

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – October 2001 – Vol 5 , No. 1

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department Chair Search Update

Dr. Sarah Spiegel from Georgetown University has accepted our offer for the position of **Chair of Biochemistry**. She will be transitioning during the fall with full-time start date of December 1, 2001. Many thanks to the search committee, led by Dr. Phil Hylemon (Microbiology and Immunology), for its excellent work!

The **Human Genetics Chair Search Committee** (Dr. David Wilkinson, Pathology, Chair) is continuing work after an offer to an external candidate was declined earlier this year.

Dr. Tilahun Adera, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, was selected as the new Chair of the **Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health**, effective September 1. Many thanks to the search committee, led by Dr. John Seeds (OB-GYN) for its dedicated work! *Congratulations to Dr. Adera!*

The **Neurology Search Committee** Dr. Allan Towne, Interim Chair of Neurology, is to be congratulated. He will move into the permanent chairmanship pending Board of Visitors approval. Dr. John Ward (Neurosurgery) and the rest of the Search Committee are also to be congratulated for finding so many good candidates.

SOM 3rd Annual Teaching Excellence Awards

Attend our SOM 3rd Annual Teaching Awards presentation on **Monday, October 22, 2001, 12:15pm**, Medical Sciences Building Auditorium with luncheon following on the Plaza. Join your colleagues to celebrate and reward exemplary teaching by our faculty.

Welcome to the Class of 2005!

Here is a profile of the new MI Medicine Class: We had 3683 applicants and seated a class of 180 students - 112 from Virginia (62.22%) and 68 from out of state; 17 were from California (9.44%), 14 from Maryland (7.78%), and 8 from NC (4.44%). A total of 19 states are represented in this class.

There are 87 women (48.33%) and 93 men (51.67%). 14 are African-American (7.78%) and 1 American Indian for a total underrepresented minority percentage of 8.34%.

39.66% majored in biology, 8.38% were chemistry majors and there are also english, art, foreign language, history and music majors among the 36 different majors represented.

There are 62 undergraduate schools represented. The largest number were from the University of Virginia (38 - 21.11%), VCU (19 - 10.56%), William & Mary (9 - 5%), Virginia Tech (8 - 4.44%), and Duke and James Madison University with 7 each for 3.89%. Other Virginia schools represented are George Mason (5), Hampden-Sydney (2), Hampton (1), Hollins (1), Mary Washington (2), Sweet Briar (1), University of Richmond (3), Virginia Military Institute (1), Virginia Union (1), and Washington & Lee (3).

Nationally, we have attracted a wide variety of graduates, but some schools of note are Stanford (4), UCLA (2), UC - SD (4) and UC - Davis (4), Brigham Young University (3), Cornell, Dartmouth, Williams, MIT, Wake Forest, Davidson, Vanderbilt and the US Naval Academy.

The average age is 22.7, with 140 in the 20-25 range, 28 in the 25-30 range and one student over the age of 35. (*Thanks to Dr. Cynthia Heldberg, Associate Dean of Admissions, for this information.*)

New Faculty Orientation

The 2001 SOM New Faculty Orientation will be conducted **Monday, October 22, 2001, 7:30am - 5pm** in the Medical Sciences Building, Rooms 104 and 105. It is designed for all full or part-time clinical, basic sciences, and administrative faculty hired since June 2000, and is open to any SOM faculty member interested in attending. This year, the program is designed in "content blocks" including a SOM Overview, the Educational Environment, Educational Resources, Getting into Research at VCU, and the Clinical Enterprise. Faculty are invited to register for the entire program or for individual blocks that may be of particular interest. To register, contact Peggy King in the Office of Continuing Medical Education, 828-5418, or peggy.king@vcu.edu. For other questions, contact Carol Hampton, Associate Dean, Faculty and Instructional Development, 828-6594, carol.hampton@vcu.edu.

New Curriculum Coordinators Selected

As previously announced, Dr. Newsome, Dean of the School of Medicine, and Dr. James Messmer, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education decided to effect changes in the organizational structure of the curriculum office to help the office operate more effectively and allow others to participate. They are pleased to announce the new curriculum coordinators:

The M1 Coordinator is Deborah Lebman, Ph.D. (Microbiology & Immunology). Deb is the course director for M1 Immunology and has been on our faculty for over ten years. She has a strong interest in medical education and has worked with medical and graduate students. She even has had experience as a high school science teacher!

The M2 Coordinator is Diane Biskobing, M.D. (Internal Medicine). Diane has been the course director for M2 Endocrine and also has a long history of interest in medical education. She has worked with Dean Parmelee in reviewing M2 exams and has served on the SOM curriculum teaching awards selection committee.

The M1-2 Preclinical Coordinator is Philippe Girerd (OB-GYN). Philippe has been course director for the M2 Women's Health course for five years and was the M3 Clerkship Director for OB/GYN for nine years until this July. He has reduced his private practice efforts and will be returning to the SOM full time. He has long been recognized by M3 students for his excellent teaching.

The M3 Coordinator is Elizabeth Waterhouse, M.D. (Neurology). Elizabeth has been member of the faculty since 1994 and currently is the Program Director for the Residency Program in Neurology. She has worked actively with M3 students during their Neurology rotation and has received several teaching awards in Neurology.

Next A.D. Williams Grant Deadline is November 1

The A.D. Williams family left a generous bequest to support medical scholarship and research at the MCV Campus. 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.

The next deadline for these awards is November 1, 2001. Applications received after the close of business on a deadline will be held until the following deadline for review, i.e., an application turned in on Nov. 2 would be reviewed along with those meeting the Feb.1 deadline. All applications are to be delivered to Linda Johnson in Room #6 of the Nursing Education Building. You may contact Dr. George Ford, Executive Secretary of the A. D. Williams Research Advisory Committee by phone (828-9501) or E-mail (Ford@hsc.vcu.edu). Application forms and instructions may be obtained by either calling Linda Johnson at 828-5174 or by downloading the forms from views.vcu.edu/adw in PDF file format.

VCU Center for Teaching Excellence Small Grant Program Announcement for Fall 2001

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) would like to request proposals from the faculty for small grants to support their teaching efforts. The purpose of this program is to supply the faculty with necessary resources to improve their delivery of classroom instruction. The program is being broadly conceived and could include requests ranging from travel money to attend teaching conferences, software and/or hardware purchases, release time in order to revise or create a new course (must be cleared by chair and Dean), research projects that would have a direct benefit on instruction, etc. Grant applications will be evaluated by an advisory committee to the Center. Evaluation criteria include (but are not limited to) the potential for faculty development in the area of teaching, the impact on classroom instruction, the relationship of the proposal to departmental, school or university goals in teaching, previous commitment of faculty member to project, previous or current level of support from department or school, potential contribution of project to self and others within the department or university.

Faculty can request up to \$3500 in support. All requests must be submitted by **Monday October 22, 2001, by 12pm**. Notification to applicants will be mailed by December 14, 2001. Monies must be allocated and spent before June 1, 2002. For more information, including the application and evaluation criteria, please visit our website at www.vcu.edu/cte. Any questions please call Dr. Joe Marolla, Director, CTE, at 828-1029.

Please note New Tompkins-McCaw Library Hours!

Regular Hours of Operation – Fall 2001- Summer 2002							
Holidays and other exceptions to regular hours are listed at the end of this schedule.							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Building Hours & Service Desk	7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Interlibrary Loan	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	closed	closed
Special Collections & Archives	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	closed	closed

Ventures in Innovative Teaching and Learning (VITAL) Workshops Announced

Please join the VCU Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) for their October and November VITAL workshops. On Wednesday, October 24th at 3pm in room B35 of the Cabell Library, Jill Fox (School of Education) will discuss with faculty how to facilitate group discussion/interaction in large classes.

On Wednesday, November 14th at 3pm in room B35 of Cabell Library, Gary Huvad (School of Engineering) will discuss with his colleagues how to manage cooperative learning in large classes.

You are invited to join your colleagues for these informative sessions. For questions, contact Dr. Joe Marolla, VCU CTE Director, 828-1029.

Department News

Department of Emergency Medicine

R. Wayne Barbee, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, was recently awarded a grant from the Virginia Commonwealth Health Research Board (CHRB). Dr. Barbee received nearly \$68,000 from the CHRB to develop a technique for non-invasive measurement of central venous pressure. He was one of 13 awardees and one of only two scientists from VCU to receive funding for the 2001-2002 cycle. **Dr. Kevin Ward**, Director of Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine is a co-investigator on the award, along with **Dr. Hakam Tiba** (also from Emergency Medicine) and **Dr. James Arrowood** from the Cardiology section of the Department of Internal Medicine. The technology has been developed in association with VCURES (Virginia Commonwealth University

Reanimation Engineering and Shock Center). More information on the CHRB and VCURES is available at: <http://www.chrb.org/> and <http://www.vcures.org>

Dr. Ruddy Rose, Managing Director of the Poison Center, was awarded a federal grant from the Public Health Service (Maternal and Child Health Bureau) to support and enhance the services of the Virginia Poison Center (VPC). The mission of the VPC is to decrease the morbidity, mortality, health care costs and overall occurrence of poisonings in central and eastern Virginia. The amount of the 3-year grant is \$442,741.

Department of Human Genetics

Dr. Rita Shiang recently began work on a 5-year NIH R01 grant titled "Characterization of the Treacher Collins Syndrome Gene".

In July 2001, **Dr. Joyce Lloyd** presented and chaired the "Late-Breaking Stories" session at the Red Cell Gordon Conference in Tilton, New Hampshire.

The **Masters in Genetic Counseling Program** recently received full accreditation from the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

In graduate student news, **R. Catherine Rehder** was selected as the 2001 recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Award for the School of Graduate Studies. **Dr. Natalia T. Leach** was honored by the Alumni Association as the 2001 "Outstanding Senior" for the basic science departments in the School of Medicine. **Christine Stanley** was awarded the 2001 Roscoe D. Hughes Award for excellence in research and scholarship. **Sinitdhorn Rujirabanjerd** was selected as the 2001 Roscoe D. Hughes Scholar for the Department of Human Genetics. **Elizabeth Couchon, Dr. Jennifer Goldstein, and Gretchen Oswald** were honored as recipients of the 2001 Lang Kucera Award for excellence in Genetic Counseling.

Department of Internal Medicine

J. James Cotter, PhD, Division of Quality Health Care, was awarded a \$51,500 contract from the Virginia Department of Health. This study investigates the status of telemedicine and tele-education for health professionals in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As part of the study, **Shaun Rangappa, MD**, will investigate the current understanding of medical efficacy of telemedicine initiatives in selected clinical conditions.

Dr. Domenic Sica, Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, was the Scientific Chairperson for the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Hypertension in Blacks, held in Las Vegas, Nevada in July 2001.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Suzanne Barbour, Associate Professor in Microbiology & Immunology, and Biochemistry, was appointed to the NIGMS Study Section on Biomedical Research and Training (BRT).

Dr. Kathleen McCoy, Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, was awarded a new grant. This is a subproject of the Center for Drug Abuse Research, directed by **Dr. Billy Martin**. The direct costs are \$460,000 for 5 years. The research concerns the immunosuppressive effects of cannabinoids on macrophage functions.

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti, Professor in Microbiology & Immunology, has published a paper that received the Outstanding Publication of the Year Award 2001 at the Immunotoxicology Session of the Annual Meeting of Society of Toxicology, San Francisco, CA held in March of this year. The paper is entitled "Role of Fas-Fas ligand interactions in 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD)-induced immunotoxicity" published in *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* and authored by Arati Kamath, Iris Camacho, Prakash Nagarkatti and Mitzi Nagarkatti.

Dr. Dennis Ohman, Chair of Microbiology & Immunology, accepted an invitation from the University of Minho in Portugal to give a week long course (lecture and laboratory) on the Molecular Biology of Bacterial Pathogenesis, in July 2001.

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

PM&R is expanding its **outpatient practice** capacity in collaboration with the Sheltering Arms Rehabilitation Hospital network as well as Children's Hospital and the Richmond VA medical center. In an effort to promote musculoskeletal research, PM&R has have developed an outpatient database thanks to the hard work by **M2 student Lennox McNeary** who spent her summer vacation working on a database development project. We anticipate that she will continue to help us develop that project since she is very interested in musculoskeletal pain treatment.

Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health

Please join the Department in welcoming two new faculty members: **Dr. Diane Baer Wilson**, Nutritional Epidemiologist, and **Dr. Saba W. Masho**, Behavioral Epidemiologist, joining the Department effective August 1.

Department of Psychiatry

This summer the **First Annual VCU Summer Institute in Psychiatry** for medical students was held, directed by **Dr. Ike Wood**. Students who had completed their first year in medicine at VCU, UVA, EVMS, George Washington and Tufts University participated. The Institute was conducted over one week. The students had didactics in the morning and clinical electives in the afternoon. Topics not traditionally covered in the typical Behavioral Science/Psychiatry curriculum were taught, such as "Perinatal Addition," "Psychiatric Assessment of Patients for Transplants," and "Police Surveillance and Substance Abuse." The idea of the Institute was to expose students to the various career opportunities in Psychiatry. In addition, there were several social activities to give the students the chance to personally meet faculty, and allowed out-of-town students the time to see parts of Richmond.

The Institute was sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry and included 11 students. The Institute was free of charge to the students, including all breakfasts & lunches, free parking, and free room and board for out-of-town students. The Psychiatric Society of Virginia, Forest Pharmaceuticals and the Department of Psychiatry supported the Institute.

The Institute got rave reviews from the students, all of whom plan on "talking it up" at their home school. Many wish to return next year as mentors for new students.

Department of Surgery

The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce that **Dr. Stuart I. Myers**, Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery and Vice Chairman of Education, has been named Interim Chief of Vascular Surgery. A national search is underway. Dr. Myers joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery in March, 2001 from the Department of Surgery at Temple University Health Sciences Center.

Mr. Jim P. Kidd has been named Comptroller for the Department of Surgery. Kidd, formerly an Executive Administrator for Saint Louis University's Department of Surgery, started August 1, 2001.

Utilizing the **AESOP™ 3000 Robotic System**, a surgical team from VCU's Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery performed a closed-chest thoroscopic takedown of the internal mammary artery on a patient undergoing coronary revascularization. This was the first robotically assisted cardiac procedure to be performed at VCUHS. The team consisted of **Dr. Abe DeAnda, Jr.**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and **Dr. Robert S.D. Higgins**, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chairman, division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

"Overall, the case went smoothly, the patient did well, and we were pleased," said Dr. DeAnda.

With AESOP, the surgeon can maneuver the endoscope (a slender camera) using proprietary speech recognition technology. The surgeon's voice commands are previously recorded onto a voice card, which is inserted into the controller before surgery begins.

Mission Based Management (MBM) Update

After gradual progress throughout the summer months, the MBM program is back in full swing with the fall semester. The four major work groups - clinical, research/scholarship, education, and service/administration – have been busy defining missions and categories of effort activities. On September 26, the chairs of the work groups presented their mission category and activity recommendations at the MBM Executive Committee. It was evident that considerable progress had been made by each of the groups, some even venturing forward into the subsequent phases of effort measurement. The Executive Committee agreed that the next steps will include further clarification of each work group's mission statements and activity definitions, circulating the drafts of the mission and activity definitions to the Department Chairs and other interested parties for feedback, and beginning the arduous task of identifying pertinent metrics and benchmarks to measure the activities.

Also at the September MBM Executive Committee meeting, it was announced that Dr. Tom Casey has joined the MBM team and is in the process of designing an MBM website which will be launched sometime in October. The MBM webpage will be linked to the School of Medicine webpage and will offer general information on MBM, MBM work group status reports, MBM resource materials, and links to MBM related sites.

Mission Based Management in the School of Medicine is indeed off to a good start. Because we are fashioning the process to our own needs and particular circumstances, MBM should develop into a useful application for managing limited resources in our environment. MBM is not intended to be a panacea, but one of several tools available to measure our activities in terms of our missions and, ultimately, our funding sources. For more information contact Dr. Tom Casey, thcasey@vcu.edu, 8-9665; Dr. Bob Cohen, rocohen@hsc.vcu.edu, 8-3146; or Bill Gleason, wmgleaso@vcu.edu, 8-9794.

10th Annual Women in Medicine and Science “Pathways to Leadership” Conference

Save the date: Friday, March 1, 2002, Jefferson Hotel, Richmond. Attend the 10th annual “Pathways to Leadership Conference” presented by the three Virginia medical schools (VCU, UVA, EVMS), the Medical Society of Virginia, and the Richmond Academy of Medicine. Conference theme: “Choices for Success.” **Watch for the purple brochure for full details.**



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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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Thanks to all those who have provided information for this newsletter