

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – November 2002 – Vol 6, No. 2

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development
Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department Chair Search Update

The Surgery Search Committee, **Dr. John Cardea (Orthopaedic Surgery) Chairman**, has identified several good internal and external candidates. Initial visits will begin in December.

The Family Practice Search Committee, **David Cifu (Physical Med and Rehab) Chair**, is in its latter stages with second visits scheduled.

Ophthalmology Chair Search Committee, under the leadership of **Dr. Richard Wenzel (Internal Medicine), Chair**, found several excellent candidates but no completed negotiation was possible. Another search will be launched, under new leadership because Dr. Wenzel has been elected as President of MCVP.

MCV Physicians Board Elects President and Chair-Members

Congratulations to Dr. Dick Wenzel, Department of Internal Medicine, for his election as president of MCV Physicians. Dr. Wenzel was selected by vote of the MCVP Board on Wednesday, November 13, 2002. Dr. Wenzel will be presented to the VCU Health System Authority Board for final approval on Tuesday, December 10th.

The four chairs elected to the newly reorganized MCVP Board are Dr. David Cifu, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Dr. Joseph Laver, Pediatrics; Dr. John Seed, Obstetrics-Gynecology, and Dr. Joel Silverman, Psychiatry. These chair members were elected on November 13 by vote of the SOM clinical chairs.

The four non-chair members of the MCVP Board will be selected by an electronic election (via e-mail) with all MCVP faculty having the opportunity to vote. The polls close December 3, 2002, at 5 p.m. Nominees are: Drs. Cecelia Boardman, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Peter Boling, Internal Medicine; Laurence DiNardo, Otolaryngology; Chris Foster, Orthopedics; Robin Foster, Emergency Medicine; Betty Anne Johnson, Internal Medicine; James Levenson, Psychiatry; Mary Nettleman, Internal Medicine; Andrea Pozez, Surgery; George Vetrovec, Internal Medicine; John Ward, Surgery.

Did you Know? Financial Aid Statistics for SOM Students

Prepared by Judy Cramer, Director of Financial Aid, 9/13/02

Present debt of all enrolled students (2002/03): \$36,843,270.00

Total Debt for the Class of 2002 \$15,187,222.00

Lifetime Debt Service on these loans \$8,867,726.00

(assumes a 20 year repayment plan, at 5% interest)

Total to be repaid \$24,054,948.00

Average debt of the 2002 graduates \$104,739.46

Debt free graduates, Class of 2002 21

(11 supported by the Military, 2 by the National Health Service Corps and 1 MDPHD)

Assistance paid to School of Medicine students in 2001/02:

Loans 14,844,922

“No Strings” Scholarships 1,520,691

“Service” Scholarships 898,510

Total aid to all students \$17,264,123

All students, cost of attendance; \$20,627,986

(includes: tuition, fees, books, living expenses, travel, personal and miscellaneous expenses)

2001/02 unmet financial need of all SOM students: \$2,641,176 (Total cost of attendance less all payments)

Governor appoints MCV Faculty and Student to Virginia Boards and Commissions

Governor Mark R. Warner has announced additional appointments to various boards and commissions in Virginia. "These individuals who have stepped forward to serve the Commonwealth will play an important role in shaping state government in the coming years," Governor Warner said. "I thank them all for giving their time and energy to help move Virginia forward."

Board of Physical Therapy

Lorraine Quinn, Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant (LPTA), Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Chester Sports Medicine Clinic was appointed by the governor to serve on the Board of Physical Therapy.

State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

Michael S. Gonzalez, M.D., Vice Chairman and Director of Operations, Department of Emergency Medicine

Rao R. Ivatury, M.D., of Richmond, Director of Trauma and Critical Care, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals

Page Verlander, R.N., Director of Nursing, Department of Emergency Medicine, and assistant professor, Emergency Medicine

Medical Advisory Board for the Department of Motor Vehicles

Susan R. DiGiovanni, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology

Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice

Patrick Sweet, III, an MI student from Alexandria, began to study alcohol and other drug abuse issues at UVA. In response to a call for student applications for appointment to a National Institutes of Health task force on college drinking, he was appointed as one of eight students from colleges around the country to provide the student perspective on alcohol abuse (you may remember the press release last April, "A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking in U.S. Colleges"). From there Patrick affiliated with a number of committees at various levels of government, including the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Advisory Committee (2002-2005), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Advisory Committee on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Subcommittee on College Drinking (2000-2002).

His most current appointment was initiated by a faculty member at UVA who knew of Patrick's activities and felt he would be a worthy voice on the JJDP Advisory Committee. Since many juvenile offenders (as well as adult offenders) commit crimes under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, his unique experience in this area was recognized as useful to the JJDP. After submitting his resume' and meeting with people from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, he was commissioned. ***Congratulations to Patrick Sweet for recognition of his leadership and abilities!***

Since gubernatorial appointments will be made periodically, please share any new appointments with editor of the SOM Newslines, Kathy Kreutzer, kkreutzer@som.vcu.edu .
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VCU SOM Alums Appointed to VCU Boards

Michelle A. Romano, M.D., a 1984 graduate, has been appointed by Gov. Mark R. Warner to the **VCU Board of Visitors**. An assistant clinical professor in the Dept. of Family Practice since 1991, Dr. Romano is in private practice in family medicine in Northern Virginia. At Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, in Fairfax, she served as chairman of the Dept. of Family Practice for three years and on the Medical Executive Committee for six. A current member of the Medical School Advisory Council, she also served on the SOM Alumni Board from 1989 to 1992.

John M. O'Bannon III, M.D., 1973 graduate, has been appointed to the **Board of Directors of the VCU Health System**. Representing the 73rd District in the Virginia House of Delegates since 2001, Dr. O'Bannon is a partner in Neurological Associates, a leading Richmond medical practice. He serves in the AMA as a member of the Council for Ethical and Judicial Affairs. He also is a past chairman of the board of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and

a past chairman of the Medical Society of Virginia's legislative committee. While a medical student, Dr. O'Bannon was elected Student Body President. Later, as a resident at MCV Hospitals, he was elected president of the Housestaff Council and named chief resident in neurology. A recipient of the Caravati Service Award from the MCV Alumni Association, he has also served as chairman of the Medical School Advisory Council. Appointed by the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, Dr. O'Bannon will serve on the 21-member Board of Directors with fellow alum Dr. Stephen P. Long, and housestaff alums Drs. Hermes A. Kontos, John A. Cardea, Randall E. Dalton, and John D. Ward.

Daniel T. Watts Research Poster Symposium

The 19th Annual Daniel T. Watts Symposium was held October 23rd and 24th. The Symposium featured presentations by more than 55 graduate students and post-doc students representing 15 graduate programs and 4 academic units (e.g. Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering and College of Humanities and Sciences). Awards were presented to all participants and five presentations were judged most effective by the judging committee. *Congratulations to all who participated!*

Did you know?

We anticipate the awarding of the **1000th Ph.D.** by the Departments housed in the School of Medicine by the end of the fall 2002 term.

SOM Housestaff Alum Konerding Inaugurated as MSV's 182nd President

Hazle Konerding, MD, was sworn in as the 182nd President of the Medical Society of Virginia on Nov. 8th, vowing to work closely with the Board of Medicine to ensure Virginia's citizens receive the highest quality of health care. Konerding, only the second female ever to serve as president of the Medical Society, which represents 8,400 physicians in VA, also hopes to visit the state's local medical societies during her term so she can listen and respond to the concerns of physicians across VA. Dr. Konerding received her BA degree in 1969 from Northwest University and attended the University of Miami, School of Medicine where she earned her MD in 1973. She completed her residency at VCU's Medical College of Virginia in 1976. She currently is a partner in Commonwealth Dermatology. (*information from press release by Pam Overstreet, MSV Communications Director*)

Mark Your Calendar for WIMS Annual Conference

The 11th Annual Women in Medicine and Science Conference will take place **Friday, February 21, 2003** at the Richmond Marriott Hotel. Keynote speakers include Nancy H. Nielsen, M.D., Ph.D., Vice Speaker of the AMA House of Delegates, and Carol Nadelson, M.D., an expert in career development for women, who was the first woman President of the American Psychiatric Association. The conference is presented by the three Virginia Schools of Medicine (VCU SOM, UVA, and EVMS), in collaboration with the Medical Society of Virginia and the Richmond Academy of Medicine. For more information, contact Carole Hettema at cmeinfo@vcu.edu or 828-3640.

Clinical Telemedicine Opens in New Gateway Location

VCU Health System's Clinical Telemedicine is operating from its new location in the basement of the Gateway Building. The Clinical Telemedicine clinic has a room dedicated to providing telemedicine care to inmates from several prisons. With the new Department of Corrections Network, the telemedicine care for inmates in the eastern part of the state will be expanding. More clinics have already started with Powhatan Correctional Center. A conference room for providing telemedicine care to other patients, including international patients, rural patients and health departments is also available. Many programs are being developed from several specialty areas, including Emergency, Women's Health, Wound Healing, House Calls, Genetics and Ophthalmology. *You are invited to come by for a visit.* The address is B-205, across from the newly opened elevators, Basement, Gateway. If you have questions or are interested in working with telemedicine, contact Dr. Ron Merrell, Telemedicine Medical Director, or Debbie Justis, Clinical Coordinator, Telemedicine, 828-6114.

2002 SOM Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

The SOM held its 4th Annual Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony on Monday, October 21st. It was encouraging and exciting to see so many faculty, staff, and students come out and honor their colleagues and promote excellence in teaching. Photos of the event are available on the SOM website at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/intranet/facdev/f-and-id.html> under Faculty Development/Awards. Thank you everyone for your continued support of teaching. *Congratulations to all of the recipients!*



"2002 Big 4 Winners with Dean Newsome"

The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Isaac Keith Wood, MD, Associate Professor, Departments of Psychiatry & Pediatrics

The Distinguished Mentor Award

Cynthia M. Heldberg, PhD, Associate Dean for Admissions
Sandra P. Welch, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology

The Educational Innovation Award

Thomas M. Kerker, MD, Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine & Preventive Medicine

Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in Health Sciences Education

Stephen A. Gudas, PhD	Anatomy and Neurobiology
Jan F. Chlebowski, PhD	Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
R. K. Elswick, Jr., PhD	Biostatistics
Lauren Vanner-Nicely, MS	Human Genetics
Charles H. O'Neal, PhD	Microbiology and Immunology
Robert L. Balster, PhD	Pharmacology and Toxicology
Roland N. Pittman, PhD	Physiology
Saba W. Masho, MD, DrPH	Preventive Medicine and Community Health

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

Outstanding Course and Clerkship Teacher Pin Awards (*best teacher in the course or clerkship*)

M-I

Neil Sonenklar, MD	Behavioral Sciences I
Raymond J. Colello, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
Stephen A. Gudas, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
	Laboratory Teaching
Randall E. Merchant, PhD	Histology
Virginia A. Pallante, MS	Human Genetics
Suzanne E. Barbour, PhD	Immunology
Glenn C. Van Tuyle, PhD	Medical Biochemistry
Richard M. Costanzo, PhD	Neurosciences
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Physiology
Tilahun Adera, PhD	Population Medicine

M-II

Isaac K. Wood, MD	Behavioral Sciences II
Mark A. Wood, MD	Cardiovascular
Robert T. Leshner, MD	Central Nervous System
Diane M. Biskobing, MD	Endocrine
David F. Gardner, MD	Endocrine
James M. Messmer, MD, MEd	Gastrointestinal
Jonathan M. Ben-Ezra, MD	Hematology/Oncology
Francine Marciano-Cabral, PhD	Microbiology
Julia R. Nunley, MD	Musculoskeletal

Continued (best teacher in the course or clerkship)

M-II

R.C. Hard, Jr., MD	Pathogenesis
Margaret M. Grimes, MD	Pathology Teaching
Sandra P. Welch, PhD	Pharmacology
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Renal
R. Paul Fairman, MD	Respiratory
Philippe H. Girerd, MD	Women's Health

M-I and M-II

Louise W. Robertson, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Joy P. Rowe, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Anna K. Bittner, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
George Brengel, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Monette Wood, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine

M-III

Marian Haesy-Calhoun, MD	Family Practice
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD	Medicine
Jonathan W. Bekenstein, MD, PhD	Neurology
Cecelia H. Boardman, MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
David A. Draper, MD	Pediatrics
Deborah Giorgi-Guarnieri, JD, MD	Psychiatry
Ronald C. Merrell, MD	Surgery

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

Outstanding Course and Clerkship Certificate Awards (*faculty with high evaluation*)

M-I

Joel J. Silverman, MD	Behavioral Sciences I
James H. Johnson, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
Milton M. Sholley, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
John W. Bigbee, PhD	Histology
Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, PhD	Human Genetics
Joyce A. Lloyd, PhD	Human Genetics
John J. Ryan, PhD	Immunology
Keith R. Shelton, PhD	Medical Biochemistry
John T. Povlishock, PhD	Neurosciences
Joseph J. Feher, PhD	Physiology
Roland N. Pittman, PhD	Physiology
Raphael J. Witorsch, PhD	Physiology
Wally R. Smith, MD	Population Medicine

M-II

Joel J. Silverman, MD	Behavioral Sciences II
Kenneth S. Kendler, MD	Behavioral Sciences II
Andrea Hastillo, MD	Cardiovascular
James M. Messmer, MD, MEd	Cardiovascular
Robert J. DeLorenzo, MD, PhD, MPH	Central Nervous System
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Endocrine
James R. Levy, MD	Endocrine
Harvey J. Sugeran, MD	Gastrointestinal
Richard K. Sterling, MD	Gastrointestinal
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD	Hematology/Oncology
Thomas M. Kerkering, MD	Microbiology
David X. Cifu, MD	Musculoskeletal
Christopher M. Wise, MD	Musculoskeletal
Richard A. McPherson, MD	Pathogenesis

Continued (faculty with high evaluation)

M-II

Kristin A. Atkins, MD	Pathology Teaching
Graham A. Patrick, PhD	Pharmacology
Robert L. Balster, PhD	Pharmacology
Edward J. N. Ishac, PhD	Pharmacology
Earl F. Ellis, Jr., PhD	Pharmacology
Todd W.B. Gehr, MD	Renal
Susan R. DiGiovanni, MD	Renal
Alpha A. Fowler, III, MD	Respiratory
Aristides Sismanis, MD	Respiratory
Thomas C. Peng, MD	Women's Health

M-III

Michael F. Weaver, MD	Medicine
Robert P. Perry, MD	Medicine
Wade K. Smith, MD	Medicine
Douglas M. Heuman, MD	Medicine
Yamini Yarlagadda, MD	Neurology
Robert J. DeLorenzo, MD, PhD, MPH	Neurology
John G. Pierce, Jr., MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Thomas C. Peng, MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Catherine M. Nichols, MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Helen Ragazzi, MD	Pediatrics
Arti Pandya, MD	Pediatrics
Barry V. Kirkpatrick, MD	Pediatrics
Esam Alkhawaga, MD	Psychiatry
Amenra Tuason, MD	Psychiatry
Brian J. Kaplan, MD	Surgery

AD Williams Awards for October 1, 2002 Award Cycle Announced

A. D. Williams awarded 4 research grants in the October 1, 2002 award cycle. The A.D. Williams family left a generous bequest to support medical scholarship and research at the Medical College of Virginia. Today these funds are administered by a committee including the Vice President of the Health Sciences Division of VCU and the Deans of the five schools on the MCV campus. The Committee annually allots a portion of these funds to foster and support research and faculty development. It also sponsors outstanding researcher awards, the recipients of which are chosen by the individual schools. In addition, the MCV Foundation contributes funds from endowments specifically designated for medical research or research into specific diseases or conditions. Monies from these disease-related funds are used to support appropriate A. D. Williams research applications and are not available for direct solicitation.

For more information, including applications: <http://views.vcu.edu/adw/>

October 2002 Awards

Dr. Donna H. Taliaferro, Associate Professor of Adult Health Nursing, was awarded \$15,000 in support of her application entitled "The Effects of Melatonin on Sleep in HIV: A Feasibility Pilot Project." Funds were provided by the Medical Research Endowment Funds.

Dr. Peter E. Pidcoe, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, was awarded \$14,990 in support of his application entitled "Hip Motor-Control Assessment: Comparing Physical Exam Techniques with Quantitative Motion Analysis in Normal Subjects and Subjects with Lower Limb Musculoskeletal Injury." Funds were provided by the A. D. Williams Trust Funds.

Dr. Theodore D. Chung, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "TGF β Is an Endogenous Radio Protective Factor in Esophageal Cancer Cells." Funds were provided by the A. D. Williams Trust Funds.

Dr. Alpha A. Fowler, Professor of Internal Medicine (Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care), was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Nitric Oxide Regulation of Endothelial Interleukin-8 Expression." Funds were provided by the A. D. Williams Trust Funds.

TML Library Bits and Bytes

Introducing ILLiad - VCU Libraries' New Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Service

VCU Libraries is pleased to introduce ILLiad, its new web-based interlibrary loan and document delivery service. Whether you need materials from another library or you're just too busy to copy articles from journals located in VCU Libraries' collection, ILLiad is your answer.

ILLiad improves the processing of requests for both you and staff, and because it is web-based, you may put requests into the system from anywhere you have access to the Internet. By creating your personal profile using the simple registration process when you first use ILLiad, you may take advantage of the following benefits:

- Request materials and track your requests 24 hours a day
- Modify and cancel requests on-line
- Submit renewal requests on-line
- Receive articles electronically
- Receive email notification regarding the status of your requests
- Review a history of your requests
- Edit your personal profile

There currently is no charge per filled request. For an additional charge, you may choose to have your materials delivered to your home or office.

For more information, contact the Resource Delivery Office at Tompkins-McCaw Library at (804) 828-0630, email ulstmlil@vcu.edu or Cabell Library at (804) 828-1115, email ulsjbcil@vcu.edu

EZProxy Connects You to Library Resources

Connecting to VCU Libraries online resources is as easy as EZProxy. Unlike the old proxy server, the new proxy server does not require you to configure your browser. The login and password for the new proxy server is the same though: login using the last 7 digits of your VCUCard number as your username, and the last 4 digits of your SSN as your password.

EZProxy will connect you to almost all VCU Libraries electronic resources linked from the Research tab. These resources include the databases on the A to Z List labeled VCU Only, online journals, and online books. One notable exception is MICROMEDEX. Please refer to the *Connect From Home* instructions linked from the VCU Libraries home page: <http://www.library.vcu.edu/help/isp.html>.

PubMed LinkOut

Now you can access articles directly from PubMed! VCU Libraries is participating in PubMed's LinkOut service, making it easier for you to obtain needed articles when you search PubMed. With this new service, you will be able to tell if VCU Libraries has an article available online in full-text or in our print collection without having to search the library catalog. For more information, please see the online PubMed LinkOut guide available at <http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/bibs/pubmedlinkout.html>

Department News

Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics (VIPBG)

Twins have long represented a unique resource for geneticists, and now researchers from the VIPBG will take the traditional twin study in a new direction – the study of depression and disruptive behaviors in the offspring of identical and non-identical twins.

The new study is supported by a four-year, \$4.7 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. Principal investigator on the grant is **Judy L. Silberg, Ph.D.**, associate professor of human genetics, and co-principal investigator is **Lindon J. Eaves, Ph.D., D.Sc.**, VIPBG co-director and distinguished professor of human genetics and psychiatry.

For the first time on this large of a scale, researchers will use the multiple genetic relationships within 2,400 families to disentangle the role of genes and the environment in the transmission of risk from parents to their children. An outgrowth of the traditional twin study, an offspring study allows researchers to move beyond the traditional study's limitations and explore multiple generations and interactions.

Department of Internal Medicine

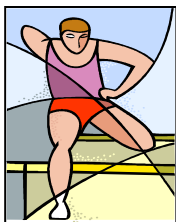
Dr. Pouneh Mofrad, one of our GI fellows, has won the American College of Gastroenterology Governors' Award for excellence in clinical research and received the award at the annual meeting of the ACG on October 21, 2002.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Mofrad!

Curtis N. Sessler, MD, has joined the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Critical Illness*. With board certifications in internal medicine, pulmonary diseases, and critical care medicine, Dr. Sessler has exceptional experience to bring to this job. Dr. Sessler is Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at VCU Health System. He also is Medical Director of Critical Care and Medical Director of the Medical Respiratory ICU at MCV Hospitals.

Dr. Sessler is also a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and the Society of Critical Care Medicine and is a member of the American Thoracic Society. He has served as a manuscript reviewer for numerous journals and as a committee member, chair, or consultant for several advisory committees of the US FDA. He has received numerous teaching awards, including Best Faculty Teaching Awards from the Department of Medicine. Dr. Sessler has published widely and given many invited lectures on major topics in pulmonary and critical care medicine. His major areas of interest and expertise include septic shock, sedation in the ICU, and infection control and management in the ICU.

Thomas J. Smith, M.D., Chair, Division of Hematology/Oncology, has been celebrating his birthday in a unique manner: "As part of my ongoing 50th birthday celebration, I ran the Lynchburg Ultra Series this year: the Holliday Lake 50K++ (about 35 miles) in February, the Promise Land 50K in April (8,000 feet elevation change, up and down two mountains on the Blue Ridge), and the Mountain Masochist 50 Miler October 19th. The last was the longest, obviously, and had 14,400 feet elevation change as it is run mostly on the Appalachian Trail. It took me 11 hours, about 11 minutes/all 54 miles, up and down on the trails." Interested parties can go to <http://www.extremeultrarunning.com/> for details. *Congratulations and Happy 50th to Dr. Smith!*



Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., Chair of Internal Medicine and a UI faculty member from 1986-1995, was recognized by the University of Iowa Department of Internal Medicine as the recipient of its 2002 Distinguished Achievement Award. The UI Department of Internal Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award was created in 1984 to honor individual faculty, alumni and friends of the department who have made significant and enduring clinical or scientific contributions in internal medicine.

Wenzel joined the UI Department of Internal Medicine in 1986, where he was professor of medicine and preventive medicine. At Iowa he served as director of hospital epidemiology and statewide epidemiology services, infection control and quality assurance. He also served as director of the department's division of general internal medicine, clinical epidemiology and health services research, and as associate chair of the department. Wenzel was appointed chair of internal medicine at VCU-SOM in 1997.

Former chief resident and faculty member in the Department, **Jon Perlin, M.D., Ph.D.**, has been appointed Deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The VHA is the nation's largest integrated health system, providing care to approximately 4.3 million veterans throughout the U.S. Dr. Perlin is also the Veterans Health Administration Chief Quality and Performance Officer, in charge of supporting quality improvement and performance management. Dr. Perlin earned his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in the SOM, and served as chief resident in the Department from 1995-96.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Kathleen McCoy in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology gave an invited presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Toxicology in Nashville, Tennessee, March, 2002. The title of her talk was "Gallium Arsenide Induces Macrophage Activation."

Department of Pathology

The Department of Pathology presented the following internal awards at the annual graduation dinner:

- Fergus O'M. Shiel Resident Teaching Award - **Michelle Riddick-Young, MD (PGY-4)**
- Charles W. "Buck" Moncure Autopsy Service Award – **Mary Jo Martin, MD (PGY-4)**
- Saul Kay Faculty Appreciation Award – **Kristen Atkins, MD (Assistant Professor)**
- Resident Research Award – **Shawn Zhao, MD (PGY-2)**
- Clinical Pathology Award – **Richard Hermann, MD (PGY-2)**

The Fall 2002 term of the **Mini-Medical School**, sponsored by the Science Museum of Virginia and VCU, was co-directed by Eugene G. Maurakis, PhD, museum scientist, and **David S. Wilkinson, MD, PhD**, Chairman of the Department of Pathology. The theme of the series was "Pathology: Linking Technology With Good Health." Eight faculty members in the Department were featured speakers, presenting the latest information about the causes, diagnoses, and treatments of serious conditions including blood clots, cervical cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, renal failure, and breast cancer.

Jeffrey L. Casterline, Pathology Administrator, was elected the South East Regional Representative to the Governing Council of the Pathology Department Administrators Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs, at the annual meeting of that organization in July at Park City, Utah. At that meeting, Mr. Casterline gave a presentation on "The Basics of informatics."

Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D., presented "Microarray and Prostate Cancer Analysis" at the annual meeting of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Ferreira-Gonzalez has also been elected to serve as a member for Subcommittee in Sequencing Methods (MM-9) for National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS).

Carleton T. Garrett, M.D., Ph.D., was appointed for the second consecutive year to direct the CTRF Cancer Genomics Project. The Cancer Genomics Project has received IRB approval to begin collecting tissue. The Project laboratories are currently validating their microarray platforms.

Drs. Enrique Gerzten and Carleton Garrett hosted visits to the Department by students of the Maggie L. Walker Governors School, providing an overview of the role of pathologists in health care. The students were given a tour of the Molecular Diagnostics Clinical Laboratory and participated in an exercise that demonstrated the use of molecular testing in human identity cases.

Greg Miller, Ph.D., was re-appointed chair of NCCLS Area Committee on Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology. He was also re-appointed as a consultant to College of American Pathologists Chemistry Resource Committee. Dr. Miller was a member of the 2002 Organizing Committee for the American Association for Clinical Chemistry Annual Meeting held in Orlando July 28 through Aug. 2. His symposium presentations at the AACC national meeting were "The LIS Database as an Integral Part of the EMR, Impact on Evidence-based Medicine" and "Workshop on Lipid and Lipoprotein Coronary Risk Factors: What and How to Measure, New Tests for Traditional Markers."

Susan D. Roseff, M.D., was asked to edit the American Association of Blood Banks' 1st edition of the book "Pediatric Transfusion: A Physician's Handbook." A fall 2003 publication date is anticipated.

Alphonse E. Sirica, Ph.D., published an article in the August, 2002 issue of Hepatology entitled "Overexpression and Cyclooxygenase-2 Up-regulation in Human Cholangiocarcinoma and Risk Conditions." Co-authors on the project were K. Endo, B. Yoon, C. Pairojkul, and A. J. Demetris.

Joy L. Ware, Ph.D., was a member of the Ad Hoc NIH Panel (Renal and Urologic Sciences Integrated Review Group) charged with recommending the structure and composition of revised study sections for renal and urologic sciences. This is one of several panels involved in re-organization of NIH study sections.

The **Pathology Website** is constantly being modified and improved to reflect the changes being made in the department's educational, research, and clinical service programs. Web-based educational support has been enhanced with updates to all medical education lab pages. Content has been updated and pages added for resident scheduling, conferences, lab test updates, research labs, and clinical services. **Katherine Page** has taken the lead role in development and design of the web site: <http://www.pathology.vcu.edu/>

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Jeffrey S. Kreutzer, Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chairman for Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology, was recognized by the Moody Foundation and the Galveston Brain Injury Conference as the winner of the 2nd Annual Moody Prize, in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to individuals with TBI. The award is named for the Robert L. Moody, who established the Moody Foundation to further research and clinical advancements for individuals with TBI. Mr. Moody personally congratulated Dr. Kreutzer and acknowledged his ongoing commitment to family support and behavioral concerns after TBI.

Dr. Kreutzer has also been elected as a Fellow in the National Academy of Neuropsychology for "significant contributions to the Science and Profession of Neuropsychology."

Peter Pidcoe, Ph.D., (Dept. of Physical Therapy) and **Jeff Ericksen, M.D.**, assistant professor, received an AD Williams grant to study electrophysiologic firing patterns in shoulder muscles. The tremendous number of shoulder injuries and complaints in our older and disabled patients may be preventable or more easily addressed based on a better understanding of how our shoulder muscles function.

Jacob (Jay) Neufeld, M.D., M.S.P.H., has joined the Department as an Associate Professor and Director of Rehabilitation Services at Children's Hospital. He joins **Eugene Monasterio, M.D.** (Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation) and our two combined Pediatric/PM&R residents (**Nicole Irwin, M.D., and Katrina Lescher, M.D.**) in the growing Pediatric Rehabilitation programs at VCU. Dr. Neufeld, who is double-boarded in Pediatrics and PM&R (Detroit Children's Hospital and RIM) joins us from the NYU Department of PM&R. He will be Chairing the new Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation within the Department.

Karen Steidel, M.D., will be joining the Department in December at both the VAMC and Sheltering Arms clinics. Dr. Steidel who received her PM&R training at the University of Texas-San Antonio was most recently the Director of an occupational medicine clinic in Pennsylvania. She will be performing EMG's and helping to develop the department's Occupational Medicine program. The Department is currently working closely with Joseph Andriano, M.D., (head of the VCU OccuHealth Alliance) to develop a comprehensive Occupational Health system.

Department of PM&R Gets Renewal of TBI Model Systems Grant: Drs. Jeff Kreutzer and David Cifu have successfully been awarded a 5-year, \$1.8 million grant renewal of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems program. VCU's RRC has been a center since 1987 and remains one of only 16 TBI Model System centers in the nation. This cycle's research will focus on family functioning after TBI, diagnosing depression, and efficacy of interventions for depression.

Department of PM&R Gets Renewal of VAMC TBI Grant: Drs. Bill Walker and Ron Seel have received a renewal and increased core funding for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center grant at the McGuire VAMC. The center is one of 4 VAMC sites in the country and has been funded since 1992. This cycle's research will focus on the efficacy of neurostimulants and antidepressants after TBI.

Department of Psychiatry

Robert K. Schneider, M.D. and James L. Levenson, M.D., had an Update in Psychiatry published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. The Updates are designed as a source of evidence-based information for general internists, and include a series of concise research reports by experts in the field. (*Ann Intern Med* 2002;137;671-677)

Bela Sood, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, has been appointed by the American Medical Association to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Residency Review Committee for Psychiatry. With representatives from the AMA, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the review committee plays an important role in maintaining the quality of graduate medical education in the field of psychiatry. The ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-M.D. medical training programs within the U.S. Dr. Sood, who also serves as medical director of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children and chair of the VTCC's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, will end her term in December 2004.

The Virginia Treatment Center for Children, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, **Dr. Bela Sood**, Director, was listed as one of the best treatment centers in the nation for children with bipolar disorder in the new edition of The Bipolar Child by Demetri and Janice Papolos.

Departments of Psychiatry/Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Susan Kornstein, Professor, received a glowing review of her new textbook, Women's Mental Health: A Comprehensive Textbook, in the 10/31/02 New England Journal of Medicine. Co-edited with Dr. Anita T. Clayton, the 638 page text is divided into five parts, "Women's Psychobiology and the Reproductive Life Cycle," "Assessment and Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders in Women," "Psychiatric Consultation in Women," "Sociological Issues for Women," and "Research and Health Policy Issues." The reviewer states, "The editors and authors of this book are to be congratulated for delivering a tour de force," and the book is described as "a must for a reference library and for any clinician interested in women's health." To read the complete review, go to: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/347/18/1458> ***Congratulations to Dr. Kornstein!***

Department of Radiation/Oncology

Douglas Arthur, M.D., Associate Professor and Clinical Director, has been invited to participate in a panel discussion on brachytherapy at the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, which is being held in New Orleans this October. The panel, "Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation: Is it Ready for Prime-time?," is designed for radiation oncologists who treat breast cancer and have patients seeking an alternative to the traditional five to seven weeks of external beam whole-breast irradiation. The topics covered will include the biologic rationale for brachytherapy, target volume definition, patient selection criteria, catheter insertion techniques, and outcomes from recent clinical trials.

Last month, VCU's Massey Cancer Center launched the institution's **first gene therapy clinical trial**. The study, sponsored by GenVec, Inc., tests the effects of combining TNFerade™, a gene therapy agent, with standard chemotherapy and radiation therapy in patients with pancreatic cancer.

The study's principal investigator, **Theodore Chung, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, explains that TNFerade™ is an agent that directs the production of tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α , a protein that directly kills tumor cells; attacks their blood supply; and increases their radiosensitivity. It is designed in a manner that relies on radiation to turn on the production of TNF- α such that the TNF- α is made only where and when the radiation is directed. This fact is important because TNF- α is toxic when given systemically.

TNF- α , a naturally occurring secreted protein, acts as one of the key regulators of inflammation and the immune system and represents one of the body's natural defenses against cancer. The combination of TNFerade™ and radiation has been shown to improve control of a variety of different tumors in animal studies. In one of these studies, Dr. Chung and his co-investigators reported that the addition of TNFerade™ to radiation treatment led to complete disappearance of tumors without increasing the side effects.

These studies have generated much enthusiasm in the medical community and support the application of TNFerade™ and radiation in cancer patients. Pancreatic cancer was selected as the first Phase IIb indication for clinical trials of TNFerade™ because of the limited success of conventional therapies and good indications of activity in patients with pancreatic cancer in Phase I studies. VCU's Massey Cancer Center was one of the first

institutions to initiate this study, which is anticipated to involve 15 to 18 other distinguished medical centers nationwide. Plans for future studies include treatment of esophageal cancer beginning in the second half of 2002.

The Radiation Oncology research team is led by **Rupert Schmidt-Ullrich, M.D.**, Professor and Chairman of the Department. He is directing a gene therapy research program that identifies genes that control the response of cancer cells to radiation therapy. Dr. Schmidt-Ullrich states, "Our aim is to unmask the genes that protect cancer cells, and then alter those genes to render them more susceptible to therapy. Gene therapy is potentially the most powerful way of attacking the Achilles' heel of cancer and represents a major advance toward winning the war against cancer." (*edited from information from Kristy Abato*)

Department of Surgery

Tim Broderick, M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor of General/Trauma Surgery, recently received a one year **\$270,000** grant from NASA titled "Computer-Based Virtual Reality Surgical Training in Microgravity." The research was designed to help NASA develop medical capabilities necessary for long duration space flights. In this project, Dr. Broderick will examine if a virtual reality simulator is an effective means to train astronauts to perform surgery in space. In June of this year, astronauts and faculty of the VCU School of Medicine will train at Johnson Space Center for one week using a variety of methods including a computer that has been modified so that it simulates performing surgery in the weightlessness of space.

After a week of training, Dr. Broderick will determine if the surgical simulator has helped the volunteers learn how to perform basic surgical skills in weightlessness. While the participants won't fly into space, they will fly on the KC-135-- NASA's parabolic laboratory. The KC-135 is commonly referred to as the "vomet comet" because many people become airsick during the parabolic flight that is used to create brief episodes of weightlessness. It is commonly used to train astronauts how to function in microgravity and many people are familiar with the KC-135 from its use in the filming of the movie *Apollo 13*.

In addition to his duties as a faculty member within the Department of Surgery, Dr. Broderick helps develop medical systems created by novel applications of computers, telecommunications and robotic systems as the Consulting Surgeon on Telemedicine and Robotics within the NASA Medical Informatics and Technology Applications Consortium, the commercial space center within VCU.



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Newsline is designed to better inform the faculty about activities and plans affecting the School of Medicine and to encourage open communication. So much that happens is a moving target, so we'll do our best. Send comments and questions and we'll try to find the folks who know the answers (if they'll tell us...) You can submit items for the newsletter to Kathy Kreutzer, Box 980565 or e-mail kkreutzer@vcu.edu.

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