

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – October 2003 – Vol 7, No. 2

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department Chair Search Update

The **Ophthalmology Search Committee** has narrowed the search to three well-qualified external candidates. The committee, under the leadership of Dr. David Wilkinson (Pathology), hopes to make the final selection soon.

Did you know?...

Once the Ophthalmology Chair position is filled, assuming no other Chairs depart in the meantime, this will be the first time since at least 5 years that all Departmental Chair positions will be filled. Since the average tenure of a Department Chair is around 8 years, and we have 27 Chairs, having positions open is expected, but having them all filled is a nice milestone nonetheless!

Faculty Election Results

Thanks to all the faculty members who responded to the Dean's e-mail message in the Spring, requesting faculty to indicate their interest in Committees, including opportunities in the SOM, University and MCVH - and **Congratulations** to the following faculty who were recently elected to the VCU Faculty Senate and other SOM Committees:

FACULTY SENATE

Members:

Dr. Richard Brookman, Pediatrics
Dr. Catherine Cooper, Anesthesiology
Dr. Paul Dent, Radiation Oncology
Dr. Shoba Ghosh, Internal Medicine
Dr. Andrew Heller, Otolaryngology
Dr. Maria Luorno, Internal Medicine
Dr. Michael McVoy, Pediatrics
Dr. Shirley Taylor, Microbiology/Immunology

Alternates:

Dr. Michael Gonzales, Emergency Medicine
Dr. Ana Ingroff, Internal Medicine
Ms. Donna Jackson, SOM Dean's Office
Dr. David Leszczyszyn, Neurology
Dr. Ross Mikkelsen, Radiation Oncology

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL:

Dr. Cecelia Boardman, OB/GYN
Dr. Abelardo Deanda, Surgery
Dr. Isaac Wood, Psychiatry

UNIVERSITY GRIEVANCE PANEL:

Full Members:

Dr. Robert Adler, Internal Medicine
Dr. Linda Corey, Human Genetics

Alternate:

Dr. Isaac Wood, Psychiatry

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PROMOTION AND TENURE COMMITTEE

Dr. Enrique Gerszten, Pathology
Dr. Anne-Marie Irani, Pediatrics
Dr. Barry Kirschbaum, Internal Medicine

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY:

Clinical representative:

Dr. William Moskowitz, Pediatrics

COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Dr. Jan Chlebowsky, Biochemistry/Dean's Office

SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY:

Dr. George Ford, Physiology/Dean's Office

AMA ELECTED FACULTY

REPRESENTATIVE:

Dr. Donald Switz, Internal Medicine

Thanks also to the SOM Nomination Committee members:

Joan Barrett, Office Manager, Dean's Office
Dr. Joann Bodurtha, Human Genetics
Dr. Kevin Cooper, Internal Medicine (Pulmonary)
Carol Hampton, Associate Dean, Faculty & Instructional Development (Committee Chair)
Dr. Jim Levenson, Psychiatry
Dr. Karen Sanders, Internal Medicine (Rheumatology) & VAMC
Dr. John Tew, Micro/Immunology

Join Us for New Faculty Orientation and Teaching Excellence Award Ceremony!

Please encourage any new faculty you know to attend the **New Faculty Orientation** on Tuesday, October 14, from 8am-5pm in the Medical Sciences Building Rooms 104/105. Additionally, all faculty, students, and housestaff are encouraged to attend the **SOM Teaching Excellence Awards** presentation from 12:10 – 1:10 pm in the MSB Auditorium. The following faculty will be recognized:

- **Faculty Teaching Excellence Award:** Robert L. Balster, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D., Department of Physiology.
- **Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching:** Robert K. Schneider, M.D., Departments of Psychiatry, Family Practice, and Internal Medicine
- **Distinguished Mentor Award:** Deborah L. Haller, Ph.D., ABPP, Department of Psychiatry
- **Educational Innovation Award:** Charles O. Frazier, M.D., FAAFP, Department of Family Practice

Come support your colleagues and enjoy a luncheon reception immediately following the ceremony, on the MSB Plaza.

Did you know?...

On September 3, the Admissions Office began interviews for the medical school class of 2008? Thanks to all who assist with this time-consuming but important process during the year.

Welcome to the Class of 2007!

After 3911 applications and 629 interviews, the 184-member SOM Class of 2007 was admitted and has arrived on campus! Some statistics: the class is 47% women and six members of the class are over the age of 35. There are 14 minority students in the class. The average GPA is 3.5 and the average MCAT score is 28.3. We have one expectant Mom in the class!

The class of 2007 is divided almost evenly between in-state and out-of-state students. 24 states are represented with the largest number being from Virginia (100), followed by California (21) and Maryland (18). 74 undergraduate schools are represented. 71 majors are represented, with the majority from Biology (34%), although we also have students who majored in English, Anthropology, History, and Women's Studies.

Among the undergraduate schools represented are 15 students from the University of California system and 9 from the University of Maryland. Among the Virginia schools our largest numbers are from VCU at 23, followed by UVA and William and Mary with 13 each, 9 from University of Richmond, 8 from Virginia Tech and then a few each from Bridgewater, George Mason, Hampton, Mary Washington, Old Dominion, Randolph-Macon, VMI, and Washington and Lee. We also have students from Berkeley, Brown, Cornell, Duke, MIT, Princeton, Stanford.

Congratulations and welcome to the class!

Did You Know? Scholarship for Last Medical Student Admitted...

Each year the last medical student admitted to the class receives a scholarship award! The "**Miles Hench Scholarship**" has been given for over 20 years and is the generous donation of Dr. Larry Schlesinger, class of 1971, who now lives in Maui, Hawaii. Dr. Schlesinger created this scholarship because he was the last person in his class off the alternate list and he always thanked Dr. Hench, Dean of Admissions at the time, for taking the chance...and he ended up tied for #1 in his class. Dr. Schlesinger wants to give a little encouragement to that last accepted student, reminding them that they have been selected from among thousands of applicants and are truly deserving of their place in the class.

Faculty Advisors for the Class of 2007

Thanks to the 112 SOM faculty members listed below, who are serving as advisors to the medical students who entered in August. The role of advisor is important in helping our students transition to medical school, in providing guidance, and serving as a resource for questions as well as opportunities. Thanks, as well, to other faculty members who continue to advise and mentor our students throughout their years of medical school. You are appreciated! If others would like to volunteer as advisors, contact Janet Mundie, 828-9791, jkmundie@cedar.vcu.edu, in the Office of Student Affairs, Dr. Hugo Seibel, Associate Dean.

Anatomy/Neurobiology	Internal Medicine	Neurosurgery	Psychiatry
Gudas	Abayomi	Broaddus	Al-Mateen
Merchant	Arrowood	Marmarou	Ceperich
Simpson	Baker		Cropsey
	Biskobing	OB/GYN	Fernandez
Anesthesiology	Boling	Boardman	Levenson
Arancibia	Brannen	Lanni	Pandurangi
Green	Brookman		B. Sood
Justis	Clark	Ophthalmology	Wood
Kravitz	Clemo	Schwartz	
Slaughter	Clore		Radiology
Zhu	Dessypris	Orthopedics	Jolles
	DiGiovanni	Adelaar	Kurdziel
Dean's Office	Ellis	Boardman	Maroney
Heldberg	Elmore	Cardea	Tisnado
	Espinel-Ingroff	Isaacs	
ENT	Essah		Radiation Oncology
DiNardo	Gardner	Pathology	Morris
Heller	Gill	Gerszten	Song
	Ingroff	Riley	Todor
Emergency Medicine	Kelso	Wilkinson	Williamson
Aisiku	Klein		Yacoub
Akbarnia	Masho	Pediatrics	
Christiansen	McGurl	Irani	Surgery
Cuttino	McIntosh	Johnson	Bear
Evans	McMurtry	Massey	Duane
Ward	Monroe	McKenna	Kasirajam
	Mulligan	Moskowitz	Levy
Family Practice	Nixon		Mehrhof
Bradner	Ripley	PM&R	Nseyo
Gary	J. Roberts	Neufeld	Savas
Kuzel	N. Roberts		
Olsen	T. Smith	Pharmacology	
Peel	W. Smith	Balster	
Whitehurst-Cook	Weaver	Lichtman	
		Miles	
Human Genetics	Neurology		
Lloyd	Bekenstein	Physiology	
Pallante	Saul	L. Costanzo	
Silberg	Waterhouse	R. Costanzo	
		Pittman	

Graduate Student Update

Headcount enrollment in the advanced degree (graduate) programs for fall 2003 is 337 students. This represents a slight increase (2%) compared to last year with modest increases in Ph.D. and Certificate student numbers. Doctoral enrollment is currently at 167 students, consistent with a stable graduation of Ph.D. graduates for the School.

2003 FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT

DEPT	CERT	MASTER	PHD	MS+PHD	TOTAL
Anatomy	20	11	22	33	53
Biochemistry	9	6	21	27	36
Biostatistics		13	18	31	31
Human Genetics	3		14	24	27
Microbiology	5	5	52	57	62
Pathology			5	5	5
Physiology	36	13	9	22	58
Pharmacology/Toxicology	2	9	26	35	37
Preventive Medicine & Community Health		28		29	29
TOTAL	75	95	167	262	337

9/7/2003

GME Administration Reorganization

Dr. Robert Perry, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, stepped down this summer after 9 years service in this role. Dr. Perry is widely regarded as an expert clinician and teacher. He has returned full time to the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care. He is providing assistance to the DOIM residency program as an assistant director in charge of curriculum development and of faculty and housestaff teaching. The position of Associate Dean will not be filled immediately.

In order to make better use of the varied talents of the residency program directors in the School of Medicine, and to address new and ongoing accreditation and work issue requirements recently enacted by the ACGME, a set of focused subcommittees has been formed to administer specific aspects of the GME program:

Working Hours Compliance - Brian Kaplan, M.D., Assistant Professor, Surgery
Policies and Procedures – Karen Sanders, M.D., Associate Chief of Staff for Education, VAMC
Educational Resources and Competencies – John Urbach, M.D., Associate Professor, Psychiatry
Program Review and Accreditation – Margaret Grimes, M.D., Professor of Pathology

Dr. Mary Alice O'Donnell will continue to serve as Senior Executive Director of GME and will coordinate the activities of these subcommittees with the Graduate Medical Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Carlos Arancibia.

Thanks to Dr. Perry for his years of excellent leadership in graduate medical education!

Three Women Faculty Selected to Attend the AAMC Professional Development Seminar

Three women assistant professors were selected to attend the AAMC's Early Career Women Faculty Development Seminar in New Mexico, December 6-9. They are Melissa Bradner, M.D., Family Practice; Karen Kurdziel, M.D., Radiology; and Michelle Meade, Ph.D., Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. This and other AAMC seminars are highly rated as career planning opportunities with nationally known experts focusing on such topics as negotiation, getting started in research, preparing for promotion and tenure, and mentoring. For information about these AAMC educational programs, go to www.aamc.org.

Welcome the New Director of Student Academic Support Services _____

Cheryl Chesney-Walker, M.Ed., is the new Director, Student Academic Support Services and Services for Students with a Disability, MCV Campus. She has taken the position previously held by Don Roebuck, who retired this spring. Ms. Chesney-Walker will work with **Mrs. Sandy Carter**, Coordinator of Student Services, to assist students who need help with study skills, test taking skills, identification of a disability, and other academic support services. Please welcome her to the campus. For assistance, students and faculty may contact Academic Support Services at 828-9782 or stop by the office at 1000 Marshall St., Room 301.

Task Force for a New School _____

A **School of Public Health Task Force** has been formed with the responsibility to study the formation of a School of Public Health that would become integrated with the School of Allied Health Professions. Task Force members include: Drs. Cecil Drain, School of Allied Health Professions; Michael Edmond, SOM Department of Internal Medicine; Don Gehring, Special Advisor and VP for Community and Government Relations; Dan Hanfling, Inova Fairfax Hospital Emergency Department; Marci Harrigan, School of Social Work; JoAnne Henry, Office of Health Policy and Research and School of Nursing; Thomas Huff, VCU Life Sciences; Ronald Hunt, School of Dentistry; Lisa Kaplowitz, Virginia Department of Health; Hermes Kontos, Committee Chair, VP Emeritus; William "Bill" Smith, School of Pharmacy; Health Sciences; and David Sarrett, Committee Chair, the new VP for Academic Affairs, Health Sciences. For more information please contact Dr. Sarrett at dcsarrett@vcu.edu.

ENewsletter from MCV Physicians _____

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to highlight some of the activities of the MCV Physicians group.

- **Financials**

At year end (June 30, 2003) the Practice Plan had a net

Positive	\$425,000	from Operations
Positive	\$561,000	from Non-operations
Positive Bottom Line	\$987,000	

Note that a year ago, we were expected to lose \$6.1 million
The financial turnaround represents an improvement of \$3.4 million over last year.
(Note – these are un-audited figures and are likely to improve when finalized.)

- **Work RVUs**

The faculty of MCV Physicians increased work RVUs by 8.8%, from 1,460,800 to 1,589,885 despite a net loss of 28 faculty from FY 02 to FY 03. This is an extraordinary effort.

- **Payment Denials**

Decreased by 14.5% in FY 03 compared to FY 02.

- **Stony Point Leadership**

The MCV Board has asked Dr John Cardea to be the interim director for one year and to help formulate a 5-10 year vision for the facility, working with clinicians who practice there and members and the Board of MCV Physicians.

- **Open Faculty Meetings**

In an effort to be transparent and communicative, the MCV Physicians Board will hold open forums every three months for all faculty and administrators. At least 45 minutes will be unstructured time to allow the faculty to raise questions or concerns.

- **Search for Permanent Executive Director**

A committee led by David Cifu, MD, Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been formed. The advertisements are out, and CVs already have been received. It is expected that the new person will be on board by mid 2004.

- **Faculty Survey Results**

The full results will be available in the next several weeks. Two highlights are shown below.

- **Areas of Improved Performance**

Subject	Score Fy02	Score Fy03	% Improvement
MCVP Organizational structure	2.15	3.00	40%
MCVP Organization's ability to make decisions	2.00	2.75	38%
Effectiveness of new MCVP Board	2.20	2.98	35%
MCVP Administrative leadership	2.23	3.01	35%
MCVP Organization's ability to change (implement decisions)	2.04	2.71	33%
Autonomy of medical group	2.32	3.06	32%
VCU Organizational structure	2.15	2.79	30%
VCU Administrative leadership	2.23	2.89	30%
Accountability of medical group	2.54	3.28	29%
Medical group's relationship with the hospital system	2.43	3.11	28%

Areas of Declining Performance			
CATEGORY	SCORE FY02	SCORE FY03	% Decline
Inpatient Facilities and Equipment	2.87	2.65	-8%
Outpatient Facilities and Equipment	3.27	3.10	-5%

On behalf of the Board, thanks so much for your comments, support and helpful critique.

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc.
President, MCV Physicians

TML Library Bits and Bytes

Coffee Service Now Open in the Library!

Skull and Beans, newly opened this fall, is a coffee and food service located conveniently on the first floor of TML, immediately to the left of the main entrance. It is a partnership between VCU Dining Services, Starbucks, and the VCU Libraries. A complete coffee menu is provided including drip-brewed coffees, espresso drinks, iced beverages, gourmet teas, and assorted bottled beverages. Also offered is a selection of high quality pastries, such as fresh-baked muffins, croissants, Danish, biscotti, cookies, sandwiches, and other snack foods. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am until 3 pm.

Come visit the new Skull & Beans at TML to sip coffee, read and study!

New Elective for M-4's Providing Health Information to Patients

The Community Health Education Center (CHEC) on the ground floor of the Gateway Building is offering an elective opportunity for 4th year medical students. Staff of the Center provide reliable and current health information to patients, their families and the community-at-large. Students will learn how to identify and access relevant consumer health information resources (both print and electronic) in order to meet client information needs. In addition, the VCUHS Patient Education Coordinator will discuss

literacy, barriers to learning, and how to assess the readability level of resource materials. Students will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned by providing information directly to patients in the Emergency Department, Hayes E. Willis Clinic, and the Surgical Oncology Unit. Additional information about CHEC is available through its Web site: <http://www.vcuhealth.org/chec/>.

BioMed Central – A New Publishing Venue

Looking for a place to publish your next article? Consider publishing in a BioMed Central journal found at www.biomedcentral.com

VCU Libraries has recently obtained membership in BioMed Central, one of a new breed of open access journals that promise to make research findings freely available to anyone with an Internet connection as soon as the work is published. Papers published in BioMed Central's journals are also included in PubMed and are permanently archived in PubMed Central. Unlike other science publishers, they do not require authors to transfer copyright of their articles and the rapid electronic peer review process enables processing times, from submission to publication, to be much quicker than average. And, VCU Libraries' BioMed Central institutional membership ensures automatic fee waivers for VCU authors.

To submit your next article to one of BioMed Central's journals go to <http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/authors/submit> or e-mail info@biomedcentral.com with any questions.

Bioterrorism Research Guide (<http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/bibs/bioterrorism.html>)

The Bioterrorism Research Guide provides links to major information sites such as the Centers for Disease Control, state and local sources, news items, and online reference materials. In addition, resources on four specific biologic agents are included -- anthrax, smallpox, botulism, and plague. The guide helps to locate books, journals, research databases, and other information from VCU Libraries and beyond.

MD Consult Mobile Edition: (http://www.library.vcu.edu/whatsnew/news_result.cfm?ID=410)

In response to the large number of healthcare professionals using handheld computers, MD Consult has developed a slimmed-down version available for PDA users

<http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/bibs/pda.html>, /MDC Mobile/. /MDC Mobile/ provides access to daily news updates, weekly drug updates, and journal abstracts. You may also initiate searches from your Palm or PocketPC device when on the go. The new product is available for PocketPC or PalmOS PDA users. Access MDC Mobile when logged into your personal MD Consult page.

VCU Massey Cancer Center Chosen as Palliative Care Leadership Center

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has awarded the VCU Massey Cancer Center palliative care program a \$750,000 grant over three years to help increase the availability of palliative care in the United States.

The program will teach other cancer centers the optimal way to provide treatment aimed at relieving pain and symptoms as part of state-of-the-art cancer care. The Massey Cancer Center is one of six institutions with exemplary palliative care programs chosen to be a Palliative Care Leadership Center. Of the six, Massey is the only one located on the East Coast and the only cancer center. Centers were chosen after a rigorous yearlong selection process that evaluated clinical and program excellence, leadership and educational experience.

"Massey's palliative care program is clearly recognized as one of the national leaders in pain and symptom control," said Dr. Thomas Smith, medical director of the Massey-VCU Health System's Thomas Palliative Care Unit. "We now have the opportunity to teach our methods to more than 100 teams from other cancer centers over the next three years." (*thanks to Pamela DiSalvo Lepley, VCU News, for this information*)

VA Launches New Minority Research Training Efforts

WASHINGTON (Sept. 15, 2003) - In a move to strengthen the contributions of minority researchers to biomedical and clinical research, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced several new

efforts to increase scientific career opportunities for under-represented minorities. "By opening up more opportunities in VA research to minority health care professionals, we're ensuring that veterans will continue to be served by the best this country has to offer," said Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr. With an overall goal of enhancing research opportunities for minorities and increasing funding for minority-serving institutions, the initiative calls for three new mentoring programs:

- * Supporting institutional collaborations between VA and minority-serving institutions, involving students and faculty from these institutions partnered with VA mentors.

- * Providing applied training in research on VA-funded projects to participants ranging from high school students and college undergraduates, to graduates and pre-doctoral students.

- * Offering a supportive career path for mentored research within VA for people who have completed their clinical fellowships or doctoral training within the last two years. The program provides a full salary to awardees for three years.

Mackay noted that VA's new mentor programs are modeled after successful programs offered by the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The mentoring programs will partner VA medical centers with historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and other institutions with sizeable concentrations of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, native Hawaiians and Alaska natives. Projected to cost about \$6 million annually, the program is scheduled to begin in April 2004. For more information about the program, visit the website at www.va.gov/resdev.

Change in Campus Mail Delivery to VAMC

Please note that there is no longer CAMPUS MAIL delivery to the VAMC. You must send mail via the U. S. Postal Service. Please note the format and address below to help assure your mail gets where it needs to go!

Dr. XXXXX XXXXX
 Administrative title if known
 Department of XXXXXX
 VA Medical Center (XXX)*
 1201 Broad Rock Blvd.
 Richmond, VA 23249

*This 3 digit mail code refers to a department or location in the medical center. It's important to know the 3 digit mailcode prior to mailing to the VA. This will expedite delivery.

Service mail codes are:

Material Management	90	Prosthetics	121	Director	00
Anesthesiology	110	Radiation Oncology	114A	Associate Director	001
Canteen	133	Radiology – Nuc Med	114 115	Chief of Staff	11
Clinical Supt. Mgmt.	122	Police	132	AA/Chief of Staff	11A
Dental	160	Spinal Cord Injury	128	Regional Counselor	002
Dermatology	111L	Surgical	112	Staff Asst. to Director	00P
Facility Mgmt (Engineering & EMS)	137	Voluntary Service	135	EEO	00B
Fiscal	04	Public Affairs Officer	00A	Emergency Preparedness	007
Human Resources	05	** ACOS/Primary Care	171	Admin. Resident	001C
Medical	111	ACOS/Education	141	Patient Rep/Congress.	001
Mental Health	116A	ACOS/Extended Care	181	Patient Rep/Inpatients	001
Neurology	127	ACOS/Info Technology	191	Patient Rep/Walk-ins	001
Pathology & Lab Med	113	ACOS/Research	151	AFGE 2145	AFGE
Pharmacy	119	ACOS/Quality Mgmt.	161	Govt. Service Coord.	00
Phys. Med. & Rehab.	117	ACOS/Patient Care	118	VISN Safety Coord.	00VS
**ACOS = Associate Chief of Staff					

VCU Student, now SOM Student, Selected for National Humanitarian Award

Sohaib Mohiuddin, a 2003 biology graduate of VCU, was selected as one of five students nationally to receive the Howard R. Swearer Student Humanitarian Award. Presented by Campus Compact, the award recognizes a student's outstanding efforts in public service and individual commitment in the community.

Nominated by VCU President and Campus Compact Member, Dr. Eugene P. Trani, Mohiuddin, 22, class of M2007, is the former president of VCU's Muslim Students' Association (MSA), a student organization that describes itself as bringing a sense of community to Muslim students at VCU, and promoting issues of social justice and moral values on campus. Nearly 127 nominations from campuses all over the country were submitted.

Mohiuddin was selected for the award for his efforts in student leadership, community involvement and humanitarianism. During his time as president of MSA, Mohiuddin led the organization in various projects ranging from a fundraising and awareness campaign to combat hunger in Richmond and across the globe to community events for the 9/11 anniversary as well as various education programs on human rights and civil liberties.

The award includes \$1,500, which will be used for MSA's "Unveiling Ignorance" educational lecture series. Mohiuddin says the series will give the VCU community an opportunity to be well informed about American Muslim issues, stereotypes about Islam, as well as the socio-political issues that continue to affect the nation and world. (*thanks to Malorie Janis, University News Service for this information*)

SOM Development News

In September, university officials announced **The Campaign for Virginia Commonwealth University**, a \$300 million effort encompassing both of the university's campuses. Within this larger framework, the School of Medicine will launch its own \$87 million campaign that will support both medical and graduate students as well as faculty and our teaching and research missions. With the help of Dean Newsome and the Department Chairs, the school has assembled a catalogue of funding opportunities that will prove useful as we engage alumni and friends in considering the role they will play in educating future generations of physicians and scientists, caring for our state's citizens, and opening doors to discovery.

The Campaign for the School of Medicine: A Tradition of Excellence, a Future of Discovery will be coordinated by **Tom Holland**, who is the new Director of Development for the school. Many in the school already know Tom well, as he has been with the MCV Campus development team for 10 years, most recently as Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences Development. He assumed leadership of the medical school's development office following the departure of Kara Broderick. The Broderick family moved to Ohio this summer when Dr. Tim Broderick accepted the position of medical director of the new interventional technology training center at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. (*thanks to Erin Lucero for the above items*)

Women in Medicine Organization Name Change Reflects Broader Membership: WISDM

The Women in Medicine and Science Faculty Organization, founded in 1992, has a new name – **Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine (WISDM)**. The new name better reflects the membership of the group, recognizing the participation of faculty from clinical medicine, the basic science departments, and the School of Dentistry. WISDM offers faculty development programs and the annual "Pathways to Leadership" conference during the academic year, with an emphasis on career and personal development. To join, or for additional information, please contact Dr. Bela Sood, President, 828-4371, bsood@mail2.vcu.edu or Carol Hampton, Associate Dean, 828-6594, carol.hampton@vcu.edu or visit the website www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu.

AD Williams Awards for October

Dr. Ramesh Natarajan, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine) was awarded \$15,000 from the A. D. Williams Trust funds in support of his application entitled "Role of Hypoxia Inducible Factor-1 in Microvascular Ischemia/Reperfusion".

Dr. Martin K. Safo, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, was awarded \$9,700 from the Harvell Foundation Trust funds in support of his application entitled "Design of Aldehydic Compounds as Anti-sickling Agents".

Department News

Dean's Office, School of Medicine

Judy Cramer, Director of Financial Aid Services for the SOM, has been selected by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators to chair their 2003/04 Graduate Professional Issues Committee. The goals for the year are to work with the participating states and regions on a Survey of Graduate Aid Policies and Procedures, and to assist the states and regions who wish to develop this sector of their membership. By uniting the financial aid administrators who work within this discipline, the committee will raise the profile of the issues specific to funding a high cost professional education within their institutions, their communities, and Congress. Judy also contributes a quarterly column to the state newsletter for financial aid professionals, serves on the AAMC Legislative Advisory Council for Reauthorization of Higher Education Act of 1965, and is a member of the COHEAO/HHS Task Force.

Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology

Dr. Babette Fuss, Assistant Professor, was recently awarded a \$415,337, 3-year grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to support her work on "Novel Molecular Mechanisms in Oligodendrocytes."

Department of Biochemistry

The Department has been successful in enhancing research programs with more than 100% increase in extramural funding since 2000. A new initiative in cellular and molecular signaling is well underway, building on existing research programs to bring key researchers and new recruits together. The large renovation grant from NIH awarded to Dr. Marsha Torr, the Vice President for Research, will transform the labs of the Biochemistry Department in Sanger Hall into a state-of-the-art facility.

Charles E. Chalfant, Ph.D., P.I., NIH, R01 HL072925, "The role of ceramide phosphate in eicosanoid synthesis," dates 11/01/03-10/31/08, \$200,000 annual direct costs, \$1,500,000 total costs. Dr. Chalfant is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

Gregorio Gil, Ph.D., P.I., NIH, RO1 DK065049 "Regulation of Bile Acid Synthesis by an alpha1-AT Peptide," dates: 09/01/03 – 06/30/08. \$220,000 annual direct costs, \$1,650,000 total costs. Dr. Gil is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and this is his second NIH grant.

Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D., P.I., NIH, Merit Award R37 GM043880-14, "Roles of sphingosine-1-phosphate phosphohydrolase." Dates: 06/01/03 – 06/31/10, \$200,000 annual direct costs, \$2,100,000 total costs. Dr. Spiegel is the Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and received this Merit Award in recognition of long-standing funding and outstanding scores.

Second Annual Undergraduate Biochemistry Research Symposium for the presentation of **Undergraduate Research at Virginia Colleges and Universities** was hosted by the Department on September 19. In addition to poster presentations by students, participants had an opportunity to attend the Kapp Lecture Symposium, sponsored by the VCU Chemistry Department in conjunction with the American Chemical Society. This separate symposium featured four afternoon seminars on the use of Mass Spectrometry in Proteomics, as well as an evening lecture by VCU Nobel Laureate Dr. John Fenn.

Department of Dermatology

Jane Lynch, M.D., joined the Dermatology faculty on July 1st. Dr. Lynch completed her residency at VCU Health System, and a dermatopathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins. We're very excited about the growth of the department and the contributions Dr. Lynch will make to the clinical and educational missions.

Department of Internal Medicine

Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc, William Branch Porter Professor and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, will receive the Alumni of the Year Award from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia on Friday night, October 10, 2003. Dr. Wenzel is a 1965 graduate of Jefferson. Congratulations to Dr. Wenzel on his selection for this honor

Domenic Sica, M.D., chair of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Hypertension, is Section Editor of the Pharmacotherapy Section of the recently published *Third Edition of the Hypertension Primer*. Published under the auspices of the American Heart Association and available from Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, the text is widely recognized as an authoritative source for scientific and clinical information on hypertension. The text contains more than 150 short chapters by distinguished experts that cover every aspect of hypertension and its pathogenesis, epidemiology, impact, and management. Written for physicians, scientists and trainees concerned with high blood pressure, it is also a useful adjunct text for medical students.

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

David Cifu, M.D., Professor and Chair, has been elected Treasurer on the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Board of Governors for 2003.

Jeffrey Kreutzer, Ph.D., Professor, was awarded the 2003 Roger Barker Award from the American Psychological Association Division 22. This award honors Dr. Kreutzer for his outstanding lifetime contribution to the field of rehabilitation neuropsychology.

Eugene A. Monasterio, M.D., presented "Simultaneous Use of Oral Motor and Behavioral Interventions for Oral Dysphagia in Children with Cerebral Palsy" at the AACPD Conference in Montreal from September 11-13, 2003. He presented this paper along with Dr. Betsy Clawson, Behavioral Director of Children's Hospital Feeding Program.

Jacob A. Neufeld, M.D., attended a consultation sponsored by the National Institute of Health at the Fogarty International Center in Bethesda, MD to examine the effects of trauma and injuries globally, with special reference to the developing world, on July 22 & 23, 2003.

Janet Niemeier, Ph.D., ABPP, passed orals for American Board of Professional Psychology certification in Rehabilitation Psychology. She reports she is the first woman in the State to achieve this! Dr. Niemeier also recently published an article: Niemeier, JM, Burnett, DM, Whitaker, DA. Cultural competence in the multidisciplinary rehabilitation setting: Are we falling short of meeting needs? Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 84, 2003: 1240-1245. Synopsis of this article appeared in Rehabilitation Psychology News, Division 22 Newsletter, American Psychological Association, Summer/Convention 2003, 30, 4-5.

Dr. Dan Slater and Michelle Meade, Ph.D., have co-founded the **Virginia Adaptive Recreation and Resource Center (VARRC)** with the belief that recreation should empower individuals of all communities to achieve greater independence, to contribute to their communities, and to improve the quality of their lives.

Preventive Medicine and Community Health

Jack O. Lanier, M.H.A., Dr. P.H., FACHE, Professor, was elected as Chairman of the State Board of Health, effective July 1, 2003. The State Board of Health consists of thirteen residents of the Commonwealth appointed by the Governor to provide leadership in planning and policy development for the Commonwealth and the Virginia Department of Health. In addition, the Board serves as the primary advocate and representative of the citizens of Virginia for achieving optimal health.

Professionalism

VCU School of Medicine Standards of Professionalism have been designed on a 4 x 6" pocket card distributed to medical students in August. Look for your pocket card in the campus mail soon. We hope you will refer to the Standards in support of teaching in classroom, lab, small groups and at the bedside.



VCU School of Medicine Standards of Professional Behavior

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

- Recognize their positions as role models for other members of the health care team.
- Carry out academic, clinical and research responsibilities in a conscientious manner, make every effort to exceed expectations and make a commitment to life-long learning.
- Treat patients, faculty, housestaff and students with humanism and sensitivity to the value of cultural, social, age, gender, disability and economic diversity without discrimination, bias, or harassment.
- Maintain patient confidentiality.
- Be respectful of the privacy of all members of the medical campus community and avoid promoting gossip and rumor.
- Interact with all other members of the health care team in a helpful and supportive fashion without arrogance and with respect and recognition of the roles played by each individual.

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Standards of Professional Behavior

- Provide help or seek assistance for any member of the health care team who is recognized as impaired in his/her ability to perform his/her professional obligations.
- Be mindful of the limits of one's knowledge and abilities and seek help from others whenever appropriate.
- Abide by accepted ethical standards in the scholarship, research and standards of patient care.
- Abide by the guidelines of the VCU Honor System.

Informal Process for Addressing School of Medicine Concerns Regarding Professionalism

If you perceive or experience instances of personal abuse or some other form of what you view as unprofessional behavior on the part of your teachers or colleagues, you are encouraged to report such incidents through normal channels for counsel and possible rectification. If this route is awkward for you, an alternative approach is consultation with a member of the SOM Professionalism Committee.

For a full description of the latter process and the persons to contact (current members of the SOM Professionalism Committee), go to the SOM Professional website:

www.medschool.vcu.edu/professionalism/

7/03

Virginia Commonwealth University
Medical College of Virginia Campus



Office of Faculty and Instructional Development
School of Medicine
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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. *Thanks to all those who have provided information for this newsletter.*

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