

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – November 2001 – Vol. 5, No. 2

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department Chair Search Update

Dr. Robert Allen, has planned to step down as Chair of the **Department of Ophthalmology** when a replacement is found. **The search committee has been formed and will consist of the following individuals:** Dr. Richard Wenzel, Search Committee Chairman (Internal Medicine), Carol Crosby, BSRN (VCU Health System Administration), Dr. Algin Garrett (Dermatology), Dr. Ross McClung (Anatomy), Dr. Daniel McGrath (Ophthalmology Department representative), Dr. Andrea Pozez (Surgery), Dr. Barry Roper (Community General Ophthalmologist), Dr. Stephen Schwartz (Ophthalmology Department representative), Dr. Aristides Sismanis (Otolaryngology), Dr. Alan Towne (Neurology), Dr. John Wright (Ophthalmology Department representative). Thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve on this committee. Please submit names of qualified applicants for consideration to Dr. Wenzel.

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 and candidates have been identified for interview. Thanks to Dr. Walter Nance for continuing his service as chair during the search process.

The Orthopedic Chair Search Committee (Dr. Austin Mehrhof, Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery, Chair). A final candidate has been chosen and negotiations are underway to secure his services.

NEJM Appoints Richard P. Wenzel as Editor-At-Large

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc., chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, has been appointed as the first editor-at-large at *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The appointment was announced in an editorial published in the Sept. 13 edition of the journal.

The appointment comes at a time when the editorial boards of many medical journals are attempting to minimize the potential for conflict of interest in their publications. Considered one of the most prestigious academic publications in the field of medicine in the world, NEJM had sought an independent editor to make decisions on manuscripts that are submitted to the journal by the editor, associate or deputy editors or members of the editorial board. In his new capacity, Wenzel will choose referees to evaluate the submissions, will review the resulting critiques and make final decisions regarding acceptance or rejection of the manuscripts. Wenzel served for eight years on the NEJM editorial board, beginning in 1992. Since he stepped off the board late last year, he has frequently been called on to serve in the role of an editor-at-large on an ad hoc basis. Congratulations to Dr. Wenzel! (*from VCU Health System News*)

Telemedicine Program Moving to VCUHS

The telemedicine program, which has been located within the School of Medicine for many years, has been transferred to the Department of Ambulatory Care of the VCU Health System. This program started in 1995 with a direct linkage to the Virginia Department of Corrections' Powhatan Correctional Center and Blackstone Family Practice Residency Training Center. The Office of Continuing Medical Education was instrumental in establishing this program, which has been administered through the Dean's Office of the School of Medicine for many years under the Directorship of Carol Hampton, Associate Dean for Faculty and Instructional Development. Between 1995 and October, 2001, there have been over 2900 clinical consultations for at least 12 clinical services through the telemedicine program. As the program has matured, as the number of clinical consultations continue to increase, and as interest in clinical telemedicine applications expanded beyond its use in corrections, the time is right to transfer the program administration to the clinical enterprise. The telemedicine program will now be

administered through the Department of Ambulatory Care of the VCU Health System. Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz, Medical Director of Telemedicine since September 1998, will continue in this position, through her role as Medical Director of Ambulatory Care. A Clinical Coordinator for the program, Debbie Sebastian, R.N., has started in her new position. The program will move to designated space in the Gateway Building around February, 2002. Plans are underway to initiate an international clinical telemedicine program, working in close collaboration with Dr. Ron Merrell, Chair of Surgery, and the Medical Informatics and Technology Applications Consortium (MITAC), Chuck Doarn, Executive Director.

Many thanks to Carol Hampton for her leadership of this nationally recognized program, as well as Kelly Fisk and JK Stringer for their technical support. The faculty are encouraged to learn more about the use of these new technologies in expanding access to a broad range of health care services. Please contact Debbie Sebastian, Telemedicine Clinical Coordinator, at sebastiandb@mail1.vcu.edu, 828-6114, or pager 6606 for more information. The SOM will focus on further development of the e-curriculum and distance education. For distance education applications including lectures for residents at Blackstone, please contact JK Stringer at 828-2821, jkstring@cedar.vcu.edu.

SCHEV Approves VCU - Inova Health System Affiliation

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) has approved VCU's partnership with the INOVA Health System to establish a campus of the School of Medicine at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. As you know, the agreement calls for providing undergraduate medical education for our Northern Virginia third- and fourth-year students, residency training, continuing medical education, and clinical outcomes research and biotechnology. The next step is to seek final authorization from the Governor and the General Assembly during the forthcoming 2002 legislative session. We anticipate being able to open the campus in fall 2005, when we will admit the first set of 25 third-year medical students. We will continue to keep you apprised of our progress with the INOVA campus. *(from message from Dr. Trani, 10/18/01)*

SOM Development Office Hires Assistant Director of Research Advancement

Erin Lucero has joined the School of Medicine's Development Office as Assistant Director for Research Advancement. Many of you may already know Erin from her 10-year stint in the MCV Campus News Office. In her new role, she'll turn her attention to raising awareness of the outstanding research efforts underway in the school and will assist in attracting private support for research through the Dean's Discovery Initiative. Please welcome her and let her know about note-worthy research-related news – when you land a large grant, publish significant findings, or are in the midst of an interesting study.

SOM Dean's Office Moves to New Area

If you are looking for Dr. Newsome or Dean's Office faculty and staff as you enter Sanger's main entrance, you won't find them! They have moved to new offices in Sanger, 1st floor, southwest corner – the new room numbers are listed below:

Dr. Newsome 1-073 (enter through 1-071); Ellen Osmundson and Fran Hamilton: 1-071; Joan Barrett: 1-052; Bill Gleason: 1-054; Cindy Cull: 1-056

All phone numbers remain the same! This allows consolidation for Dean's Office staff members as well as for staff in VCU's research offices, now in Sanger, 1st floor, northwest corner.

Dr. Isaac Wood Selected as Harvard Macy Scholar

Ike Wood, M.D. has been selected as a **Harvard Macy Scholar**. His project is "Developing a Model Curriculum in Cultural Diversity for Medical Students and Tools for Assessing Efficacy." Dr. Wood selected this project based on data from the 2000 AAMC Graduation Questionnaire, in which about 40% of our graduates indicated that their instruction was inadequate in this area. Dr. Wood says, "I felt it was also extremely important as Richmond is becoming more culturally diverse, and because of the expanding mixtures of cultural differences that our students will experience as the INOVA project progresses." Dr. Wood will be at Harvard from 1-13-02 to 1-23-02 and return again 5-8-02 to 5-15-02.

The Harvard Macy Institute Program for Physician Educators is sponsored by the Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the goal is "to enhance the professional

development of physicians and basic scientists as educators." The program provides a select group of 35 participants with the knowledge based and skills to enhance their expertise in both conducting an educational project of their own design and taking a leadership role in the educational activities at their institutions. Dr. Wood is the sixth VCU School of Medicine faculty member to be chosen for this program, following Drs. Robert Perry (Int Med), Laurie Lyckholm (Int Med), David Salter (Surgery), Nora Klinker (Emergency Medicine), and Rita Willett (Int Med).

Drug Abuse Training Grant Renewed

For 26 years, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has funded a Drug Abuse Training Grant in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Renewed this summer for \$3 million (\$600,000 for each of five years), the grant supports 10 graduate students and eight post-doctoral fellows whose research is directed towards a greater understanding of how drugs of abuse affect human health. The program is the longest-running NIDA training grant in the country, and may also be the largest. Dr Bill Dewey has been the principal investigator on this grant since its inception, and many of the program's alums have gone on to populate the research world. Originally the program funded only 2-3 positions but has grown over time; there have been 97 graduates of the training grant since the Department began receiving funding.

USMLE Update and Preliminary Results

Summer is usually a time of vacation for all of us. However for the students ending their second year and those beginning the fourth year, summer also brings with it the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). This examination is the only way for physicians to obtain a license to practice medicine in the U.S. Our students are required to take both Step I and Step II prior to graduation, and scores for the Classes of 2002 and 2003 have been received. For many of the faculty, the "Boards" consisted of a two-day test taken on paper. For the past several years the examination has been shortened to one day and is administered on computer at Sylvan Learning Centers. Students can elect to take the examination virtually any day of the year. The computerized format allows multiple versions of the test.

The School of Medicine offers reviews for both Steps. The Step I Review, organized by Dr. Linda Costanzo, begins in January of the second year and runs through May. The Step II Review Course, organized by Dr. Jim Messmer, is two weeks in length and is given at the completion of the third year. Many faculty give generously of their time, and these reviews have undoubtedly helped our students in their preparation.

Since students across the country are taking the USMLE throughout the year, the final statistics are delayed. There are two measures reported to the schools: pass rate for first time takers and average score. The following is a summary of how our students have done most recently. The final results on the Classes of 2002 and 2003 will not be available until next Spring.

CLASS	STEP I PASS RATE VCU (Nat'l)	STEP I AVE. SCORE VCU (Nat'l)	STEP II PASS RATE VCU (Nat'l)	STEP II AVE. SCORE VCU (Nat'l)
2000			95 (95)	216 (213)
2001	92 (93)	214 (215)	92 (NA)	220 (NA)
2002	93 (92)	214 (215)	96 (NA) *	221 (NA)*
2003	93 (NA)	224 (NA)		

* Results as of Nov. 1, 2001. Not all students have taken the test NA = Not Available

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Messmer, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education at jmessme@vcu.edu. (Thanks to Dr. Jim Messmer and Dr. Dennis Hoban for this information)

Graduate Medicine Education (GME) Accredited for a Full Five-Year Term!

The Institutional Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, granted a five-year term of accreditation, the maximum awarded to any program. Special thanks to the Graduate Medical Education Committee, the Program Directors and the Housestaff Council who made special contributions to this effort.

In 2001, Undergraduate Medical Education, Graduate Medical Education, and Continuing Medical Education have all been re-accredited for the maximum terms permitted by each accreditation body. What a nice reflection on our medical teaching programs!

2001 SOM Teaching Excellence Award Recipients

The SOM held its 3rd Annual Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony on Monday, October 22nd. There was an excellent pool of nominees. It was encouraging and exciting to see the over 300 turnout of faculty, staff, and students to 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!

The Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

R. Paul Fairman, MD

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Medical Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Service and Lung Transplant Service

The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Cesar I. Kanamori, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

The Distinguished Mentor Award

Daniel H. Conrad, PhD

Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Mary D. Nettleman, MD, MS

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Chair, Division of General Internal Medicine
Associate Dean for Primary Care

The Educational Innovation Award

Alice S. "Dolly" Pakurar, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy

Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in Health Sciences Education

Caroline G. Jackson, PhD

Anatomy

Verne G. Schirch, PhD

Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics

Viswanathan Ramakrishnan, PhD

(Dr. Ramesh)

Biostatistics

Lindon J. Eaves, PhD

Human Genetics

Richard T. Marconi, PhD

Microbiology and Immunology

Graham A. Patrick, PhD

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Joseph J. Feher, PhD

Physiology

C.M.G. "Kim" Buttery, MD, MPH

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

Dean X. Parmelee, MD	Behavioral Sciences I
Raymond J. Colello, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
J. Ross McClung, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
John W. Bigbee, PhD	Histology
Virginia A. Pallante, MS	Human Genetics
Suzanne E. Barbour, PhD	Immunology
John J. Ryan, PhD	Immunology
Glenn C. Van Tuyle, PhD	Medical Biochemistry
Richard M. Costanzo, PhD	Neurosciences
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Physiology
Michael B. Edmond, MD, MPH	Population Medicine

M-II

Isaac K. Wood, MD	Behavioral Sciences II
Mark A. Wood, MD	Cardiovascular
Robert T. Leshner, MD	Central Nervous System
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Endocrine
David F. Gardner, MD	Endocrine
Amy Foxx-Orenstein, DO	Gastrointestinal
Harvey J. Sugerman, MD	Gastrointestinal
Marcus E. Carr, Jr., MD	Hematology/Oncology
Laurel J. Lyckholm, MD	Hematology/Oncology
Thomas M. Kerkering, MD	Microbiology
Francine Marciano-Cabral, PhD	Microbiology
Christopher M. Wise, MD	Musculoskeletal
Nitya R. Ghatak, MD	Pathology
Margaret M. Grimes, MD	Pathology
Earl F. Ellis, Jr., PhD	Pharmacology
Graham A. Patrick, PhD	Pharmacology
Susan R. DiGiovanni, MD	Renal
Todd W. B. Gehr, MD	Renal
R. Paul Fairman, MD	Respiratory
Thomas C. Peng, MD	Women's Health

M-I and MII

Edward M. Saylor, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Gordon N. Kellett, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Andy G. Pinson, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
Mark Flanzenbaum, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine
June R. Tunstall, MD	Foundations of Clinical Medicine

M-III

William H. Shafer, Jr., MD	Family Practice
Todd W. B. Gehr, MD	Internal Medicine
Lenore N. Joseph, MD	Neurology
John G. Pierce, MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Linda D. Meloy, MD	Pediatrics
Michael F. Weaver, MD	Psychiatry
Walter Lawrence, Jr., MD	Surgery

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

M-I

Joel J. Silverman, MD	Behavioral Sciences I
Milton M. Sholley, PhD	Gross and Developmental Anatomy
Barry Wolf, MD, PhD	Human Genetics
Deborah A. Lebman, PhD	Immunology
William L. Banks, Jr., PhD	Medical Biochemistry
Kathryn L. Holloway, MD	Neurosciences
Joseph J. Feher, PhD	Physiology
Tilahun Adera, PhD	Population Medicine
Wally R. Smith, MD	Population Medicine

M-II

Joel J. Silverman, MD	Behavioral Sciences II
Kathryn L. Holloway, MD	Central Nervous System
Diane M. Biskobing, MD	Endocrine
James R. Levy, MD	Endocrine
Melissa J. Contos, MD	Gastrointestinal
Richard K. Sterling, MD	Gastrointestinal
Jonathan M. Ben-Ezra, MD	Hematology/Oncology
Lisa A. Weymouth, PhD	Microbiology
Robert G. Lamb, PhD	Pharmacology
Linda S. Costanzo, PhD	Renal
Alpha A. Fowler, III, MD	Respiratory
James M. Messmer, MD, MEd	Respiratory
Philippe H. Girerd, MD	Women's Health
John W. Seeds, MD	Women's Health

M-III

Donald F. Kirby, MD	Internal Medicine
Kevin R. Cooper, MD	Internal Medicine
James R. Levy, MD	Internal Medicine
T. Premashuda Rao, MD	Internal Medicine
Thomas C. Peng, MD	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Raymond G. Makhoul, MD	Surgery

**Mission Based Management Update:
Missions and Activities as defined by Work Groups**

Dear Faculty Members:

Next spring (2002), you will be required to report your professional activity according to a set of missions. Please read carefully the mission definitions below and their example activities. They are the first products of four work groups, involving 70 faculty members, who have created this draft document. We want your input. Send your comments to Dr. Tom Casey, MBM Coordinator at mbmadmin@mail1.vcu.edu.

If you have been away for the past year or somehow missed multiple presentations on MBM, you can learn what Mission Based Management is by clicking on www.medschool.vcu.edu/mbm/. You can also access the MBM Webpage from the Quick Links pull down menu on the main SOM webpage or the link on the SOM Intranet page under "For Faculty".

By late February the work groups will have the specific groupings and their explanations for you to review prior to final formation of the reporting instrument you will use.

Heber H. Newsome, Jr., M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine

Mission Based Management - VCU School of Medicine - D R A F T

1. **Educational Mission** – To enhance the training of students, physicians, and scientists in biomedicine by employing innovative, scholarly activities to transfer knowledge and provide better systems of medical and scientific education

Educational Activities –

- ***Undergraduate Medical, Preclinical*** – Educational efforts in the basic sciences and introduction to clinical medicine directed at first and second year medical students
- ***Undergraduate Medical, Clinical*** – Educational efforts in clinical medicine directed at 3rd and 4th year medical students
- ***Postgraduate Medical and Continuing Medical Education*** – Educational efforts directed toward specialty training and/or renewal of skills and professional knowledge of individuals who possess doctorates in medicine, osteopathy, or dentistry. The educational spectrum includes trainees in residency and fellowship programs, faculty, and community practitioners
- ***Masters and Ph.D. Students*** – Educational efforts directed at students enrolled in Masters of Science, Master of Public Health, or Doctoral programs in the basic sciences that include formal coursework and laboratory research
- ***Postdoctoral*** – Educational efforts, primarily in laboratory research, directed at individuals who possess doctorates in philosophy (Ph.D.) or medicine (M.D.)
- ***Extra SOM teaching (including undergraduate)*** – Educational efforts in basic or clinical science for students enrolled in health professional programs outside the School of Medicine (i.e., Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Allied Health) and undergraduate science students

Educational Administration –

- Associate deans (e.g., Medical Education, CME, Graduate Medical Education)
- Course/clerkship/component director
- Positions with professional societies that relate to education
- Consultation to outside educational organization
- Provision of ad hoc (informal) educational activity
- Dean's representative for students' comprehensive exams
- Dept/division/School of Medicine curriculum/education committees (e.g., Admissions, Scholarships/Student Services, Evaluation, Educational Activities, Education Policy, Curriculum, Promotions Committee)
- Preparing letters of reference (previous students, tenure and promotion, etc.)
- Residency administration
- Formal development as an educator
- Advisor to students
- Community education coordination

2. **Research and Scholarship Missions** – To increase knowledge and understanding of health and disease through generating, analyzing, integrating, and assimilating scientific and medical information

Research Activities -

- Hands-on research activities, basic science and clinical (e.g., personally in the lab)
- Preparation of grant proposals
- Attending meetings to discuss on going research projects (e.g., lab meetings, discussions with collaborators)

Scholarship Activities –

- Writing, editing, and peer reviewing original works (papers, abstracts, books)
- Organizing, attending, and presenting at scientific meetings
- Developing new research programs (e.g., discussions with potential collaborators, investigations to integrate basic and clinical research)

Research and Scholarship Administration –

- Informal review of colleague's grant proposal, IRB submission, paper, etc.
- IRB
- Department/division clinical committees or functions that support research
- Animal research committees
- Peer Review committees
- Grant review committees

Research and Scholarship Administration – *continued*

- Positions with professional societies that relate to research
- Consultation to outside research organization
- Obtaining formal research skills development
- Informal review of colleague's grant proposal, IRB submission, paper, etc.
- Manuscript and grant review not as part of an organized study section or committee, i.e., ad hoc
- Journal review board
- Peer reviewer for journal
- Journal editorial board

3. Clinical Mission – To provide quality health care to patients in the VCU Health System and affiliated organizations

Clinical Activities -

- Performing hands-on care in an outpatient setting (e.g., ambulatory clinic visits, diagnostic testing, minor medical procedure)
- Performing hands-on care in an inpatient setting (e.g., consultation at bedside, patient rounds, OR procedures, diagnostic testing)
- Medical consultation, expert technical advice provided to extramural organizations

Clinical Administration –

- Associate dean clinical affairs
- Health System/department/division clinical committees or functions that provide clinical service or administration
- Children's Hospital committees/functions that provide clinical service or administration
- VA committees/functions that provide clinical service or administration
- Clinical recruiting, positions with clinical professional societies
- Obtaining formal continuing clinical education
- Consultation to outside clinical organization

4. Cross-Mission Administration - To plan, coordinate, and evaluate programs and activities that support the work of those directly involved with teaching, patient care, or research

Cross-Mission Activities –

- Senior associate dean medical education
- Division chairs
- Department chairs
- Interdisciplinary center administration

5. Internal and External Service Missions - To participate in activities that are outside the scope of core faculty responsibilities, but that benefit University, other professional, or lay constituencies that are deemed vital to the University's mission and interests

Internal Service Activities –

All efforts for an organization, activity or program having a formal or official relationship with the School of Medicine, or judged by the faculty's supervisor to be in the interests of the University

- Faculty (academic) council
- Department/division meetings (formal, ongoing and ad hoc)
- School of Medicine committees (e.g., Advancement, Councils of chairs, Leaves/sabbaticals, LCME, Library, Executive)
- Information technology management

External Service Activities –

- Work at free clinic
- Serving on community agency boards
- Doing TV or radio interviews
- Fellowship with elected representative or government agency
- All efforts for an organization, activity or program having a formal or official relationship with the School of Medicine, or judged by the faculty's supervisor to be in the interests of the University
- Consulting with community organizations
- Helping at science fairs
- Volunteer, community service

Department News

Department of Emergency Medicine

Dr. Gregory Christiansen was made a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians in October 2001. He was also elected to the Board of Representatives for a three-year term.

Department of Family Practice

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences has just elected 60 new members, including another VCU faculty member. Dr. Steven H. Woolf, Professor and Director of Research, Department of Family Practice. Dr. Woolf is the second VCU Faculty member to be elected to this prestigious organization (Dr. Kenneth Kendler, Human Genetics is the other). Dr. Woolf's work focuses on health-services research and evidence-based medicine. He is a member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, is active nationally in health-services research and public policy, and has consulted abroad as a visiting scholar. Congratulations to Dr. Woolf on this outstanding achievement and honor!

Department of Internal Medicine

Two publications authored by Internal Medicine housestaff and faculty appeared recently in JAMA:

Sigworth S, Nettleman M, Cohen G. Pharmaceutical branding of resident physicians. JAMA 2001;286:1024-5.

Chalasani K, Nettleman MD, Moore SS, MacArthur S, Fairbanks R, Goyal M. Faculty misperceptions about how residents spend their nights on call. JAMA 2001;286:1024

Our **Student Health Clinics** received accreditation and an outstanding rating from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations--Dr. Betty Anne Johnson directs Student Health Services. We are one of the few student health services in the country to be accredited.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation has awarded **Steve Grant, M.D.**, professor of hematology and oncology, a one-year, \$99,986 award, with an option for a second-year, matching award. His award was one of only 12 Senior Research Awards funded this year. His project was chosen through an international competition that included applicants from some of the world's largest and most prestigious cancer centers, including a number of comprehensive cancer centers. The goal of Dr Grant's project, "Checkpoint Abrogation and MEK/MAPK Inhibition: A Novel Strategy for the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma," is to develop a new approach for the treatment of multiple myeloma - a universally fatal cancer of the blood that originates from cells in the bone marrow known as plasma cells.

Dr. Richard Wenzel has been chosen to participate in the NIH's new 10-week Grand Rounds series - **Contemporary Clinical Medicine: Great Teachers**. Dr. Wenzel will present on bloodstream infections acquired in hospitals. His selection is quite an honor: speakers from across the nation and abroad were selected based on their expertise in clinical management as well as their effectiveness as teachers and presenters.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Joseph Formica, Associate Professor of Microbiology, retired on September 1, 2001, after 32 years of service with the University. He will maintain a small office space on campus as Emeritus Faculty while he completes his work on a second book.

Department of Otolaryngology

Head and Neck Surgery is very pleased to announce that **Andrew Jared Heller, MD**, has joined the faculty in the practice of otolaryngology with special interest in laryngology, voice, and swallowing disorders.

Department of Pathology

CTRF Cancer Genomics Project: Virginia Commonwealth Technology Research Fund (CTRF) will provide 1 million dollars per year for three years to a consortium comprised of VCU, George Mason University and the Inova Health Care System to evaluate gene expression and genetic changes in human brain, ovarian, breast, and hemolymphocytic cancers. There will be linkage of the gene expression data and genetic changes to clinical findings in a common database. The linked data will be evaluated using bioinformatics to identify new diagnostic markers and prognostic indicators in the aforementioned cancers.

Dr. Carleton Garrett, Professor of Pathology and Chair of the Molecular Diagnostics Division, has been selected to serve as Interim Project Director during the project's first year. The Department is primarily responsible for establishment of a tissue bank to support testing for changes in gene expression in the human tumors. It will acquire residual specimens from patients undergoing surgery for treatment of any of the specified tumors. Tissue acquisition will be the responsibility of Anatomic Pathology. The Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory will perform some testing of residual specimens. Funding to Pathology for this project will be in the amount of \$273,436 for the first year, with a potential total of \$605,402 for three years.

Several of the Department's faculty will be involved in establishing a Tissue Bank, developing databases, performing data analysis, and creating a Quality Assurance (QA) program. **Drs. Kristin Atkins, Celeste Powers and Margaret Grimes** will provide key support and leadership in establishing the Tissue Bank. **Dr. Suhail Nasim** will join the faculty in November to participate in this effort. **Dr. Greg Miller**, the Department's director of Pathology Informatics will lead database development and data analysis efforts. **Dr. Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez** will provide leadership in QA for monitoring these complex testing processes.

In August, **Dr. Alphonse E. Sirica** was awarded a Merck Research Grant (MSGP#284c) in the amount of \$50,000 to investigate cyclooxygenase-2 in human and rat biliary carcinogenesis. The period covered by this award is August, 2001 through July, 2002. Dr. Sirica also was the Organizer and Chair of a FASEB Summer Research Conference on Growth Factor Receptor Tyrosine Kinases in Mitogenesis, Morphogenesis, and Tumorigenesis held in Snowmass Village, Colorado August 4-9, 2001. This International Conference was sponsored by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and was supported in part by a NIH Conference Grant (Principal Investigator: A.E. Sirica) from the National Cancer Institute.

H. Davis Massey, D.D.S., M.D., Ph.D. has joined the faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Massey recently completed his combined AP/CP residency program in the Department of Pathology.

Kristen Atkins, M.D. has joined the faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Atkins recently finished her Cytopathology Fellowship in the Department of Pathology.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences: Once again, graduates of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program at the MCV Campus of VCU achieved outstanding success on the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Board of Registry Medical Technologist Certification Examination. Of the examinees tested in the most recent examination cycle, six of the top twenty scoring individuals in the nation, including the highest score, were graduates of the CLS program at VCU. The individuals and their rank are as follows:

Anthony Stroud - Placed 1st, Donald Bowling - Placed 5th, Megan Low - Placed 6th, Justin Dalton - Placed 14th, Jennifer Runion - Placed 18th, Shari Scott - Placed 19th. In addition to these six individuals, the entire CLS graduating class of 2001 deserves recognition. The ASCP certification examination is highly competitive with only 78% of the examinees attaining a passing score during the period of this review. The CLS class of 2001 from VCU not only surpassed this passing rate, but three-quarters of the class scored higher than the average score of all first time candidates nationwide. In fact, the cumulative program mean was 69 points above the national average. Please join in extending our congratulations and best wishes to all of these very talented new laboratorians.

Kathy Corker, MT Senior in the Hematology Lab, recently received the J. Clinton Brown award. This award recognizes the clinical instructor who best demonstrates outstanding teaching abilities and contributions to the education of CLS students during their clinical rotation at MCVH. The recipient of this annual award is chosen by the CLS graduating class.

Ann Tidwell, MT Senior in the Hematology Lab, received the 2001 RSCLS Award of Merit. The Richmond Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists Award of Merit is awarded biannually. Nominations are solicited from the membership. The award recognizes a distinguished member who has given of his or her time and talent to further the professional goals of the society.

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dr. David X. Cifu, Chairman and Herman J. Flax, M.D. Professor of PM&R, has been elected to the Board of Governors of the American Academy of PM&R. Dr. Cifu also was invited to be the Visiting Professor of the Loyola University Department of PM&R on 10/18. He presented 6 hours of lectures on Cancer Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Rehabilitation to more than 50 Chicagoland area PM&R residents and faculty. In addition,

Dr. Cifu gave the Paul J. Corcoran, M.D. Memorial Lecture to Harvard Medical School's Department of PM&R, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He lectured on "Reflections on PM&R".

Dr. Paul Wehman received the 2001 VCU Distinguished Service Award on September 6, 2001. The award recognizes Dr. Wehman's distinguished career devoted to assisting people with disabilities, in particular, his promotion and study of "supported employment," allowing people with disabilities to work in regular jobs within their communities.

Jeffery S. Johns, Assistant Professor, Residency Program Co-Director, and Rehabilitation and Research Center Associate Medical Director, has been selected by the Association of Academic Physiatrists to be one of their 23 participants in the second invitational Academic Leadership Development Seminar: Preparing for Academic Leadership, which is to take place in Las Vegas this winter. The program is co-sponsored by the American Physiatry Education Council and is designed to identify future academic leaders in PM&R and to help stimulate their development and career progress.

The Department of PM&R sponsored the **10th Annual Spinal Cord Injury Symposium** on October 26th with over 200 attendees and 27 exhibitors participating. The Symposium featured speakers from the VCUHS and from around the nation. It is part of the Department's National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) funded SCI Model Systems grant, one of 16 in the country.

Department of Physiology

Dr. Linda Costanzo recently published her third book, **Physiology Cases and Problems** (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2001). The book is intended for first-year medical students and includes case-based vignettes followed by open-ended questions with complete explanations and solutions. The cases and their questions are designed to be integrative and to emphasize the most relevant physiologic principles.

Dr. Vijay Lyall attended the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) meeting in Christchurch New Zealand in August where he presented work entitled: Effect of Intracellular Cyclic-AMP and Ca²⁺ on Taste Receptor Cell pH and Chorda Tympani Nerve Responses to HCl, coauthored by: Vijay Lyall, Rammy I. Alam, Tam-Hao Phan, Anna K. Vinnikova, Gerard L. Heck, and John A. DeSimone.

Dr. Lyall also attended the World Congress of Nephrology in San Francisco, CA in October where he presented work entitled: Differential Expression of Sodium/Hydrogen Exchanger Isoforms 1 and 3 in Rat Taste Buds coauthored by Anna K. Vinnikova, John A. DeSimone, John M. McCarty, George M. Feldman, Gerard L. Heck, and Vijay Lyall.

Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health

The **Master of Public Health (MPH)** Program submitted an interim report and, as a result, was granted a two-year extension of the original five-year re-accreditation of the Program. The Program has now been re-accredited for a total of seven years, the maximum term granted to any MPH Program.

Department of Psychiatry

Dr. Patrick Sullivan was awarded \$843,175 from the NIH for research in *Genetic and Environment Determinants of Smoking Cessation*.

Dr. Karen Ingersoll participated in the National Institutes of Health's *Summer Training Institute on Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions*. The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research organized this course in order to provide future leaders in behavioral research with a firm grounding in the principles and practices of randomized clinical trials.

Dr. Sandy Barker is being awarded this month the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Florida State University College of Education.

Dr. Sultan Lakhani has been selected by members of VCU's Department of Pastoral Care as a recipient of their 2001 "Partners in Healing" award. Dr. Lakhani was identified as one who exemplifies an attitude of caring shaped by concern for the whole person, for his commitment to compassion, serve and partnership.

Dr. Lindon Eaves received the VCU School of Medicine's Distinguished Scholar Award. Dr. Eaves' colleague, Dr. Ken Kendler, is quoted as saying that "Dr. Eaves has contributed widely and deeply to the areas of genetic epidemiology and human genetics worldwide, but especially at VCU."

Dr. Donald Oswald was invited to testify before the US House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce regarding his work on the disproportionate representation of minority children in special education.

Dr. Kenneth Kendler, along with **Hadis Morkoc, Ph.D.**, is one of only 3 Virginia researchers included in the list of most frequently cited scholars worldwide in a list compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information, which studied millions of scholarly documents published between 1981 and 1999.

On October 6, 2001, **Ike Wood, M.D.**, presented his research on "Factors Influencing Medical Students' Attitudes About the Mentally Ill" at the national meeting of the Association for Academic Psychiatry in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Office of Continuing Medical Education

Dr. Paul Mazmanian, Associate Dean for CME and Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, completed his one-year term as Chairman of the AAMC Research in Medical Education (RIME) Conference on November 9, 2001. He has served on the RIME Committee for three years and will serve one more year as Immediate Past Chair. Dr. Mazmanian also serves as editor of The Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions.

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."



Office of Faculty and Instructional Development
School of Medicine
Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 980565, Richmond, VA 23298-0565

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.

Editor: Kathy Kreutzer, M.Ed., Box 980565, Richmond, VA 23298-0565; (804) 828-9789;
Reviewers: Carol Hampton, M.M.S., Associate Dean for Faculty and Instructional Development
H. H. Newsome, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine

Thanks to all those who have provided information for this newsletter; special thanks to Erin Lucero, Development Office.