

# NEWSLINE

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## School of Medicine Newsletter – January 2006 – Vol 9, No. 2

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Next Issue, March 2006!*

*Departmental News deadline is February 23, 2006. Please send your faculty/department achievements to [kkreutzer@vcu.edu](mailto:kkreutzer@vcu.edu).*

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## Dr. Cynthia Heldberg, Associate Dean for Admissions, is Retiring June 2006



After 16 years of distinguished service to the VCU School of Medicine, **Cynthia Heldberg, PhD**, Associate Dean for Admissions, has announced her retirement, effective June 30, 2006. Dr. Heldberg was first appointed to the Admissions Office in 1990 and has served as Director, Assistant Dean, and Associate Dean. As the chief administrator for development of each medical school class, the Associate Dean manages a complex admissions process that is highly computerized, supervises the staff of the Admissions Office, and leads the training and management of the Admissions Committee. For the current class of 2009, there were 4,877 applicants and 675 interviews for the 184-member SOM class, composed of 104 Virginia residents and 80 out-of-state.

**Dr. Walter Lawrence**, Professor Emeritus of Surgery and past chair and current vice chair of the SOM Admissions Committee, will lead the search committee. A university-wide internal search is in process. The full position description for the Associate Dean for Admissions, VCU School of Medicine, is posted at <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/facjobs/facjob.asp?Item=2077>.

## Department Chair Search Update

### *Department of Radiation-Oncology*

The Search Committee for the Chair of the Department of Radiation-Oncology, under the leadership of Dr. James Neifeld, (Surgery), has invited the top three candidates back for visits and negotiations are beginning. (For a list of committee members, refer to April 2005 Newsline, at [www.medschool.vcu.edu/faculty\\_staff/newsletter/newsline\\_apr2005.pdf](http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/faculty_staff/newsletter/newsline_apr2005.pdf)).

## Please Welcome These New Faculty to the School of Medicine!

### *Department of Orthopaedic Surgery*

**Dr. Jason Hull** joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in August of this year. Dr. Hull specializes in Joint Arthroplasty, Hip and Knee surgery.

### *Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology*

**Dr. Hamid Akbarali** joined the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology October 1 at the rank of Professor. His research is focused on characterizing the ionic basis for gastrointestinal motility and sensory processing of gastrointestinal disorders. The NIH has funded his research continuously since 1993.

### *Department of Physiology*

**Xian-Sheny Liu** joined the department on 10/26/05. He will participate in two projects: (A) K channel remodeling in again/hypertrophied heart, (B) structure-function relationship of K channels. His major expertise is patch clamping.

### *Department of Radiology*

**Gilda Cardeñosa, MD**, Professor and Director, Breast Imaging, is an internationally renowned breast imager, teacher, and clinical researcher. She began work on November 7, 2005.

## In Memoriam



**Dr. Christine L. Tully**, 56, of Richmond, associate professor of internal medicine at VCU SOM, passed away on November 2; she had a brain tumor. Dr. Tully was the first director of the geriatric consult service and she started ongoing collaborations with anesthesiology, orthopedic surgery and geriatric psychiatry. She was a tireless patient advocate and a meticulous clinician. At the time of her death, she was medical director at Lucy Corr Nursing Home. She is survived by her husband, Barry W. McDaniel.

*(thanks to Dr. Peter Boling for this information)*

**Dr. Chartchai “Pom” Kositprapa**, 34, suffered a fatal heart attack while training for the SunTrust Richmond Marathon on October 2. Born, raised and educated in Bangkok, Thailand, Chartchai was an assistant professor at VCUHS and the McGuire VAMC in the Divisions of Cardiology. He completed his medical training in Buffalo, New York, and came to Richmond for cardiology training. He and his wife, Juddi, were joyfully preparing for the birth of their child in December. An education fund is being established for their son; contributions may be sent to Juddi Yeh, P.O. Box 29943, Richmond, VA, 23242. In tribute, friends participated in the SunTrust Richmond Marathon for him by running the race relay-style, carrying his assigned number with them as they ran.

## Please Note - New Day for Medicine Convocation & Hooding Ceremony

The School of Medicine will no longer have their Graduation on Saturday; instead the **School of Medicine’s Convocation and Hooding Ceremony** will be held on **Friday, May 19, 2006, at the Stuart C. Siegel Center starting at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m., beginning promptly at 3:00 PM in the afternoon.** The University Commencement will be held promptly at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2006, at the Richmond Coliseum.

To obtain academic regalia, required for both ceremonies, please contact the MCV Bookstore by **MARCH 27, 2006.** We encourage all faculty to come and support our new physicians and participate in the newly-designed ceremony; we are very excited about the new format for this milestone occasion.

## Did You Know?



VCU and WWBT-Channel 12 have teamed up to produce a series of four 1/2-hour commercial-free programs showcasing many aspects of the University. Called “It’s VCU,” the series features a wide variety of stories about the people and programs that make our University unique and will be broadcast several times each quarter in a variety of time slots. After the first show, each episode will focus on a different topic: an international theme, VCU’s role in the community, and our multi-disciplinary approach. Since no one show can begin to feature all that’s happening at VCU, we hope that the combination of all four episodes will communicate the VCU story. The first episode looked at our accomplishments to date and what’s ahead for the future.

“It’s VCU: Then, Now, 2020” premiered in November. The times will vary each quarter so that the show will be accessible to a wide range of audiences, including our students. An upcoming repeat is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 (1:30-2 p.m.). The schedule is available at <http://www.vcu.edu/itsvcu/>. *(information from Cynthia A. Schmidt, Director of University Marketing)*

## New and Competing Grant Awards – July to September 2005

Please join us in recognizing the following researchers who have received grant awards during July - September 2005. Data Source: InfoEd utilized by the VCU Office of Research. *(Thanks to Dr. George Ford, Assistant Dean of Medicine, Sponsored Programs Research, for this information.)*

### *Awards from Federal Sources*

#### Anatomy and Neurology

Simpson, David	National Institutes of Health	In Vitro Macrophage Response to Therapeutic Ultrasound	New Proposal	\$30,356
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**Biostatistics**

Archer, Kellie	National Institutes of Health	Individual Biomedical Informatics Fellowships	New Proposal	\$65,944
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**Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics**

Barbour, Suzanne	National Institutes of Health	Role of Vimentin, sPLA2 and Lyso PC in Autoimmune Disease	New Proposal	\$75,000
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Chen, Ching-Kang	National Institutes of Health	Recovery of Phototransduction	New Proposal	\$335,250
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Dent, Paul	National Institutes of Health	MDA-7IL-24 and Free Radicals in Renal Cancer Therapy	New Proposal	\$294,275
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Diegelmann, Robert	National Institutes of Health	Signaling in Tissue Injury and Repair	Competitive Renewal	\$110,767
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Fang, Xianjun	National Institutes of Health	Lysophospholipid in Neovascularization in Ovarian Cancer	New Proposal	\$231,570
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Spiegel, Sarah	National Institutes of Health	Sphingosine Kinases in Cancer Cell Signaling	Competitive Renewal	\$284,963
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**Emergency Medicine**

Rose, Samuel	Department of Health & Human Services	Virginia Poison Center Stabilization Grant	Competitive Renewal	\$165,124
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**Family Medicine**

Rothemich, Stephen	Department of Health & Human Services	QuitLink: A Leveraging Solution to Tobacco Counseling	New Proposal	\$223,841
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**Human Genetics**

Bodurtha, Joann	National Institutes of Health	Breast Cancer Risk-Tailored Messages for More Women	New Proposal	\$249,375
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Shiang, Rita	National Institutes of Health	Regulation of Treacher Collins Syndrome TCOF1 Gene	New Proposal	\$49,096
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Silberg, Judy	National Institutes of Health	Gene Environment Interplay in Infant Development	New Proposal	\$393,575
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**Internal Medicine**

Kuemmerle, John	National Institutes of Health	Growth and Function of Cultured Gastrointestinal Muscle	Competitive Renewal	\$307,500
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Grant, Steven	National Institutes of Health	CDK Histone Deacetylase Inhibition in Acute Leukemia	New Proposal	\$277,243
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Ginder, Gordon	Department of Energy	Expansion of Massey Cancer Center	New Proposal	\$1,205,000
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Roberts, John	Department of Health & Human Services	VCU Minority Based CCOP	Competitive Renewal	\$465,318
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**Massey Cancer Center**

Ginder, Gordon	Department of Health & Human Services	(Equipment Only)	New Proposal	\$982,065
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**Microbiology and Immunology**

Nicola, Anthony	National Institutes of Health	Herpes Simplex Virus Entry via Endocytosis (Research Scholar Development Award)	New Proposal	\$155,189
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**Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Strauss III, Jerome	National Institutes of Health	Mechanisms of Fetal Membrane Rupture	New Proposal	\$234,675
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**Pathology**

Elmore, Lynne	Department of Defense	A Novel Drug Induced Bystander Effect in Breast Tumor Cells	New Proposal	\$111,741
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Elmore, Lynne	National Institutes of Health	Genomic Instability and Senescence in Breast Cancer	New Proposal	\$124,644
Jackson-Cook, Colleen	National Institutes of Health	Aging and Genomic Changes: Role of Environment/Genetics	Competitive Renewal	\$348,856
<b><u>Pediatrics</u></b>				
Elsea, Sarah	National Institutes of Health	Molecular Analysis of Del(17)P11.2	New Proposal	\$236,250
Koch, William	Department of Health & Human Services	Influenza Pediatric Serum Survey	New Proposal	\$29,779
Marshall, Beth	National Institutes of Health	Cytomegalovirus Transmission in Pregnant Women	New Proposal	\$133,110
<b><u>Pharmacology and Toxicology</u></b>				
Akbarali, Hamid	National Institutes of Health	Cross-Sensitization Between the Bladder and Colon	New Proposal	\$270,100
Dewey, William	National Institutes of Health	Effects of Opiates on Cellular Mechanisms	Competitive Renewal	\$127,721
Lichtman, Aron	National Institutes of Health	Endocannabinoid Modulation of Memory	New Proposal	\$300,000
Miles, Michael	National Institutes of Health	Genetic and Genomic Analysis of Ethanol Anxiolysis	New Proposal	\$32,194
Povirk, Lawrence	National Institutes of Health	Repair of DNA Double-strand Breaks With Damaged Ends	Competitive Renewal	\$257,300
Povirk, Lawrence	National Institutes of Health	Tyrosyl-DNA Phosphodiesterase and Oxidative DNA Damage	New Proposal	\$263,250
White, Kimber	National Institutes of Health	Potential for Environmental & Therapeutic Agents to Induce Immunotoxicity	New Proposal	\$1,653,367
<b><u>Physiology</u></b>				
Grider, John	National Institutes of Health	Gut Peptides in Intestinal Peristalsis	Competitive Renewal	\$285,000
<b><u>Psychiatry</u></b>				
Stone, Carolyn	National Institutes of Health	Skin Savvy Study	New Proposal	\$109,765
<b><u>Radiology</u></b>				
Fatouros, Panos	National Institutes of Health	Metallofullerene Nanoplatform for Imaging and Treating Infiltrative Tumor	New Proposal	\$797,000
<b><i>Awards from Industrial Sources</i></b>				
<b><u>Anesthesiology</u></b>				
Green, Jeffrey	GlaxoSmithKline - Industry	HIT Happens at your Hospital: Are you ready?	New Proposal	\$10,000
Green, Jeffrey	Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	A Multi-Centre, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled, Dose Escalation Trial on Safety and Pharmacokinetics of Recombinant Factor XIII (rFXIII) in patients Following*	New Proposal	\$74,010
<b><u>Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics</u></b>				
Deb, Sumitra	Philip Morris Management Corp.	p53 Mutations and Mechanism of Oncogenesis in Lung Cells	New Proposal	\$337,323
<b><u>Emergency Medicine</u></b>				
Whitlow, Kenneth	Carolina Medical Center	Efficacy of Crotaline Fab Antivenom for Copperhead Envenomations	New Proposal	\$5,000

\*Grant title as available from InfoEd.

**Family Medicine**

Kuzel, Anton	Chippenham and Johnston Willis Hospital, Inc.	Clinical Education for VCU Family Medicine Residents	New Proposal	\$660,000
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**Internal Medicine**

Baker, Sherman	Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Phase II Randomized Open-Label Multi-center Study of Taxane/Carboplatin/Cetuximab versus Taxane/Carboplatin as First-Line Treatment for Patients with Advanced/Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	New Proposal	\$104,131
Ellenbogen, Kenneth	Guidant	U.S. Multi-center Clinical Application Research Study Rhythm ID Going Head to Head Trial	New Proposal	\$24,000
Ellenbogen, Kenneth	Sanofi-Synthelabo Research	A placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel are Trial to asses the efficacy of dronedarone 400mg bid for the prevention of cardiovascular Hospitalization or death from any causes in patients with Atrial fibrillation/ Atrial flutter (AF/AFL)” *	New Proposal	\$116,500
Ellenbogen, Kenneth	Sanofi-Synthelabo Research	Double BLind Placebo Controlled Dose Ranging Study of the Efficacy and Safety of SSR149744C 100 or 300 mg For The Prevention of Ventricular Arrhythmia-Triggered ICD Interventions	New Proposal	\$66,000
Fairman, R Paul	Lilly ICOS, LLC	A Double-Blind Extension Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Study And Efficacy of the Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE5) Inhibitor Tadalafil in the Treatment of Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	New Proposal	\$12,656
Fairman, R Paul	Lilly ICOS, LLC	A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 3 Study of The Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE5) Inhibitor Tadalafil in the Treatment of Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	New Proposal	\$26,100
Goudreau, Evelyne	TargeGen, Inc.	A Phase 1-2, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo Controlled, Prospective Study to Evaluate the Safety and Pontenial Efficacy of Single, Increasing Doses of TG100-115 in Subjects Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention for Acute Anterior S	New Proposal	\$72,701
McCarty, John	AnorMED	A Phase 2, Multicenter, Prospective, Observational, Open-label Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of AMD3100 (240mg/kg) Added to a G-CSF Mobilization Regimen in Poor Mobilizing Adult Patients Who Have Previously Failed Stem Cell Collection Attempts	New Proposal	\$17,438
Nixon, John	Medtronic	Registry of Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy	New Proposal	\$24,375
Roberts, John	Chiron Corporation	High Dose Interleukin-2 (IL-2) therapy in “Lymphodepleted Primed” Patients with Metastatic Melanoma	New Proposal	\$45,000

\*Grant title as available from InfoEd.

Sica, Domenic	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	A randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter study comparing an eight week treatment of aliskiren 75mg, 150mg and 300mg to placebo in patients with essential hypertension	New Proposal	\$114,800
<b><u>Massey Cancer Center</u></b>				
Chafe, Weldon	Telik, Inc.	Phase 3 Randomized Study of TLK286 (Telcyta) in Combination with Carboplatin (Paraplatin) versus Liposomal Doxorubicin (Doxil) as Second-Line therapy in Platinum Refractory or Resistant Ovarian Cancer	New Proposal	\$123,300
Chung, Theodore	GenVec, Inc.	A Randomized, Phase II Study of TNFerade Biologic with 5-FU and Radiation Therapy for Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer	New Proposal	\$41,616
<b><u>Microbiology and Immunology</u></b>				
Lebman, Deborah	Philip Morris Management Corp.	The Role of the Transforming Growth Factor-beta Pathway in Upper Digestive Tract Cancers	New Proposal	\$655,071
Tew, John	VaxDesign, Inc.	A Functional In Vitro Human Immune System	New Proposal	\$100,000
<b><u>Neurology</u></b>				
Felton, Warren	Elan Pharmaceuticals	Safety Protocol Amendment for Additional Safety Assessments Following Suspension of Study Drug Dosing in Subjects Who Have Participated in the Following Natalizumab Study:*	New Proposal	\$61,269
Felton, Warren	Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.	A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Ascending-dose Study of the Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of a Single, 1-Hour Infusion of TS-011 in Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) Patients”	New Proposal	\$76,999
Kernitsky, Lydia	Ovation Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Safety and Efficacy of Clobazam in Subjects with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome	New Proposal	\$44,027
<b><u>Neurosurgery</u></b>				
Marmarou, Anthony	Codman & Shurtleff, Inc.	Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) Registry	New Proposal	\$22,192
Bullock, M	Synthetic Blood International, Inc.	An Open Label, Proof Of Concept Study, To Evaluate The Safety and Biological Effects Of “Oxycyte”™ Perfluorocarbon in Patients with a Severe Head Injury Requiring Intracranial Pressure Monitoring	New Proposal	\$30,599
Ward, John	Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Clinical Review for Novo Nordisk F7CBI 1600 Study	New Proposal	\$127,023
<b><u>Obstetrics and Gynecology</u></b>				
Stovall, Dale	Wyeth-Ayerst Research	Double-Blind Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Dose Ranging Study of the Effects of ERB-041 in the Reduction of Symptoms Associated With Endometriosis in Reproductive Aged Women	New Proposal	\$24,200

\*Grant title as available from InfoEd.

**Pediatrics**

Elliott, Greg	Corus Pharma, Inc.	A Phase 3, Double-Blind, Multicenter, Randomized, placebo-controlled Trial with Aztreonam Lysinate for Inhalation in Cystic Fibrosis Patients with Pulmonary P. aeruginosa Requiring Frequent Antibiotics (AIR-CF2)	New Proposal	\$100,497
Godder, Kamar	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	A study to provide expanded access of EXJADE (deferasirox) to patients with congenital disorders of red blood cells and chronic iron overload from blood transfusions who cannot adequately be treated with other locally approved iron chelators	New Proposal	\$13,063
Godder, Kamar	Transkaryotic Therapies	An Open-Label Maintenance Clinical Study of Iduronate-2-Sulfatase Replacement Therapy in Patients with MPS II	New Proposal	\$44,150

**Pharmacology and Toxicology**

Satin, Leslie	Bayer Corporation Industry	Electrophysiological Actions of Bayer Insulintropic Agents	New Proposal	\$55,328
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**Physiology and Biophysics**

DeSimone, John	International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc.	Evaluation of IFF Alkylidienamides As Possible Agonists of the Rat VR1-Variant Salt Taste Receptor Using CT Recording Methods	New Proposal	\$16,057
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**Psychiatry**

Kornstein, Susan	Sanofi-Synthelabo Research	An eight-week, double-blind placebo-controlled, multicenter study with Escitalopram 10mg as pos control evaling the efficacy, safety, tolerability of fixed doses of SR58611A	New Proposal	\$141,897
Kornstein, Susan	Wyeth Pharmaceutical	A Multicenter, Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study of a Combination of Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol in Subjects with Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder	New Proposal	\$222,300

**Surgery**

Maher, James	United States Surgical Corporation	Fellowship Agreement	New Proposal	\$140,000
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***Awards from Other Sources*****Anatomy and Neurobiology**

Wei, Enoch	Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services	The Brain and Vascular Protection Provided by Posttraumatic Hypothermia	New Proposal	\$149,998
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**Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics**

Chalfant, Charles	American Heart Association	Ceramide 1 Phosphate is a Specific and Potent Activator of Cytosolic Phospholipase A2 Alpha	New Proposal	\$20,000
Deb, Swati	Jeffress	Function and Dysfunction of the Human Oncoprotein MDM2	Competitive Renewal	\$10,000
Ratz, Paul	American Heart Association (Mid-Atlantic Affiliate)	Mechanisms Causing Failure of Vascular Smooth Muscle to Contract	New Proposal	\$66,000

Spiegel, Sarah	American Heart Association (Mid-Atlantic Affiliate)	Regulation of Dendritic Cell Biology by the Immuno Suppressant FTY720	New Proposal	\$20,000
Zehner, Zendra	American Heart Association (Mid-Atlantic Affiliate)	The Role of Sp1 and ZBP-89 in Muscle Development	New Proposal	\$20,000
<b><u>Dean's Office Medicine</u></b>				
Mazmanian, Paul	Journal for Continuing Education in the Health	Editorial Services for the Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions	New Proposal	\$93,750
<b><u>Emergency Medicine</u></b>				
Feeser, V. Ramana	Jeffress	Optimization of Wound Healing by the Immune Regulating Hormone Androstenetriol	New Proposal	\$25,000
<b><u>Family Medicine</u></b>				
Wolf, Steven	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	A Comprehensive Practice Friendly Model for Promoting Healthy Behaviors	New Proposal	\$299,892
<b><u>Human Genetics</u></b>				
Bodurtha, Joann	Association of University Centers on Disabilities	Synergy Va-LEND and Genetic Counseling Working Together	New Proposal	\$47,500
Grotewiel, Michael	American Federation for Aging Research	Genetic Dissection of Functional Senescence in Drosophila	New Proposal	\$199,000
<b><u>Internal Medicine</u></b>				
Ghosh, Shobha	American Heart Association (Mid-Atlantic Affiliate)	Regulation of Macrophage Cholesterol Efflux	New Proposal	\$66,000
McCarty, John	National Marrow Donor Program	Phase III Rituxan/BEAM vs Bexxar/BEAM with Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplanta (ASCT) for Persistent or Relapsed Chemotherapy Sensitive Diffuse Large B-cell Non Hodgkin'	New Proposal	\$32,474
Moxley, George	American College of Rheumatology	ACR/REF Resident Research Preceptorship	New Proposal	\$15,000
Ren, Shunlin	Jeffress	Biochemical Study of Cholesterol Transporter in Bile Acid Synthesis	Competitive Renewal	\$10,000
Roberts, Neal	American College of Rheumatology	Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award	New Proposal	\$26,500
Roberts, Neal	American College of Rheumatology	Quantitative, Generational Cohort Based Approach to Rheumatology Recruitment	New Proposal	\$51,500
Vetrovec, George	Duke University Medical Center	Surgical Treatment for Ischemic Heart Failure	New Proposal	\$153,000
Wise, Christopher	Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.	A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel broup study of the safety and reduction of signs and symptoms during treatment with MRA versus placebo, in combination with methotrexate in patients with moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis	New Proposal	\$148,764
<b><u>Massey Cancer Center</u></b>				
Harada, Hisashi	American Society of Hematology	The Role of BIM, a BCL-2 Family Protein in Hematopoiesis	New Proposal	\$75,000
<b><u>Neurology</u></b>				
Churn, Severn	Epilepsy Foundation of America	Calcineurin-dependent Modulation of Neuronal Excitability in Status Epilepticus	New Proposal	\$20,000

**Otolaryngology**

Reiter, Evan	Richmond Eye and Ear Hospital Foundation	Assessment of Smell and Taste Impairment in Patients Undergoing Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer	New Proposal	\$40,000
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**Pediatrics**

Elliott, Greg	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	Cystic Fibrosis Program Center	New Proposal	\$62,195
Gutcher, Gary	Virginia Department of Health	Regional Perinatal Council	Competitive Renewal	\$122,000
Ratz, Paul	American Heart Association (Mid-Atlantic Affiliate)	Length Dependant Regulation of Tonic Force Maintenance in Rabbit Epigastric Artery	New Proposal	\$20,000

**Pharmacology and Toxicology**

Cook, Charles	Jeffress	Sex Differences in Chronic Pain and Opioid Antinociception: Role of the Serotonin System	New Proposal	\$25,000
Gewirtz, David	Civilian Research and Development Foundation	Genotoxic and Antineoplastic Effects of Bridged Nitrogen Atomocantaining Pyrimidines and their Acyclic Adducts	New Proposal	\$13,550
Lichtman, Aron	Pfizer Inc., U.S. Pharmaceuticals Group	Evaluation of FAAH (-/-) mice for antiinflammatory & anxiolytic/antidepressant effects	New Proposal	\$38,668
Lichtman, Aron	Scripps Research Institute	Enzymes that Regulate Fatty Acid Amide Function In Vivo	Competitive Renewal	\$110,000

**Physiology and Biophysics**

Witorsch, Raphael	Jeffress	G Screen Microassay for the Identification of Xenoglucocorticoids	Competitive Renewal	\$10,000
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**Psychiatry**

Riley, Brien	National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and	African Haplotype Studies of Schizophrenia Candidate Genes	New Proposal	\$29,998
Zhao, Zhongming	Jeffress CpG Islands	Analysis of Genetic Variation in Human	New Proposal	\$22,000

**Radiology**

Fatouros, Panos	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	An Optimized Nanosphere Platform for High Resolution Multi-Modality Imaging	New Proposal	\$214,991
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**Radiology Oncology**

Mikkelsen, Ross	American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology	The Role of Radiation Induced Tyrosine Nitration in Cellular Signaling Structural and Mechanistic Approach	New Proposal	\$30,000
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**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

Ericksen, Jeffery	American Geriatrics Society	Spine Stability Muscle Function in Older Women: Role of Gynecological History	New Proposal	\$150,000
Meade, Michelle	Reeve (Christopher) Paralysis Foundation	PosAbilities Unlimited: Outreach to Minority Populations with SCI	New Proposal	\$15,000

**Total School of Medicine: \$17,418,605**

# AD Williams Awards Announced

All funds come from the A.D. Williams Trust Funds unless otherwise noted.

## Award Cycle October 2005

**Dr. Susan K. Williams**, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was awarded \$14,475 in support of her application entitled "Social Skills Deficits and Anxiety in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders." This will come as \$10,975 from the Medical Research Endowment Funds, \$2,500 from the Bayliss Foundation, and \$1,000 from A. D. Williams Trust Funds.

**Dr. Eser Tufekci**, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Development of a Resin Modified Bioactive Glass Ionomer Cement for Orthodontic Bonding."

**Dr. Dong Sun**, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, was awarded \$15,000 in support of her application entitled "Transplantation of Adult Neuronal Stem/Progenitor Cells in Rat Brain following Traumatic Brain Injury."

**Dr. Amy Pakyz**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, was awarded \$14,700 in support of her application entitled "Epidemiology of Antibiotic Use in the University Health System Consortium Network and Bacterial Resistance."

**Dr. Roxann Roberson-Nay**, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was awarded \$14,974 in support of her application entitled "Children At-risk for Panic Disorders." This will come as \$8,974 from the Medical Research Endowment Funds and \$6,000 from the Friel Foundation.

**Dr. Allen Lewis**, Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling, was awarded \$14,155 in support of his application entitled "Understanding Serious Mental Illness in African-American Families."

**Dr. Daniel T. Riddle**, Professor of Physical Therapy, was awarded \$14,753 in support of his application entitled "Characterizing Psychological Distress in Patients Scheduled for Knee Replacement Therapy." This will come as \$8,000 from the Blanton Foundation and \$6,753 from the A. D. Williams Trust Funds.

## Award Cycle January 2006

**Dr. Bhavna Shroff**, Professor of Orthodontics, was awarded \$14,960 in support of her application entitled "Role of Osteoclasts during Tooth Eruption in the c-fos knock out Murine Model."

**Dr. Ningjun Li**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Transcriptional Determinants of Hyperhomocysteinemia in Rat Chromosome 13."

**Dr. Marie E. Anzalone**, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, was awarded \$1,175 in support of her application entitled "Computerized Analysis of Sensory-based Self-regulation during Maternal Infant Transactions: A Proposal for Technical Support and Training."

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 info, including applications: <http://views.vcu.edu/adw/>. (Thanks to Dr. George Ford for this information.)



## Did You Know?

The Medical Student Government, in keeping with VCU tradition, is working to resurrect "Skull and Bones," the School of Medicine's student newspaper. After taking a hiatus of several years, the latest edition was electronically published last month. It will be distributed throughout the School of Medicine to students. Faculty members interested in a copy can e-mail [mcvskullandbones@gmail.com](mailto:mcvskullandbones@gmail.com). It is also available at the MSG website (*best viewed with Microsoft Internet Explorer™*): <http://www.curriculum.som.vcu.edu/msgmed/SkullandBones1105.pdf>

The MSG hopes to publish the newspaper again in February and May. Kristin Ondecko, Class of 2007 and MSG Vice President of Publications, is overseeing the effort as Senior Editor. Van Ta, Class of 2009, was named as the Editor-in-Chief of "Skull and Bones." Additional students serving on the editorial board include Matt Morgan, Class of 2009 and Associate Editor; Mireille Truong, Class of 2008 and Design Editor; and Kevin Lee, Class of 2009 as Photographer and Publicity Coordinator.

## Get Your "Dogs on Call" Calendar!



The 2006 Dogs on Call Calendar is available from the Center for Human-Animal Interaction (CHAI) for \$10.00. The calendar features therapy dogs from our Dogs on Call Program at work in the VCU Medical Center. Proceeds support research, clinical and teaching activities to improve health and well-being through human-animal interaction. Contact Dr. Sandy Barker at 804-827-PAWS or [chai@vcu.edu](mailto:chai@vcu.edu). For more information about CHAI, visit their website at [www.chai.vcu.edu](http://www.chai.vcu.edu).

## Development Office News

### *Celebrating More than \$1 Million in Scholarship Support for MCV Campus Students*

With the cost of tuition arguably one of the most difficult issues facing today's medical students, the MCV Campus recently honored the generosity of alumni, faculty and friends who have made it possible for the MCV Foundation to distribute more than a million dollars in scholarships last year. At a brunch in October, scholarship donors and student recipients celebrated the lasting legacies that have been established through 137 scholarship funds on campus.

At the celebration, Dean of Medicine Jerry Strauss, MD, PhD, thanked donors for their generosity and shared how he had the opportunity to endow a scholarship at his alma mater in honor of his father. Attendees also heard from fourth-year student Ashley Hall, who spoke about the impact that the Harry and Harriet Grandis Family Scholarship has had on her life and her studies.

You can read more about the celebration at <http://www.vcu.edu/uns/news/vcuvew/archives/2005/oct/MCVscholbrunch.html> or see pictures at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/alumni/GalleryScholarshipBrunch05.html>

### *Thanking SOM Scholarship Donors*

To reinforce the cycle of giving, all medical students who receive scholarships are encouraged to write thank you letters to the donors who made the scholarships possible. On October 25, the Development Office hosted a "Thank You" Writing Party for students who received scholarships for the current fiscal year. Over a hot dinner, students learned more about their scholarships and got a start on their letters. More than a dozen letters were turned in that night, and more letters arrive each day.

There are about 60 privately endowed scholarships in the medical school. In addition, Aesculapian and Dean's Merit Scholarships are funded through the Annual Fund and at the Dean's discretion, respectively. We regularly hear feedback from donors who appreciate learning about their scholarship recipients. Some families have even been encouraged to make additional gifts to their scholarship endowments.

### *Dean's Tea*

On Sunday, October 23, Dr. Jerry Strauss and his wife Cathy greeted alumni, emeriti faculty and other friends from the Central Virginia area at the annual Dean's Tea. Dr. Sheldon Retchin was on hand to introduce the Dean to the more than 180 who came out to the afternoon reception at the Country Club of Virginia. Many guests took advantage of the chance to meet Dr. Strauss one-on-one as well as to connect with long-time friends and colleagues. An alumni reception was also held at the Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach on Sunday, December 4.



## Did You Know?

Every year (if funds are available) the Dean approves **SOM Summer Research Fellowships** for our medical students. This year we hope to have about 15 fellowships funded at \$3,000 a piece. Students are guided to sponsors via the Office of Student Activities, Dr. Isaac Wood, Associate Dean. Contact Dr. Wood at [iwood@vcu.edu](mailto:iwood@vcu.edu) for questions or if you are willing to be a sponsor. Include your area of research.



## WISDM Book Club: Come and Bring a Friend!

Please join us to discuss the book, **A Fortune-Teller Told Me: Earthbound Travels in the Far East**, by **Tiziano Terzani** (1997, paperback 2002, travel memoir) at Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 6pm dinner (we'll finish around 8pm), Cafe Gutenberg, 1700 E. Main Street, Shockoe Bottom. Facilitators: Dr. Joyce Lloyd (Human Genetics) & Dr. Michelle Meade (PM&R). All are welcome! Sponsored by the Women in Science, Dentistry and Medicine Faculty Organization.

## WISDOM "Pathways to Leadership" Conference, Friday, March 17, Marriott Hotel, Richmond, VA



"Why So Slow?" is a question often posed regarding advancement of women in the professions and is the theme of the 14th Annual Women in Science, Dentistry, Osteopathy, and Medicine (WISDOM) "Pathways to Leadership" Conference. The question will be addressed in plenary and workshop sessions by Virginia Valian, PhD, a professor of psychology and linguistics at Hunter College, NY, who uses science-based concepts and data to explain the disparity in the professional advancement of women and men. Her goal is to make visible the invisible factors that retard women's progress. Dr. Valian is featured nationally in responding to Harvard President Dr. Lawrence Summers' remarks in 2005, in which he speculated that women may face a biological disadvantage compared to men in math and science.



Addressing the issue "Having It All and Keeping Your Integrity as a Woman" will be Jennifer Daley, MD, who as the Sr. VP for Clinical Quality and Chief Medical Officer, is the highest ranking woman physician at Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Dallas, TX.

Workshop topics include CPT coding and practice management; presenting with PowerPoint; attracting and retaining the best employees; salary negotiation; women in leadership success stories, and implications/consequences of sex differences in the workplace.

VCU Schools of Medicine and Dentistry are 2 of the 8 sponsors of the one-day conference. Registration is \$150 for practitioners/faculty/staff/community leaders, and \$75 for students and trainees. Scholarships are available for resident physicians; medical, dental and graduate students; fellows, and post-docs. A brochure with complete information is located at <http://www.apps.som.vcu.edu/cme/calendar/>. Online registration is available at: [www.cmeregistration.som.vcu.edu](http://www.cmeregistration.som.vcu.edu). For questions, contact C. Hettema, [crhettm@vcu.edu](mailto:crhettm@vcu.edu), 828-5416, or C. Hampton, [carol.hampton@vcu.edu](mailto:carol.hampton@vcu.edu), 828-6594. **Join us for renewed energy and insights!**

## Children's Hospital in Works for Downtown



Children's Hospital of Richmond and VCU Health System officials recently announced plans to build a freestanding 75- to 100-bed children's hospital on the medical campus. The facility will be on the block bordered by 10th and 11th and Marshall and Broad streets. It will be connected to a parking garage that VCU already had planned to build on the block, currently occupied by a parking lot and the VCU Children's Pavilion building. The Children's Pavilion, which houses outpatient services, will be torn down as part of the project.

The cost of building the new facility is estimated to be \$100 million to \$150 million. Funding for the project will be raised through capital campaigns and financing arranged by the Children's Hospital Foundation and the VCU Health System. Children's Hospital will build and own the facility on the VCU campus, and the VCU Health System will operate it. By April, Children's Hospital officials expect to complete a detailed financial analysis that will help them set fundraising and financing goals.

Though much of the regional population growth is in the counties surrounding Richmond, VCU remains one of the busiest medical centers in the region, with more than 28,000 patient admissions and more than 170,000 patient days in 2004, according to data in Virginia Health Information's 2005 Industry Report. HCA Inc.'s CJW Medical Center, with two campuses, is busier, with more than 32,000 admissions and more than 191,000 patient days in 2004.

*(Excerpted from article in the Richmond Time-Dispatch by Tammie Smith)*

## 2005 SOM Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

The SOM held its 7th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 12th. Many faculty, staff, and students came out to recognize and honor our outstanding faculty at VCU. Photos of the event are available on the SOM website at [http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/ofid/2005\\_Teaching\\_Awards/](http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/ofid/2005_Teaching_Awards/). *Thank you to everyone for your continued support!*

## *The Awards*



### **The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**

Robert F. Diegelmann, PhD  
Professor, Departments of Biochemistry, Anatomy, and Emergency Medicine



### **The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching**

Alpha (Berry) A. Fowler, III, MD  
Professor, Department of Internal Medicine  
Chair, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine



### **The Distinguished Mentor in Basic Sciences Award**

Roland N. Pittman, PhD  
Professor, Departments of Physiology, Biomedical Engineering  
and Emergency Medicine



### **The Distinguished Mentor in Clinical Sciences Award**

David X. Cifu, MD  
Herman J. Flax, MD Professor and Chair  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation



### **The Educational Research Award**

J. Dennis Hoban, EdD  
Director, Educational Research, School of Medicine Dean's Office



### **The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award**

presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation  
Linda J. Abbey, MD  
Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine



### **Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement Award**

Ann S. Fulcher, MD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Radiology



### **The MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award**

James L. Levenson, MD  
Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Medicine, and Surgery  
Chair, Division of Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry

## *Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in Health Sciences Education*

### **John W. Bigbee, PhD**

Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology

### **William M. Grogan, PhD**

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

### **W. Hans Carter, PhD**

Department of Biostatistics

### **Saba W. Masho, MD, DrPH**

Department of Epidemiology and Community Health

### **Hermine H. Maes, PhD**

Department of Human Genetics

### **Gail E. Christie, PhD**

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

### **David A. Gewirtz, PhD**

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

### **George D. Ford, PhD**

Department of Physiology

## *Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education*

### **Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards**

#### M-I Courses

Neil Sonenklar, MD  
Raymond J. Colello, PhD  
John W. Bigbee, PhD  
Virginia A. Pallante, MS  
John J. Ryan, PhD  
Glenn C. Van Tuyle, PhD  
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD  
Richard M. Costanzo, PhD  
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD  
Michael B. Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA

Behavioral Sciences I  
Gross and Developmental Anatomy  
Histology  
Human Genetics  
Immunology  
Medical Biochemistry  
Medical Bioethics  
Neurosciences  
Physiology  
Population Medicine

#### M-II Courses

Isaac K. Wood, MD  
Mark A. Wood, MD  
Michael L. Hess, MD  
Elizabeth J. Waterhouse, MD  
Diane Biskobing, MD  
John D. Long, MD  
Richard K. Sterling, MD  
Jonathan Ben-Ezra, MD  
Guy A. Cabral, PhD  
Carol Roberts R.N., MS  
David X. Cifu, MD  
Christopher M. Wise, MD  
Enrique Gerszten, MD  
Nitya R. Ghatak, MD  
Margaret M. Grimes, MD  
H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD  
Edward J.N. Ishac, PhD  
Susan R. DiGiovanni, MD  
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD  
James M. Messmer, MD, MEd  
Thomas C. Peng, MD  
James M. Messmer, MD, MEd

Behavioral Sciences II  
Cardiovascular  
Cardiovascular  
Central Nervous System  
Endocrine  
Gastrointestinal  
Gastrointestinal  
Hematology/Oncology  
Microbiology  
Medical Bioethics  
Musculoskeletal  
Musculoskeletal  
Pathogenesis (Lab Teaching)  
Pathogenesis (Lab Teaching)  
Pathology Teaching  
Pathology Teaching  
Pharmacology  
Renal  
Renal  
Respiratory  
Women's Health  
Radiology Teaching

#### M-I and M-II Courses

Gerald Dewitt, MD  
Richard Schieken, MD  
Anthony Fierro, MD  
Valerie Mutchler-Fornili, MD  
Charles Stuckey, MD  
Nicolas Tulou, MD

Foundations of Clinical Medicine  
Foundations of Clinical Medicine  
Foundations of Clinical Medicine  
Foundations of Clinical Medicine  
Foundations of Clinical Medicine  
Foundations of Clinical Medicine

#### M-III Clerkships

Charles Driscoll, MD  
Todd Gehr, MD  
Suzanne Lavoie, MD  
Neal Roberts, MD  
Lenore N. Joseph, MD  
Catherine Nichols, MD  
Barry V. Kirkpatrick, MD  
Joel A. Blum, MD  
Huan Vu, MD

Family Medicine  
Medicine  
Medicine  
Medicine  
Neurology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Pediatrics  
Psychiatry  
Surgery

## Faculty with High Evaluation Awards

### M-I Courses

Dorothy A. O'Keefe, MD  
Jeffrey L. Dupree, PhD  
Randall E. Merchant, PhD  
Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, PhD  
Deborah A. Leberman, PhD  
Carmen Sato-Bigbee, PhD  
George R. Leichnetz, PhD  
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD  
George D. Ford, PhD  
Raphael J. Witorsch, PhD

Behavioral Sciences I  
Gross and Developmental Anatomy  
Histology  
Human Genetics  
Immunology  
Medical Biochemistry  
Neurosciences  
Population Medicine  
Physiology  
Physiology

### M-II Courses

Neil Sonenklar, MD  
Kathryn Holloway, MD  
Andrea Hastillo, MD  
John N. Clore, MD  
Melissa J. Contos, MD  
James H. Bonomo, Chaplain  
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD  
Francine M. Cabral, PhD  
Charles E. Shuff, MD  
Mark C. Willis, MD  
Robert G. Lamb, PhD  
H. Davis Massey, MD, PhD  
Alpha A. Fowler, III, MD  
R. Paul Fairman, MD  
Philippe H. Girerd, MD  
Catherine M. Nichols, MD  
William Rosenblum, MD  
Curtis W. Hayes, MD

Behavioral Sciences II  
Central Nervous System  
Cardiovascular  
Endocrine  
Gastrointestinal  
Hematology/Oncology  
Hematology/Oncology  
Microbiology  
Musculoskeletal  
Musculoskeletal  
Pharmacology  
Renal  
Respiratory  
Respiratory  
Women's Health  
Women's Health  
Pathology Teaching  
Radiology Teaching

### M-III Clerkships

Jay Kuemmerle, MD  
Harriet Foster, MD  
Edward J. Gill, MD  
Susan Lanni, MD  
Martin Graham, MD  
Sean McKenna, MD  
William C. Koch, MD  
Linda D. Meloy, MD  
Regina M. Milteer, MD  
Hernan T. Gatuslao, MD  
Esam Alkhawaga, MD  
Phil Collins, MD  
Amenra Tuason, MD  
Ronald C. Merrell, MD  
Reed Lambert, MD

Medicine  
Medicine  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Pediatrics  
Pediatrics  
Pediatrics  
Pediatrics  
Pediatrics  
Neurology  
Psychiatry  
Psychiatry  
Psychiatry  
Surgery  
Family Medicine

## Departmental News

### *Massey Cancer Center*



**Mary Helen Hackney, MD**, an oncologist and member of the Breast Health Center at VCU's Massey Cancer Center, received the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation's 2005 Sharon H. Kohlenberg Healthcare Service Award. The VBCF presents this award annually to individuals who make a difference in the Commonwealth and go above and beyond the call of duty in caring for those affected by breast cancer. Kohlenberg's son, Sam Kohlenberg, presented the award during VBCF's fall event on October 18.

Dr. Hackney serves as director of Massey's Rural Cancer Outreach Program, which provides oncology services to cancer patients in rural communities who have limited access to oncology care services. She logs hundreds of miles each year traveling throughout Virginia to treat these patients. In addition to treating patients, Dr. Hackney teaches hematology/oncology at the VCU School of Medicine; works with medical students on their oncology rotations; and mentors medical residents on breast cancer care. She started her career at Massey as a resident in 1988, and joined the faculty in 1994.

Two of Dr. Hackney's colleagues at Massey, Harry D. Bear, MD, PhD, and Thomas J. Smith, MD, earned the Kohlenberg Award previously.

The Kohlenberg Award was established in 1995, in honor of the memory of Sherry Kohlenberg, former director of the VCU Health System's department of risk management and co-founder of the VBCF. Following her diagnosis of breast cancer in 1990, she became an outspoken breast cancer activist until succumbing to cancer in 1993. Finding a dearth of books that could help a child deal with the sorrows, hopes and fears of a family battling life-threatening illness, Sherry wrote her own, titled *Sammy's Mommy Has Cancer*, when her son was a toddler. "Sammy," now a high school senior, presented the award to Dr. Hackney. (*Information from Andrea Butler, Massey Cancer Center*)

**Paul Dent, PhD**, associate professor of Biochemistry and Radiation Oncology, led the Massey Cancer Center research team that reported on two new drugs, which when combined, killed up to 75 percent of breast cancer tumor cells in mice and suppressed the regrowth of tumors. The findings, published online Nov. 14 in the journal *Cancer Biology and Therapy*, may also have implications for prostate cancer, lymphoma, myeloma and other hematologic cancers.

This new study translates its 2002 research that showed early success in the lab and more recently was tested in live animals. In this new study, researchers combined two novel drugs, UCN-01 and a MEK 1/2 inhibitor, which are known to inhibit protein kinases, part of tumor survival signaling pathways. "In addition to potently inhibiting cells and suppressing tumor growth, these drugs are also part of a modern class of drugs that less toxic to non-cancerous cells," said Dent. "We are eager to move these exciting findings from the labs to patients."

When studied separately, the drugs only killed a small percent of the cells to which they were exposed. Combined, however, the result was quite startling. "Within five days, we saw profound tumor cell death," Dent said. "Three researchers in the group operated the same studies independently, and they all saw very similar results."

The research was funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Dent holds the Universal Corp. Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Cell Signaling. The first author on the paper was William Hawkins, MS. To view the abstract and access the full study, visit <http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/cbt/abstract.php?id=2286>. (*information from David Raine, Massey Cancer Center*)

### ***Department of Anatomy***

**Jeffery Taubenberger**, an alumnus, M'86, PhD'87 (Anatomy), now working at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Maryland, is the lead author of the 1918 flu sequencing study in the Oct 6 issue of *Nature*. The study is an analysis of the full genome sequence of the 1918 human influenza virus. His work is referenced repeatedly in the second half of the NY Times article below and is also described in a review on the Nature Website at <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v437/n7060/full/437794a.html> Dr. Taubenberger was named Medicine's Alumni Star in 1999, about four years after his work with the bird flu virus began. The current publication is controversial, as some scientists have raised concerns about the dangers of resurrecting the virus and the possibility that the recreated strain might escape.

### ***Department of Biochemistry***

On October 28-29 the Department of Biochemistry hosted its third annual **Undergraduate Research Symposium**. This event is a forum for the presentation of research projects performed by students enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the Southeast. Participants have the opportunity to present research posters to a diverse audience, consisting of graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from VCU and other participating universities.

Students had the opportunity to view the presentations in the Signaling and Metabolism of Bioactive Lipids (SMBL) Research Retreat. This event (held concurrently with the Undergraduate Research Symposium) featured poster presentations by pre- and post-doctoral scientists whose research interests focus on such areas as phospholipases and lipid metabolism, the regulation of gene expression by lipids and their metabolites, bone and mineral metabolism, lipoprotein structure and function, the biochemical pathways elicited through interactions between bioactive lipids and neuronal cells.

The event started with a Keynote Address by Dr. Philip Hylemon, Department of Microbiology and Immunology. More information at <http://www.vcu.edu/biochem/department/news-sym2.shtml>

### *Department of Internal Medicine*



**Richard Wenzel, MD, MSc**, (Chair) was recently invited to give a presentation at the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin at the celebration of Dr. Koch's receipt of the Nobel Prize 100 years ago.



**Mitchell Schubert, MD** (Gastroenterology) has been named Associate Chair: Esophageal, Gastric and Duodenal (EGD) section of the American Gastroenterological Association, and Member, Abstract Selection Committee: EGD Regulation of Gastric Secretion (American Gastroenterological Association).



**John Kummerle, MD** (Gastroenterology) has been named Member, Editorial Board of American Journal of Physiology and Associate Editor of Digestive Disease Self-Education Program.



**Tom Smith, MD** (Hematology/Oncology) received the first annual Mark Schaffner Memorial Lecturer at the City of Hope National Medical Center honoring Dr. Schaffner's commitment to medical advances and caring for the individual

**Christopher Kepley, PhD** (Rheumatology) has been appointed to the Research Advisory Board Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, 2005. Dr. Kepley has also been received an American College of Rheumatology Clinical Scholar Educator Award for 2005.

**Lei Xi, MD**, Assistant Professor (Division of Cardiology), has been appointed as member of Study Section 1B, Mid-Atlantic Research Consortium of American Heart Association, beginning January 2006. The Study Section 1B reviews research grant proposals submitted by investigators from 7 Mid-Atlantic states (PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, NC, SC), under any of the following science categories: Electrophysiology & Regulation of Arrhythmias; Vascular Biology & Blood Pressure Regulation; Cardiovascular Regulation (Autonomic).

### *Department of Pathology*

**Sallie S. Cook, MD**, Associate Clinical Professor of Pathology, has received its Award for the Advancement of Patient Safety from The Doctor's Company, a leading physician-owned medical malpractice insurance provider. The award is designed to draw public and industry attention to the importance of patient safety within the medical profession and to recognize physicians who demonstrate leadership in this area. For more than 15 years, Dr. Cook has made a unique contribution to the patient safety movement through her work with the Virginia Health Quality Center (VHQC), a health care quality improvement organization and the designated Patient Safety Organization for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Cook is currently the corporate medical officer and senior clinical advisor for quality improvement initiatives at VHQC. In addition, Dr. Cook is immediate past-president of Virginians Improving Patient Care and Safety (VIPCS), a coalition of more than 40 organizations dedicated to improving health care quality and patient safety. This year she received their Distinguished Leadership in Patient Safety Award. She is currently president-elect of the American Health Quality Association (AHQA).

Dr. Cook joined the VHQC in 1990 after serving as medical director of the Blood Bank at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Hospitals. She is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and the subspecialty of blood banking. She also serves on the board of directors of Virginia Blood Services, Centralized Credentials Verification Services, and formerly chaired the Medical Affairs Section of AHQA. Dr. Cook earned her MD from VCU School of Medicine and completed her residency training in pathology at MCV Hospitals. *Web Site:* <http://www.thedoctors.com>

## *Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology*



**Dr. Edward JN Ishac** has been appointed to The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Pharmacology test committee for preparation of the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) Step 1 examination. The NBME is an independent, non-profit organization that prepares and administers the USMLE Step exams to all medical school students nationwide. The tests determine if an applicant is competent enough to practice medicine and assesses the important concepts of the sciences basic to the practice of medicine, with special emphasis on principles and mechanisms underlying health, disease, and modes of therapy. The Step 1 exam ensures mastery of not only the sciences that provide a foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine in the present, but also the scientific principles required for maintenance of competence through lifelong learning.

## *Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*



**Paul Wehman, PhD** (Professor and Chair, Division of Research) has been awarded a 5-year, \$2.5 million grant from the US Department of Education to provide Vocational Rehabilitation training for the mid-Atlantic region and assess outcomes on return to work for the disabled. The grant commenced 10/1/05



**Jeff Ericksen, MD** (Associate Professor and Medical Director of PM&R Services of the VCUHS) was awarded a 2-year, \$200,000 career investigator award from the Jahnigen Foundation to assess the impact of prior gynecologic surgery on low back and pelvic pain in older adult females. This research will be performed at VCU's GCRC. This grant commenced 9/15/05.

## *Department of Psychiatry*



**Ellie McCance-Katz, MD, PhD**, Professor of Psychiatry and Chair, Division of Addiction Psychiatry, spoke at the National Press Club on Tuesday, November 29, as part of a presentation led by Dr. Nora D. Volkow, the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The press briefing launched NIDA's new public awareness campaign on the relationship between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. A scientific meeting to share and discuss the latest scientific research on the connection between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse followed the press briefing. Dr. McCance-Katz is internationally recognized as an authority on the treatment of opiate addiction in people with HIV disease.

## *Department of Radiology*



**Dr. James Messmer, MD, MEd**, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Professor of Radiology, was recently elected to AOA, the national honor medical society which seeks to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession.

The organization promotes scholarship and research in medical schools, encourages a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates, and recognizes high attainment in medical science, practice, and related fields.

The VCU chapter of AOA is **Brown Sequard**. To be considered for membership, VCU faculty must be nominated by a current AOA member. Elections are held yearly at a meeting of the membership in February. Criteria for nomination include excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. Students are elected in August. Faculty, housestaff and alumni are elected in January or February. Effective July 1, 2005, Gordon Archer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Research, serves as Councilor for the VCU chapter of AOA and is the primary contact person.

**Faculty Membership** <http://www.alphaomegaalpha.org/AOAMain/GeneralInformation.htm>. For information about VCU AOA, go to: <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/ofid/awards/aoa.htm>.

## Professionalism Update

**570 SOM faculty** members have confirmed their commitment to the "Standards of Professionalism" by signing a commitment form and returning it the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development since the start of the School of Medicine Professional Initiative in FY '03. This academic year, the 4 x 6"



pocket card listing the “Standards” was distributed to our first year medical students during the white coat ceremony, to our third year students at the beginning of their rotations in August, and to our housestaff in July.

Look for a reminder letter with a pocket card to faculty January 2006. We hope you will refer to the Standards in support of teaching in classroom, lab, small groups, and at the bedside, and as they apply in daily activities across the academic medical center. A robust website with teaching cases, how to report concerns, standards and policies, list of professional committee members, referral information, and many other resources is at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/>

Since January 2003, 16 concerns have been reported to the Professionalism Committee members with 12 resolved and four active, some involving intervention by department chairs with faculty members in their respective departments. Nine (9) of the complaints were about faculty members, 3 about medical students, 2 about resident physicians, 1 about a staff members and 1 unknown. Complaints involved 10 different departments.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact any member of the Professionalism Committee. For pocket cards or teaching resources, contact Carol Hampton, [carol.hampton@vcu.edu](mailto:carol.hampton@vcu.edu), 828-6594. The VCUHS Medical Staff Standards of Conduct Policy is also linked from the website at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/standards.html>, contact Dr. Ron Clark, Associate Dean for Clinical Activities, [rclark@vcu.edu](mailto:rclark@vcu.edu), 828-4654/

- Dr. Cheryl Al-Mateen, Psychiatry, 828-3296, [csalmate@vcu.edu](mailto:csalmate@vcu.edu)
- Dr. Diane Biskobing, Internal Medicine, 828-9695, [dbiskobi@vcu.edu](mailto:dbiskobi@vcu.edu)
- Dr. Melissa Bradner, Family Medicine, 646-6855, [mkbradne@vcu.edu](mailto:mkbradne@vcu.edu)
- Dr. Jan Chlebowski, Graduate Education, 828-1023, [chlebows@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:chlebows@mail2.vcu.edu)
- Dr. Ron Clark, Internal Medicine, 828-4654, [rclark@vcu.edu](mailto:rclark@vcu.edu)
- Dr. Philippe Girerd, OB/GYN, 828-1809, [pgirerd@vcu.edu](mailto:pgirerd@vcu.edu)
- Carol Hampton, Faculty and Instructional Development, 828-6594, [carol.hampton@vcu.edu](mailto:carol.hampton@vcu.edu)
- Dr. Joyce Lloyd, Human Genetics, 828-9632, [jlloyd@mail2.vcu.edu](mailto:jlloyd@mail2.vcu.edu)
- Dr. James Messmer, Undergraduate Medical Education, 828-8691, [jmessme@vcu.edu](mailto:jmessme@vcu.edu)
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### ***Standards of Professional Behavior***

These standards describe behaviors expected from faculty, housestaff, and students in the School of Medicine:

- Recognize their positions as role models for other members of the health care team.
- Carry out academic, clinical and research responsibilities in a conscientious manner, make every effort to exceed expectations and make a commitment to life-long learning.
- Treat patients, faculty, housestaff and students with humanism and sensitivity to diversity in characteristics such as culture, age, gender, disability, social and economic status, sexual orientation, etc. without discrimination, bias or harassment.
- Maintain patient confidentiality.
- Be respectful of the privacy of all members of the medical campus community and avoid promoting gossip and rumor.
- Interact with all other members of the health care team in a helpful and supportive fashion without arrogance and with respect and recognition of the roles played by each individual.
- Provide help or seek assistance for any member of the health care team who is recognized as impaired in his/her ability to perform his/her professional obligations.
- Be mindful of the limits of one's knowledge and abilities and seek help from others whenever appropriate.
- Abide by accepted ethical standards in the scholarship, research and standards of patient care.
- Abide by the guidelines of the [VCU Honor System](#).

# MCV Physicians Appoints VP of Ambulatory Care and Director of Billing

On January 6, 2006, James J. Potyraj, Executive Director, MCV Physicians, announced the recruitment of 2 new individuals to MCV Physicians.

**Ms. Jalana L. McCasland** will be joining MCVP as the new Vice President of Ambulatory Care. Ms. McCasland is currently the Administrator of Ambulatory Operations with the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, VA. In that role she is administratively responsible for their 500,000 visits per year outpatient program, and manages a \$40 million operating budget. Prior to UVa, Ms. McCasland was Vice President, External Programs and Clinics at the University of Texas Health Center in Tyler, Texas. She has extensive experience in ambulatory care operations and is the Chair Elect of the Clinic Advisory Board of the University Health System Consortium (UHC). She holds a B.S. and an M.P.A. from the University of Texas and brings a wealth of training and experience to her new position. Ms. McCasland will start January 30, 2006. Ms. Deborah Justis, who was recently promoted to Director of Ambulatory Care Nursing, will report to Ms. McCasland.

**Mr. Gregory V. Strickland** was selected as the new Director of MCV Physicians Billing and Revenue Cycle. Mr. Strickland is currently the Administrative Director of the Department of Radiology with the University of Virginia School of Medicine. In that role, he is responsible for all aspects of departmental operations, including billing both for the physician professional fees, as well as the hospital technical charges. In addition to his knowledge of billing, Mr. Strickland has solid experience in both clinical departmental operations and in hospital operations. This experience will be extremely valuable as we build upon the achievements and improvements gained under the interim management of Ms. Roberta Parillo. Prior to UVa, Mr. Strickland was with Arthur Young, a professional accounting firm. Mr. Strickland holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and a M.H.A. from VCU.

Each candidate was identified through a rigorous national search conducted by an internal search committee assisted by a professional recruiting firm from Houston, Texas. All qualified candidates were interviewed with the final candidates invited to Richmond for on-site interviews. Separate searches were conducted for each position. Special acknowledgement goes to Ms. Parillo, interim Director of MCVP Billing Services; who helped immensely during her year at MCVP.



**Office of Faculty and Instructional Development**  
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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](mailto:kkreutzer@vcu.edu).**

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*Thanks to all those who have provided information for this newsletter*