancer Research in February in recognition of his significant contributions to VCU Massey Cancer Center's research mission.

## New Faculty

Expanding our expertise and opportunities for collaboration

### Anesthesiology

**Sabrina Dhillon, M.D.**, joined the department as an assistant professor in January. She earned her medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed her residency training in general anesthesia at the University of Virginia.

### Biostatistics

**Le Kang, Ph.D.**, joined the department as an assistant professor in January. He earned his Ph.D. from State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Kang's areas of interest include applied statistics, bayesian statistics, diagnostic testing evaluations, empirical likelihood, epidemiologic studies.

### Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Eun Lee, Ph.D.**, joined the department as an assistant professor in January. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati and completed her research fellowship at Emory University. Dr. Lee's research focuses on single nucleotide polymorphisms in ERAP2, the maternal killer immunoglobulin-like receptors on decidual Natural Killer (dNK) cells, and the Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) genetic variation on extravillous trophoblasts (EVT).

### Pediatrics

**Roopa Shankar, M.D.**, joined the department as an assistant professor in January. She earned her medical degree from Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, India. Dr. Shankar completed her fellowship at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and residency training at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Her areas of interest include diabetes, thyroid problems, and endocrine problems in cancer and hematological conditions; and personal interests of Indian classical music, reading, and kayaking.

## ***Student Honors***

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**Psychiatry Junior Chief Resident Samuel Hassamail** has been selected by the American Psychiatric Foundation to attend the research program on Clinical Psychobiology at the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) annual meeting.

**M.D., Ph.D. Student Julie Bonano** has been selected to attend the 64th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting this summer in Lindau, Germany. More than 20,000 young researchers around the world applied to attend the conference, and only 600 were chosen. She will have the opportunity to network with top researchers and to engage in seminars led by 34 Nobel prize winners.