

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter - April 2005 - Vol 8, No. 3

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

Next Issue, May/June 2005!

Departmental News deadline is May 13, 2005. Please send your faculty/department achievements to kkreutzer@vcu.edu.

Dean Search Update

The search for the new dean is progressing well. Over 50 applications have been received and were reviewed by a Credentials Subcommittee composed of members from the overall search committee. All applications were subsequently reviewed by the entire search committee, and a list of the most highly qualified candidates were selected for a first round interview scheduled in April. The committee and search consultant from Spencer Stuart believe we have a strong list of candidates, who are seriously interested in VCU, scheduled for interview. The search committee will still consider new applications. Candidate names are still considered confidential until completion of the first round interviews. The committee expects to commence second round, campus interview, in late April or early May.

The goal is to recruit a new dean with a proven track record in research to lead our faculty and move the school from 60th to 45th NIH ranking over the next six years. At the February 2005 VCU Board of Visitors Meeting, Dr. Sheldon Retchin, CEO VCUHS and VP for Health Sciences, presented the plan "VCU School of Medicine- Advancing the Research Mission 2005 - 2011: Financing a Strategic Plan to Expand the Research Mission of the VCU School of Medicine and Enhance NIH Research Ranking." The plan, which was similar to that presented at the January SOM Faculty Meeting, was approved by the Board. Reportedly, the VCU SOM dean's package is one of the strongest among schools which are currently recruiting deans, and it has attracted many outstanding candidates. There are 11 U.S. medical schools with open deanships www.aamc.org/members/cod/opendeanship/start.htm, accessed 3/30/05. The VCU SOM dean's position is open until filled, and additional candidates are invited. To review dean's position description and application process, go to www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/facjobs/facjob.asp?Item=1585. For the list of Search Committee members, refer to Newsline August 2004 at www.medschool.vcu.edu/faculty_staff/newsletter/newsline704.pdf

Dr. Ann Fulcher Recognized with WISDM Professional Achievement Award

Dr. Ann Fulcher, Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiology, received the 2005 VCU Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine (WISDM) Professional Achievement Award on Friday, March 4, 2005, at the 13th Annual "Pathways to Leadership" Conference, Marriott Hotel, Richmond. Dr. Fulcher is the VCU Medical Center's youngest chairperson, one of three women department chairs in the SOM, the only woman chair of a clinical department, and one of fewer than a handful of women Radiology Chairs in the nation. "Her career reflects excellence in leadership, scholarship, clinical expertise, administrative ability and professional accomplishments. In addition, she has been a highly successful mentor, role model, and promoter of the professional development of women in medicine," according to Dr. Mary Ann Turner, Professor of Radiology, who nominated Dr. Fulcher. A full write-up about Dr. Fulcher with comments from many faculty and residents is found at www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu



The VCU School of Dentistry also has established this award, and the recipient this year is Dr. Betsy Hagan, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Clinics.

The WISDM Professional Achievement Award was initiated in 1993 and is given annually to recognize those women who have served as strong role models for professional development of women faculty and to

acknowledge the special contributions and accomplishments of women faculty in the School of Medicine. The award has been emulated at other schools, including University of Virginia School of Medicine, and Eastern Virginia Medical School. A description of the award and criteria are found on the website listed above. Look for the next call for nominations for this award in November 2005.

Remembering Dr. Schmidt-Ullrich



Dr. Rupert K. A. Schmidt-Ullrich, professor and chair of the VCU School of Medicine Radiation Oncology Department and Clinical Associate Director of the VCU Massey Cancer Center, died Monday, December 20, 2004, after a lengthy illness. He was 61. Dr. Schmidt-Ullrich founded the Department of Radiation Oncology in 1988 and served as its chair until his death. He also served as administrative chief, Division of Radiation Oncology, at McGuire Veterans Affairs Hospital in Richmond. His honors include a Traveling Fellow of the Max-Planck-Society and a Career Development Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation.

He recently had been appointed as the first Florence and Hyman Meyers Chair, Radiation Oncology.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Massey Cancer Center's Radiobiology Program, PO Box 980037, Richmond, Va. 23298.

Department Chair Search Update

As a result of the death of Dr. Schmidt-Ullrich, a search committee has been formed for Chair of the Department of Radiation-Oncology. Dr. James Neifeld, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, will serve as Chair of the Search Committee. Other members are:

- Dr. Carlos Arancibia, Anesthesiology
- Dr. Suzanne Barbour, Biochemistry
- Dr. Stan Benedict, Radiation Oncology
- Dr. William Broaddus, Neurosurgery
- Dr. Ted Chung, Radiation Oncology
- Dr. Ann Fulcher, Radiology
- Dr. Gordon Ginder, Massey Cancer Center
- Dr. Steven Grant, Internal Medicine-Hem/Onc
- Dr. Ross Mikkelsen, Radiation Oncology
- Dr. Monica Morris, Radiation Oncology
- Dr. John Seeds, OB-Gyn
- Dr. Thomas Smith, Internal Medicine-Hem/Onc
- Dr. Sarah Spiegel, Biochemistry
- Dr. David Wilkinson, Pathology
- Dr. Jeffrey Williamson, Radiation Oncology

M.D. Graduation Ceremony set for 8 pm, Saturday, May 21



Dr. Krummel

Following the University Commencement at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at the Richmond Coliseum, the School of Medicine will have a Graduation Ceremony at the Stuart C. Siegel Center, 1200 West Broad Street, beginning promptly at 8:00 P.M. in the evening. All faculty are encouraged by Dr. Newsome to attend both ceremonies and support our students. Academic regalia is required. The evening speaker is Thomas. H. Krummel, M.D., Chair of the Department of Surgery at Stanford and an MCV alumnus.

Graduation is a wonderful time to celebrate the achievements and efforts of both our students and faculty. Please make every effort to attend the ceremony. We think you will enjoy it and be proud! When the faculty is recognized that evening and asked to stand at the ceremony, it is, better if *many* are there to be recognized.

Outstanding Departments Awarded at 4th Annual Research Awards Ceremony



VCU researchers were honored on March 9, 2005, at the VCU 4th Annual Research Awards Ceremony at the Science Museum of Virginia. Vice President Dr. Marsha Torr explained the selection process: "There are a number of ways in which one might recognize research performance. Since the traditions and culture of a department are so important to setting competitive expectations, we have chosen to recognize those departments with the highest levels of performance. Again, while other parameters could be used, we chose to use external funding as the measure of our competitiveness in the national peer review process."

"In selecting strong departments for special recognition here tonight, we first established a pool of eligible candidates. The department must meet a critical mass threshold of \$1M a year and must have increased this base in the last two consecutive years. Within this pool of candidates, we rank the departments using an equal weighting of: growth (percentage growth in the past year), sustained growth (average percentage growth across the past three years), and productivity (award dollars per full-time faculty member)."

Five departments showed excellent performance by these measures.

Sharing 4th place were the Departments of Adult Health (School of Nursing) **and Internal Medicine (SOM)**. Playing a major role in the Internal Medicine success were Drs. Mitchell Shiffman, Steve Grant, Arun Sanyal, Gordon Archer, Peter Boling, Marjolein de Wit, Robert Downs, Ken Ellenbogen, Todd Gehr, Shobha Gosh, Michael Hess, Bruce Hillner, Phil Hylemon, Christopher Kepley, John Kuemmerle, Rakesh Kukreja, Susanne Lavoie, George Moxley, Srinivasa Murthy, John Nesler, Dan Nixon, Mary Ann Peberdy, Elizabeth Ripley, John Roberts, Larry Schwartz, James Shaw, Domenic Sica, Wally Smith, and Richard Sterling.

Each of these departments will receive \$6,000 annually for two years to support a PhD student.

Earning 3rd place was the **Department of Radiation Oncology (SOM)**, which was ranked 2nd in average annual growth in federal funding over a 3-year period (26%), 1st in growth in federal funding (46%), 7th in total funding growth (3%), and 3rd in federal funding per FTE (\$120K/FTE). This Department will receive \$7,000 annually in fellowship funding for a PhD student for 3 years. Drs. Paul Dent, Paul Keall, Ross Mikkelsen, Jeffrey Siebers, and Jeffrey Williamson and the late Dr. Rupert Schmidt-Ullrich led the Department in research funding.

The **Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology (SOM)** earned 2nd place, being ranked 3rd in growth in federal funding (25%), 1st in growth in total funding (59%), and 3rd in federal funding per FTE (\$206K/FTE). Drs. Raymond Colello, Jeff Dupree, Babette Fuss, Jack Haar, Kimberle Jacobs, Linda Phillips, John Povlishock, Ary Ramoa, Thomas Reeves, David Simpson, and Enoch Wei contributed to the success of this growth. The Department will receive a research fellowship of \$8,000 per year for 3 years to support a PhD student.

First place for 2004 went to the Department of Electrical Engineering in the School of Engineering. The Department ranked 1st in average annual growth in federal funding over a 3-year period (62%), 1st in average annual growth in total funding over a 3-year period (36%), and 1st in federal funding per FTE (\$252K/FTE)

Congratulations to all of these Departments and faculty, and especially to Internal Medicine, Radiation Oncology, and Anatomy and Neurobiology, for representing the SOM so well! (information compiled from the Office of Research website, <http://www.research.vcu.edu/awards.htm>)

Fifteen SOM Faculty Honored for Research Achievements

At the March 31, 2005, General Faculty Meeting, the School of Medicine recognized 15 faculty members for their significant achievements in research and scholarship.

Ary Ramoa, M.D., Ph.D.	Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Special Recognition
Babette Fuss, Ph.D.	Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology
Charles F. Chalfant, Ph.D.	Department of Biochemistry
Xianjun Fang, Ph.D.	Department of Biochemistry
R. K. Elswick, Ph.D.	Department of Biostatistics
Saba Masho, M.D., Dr. P.H.	Department of Epidemiology and Community Health
Guy Cabral, Ph. D.	Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Steven Shapiro, M. D.	Department of Neurology
Helen Fillmore, Ph. D.	Department of Neurosurgery
Stuart Adler, M. D.	Department of Pediatrics
Joseph K. Ritter, Ph. D.	Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology
Jeffrey Kreutzer, Ph. D.	Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Murthy Karnam, Ph. D.	Department of Physiology
Donald Oswald, Ph. D.	Department of Psychiatry
Panos Fatouros, Ph. D.	Department of Radiology

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding faculty researchers!

Save the Date! Monday, April 11, is Women's Health Research Day

Please attend a unique networking opportunity celebrating and prompting excellence in interdisciplinary women's health research from 12 Noon - 5 pm in the Medical Science Building. Keynote speaker is Loretta Finnegan, M.D, Medical Advisor for the Director, Office of Research on Women's Health, National Institutes of Health. Dr. Marsha Torr will bring an update on the environment for women's health research at VCU. You can meet over 50 VCU women's health researchers during panel discussion and poster presentations. All VCU faculty, students, housestaff, staff, and community members interested in this topic are welcome; registration is free. For more information, visit: <http://www.womenshealth.vcu.edu>. Sponsored by the VCU Institute for Women's Health, a National Center of Excellence, and Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Scholar's Program.

Match Day: US Medical School Seniors Apply to Residency Programs in Record Numbers



On Thursday March 17, fourth-year students around the country learned their residency destinations in a rite of passage shared by physicians-in-training for more than a half-century. More than 14,700 U.S. medical school seniors applied for residency positions through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) this year, the highest number in almost 20 years.

Our own VCU School of Medicine marked the occasion at noon at the Bolling-Haxall House in downtown Richmond. About 300 people -- families, friends, and more than a dozen babies -- gathered to celebrate with our students. More than 150 of our students participated in the NRMP, an additional seven matched through the Armed Forces, and 12 were accepted to Early Match Programs. For photos of the event, go to <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/alumni/GalleryMatchDay05.htm>

"The growing number of participants each year demonstrates continued confidence in the Match process and illustrates just how important the Match is for medical education," said NRMP President Melissa Thomas, M.D., Ph.D.

The Match, conducted annually by the NRMP, uses a computer algorithm to match the preferences of applicants with the preferences of residency programs, in order to fill the available training positions at U.S. teaching hospitals.

U.S. medical school seniors constituted 58 percent of all applicants in the 2005 Match. The NRMP also receives applications from graduates of foreign medical schools, students from osteopathic (D.O. degree) schools, and others. This year more than 25,300 total applicants participated in the Match.

The 2005 Match broke records this year for the number of residency positions offered and filled - a total of 24,012 positions were available and 22,221 of them were filled. The number of successful matches made continued to be high, with 78 percent of all applicants matched to a first-year residency program. Nearly 83 percent of all matched applicants were paired with one of their top three residency program choices. As in previous years, U.S. medical school seniors enjoyed a higher success rate than other applicants, with 93.7 percent matching and more than 86 percent of those students assigned to one of their top three choices.

Match data can indicate career interests among residency program applicants. Highlights of the choices made by U.S. medical school seniors include:

- * First-year residency positions in dermatology, emergency medicine, general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, and plastic surgery remain highly competitive. At least 95 percent of the available positions in these specialties were filled; 80 percent or more of these slots were taken by U.S. medical school seniors.
- * The number of first-year family practice positions available through the Match continues to decline (3,183 positions in 2000 to 2,761 positions in 2005), as does U.S. medical school seniors' interest in these positions. The number of these positions filled by graduating U.S. medical students decreased for the eighth consecutive year.
- * There is increased interest in psychiatry residencies. For the fourth consecutive year there has been an increase in the number of first-year positions offered and filled by U.S. medical school seniors.
- * Slightly more than one-half (56 percent) of first-year internal medicine positions were filled by U.S. medical school seniors. Internal medicine is the largest specialty represented in the Match; one-fifth of all first-year residency positions offered are in internal medicine.

On Monday, March 14, applicants were informed whether they had been matched to a residency program of their choice, although the name of that program was not provided. On March 14, the locations of remaining unfilled residency programs were released to unmatched applicants, who then contacted the programs about the open positions. On March 17, matched applicants learned where they will spend at least their first year of residency training.

The Match was established in 1952, at the request of medical students, to provide a fair and impartial transition to the graduate medical education experience necessary for all physicians. (from AAMC STAT)



Did You Know?

Approximately 400 tons of coal were removed last month from the old steam plant on 13th street as part of the preparation for construction of the new VCUHS bed tower. The coal was removed using a small bucket-loader called a bobcat and is currently stored by S.B. Cox, the demolition contractor. The coal was burned in the steam plant boilers to heat the entire MCV Campus until 1983, when the boilers were converted from coal to oil. S.B. Cox is trying to sell the coal but it has a high sulfur content which causes air

pollution and thus, is not the type of coal currently burned in power plants. (Thanks to Robert Reardon for providing this information.)

Meet the VCU School of Medicine Inova Clerkship Directors

Emergency	Kathy Kenders, MD	Pediatrics	Rachel Wohlberg, MD
Family Practice	Margie Hermes, MD	Psychiatry	Alexander Isaac, MD
Medicine	Craig Cheifetz, MD	Psychiatry (Gtown)	Carol Perez, MD
Medicine Assoc. CD	Alita Mishra, MD	Psychiatry Assoc. CD	Cynthia Gauss, MD
Neurology	Paul Nyquist, MD	Surgery	David Reines, MD
Neurology Assoc. CD	Eric Sklar, MD	Surgery Assoc. CD	Chris Michetti, MD
OB/GYN	TBA		

We look forward to working with them in clinical training of our M3 students in Fairfax beginning August 1, 2005.

Library Bytes



VCU's Jean Shipman elected President of the Medical Library Association

A Virginia Commonwealth University librarian has been elected president of the Medical Library Association, a national organization that works to ensure access to health information.

Jean Shipman, director of Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences and associate university librarian, begins her term in May and will serve in the role that is considered one of the highest honors in the profession, given to those who show exemplary leadership.

"Jean's election comes as no surprise to all of us who work with her daily," said John E. Ulmschneider, University Librarian. "I am proud to see this national recognition of her many extraordinary contributions in the four years that she has been at VCU."

Shipman has been a member of the MLA since 1980. She previously worked for the Health Sciences libraries at the University of Washington and at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Founded in 1898, MLA is a nonprofit, education organization with more than 1,100 institutional members and 3,600 individual members. It is committed to educating health information professionals, supporting health information research, promoting access to the world's health sciences information and working to ensure access to the best health information. (thanks to University News Service)

VCU Libraries selected to host "Changing the Face of Medicine" Exhibition

Congratulations to the VCU Libraries for being one of 60 libraries nationally selected to host this traveling exhibition. The "Changing the Face of Medicine" exhibit and tour have been developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The exhibit explores how women have influenced and enhanced the practice of medicine and celebrates some of America's extraordinary women physicians. Funding for the traveling exhibition has come from the National Library of Medicine. The exhibition will tour from September 2005 through early 2009. It will be at the Tompkins-McCaw Library, MCV Campus, June 20 - August 7, 2006. For more information, to www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/

Va -LEND Partnership Awarded Five-Year \$2.3 Million Grant to Provide Interdisciplinary Leadership Training

The Partnership for People with Disabilities, an affiliate of the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University has received a five-year award of \$460,000/year to provide interdisciplinary leadership training, continuing education and technical assistance in the field of childhood neurodevelopmental disabilities. The program, entitled the Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND), is a collaborative effort between the Partnership, the VCU School of Medicine, the Virginia Title V program, and Children's Hospital.

Va-LEND began in 1995, and have trained 80 health professionals and related disciplines to assume leadership roles across the country with a focus on eliminating health disparities, assuring quality health care, and facilitating coordination and access to care for children with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. The interdisciplinary training program involves the active participation of 16 core faculty members from seven schools and colleges at VCU. Students are recruited from VCU and other Virginia graduate programs, as well as local and state agencies in the Greater Richmond Metropolitan area. The new grant award provides funding to allow for an expansion of the training program to support more trainees and fellows, incorporate new core disciplines including genetic counseling and pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation, and provide continuing education programs with collaborators in the state, region, and nation.

In a letter from a local pediatrician who graduated from Va-LEND, she writes, " I am convinced that without LEND, I would not have developed or maintained my current emphasis on community outreach and interdisciplinary collaboration in my professional career."

The following faculty members are involved in this project:

Joann Bodurtha, MD, MPH, Principal Investigator and Director
Ann Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN, Associate Director & Coordinator of Training
Janet Willis, MPH, RD, Assistant Director
Pat Accardo, MD, Core Faculty Developmental Pediatrics
Mac Butts, PhD, Core Faculty Audiology
Laura Duncan, RD, MPH, Core Faculty Nutrition
Annabel Edge, MS, PT, Core Faculty Physical Therapy
Frank Farrington, DDS, MS, Core Faculty Pediatric Dentistry
Michael King, PhD, Core Faculty Speech and Language Pathology
Jaclyn Miller, PhD, LCSW, Core Faculty Social Work
Jacob Neufeld, MD, MSPH, Core Faculty Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Jayne Shepherd, MS, OTR/L, Core Faculty Occupational Therapy
Kevin Sutherland, PhD, Core Faculty Special Education
Elaine Ogburn, Core Faculty Family Specialist
Donald Oswald, PhD, Core Faculty Psychology
Betty Thompson, Core Faculty Family Specialist
Lauren Vanner Nicely, MS, Core Faculty Genetic Counseling

The project is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration for five years.
(thanks to University News Service)

AD Williams Awards for January, 2005 Award Cycle Announced

A.D. Williams Multi-School Award

Dr. Paul M. Fawcett, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, (Division of Infectious Diseases) as the Principal investigator, was awarded \$100,000 in support of their multi-school application entitled "**The VCU Mouse Microarray Immunological Signal Transduction Initiative.**"

A.D. Williams Research Grants

Dr. William A. Barton, Research Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Structural and Functional Analysis of NgR Mediated Signaling." This was provided by the **Crump Foundation** trust funds.

Dr. Stephen T. Sawyer, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Role of GFI-1B in Erythroid Cells." This was provided in part by the **Harvell Foundation** trust funds and in part by the Friel Foundation trust funds.

Dr. Phillip M. Gerk, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutics, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Effects of Preeclampsia and Gestational Diabetes on the Placental ATP Binding Cassette Efflux Transporters MRP2, ABCG2, and MDR1." This was provided by the **Medical Research Endowment** trust funds.

Dr. Dianne Koontz Lowman, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, was awarded \$13,906 in support of her application entitled "The Effectiveness of the Beckman Oral-Motor Intervention for Children with Feeding Impairments." This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. Robert J. McKallip, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "The Role of CD44 Isoforms in Immunotherapy of Melanoma." This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. Susan E. Robinson, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of her application entitled "Basis of Individual Variability in Responses to Nicotine." This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. John M Hettema, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Candidate Genes for Anxiety Disorders." This was provided in part by the Baruch Foundation trust funds and in part by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. James A. Arrowood, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine (Division of Cardiology), was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Pilot Study to Determine the Effect of Antiplatelet Therapy with Clopidogrel on Vascular Inflammation in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus." This was provided in part by the Medical Research Endowment trust funds and in part by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. Yan Zhang, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Chemokine Receptor CCR5 Antagonists as Novel Anti-HIV-1 Agents." This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. Liya Qiao, Assistant Professor of Physiology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of her application entitled "Cross-sensitization between the Urinary Bladder and Colon after Inflammation." This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

Dr. Narendra P. Singh, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was awarded \$15,000 in support of his application entitled "Understanding the Regulation of FAS and FASL post 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) Exposure". This was provided by the **A. D. Williams** trust funds.

The A.D. Williams family left a generous bequest to support medical scholarship and research at the Medical College of Virginia. Today these funds are administered by a committee including the Vice President of the Health Sciences Division of VCU and the Deans of the five schools on the MCV campus. The Committee annually allots a portion of these funds to foster and support research and faculty development. It also sponsors outstanding researcher awards, the recipients of which are chosen by the individual schools. In addition, the MCV Foundation contributes funds from endowments specifically designated for medical research or research into specific diseases or conditions. Monies from these disease-related funds are used to support appropriate A. D. Williams research applications and are not available for direct solicitation. *(For more information, including applications: <http://views.vcu.edu/adw/>)*

FCM Awarded AHEC "Microgrant" to Enhance Medical Student Cultural Competency

The Foundations of Clinical Medicine (FCM) course was awarded an AHEC "microgrant" (\$4760) on April 4, 2005, for the project "Preparing Medical Students to Serve Diverse Populations." Dr. Rita Willett, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, is the PI and Program Director for FCM. Other FCM faculty involved in this educational project include Mary Lee Magee, co-PI; Janet Johnson, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics; Dr. Cathy Kelso, Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine; Dr. Sonya Lawson, Assistant Professor, Continuing Professional Development & Evaluation Studies; Dr. Carolyn Peel, Assistant Professor, Family Medicine, and Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, Associate Professor, Family Medicine.

This is the second year FCM has received a "microgrant" from the Capital Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Richmond. Last year, the award was used to develop a standardized patient workshop for M2 students on advanced interviewing skills, emphasizing patient-centered skills. Part of this year's award will be used for faculty development for M2 small group leaders, who will all have the opportunity to complete the on-line case based curriculum, "Quality Interactions: A Patient-Based Approach to Cross-Cultural Care," developed by the Manhattan Cross Cultural Group in collaboration with Critical Measures, a Minneapolis based health care consulting organization. The remainder of the award will be used to refine and enhance the communication skills component of the M2 FCM curriculum.

FCM is the longitudinal clinical skills course for our M1 and M2 students. The course runs throughout the first and second year of medical school and involves over 300 community and academic based physicians as faculty.

WISDM BOOK CLUB Meeting, Wednesday April 13, 6 pm, Café Gutenberg



Come, bring a friend, and join us for a delightful evening at the **Cafe Gutenberg, 1700 E. Main Street, and Shockoe Bottom**. Our book is **Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America,"** and our facilitators will be Dr. Joanne Hudson (Anesthesiology) and Dr. Mary Ellen Olbrisch (Psychiatry). The meeting will finish about 8 pm.

Fifteen women faculty brought a fun, sharing spirit and engagement to our inaugural WISDM Book Club on January 11th at Cafe Gutenberg. The discussion of "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Kidd Monk was a unanimous success, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Facilitators were Dr. Joann Bodurtha (Human Genetics) and Carol Hampton (Faculty and Instructional Development). *Thanks to all for a wonderful start!*



Did You Know?

VCU and VCU Health System Employees Contribute Record Amount to the 2004 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign



Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU Health System employees have contributed a record \$437,340 to their combined 2004 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.

The CVC is an annual giving program that encourages Virginia state employees to contribute to humanitarian, environmental and health- and-human service charities. The statewide campaign began Oct. 1 and was extended to mid-December.

Contributions from both campuses increased more than 19 percent for 2004, eclipsing the record from the previous year by \$71,020. University and health system employees also set a record for participation. For the current combined campaign 3,530 employees returned pledge cards, compared with 3,380 employees in 2003, when \$366,320 was collected.

More than 1,100 charities participate in the CVC, including five that are connected to the university and the health system. The Loftis Memorial Bereavement Fund, VCU Foundation Community Programs and Virginia Mentoring Partnerships this year joined the Hospital Hospitality House and VCU's Massey Cancer Center as CVC-approved charities.

The successful combined campaign can be traced to three main contributing sources. Employee pledge cards account for nearly \$337,210, more than three-fourths of the total. The Heart Walk added \$53,900, and the annual Gurney Tourney provided a \$46,230 boost.

This is the second year in a row that employee contributions have resulted in a record-setting total for the VCU and VCUHS combined campaign, which has been a pacesetter in the Commonwealth, ranking second among all agencies for the past four years. In the past six years, employees of VCU and the VCU Health System have contributed nearly \$2 million dollars to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.

Departmental News

Department of Internal Medicine

Dr. Shaun Ruddy, Professor Emeritus, Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology has been selected to receive a Mastership Award by the American College of Physicians at their annual meeting in San Francisco this April. From his award letter: "Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. They are recommended by the Awards Committee for election to Mastership by the Board of Regents. Masters are authorized to use the letters MACP (Master of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current."

Department of Ophthalmology

Dr. Robert C. Allen, age 54, former Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, died Thursday, March 24, 2005, at his home in Richmond of complications from eye cancer. Dr. Allen served as Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology from 1994-2003. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ocular Melanoma Foundation, a non-

profit advocacy organization founded by Dr. Allen, either online at www.ocumel.org or by mail to OMF, PO Box 29261, Richmond, VA 23242. In addition, the Department of Ophthalmology will accept gifts in his memory.

Department of Psychiatry

James L. Levenson, M.D., Vice Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, has edited the first textbook in the newly recognized subspecialty devoted to the treatment of psychiatric disorders in complex medically ill patients. VCU has one of the only Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education approved fellowships in the country in psychosomatic medicine, a term that refers to the effects of mind and body on each other, interacting in health and illness. Additional info is available at <http://www.vcu.edu/uns/news/vcuview/archives/2004/dec/levenson.html>

VCU Reanimation Engineering Shock Center and Department of Biochemistry

VCURES has partnered with the Department of Biochemistry in the successful submission and awarding of an Institutional National Research Service Award Doctoral Training Grant to train research fellows in the area of "Signaling in Tissue Injury and Repair." The objective of this training program is to provide an intensive 2-year laboratory experience for young physicians and basic scientists to help them develop as independent investigators in preparation for a career in academics. Ideal candidates would include emergency physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensivists and basic scientists interested in acute illness and injury research. This is a highly competitive and sought-after program and there are a very limited number of universities that have such training programs.

The program will be directed by Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., who is the director of the VCURES laboratory for acute tissue injury and repair. The grant is co-directed by Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D. who is Chair of the Department of Biochemistry. Several Senior VCURES Fellows including Drs. Kevin Ward, Rakish Kukreja and Rao Ivatury will serve on the Steering committee along with Drs. Thomas Miller and Suzanne Barbour to select outstanding fellows for training. An impressive list of well-established and well-funded faculty has been developed to serve as mentors for the trainees. Ten Senior Fellows from VCURES are approved mentors for this NRSA. VCURES was cited by the NIH review as a major strength of the proposal. Dr. Diegelmann states "This was truly a collaborative effort and reflects the enormous commitment of those involved in training the next generation of scientists who will no doubt improve the care of patients. The multidisciplinary nature of this effort will ensure its success. "

The 5-year grant for over 1 million dollars was awarded by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences at the NIH and will begin on July 1, 2005. For more information contact Dr. Robert F. Diegelmann at rdiegelm@hsc.vcu.edu

VCU Women's Health Institute

Two Virginia Commonwealth University physicians have been named editor-in-chief and deputy editor of the *Journal of Women's Health*, a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that publishes clinical papers on health issues that affect women across the lifespan.

Susan G. Kornstein, M.D., professor of psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology, will serve as editor-in-chief; and Wendy S. Klein, M.D., professor of internal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, will serve as deputy editor.

Kornstein is co-founder and executive director of the VCU Institute for Women's Health, designated a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is also director of clinical research for VCU's Department of Psychiatry and executive director of the VCU Mood Disorders Institute. A nationally recognized researcher with expertise in women's mental health and

depression, Kornstein has been a principal investigator on over 40 research studies in the areas of depression, anxiety disorders and premenstrual syndrome.

Kornstein is co-editor of *Women's Mental Health: A Comprehensive Textbook*, which is the first comprehensive textbook on women's mental health. She also is president-elect of the International Society for Women's Mental Health, a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the American College of Psychiatrists. In addition, she is program chair for the 3rd World Congress on Women's Mental Health to be held in Melbourne, Australia. Honors Kornstein has won include the VCU Women in Medicine and Science Professional Achievement Award and the YWCA Outstanding Woman Award for Health and Science.

Klein, co-founder and senior deputy director of the Institute for Women's Health, is also program director of the Women's Health Residency track in Internal Medicine. She has consistently been recognized in Richmond Magazine's listing of the "Best Doctors in Richmond," and since 1996 has been included in The Best Doctors in America. Also in 1996, Klein was recognized for her dedication to women's health and named VCU's Woman of the Year.

Klein is the founding past president of the VCU Women in Medicine, Science & Dentistry organization (WISDM) and founder of the annual Pathways to Leadership Conference for women physicians and scientists. She is chairwoman of the School of Medicine Committee on the Status of Women & Minorities. She is also the program chair of the regional professional education program, "Women's Health: Clinical Insights for the Practitioner," now one of the largest women's health conferences on the East coast.

The Journal of Women's Health focuses on the diseases and conditions that hold greater risk for or are more prevalent among women and provides research and therapeutic options for the management of these diseases. Features include original papers and review articles, editorial commentary, news from Women's Health Networks and observations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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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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