

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – October 2005 – Vol 9, No. 1

Produced by the Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Next Issue, November 2005!

Departmental News deadline is October 31, 2005. Please send your faculty/department achievements to kkreutzer@vcu.edu.

Welcome Dr. Strauss



Jerome F. Strauss, III, MD, PhD, our new Dean of the School of Medicine, began his full-time work here on September 15, 2005. Dr. Strauss has been working during the summer, meeting with people in the University, School and Health System to develop goals related to expansion of our research program, recruitment of faculty, increasing support for faculty, and setting a standard of excellence in medical education, clinical care, and professionalism.

Join us in welcoming Dr. Strauss!

Acting Associate Dean for Research



On September 21, 2005, Dr. Jerry Strauss, Dean, announced the appointment of **Gordon Archer, MD**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the MD/PhD Program, as Acting Associate Dean for Research in the School of Medicine effective October 17, 2005. In a letter sent via e-mail to the SOM faculty, Dr. Strauss wrote about the position and Dr. Archer. "This newly created position is critical to the success of the basic and clinical research missions of the School of Medicine at a time of significant investment and great promise."

Gordon is one of our most accomplished physician-scientists, recognized nationally and internationally for his work on *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*. He is the recipient of major awards in his field of infectious diseases, including a Merit Award from N.I.H. for his research on the methicillin resistance locus, the Research Excellence Award from our Department of Medicine, and the Dean's Recognition for Research Excellence Award in 2004. He has been recognized for more than a decade as one of the Best Doctors in America. I am confident that Gordon's credentials in basic and clinical research, his experience in research training and administration, and most importantly, his commitment to our School of Medicine and a passion for excellence will serve us well at a time when the right decisions must be made regarding the future of our research enterprise.

Gordon received his undergraduate education at Washington & Lee University, and medical education at the University of Virginia, followed by residency and fellowship training at the University of Michigan where he also served on the faculty before joining the VCU faculty in 1975. He advanced through the faculty ranks at VCU, being promoted to Professor of Internal Medicine in 1985, and Division Head of Infectious Diseases in 1992. He became Director of the MD/PhD Program in the School in 2003. His research career is emblematic of our research agenda, the conduct of research that will lead to tangible improvement in the health of our nation. I trust that you will join me in enthusiastically welcoming Gordon to this new and important role in the School of Medicine."

The Office of the Associate Dean for Research will be located in Sanger Hall, First Floor, Room 1-018.

Department Chair Search Update

Department of Radiation-Oncology

The Search Committee for the Chair of the Department of Radiation-Oncology, under the leadership of Dr. James Neifeld, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, has begun interviewing candidates. (For a list of committee members, refer to April 2005 Newsline, at www.medschool.vcu.edu/faculty_staff/newsletter/newsline_apr2005.pdf).

In Memoriam

Dr. Ary Ramoa, Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, died this July from complications of Crohn's disease, a condition with which he quietly suffered for many years. Dr. Ramoa joined the faculty of the VCU SOM in 1993 after receiving his MD from the State University of Rio de Janeiro and his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in addition to extensive postdoctoral training at Stanford, the University of Maryland, Yale University, and MIT. At VCU, Dr. Ramoa established national and international recognition in the area of the visual system and its development, receiving multiple NIH awards for his work. In addition to his scholarly contributions, Dr. Ramoa was an outstanding and caring teacher. Above all, Dr. Ramoa was a thoughtful and generous colleague, who contributed much to the success of many of the faculty in his Department, as well as other academic units at VCU. Dr. Ramoa is survived by his wife and her two children.



Joel Ives Townsend, who taught human genetics to almost every medical and dental student on the MCV Campus, died July 29 in Richmond. In 1941, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of South Carolina. He taught school before entering the Navy during World War II and serving as a lieutenant on the USS Ingersol in the South Pacific. After the war, he studied genetics at UC - Berkeley and earned his PhD from Columbia University in 1950. Dr. Townsend joined the MCV faculty in 1960, and retired in 1991.

“He had a lot of friendships with students, who often invited him to their parties, and he would always go,” said his niece, Anne Hadden of Kingsport, Tenn. “Often they were theme parties, and he would go to great lengths to have the most appropriate and most wonderful costume.”

A great believer in shared university governance and academic freedom for universities, he helped found the VCU Faculty Senate and served as its president from 1975 to 1976. Dr. Townsend was instrumental in organizing the VCU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the association's Faculty Senate of Virginia. For 15 years, he administered the awarding of the AAUP Conference's Jackson-Davis Award for service to higher education.

(excerpted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Ellen Robertson, Staff Writer, 8-16-05)

Welcome to the Class of 2009!

After 4,877 applications and 675 interviews, the 184-member SOM Class of 2009 was admitted and has arrived on campus! Some statistics: the class is 48% women and six members of the class are over the age of 35. There are 19 minority students in the class. The average GPA is 3.6 and average MCAT score is 29.

The class of 2009 has 104 Virginia residents and 80 out-of-state students. 22 states are represented with the largest number being from Virginia (104), followed by California (25) and Maryland (10). 38 undergraduate schools are represented. The majority of majors were biology (34%) although we also have students who majored in psychology, biomedical engineering, history, and religion.

Among the undergraduate schools represented are 30 students from the University of California system and 9 from the University of Maryland. Among the Virginia schools our largest numbers are from UVA at 23, followed by VCU at 22 and William and Mary at 11, with 5 from Virginia Tech, 4 from University of Richmond, 4 from George Mason, and then a few each from Bridgewater, Hampden-Sydney, Hampton, Randolph-Macon, JMU, Longwood, Radford, Shenandoah, and Washington and Lee. We also have students from Berkeley, Brown, Cornell, Harvard, MIT, Notre Dame and Toronto.

Congratulations and welcome to the class!

Please join us October 12 for the 7th Annual VCU SOM Faculty Excellence Awards



All faculty, students, housestaff, administrators, and staff are invited to attend the awards ceremony **Wednesday, October 12, 12:10-1:10 PM**, the **Kontos Medical Sciences Building Auditorium**. Lunch will be served, following the program, on the Kontos MSB Plaza. Come help us recognize our outstanding faculty!

- Teaching Excellence Awards:
 - * Faculty Teaching Excellence Award: **Robert F. Diegelmann, PhD**
 - * Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching: **Alpha (Berry) A. Fowler, III, MD**
 - * Distinguished Mentor in Basic Sciences Award: **Roland N. Pittman, PhD**
 - * Distinguished Mentor in Clinical Sciences Award: **David X. Cifu, MD**
 - * Educational Research Award: **J. Dennis Hoban, EdD**
 - * Outstanding Departmental Teacher Awards in Health Sciences Education
 - * Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education
- Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation
- Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine (WISDM) Professional Achievement Award
- MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award

For more information, please see: (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/ofid/facdev/ann_teach_awrds.htm), or contact Debbie Stewart, Program Coordinator, 828-6591.

New Faculty Orientation: Wednesday, October 12th (full-day) and Friday, October 28th (half-day)

The 2005 School of Medicine New Faculty Orientation is designed to provide a “quick start” for all full or part-time clinical, basic sciences and administrative faculty hired since July of 2004, and it is open to any School of Medicine faculty member or other interested person, such as research fellows and postdocs. The program is organized into “content blocks,” and faculty are invited to register for the entire program or for individual blocks that may be of particular interest. The first day provides an overview of the SOM, the educational environment, resources to support teaching and faculty development, and the clinical enterprise. Day 2 focuses on “Getting Started in Research.”

The goal is to enhance the effectiveness of faculty by introducing them to the mosaic of leaders, programs, and resources at our academic medical center to help support their teaching, research, clinical care, and career development. Participants are invited to join other faculty members at the continental breakfast, coffee breaks, and the luncheon reception on the plaza immediately following the presentation of the 2005 Faculty Excellence Awards. Each participant will receive a detailed collection of resource materials for their use. To register and access a copy of the complete program brochure, go to: <https://www.apps.som.vcu.edu/cme/calendar/details.aspx?ActCode=MCA001010105>

For information, contact: Carole Hetteema, Conference Manager, Office of Continuing Professional Development & Evaluation Studies; carole.hetteema@vcu.edu, Phone 828-5416, or **Carol L. Hampton, Associate Dean**, Faculty & Instructional Development, carol.hampton@vcu.edu; Phone 828-6594

New and Competing Grant Awards - April 2005 through June 2005

Please join us in recognizing the following researchers who have received grant awards during April – June 2005. These are listed by faculty member name, department, awarding agency/institution and amount. At this time the complete titles of proposals are not available but we plan to include this in future listings.

Awards from Federal Sources:

Adler, Stuart P., Pediatrics, NIH/NIAID, (New Proposal) - \$8,000
 Barbour, Suzanne E., Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, NIH/NINDS (New Proposal) - \$30,546
 Forte, Janett, Psychiatry, Department of Health & Human Services, (New Proposal) - \$2,650
 Grant, Steven, Internal Medicine, NIH/NCI, (New Proposal) - \$213,629
 Ingersoll, Karen S., Psychiatry, NIAAA, (New Proposal) - \$335,250
 Kendler, Kenneth S., Psychiatry, NIH/NIDA, (Competitive Renewal) - \$300,000
 Kurziel, Karen, Radiology, National Institutes of Health, (New Proposal) - \$4,201
 Langston, Timothy, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, NIH/NCI, (New Proposal) - \$94,219
 Li, Pin-Lan, Pharmacology and Toxicology, NIH/NHLBI, (New Proposal) - \$262,500
 Manjili, Masoud, Microbiology and Immunology, NIH/NCI, (New Proposal) - \$235,420
 Marconi, Richard T., Microbiology and Immunology, NIH/NINDS, (New Proposal) - \$30,709
 Massey, Gita V., Pediatrics, Department of Health & Human Services, (New Proposal) - \$30,200
 Meredith, M A., Anatomy, NIH/NINDS, (New Proposal) - \$386,035

Murthy, Karnam S., Physiology and Biophysics, NIH/NIDDK, (New Proposal) - \$362,500
Nixon, Daniel E., Internal Medicine, NIH/NIAID, (New Proposal) - \$949,819
Ramo, Ary S., Anatomy, NIAAA, (New Proposal) - \$335,250
Riley, Brien, Psychiatry, NIH/NIMH, (New Proposal) - \$135,000
Spiess, Bruce D., Anesthesiology, Department of Defense, (New Proposal) - \$194,181
Spiess, Bruce D., Anesthesiology, Department of Defense, (New Proposal) - \$49,510
Woolf, Steven, Family Practice, Department of Health & Human Services, (New Proposal) - \$9,948
Woolf, Steven, Family Practice, NIH/NCI, (New Proposal) - \$128,140

Awards from Private Foundations, State Government and Other Sources:

Fisher, Robert A., Surgery, University of Pittsburgh, (New Proposal) - \$12,000
Halvorsen, Robert A., Radiology, American College of Radiology Imaging Network, (New Proposal) - \$243,199
Hill, Janet, Psychiatry, Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation, (New Proposal) - \$33,000
Manjili, Masoud, Microbiology and Immunology, Susan Komen Breast Cancer Found., Richmond Aff, (New Proposal) - \$249,380
Masho, Saba W., Preventive Medicine, Virginia Premier Health Plan, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$41,351
McCarty, John M., Internal Medicine, National Marrow Donor Program, (New Proposal) - \$186,798
Schwartz, Lawrence B., Internal Medicine, Philip Morris Management Corp., (New Proposal) - \$195,641
Wood, Mark A., Internal Medicine, St. Jude Medical, (New Proposal) - \$27,500
Wood, Mark A., Internal Medicine, St. Jude Medical, (New Proposal) - \$52,500

Awards from Industrial Sources:

Beardsley, Patrick M., Pharmacology and Toxicology, (New Proposal) - \$69,282
Beardsley, Patrick M., Pharmacology and Toxicology, Merck & Co., Inc., (New Proposal) - \$80,552
DeSimone, John A., Physiology and Biophysics, Senomyx, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$12,239
Downs, Robert W., Internal Medicine, Merck & Co., Inc., (New Proposal) - \$18,696
Fairman, R Paul P., Internal Medicine, Myogen, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$22,520
Fairman, R Paul P., Internal Medicine, United Therapeutics, Inc., - \$31,495
Felton, Warren, Neurology, Merck & Co., Inc., (New Proposal) - \$108,487
Fisher, Robert A., Surgery, Genzyme Corporation, (New Proposal) - \$48,457
Fisher, Robert A., Surgery, Pfizer Inc., U.S. Pharmaceuticals Group, (New Proposal) - \$146,699
Gehr, Todd W., Internal Medicine, Bone Care International, (New Proposal) - \$35,650
Gordon, Courtenay, Anesthesiology, Omnicare Clinical Research, (New Proposal) - \$280,007
Hess, Michael, Internal Medicine, Medtronic, (New Proposal) - \$15,500
Irani, Anne-Marie, Pediatrics, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, (New Proposal) - \$80,187
Irani, Anne-Marie, Pediatrics, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, (New Proposal) - \$39,683
Jolles, Paul R., Radiology, General Electric Healthcare, (New Proposal) - \$8,250
Kornstein, Susan G., Psychiatry, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, (New Proposal) - \$110,370
Kukreja, Rakesh C., Internal Medicine, Bayer AG, (New Proposal) - \$61,368
Laver, Joseph, Pediatrics, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, (New Proposal) - \$77,258
Leszczyszyn, David, Neurology, Schwarz BioSciences, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$58,876
McCarty, John M., Internal Medicine, AnorMED, (New Proposal) - \$93,027 (#1)
McCarty, John M., Internal Medicine, AnorMED, (New Proposal) - \$93,027 (#2)
Nixon, Daniel E., Internal Medicine, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, (New Proposal) - \$6,020
Pandya, Arti, Pediatrics, Genzyme Corporation, (New Proposal) - \$3,275
Pellock, John M., Neurology, Abbott Laboratories, (New Proposal) - \$37,405
Roberts, Neal, Internal Medicine, Genentech, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$237,010
Sica, Domenic A., Internal Medicine, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, (New Proposal) - \$244,703
Siebers, Jeffrey V., Radiology Oncology, Varian Medical Systems, (New Proposal) - \$825,000
Smith, Forrest L., Pharmacology and Toxicology, AlgoRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$169,121
Smith, Forrest L., Pharmacology and Toxicology, Purdue Pharma L.P., (New Proposal) - \$129,981
Spiess, Bruce D., Anesthesiology, Synthetic Blood International, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$186,727
Vetrovec, George W., Internal Medicine, Conor Medsystems, Inc., (New Proposal) - \$175,500
Vetrovec, George W., Internal Medicine, Sanofi-Synthelabo Research, (New Proposal) - \$94,000

(thanks to Dr. George Ford, and Peggy Goodwin, Dean's Office, for the information.)

Source: VCU Office of Sponsored Programs

Inova Campus News

On July 28, 2005, the VCU School of Medicine Inova Campus had an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the medical school space. The event was attended by Inova faculty, staff, and students. Technology demonstrations, facility tours, and refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Pictured left to right:

Russell Seneca, MD, Associate Dean for Medical Education,
Sarina Luangkhot, Academic Coordinator
Toni Bernheisel, Administrative Director for Academic Affairs
Craig Cheifetz, MD, Assistant Dean for Medical Education
Karina Valdez, Administrative Coordinator
Cheryl Schofield, Student Services Coordinator
Larry Walker, Manager of Surgical and Academic Technology

Inova Campus Orientation for Medical Students



On August 1, 2005, the VCU School of Medicine Inova Campus welcomed the inaugural class of twenty-four students at M3 Orientation. The Washington Post was on hand to record the event as the Inova Campus students participated in lectures, skills labs, and hands-on demonstrations of various techniques. By the fall of 2006, the full complement of 48 medical students will be attending the VCU SOM Inova Campus, the only regional branch medical school campus in northern Virginia.

Inova Campus Clerkship Directors - Academic Year 2005-2006

Family Medicine	Marjorie Hermes, MD	Pediatrics	Regina Milteer, MD (Acting)
Internal Medicine	Alita Mishra, MD	Psychiatry	Alexander Isaac, MD
Neurology	Eric Sklar, MD	Surgery	H. David Reines, MD
Obstetrics/Gynecology	Samantha Buery, MD		

Formal Dedication and Groundbreaking, October 10, 6-8pm

The formal dedication of the VCU SOM-Inova Campus, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the Claude Moore Health Education Center will be Monday, October 10, 6-8pm, Inova Fairfax Hospital. Dr. Jordan Cohen, President of AAMC will be guest speaker.

Young Internist of the Year 2005!

The Virginia Chapter of the American College of Physicians has selected **Craig Cheifetz, MD, FACP**, Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Director, Undergraduate Education, Inova Campus, as the "Young Internist of the Year 2005." Dr. Cheifetz will be recognized at the Virginia ACP Awards Dinner to be held on the evening of Friday, October 7, during the Virginia Chapter Meeting in Roanoke. *Congratulations, Dr. Cheifetz!*

VCU Convocation Recognizes SOM Faculty

Held annually since 1982, convocation is the formal opening of the academic year and acknowledges the quality and excellence of VCU faculty. On September 15, four faculty members were recognized for outstanding accomplishments, two of whom are SOM Faculty:



University Award of Excellence
Phillip B. Hylemon, PhD, professor,
Department of Microbiology and
Immunology, School of Medicine



Distinguished Teaching Award
Suzanne E. Barbour, PhD, associate professor,
Department of Biochemistry
School of Medicine

Distinguished Service Award

Jean-Venable "Kelly" Goode, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy

Distinguished Scholarship Award

Donald J. Abraham, PhD, professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, School of Pharmacy

Join us in recognizing these outstanding faculty!

VCU Presents Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment

VCU President Eugene P. Trani has recognized members of both campuses who have made significant contributions toward enhancing VCU's commitment to diversity during the **Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment** ceremony on April 21, 2005. The awards are given annually to recognize an administrator, a faculty member, a member of the classified staff and a student.



(from left) Wally R. Smith, MD; Kevin W. Allison, PhD, recipient of the faculty award and the Riese-Melton capstone honor; VCU President Eugene P. Trani; Latoya C. Asia, '06, recipient of the student award. On the right is Shondra Hawkins, who accepted the staff award on behalf of her mother Agnes L. Mack, who was too ill to attend.

Two individuals in the SOM were recognized: the administrator award went to **Wally R. Smith, MD**, associate professor and chair of the Division of Quality Health Care in the Department of Internal Medicine and the staff award to **Agnes L. Mack**, director of the Office of Admissions for the SOM.

“The recipients of these awards are making very real, material contributions to the ability of our academic and health care community to attract and retain exceptional talent and commitment to the mission of higher education and to VCU's vision of diversity,” Trani said.

Dr. Smith was described as a physician on a mission to improve health care for the poor and minority populations who are traditionally underserved in the United States. He has conducted federally funded research of pain epidemiology in patients with sickle cell disease and provides comprehensive clinical care for sickle cell anemia patients. For the past two summers, Smith convened a national summit to address the significant issues that contribute to health disparities. As a result of this conference, he is working with others to form a Center for Health Disparities at VCU.

Mack is a 30-year employee of VCU and a staff favorite among medical students. The director of the Office of Admissions for the School, she was described as a driving force to increase minority enrollment at the School of Medicine, which has doubled in the last four years. She has stayed involved beyond recruitment, maintaining relationships with students throughout their medical school experience. She is referred to as the “mother” of the medical school student body and is known for her accessibility.

The PACME awards each come with a \$500 gift and were first presented in 1994, given by the president to members of the university community in recognition of their contributions to the principles, goals and ideals of affirmative action and to the enhancement of the institution's commitment to diversity. (from Michael Ford, *University News Services*)

VCU Health System Employees Rally During Power Outage

On August 17-18 a power failure in Main Hospital caused many difficulties in accomplishing the usual activities of patient care. One of the older Dominion Power transformers that supported the Main Hospital failed about 4:45 on August 17. An assessment was conducted immediately and an internal disaster “Dr. Power” was called; the Command Center was open from approximately 5:00 p.m. August 17 until 11:00 a.m. August 18th. Fortunately, an electrician had already been staged on every floor of Main Hospital in preparation for scheduled power outages in preparation for the new critical care hospital. This team was able to mobilize quickly when the power was lost so unexpectedly.

Dominion Power immediately procured a replacement transformer and began the complex process of replacing the damaged transformer. In the meantime, all of our staff implemented emergency down time procedures and began to deal with the loss of power. The efforts of the patient care teams were truly exemplary, adapting to the conditions, and making sacrifices so that the teams working “behind the scenes” could get their jobs done expeditiously.

While everyone's efforts are to be applauded, the Facilities, Plant Operations, Security, Food and Nutrition, and Transportation teams worked tirelessly in adverse conditions to not only maintain services, but resolve problems in a creative manner. Lighting and cooling were restored or supplemented in patient care areas, alternate meals were prepared, supplies were delivered, and patients were moved between units in an orderly manner.

Mr. John Duval, CEO of MCV Hospitals, said "...please know that I am very proud of the efforts each of you made to ensure that our patients and their safety were a priority. The great work we do every day in providing exemplary care is truly highlighted when we are able to achieve this same high level of care in challenging circumstances."

(information excerpted from memo from Mr. Duval)



Did you Know?

VCU has reorganized the University's technology infrastructure. A few components of the former Academic Technology now report to Dr. Joseph Marolla, Acting Vice Provost for Instruction, with other components reporting to Mr. Mark Willis in a significant reorganization of both of our former technology units.

Approximately six staff from the former Academic Technology unit, Faculty and Instructional Support will, as noted above, report to Acting Vice Provost Marolla. This group pioneers, investigates, and experiments with the use of technologies for the effective delivery of educational content in traditional classes, online, and in distance education. They will provide training to enable faculty members to create quality teaching materials for students.

Remaining staff from Academic Technology will join the former Administrative Information Technology in a significantly reorganized **Office for Technology Services**, consisting of four divisions: Administrative Systems, headed by Mr. Richard John; Student, Faculty and Staff Services, headed by Mr. Jim Bostick; Applications Services, headed by Mr. Scott Davis; and Computing and Communications, headed by Mr. Bob Neale. Details of the responsibilities of each of these divisions are given in the organizational chart which can be seen at this link: <http://www.vcu.edu/techservices/>.

The new Office of Technology Services will report simultaneously to the two vice presidents, who will share responsibility for budget, staff, and oversight. Faculty and staff committees under Vice Provost Marolla, for instruction, and Vice President Macrina, for research, also will provide regular and meaningful oversight in these two functional areas to assure that these vitally important University resources are meeting our needs well and efficiently.

News from the SOM Development Office

Banner Year for the Medical School's Annual Fund

Loyal alumni, faculty and friends made this a banner year for the School of Medicine, with more than \$290,000 raised for the Annual Fund in the past 12 months. In the coming year, the Fund will support student interest groups, scholarships and alumni outreach along with milestone events in the medical school, like the White Coat Ceremony, Graduation and Teaching Awards. Our thanks go to all those who made a gift.

Fowler Honored for Philanthropic Leadership



Dr. Berry Fowler with Sharon Larkins-Pederson, MCV Foundation's Senior Development Officer

In July at the MCV Foundation's Annual Dinner, Alpha "Berry" Fowler III, MD, the William Taliaferro Thompson Professor and Chairman of the Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, was honored with the W. Robert Irby Award for Philanthropic Leadership. The award recognizes outstanding philanthropic effort by a member of the faculty on the MCV Campus.

Dr. Fowler was lauded for the role he played in securing a recent \$1 million gift from Williamsburg's Kenny and Vickie Johnson to promote a research initiative for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, particularly emphysema. "Dr. Fowler is always ready to respond to opportunities of support for his program," said Sharon Larkins-Pederson, the Foundation's Senior Development Officer. "He has a wonderful way with people, whether they are patients or donor prospects, and manages to convey in the most positive and inspiring terms what the impact of their gifts to his program will be and what it will mean to patients."

The award bears the name of Dr. Bob Irby, a much beloved alumnus and faculty member of the School of Medicine who also served as trustee of the MCV Foundation. The annual award commemorates the inspiration he provided other faculty members to get involved with the Foundation. Previous recipients are Drs. George Vetrovec, Gordon Ginder, Harry Young and Dick Wenzel.

A Development Case Study: Professorship Honors Dr. Hans Carter



Dr. Carter (center) with alums Tony Segreti, PhD '77 & Don Stablein, MS '77, PhD '79

When longtime Biostatistics Chair **Hans Carter, PhD**, announced his retirement, his former students and trainees thought it would be fitting to establish a Professorship that would bear his name. Faculty member Chris Gennings, who earned her PhD under Dr. Carter's guidance in 1987, strategized with Associate Dean for Development Tom Holland on how to build the endowment to the necessary \$250,000.

"A general rule of thumb is that 90 percent of the money raised will come from 10 percent of the donor pool," Holland explained. "Dr. Gennings knew that the best possible source of prospective donors for this effort were the more than 150 alumni from the Biostatistics Department." In fact, Biostat alum Karl Peace, PhD '76, had already made a \$100,000 commitment to the Department, indicating his interest in it going toward a Carter Professorship. So Dr. Gennings looked for another 15 alums whom she thought would have the interest and means of supporting the Professorship.

As Dr. Gennings personally contacted that list, she assembled an additional \$170,000 in leadership gifts – surpassing the original goal of \$250,000 and clearly demonstrating that a broader letter-writing campaign to the rest of the Department's alumni would find success.

Sent over the signatures of Drs. Peace and Gennings, the letter in fact raised another \$30,000, bringing the effort to more than \$300,000 in gifts and pledges in time for Dr. Carter's retirement party in June. It was at that gathering, attended by many of the donors who had made the Professorship possible, that Dr. Carter was finally let in on the secret of what his former students had – without his knowledge – worked together to accomplish.

"All of us are indebted to Hans for his strong teaching and mentorship," said Dr. Gennings. "The occasion of his retirement was the perfect opportunity to express our appreciation to him with a gift supporting the future preeminence of the Department." The Professorship will be used to recruit a faculty member with strong research credentials as well as the same open, friendly and supportive manner in communicating with peers and students that Dr. Carter demonstrated over his 35-year tenure.

Dr. Gennings hopes that the endowment may ultimately grow to the level of a Distinguished Professorship -- \$500,000. If you are interested in making a gift to the Carter Professorship, or if you believe a similar effort would have success in your own department, please contact Tom Holland at tehollan@vcu.edu or 8-3800.

See pictures from Dr. Carter's retirement party in June: <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/alumni/GalleryCarterProfessorship.html>

Library Bytes

Journal Issue Edited by VCU Libraries Faculty Wins Emerald Literati Club Award for Excellence for 2005

Highly Commended was granted to a special-themed issue: Emerging Roles of Health Sciences Librarians. This issue was edited by **Jean Shipman**, Director of the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences and **Sarah Watstein**, then Associate Librarian for Public Services, VCU Libraries. This issue was one of six to receive such an award from the many published by Emerald. To review the issue's contents, go to the VCU Libraries home page <<http://www.library.vcu.edu>>, select "e-journals" and then enter the title /Reference Services Review/. The award issue is volume 32, number 1, January 2004. A sequel issue with more examples of emerging roles was published as volume 5, number 1, January 2005. Other VCU authors include **Patricia Hammond**, **Brenda Seago**, **Phyllis Self** and **Lynne Turman**.

The Tompkins-McCaw Library is offering a new **Lunch N Learn** lecture series on the MCV Campus. The lecture series will offer presentations on a variety of library services and resources, including RefWorks, PubMed, Finding Full-text, ILLiad, Scholarly Publishing, and more. The lectures will provide attendees with an overview of the material and resources to further explore the topics. This fall, presentations will be offered in classrooms in both the Schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry, and the series will be rotated to other schools in the future. Please visit, <http://www.library.vcu.edu/tml/schedule.html>, to view the complete schedule of classes.



Did You Know?

The VistaOffice electronic record system, used by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, is being offered free to US Doctors. Only 20 percent to 25 percent of the nation's 650,000 licensed doctors outside the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs are using electronic patient records. Medicare started offering their Vista software free this August. It has been estimated it can reduce the cost of converting a practice of 4-5 physicians to an electronic records system from \$100,000 to about \$10,000, including installation and training. Vista has been used for over two decades by doctors, hospitals, and clinics in the Department of Veteran's Affairs health system.

Women in Science, Dentistry and Medicine Book Club: November 15



Come, bring a friend, and join the WISDM Book Club for a delightful evening on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. Dinner is at 6 pm (finish around 8 pm) at the Cafe Gutenberg, 1700 E. Main Street, Shockoe Bottom. The book for this month is **On Beauty** by Zadie Smith. Our facilitators are Dr. Cheryl Al-Mateen (psychiatry) and Dr. Joann Bodurtha (human genetics).

VCU Alumni Associations Honor SOM Alumni as "Founders Day Alumni Stars"



Dr. Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, Department of Human Genetics and Basic Health Sciences Class of 1985, and **Dr. Thomas M. Krummel**, Chair of the Department of Surgery at Stanford University and Housestaff Class of 1983, are being honored among fourteen "Founders Day Alumni Stars" at a reception and dinner program at the Science Museum of Virginia on Friday, November 11, 2005. The Founders Day Alumni Stars Program recognizes alumni for their community, humanitarian, professional achievements and university service.

Honorees are selected through faculty recommendations and alumni committees from across the university.

Governor Appoints SOM Faculty to State Boards and Councils

The following faculty have recently been appointed to State Boards, Councils, and Commissions by Governor Warner. *Congratulations to these folks for being chosen to represent their profession!*

- Board of Trustees, Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation
Kevin R. Cooper, MD, professor of Medicine, MCV Physicians
- Board of Directors, VCU Health System
Lenore M. Buckley, MD, (reappointment), professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
- Scientific Advisory Board
Alphonse Poklis, PhD, affiliate professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Council on the Status of Women
Wendy Klein, MD, (reappointment) associate professor of Internal Medicine
- Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy
Jacob A. Neufeld, MD, (reappointment), chair, Division of Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, PM&R



Did You Know?

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) now requires that all clinical trials must be registered on a publicly accessible internet site prior to patient enrollment. This is necessary if you want a journal that adheres to the ICMJE policy to consider your manuscript for publication. Hundreds of journals use the ICJME guidelines including The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and the Journal of the American Medical Association. The VCU Office of Research concurs in this ICJME requirement and intends to promote registration as a standard. This administrative policy has been approved by the President and Vice Presidents of the university.

If you are the Principal Investigator for a clinical trial that enrolled a patient prior to July 1, you must ensure that your clinical trial is registered by September 13, 2005. Details of the requirement, including the definition of "clinical trial," and information about the registration process are now available at http://www.research.vcu.edu/p_and_g/clinicaltrials.htm. Please visit this site if the ICJME requirement applies to your work, and register any clinical trials now underway.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES ON PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES 2005-2006

Wednesday conferences are at 12:00 noon with lunch served. Thursday conferences are at 7:00 am with breakfast served. All lectures will be in the George Ben Johnston Auditorium, 305 North 12th St.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 (6:00 PM)

Contract Negotiations, Richmond Academy of Medicine; To RSVP please call 643-6631

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 (Noon) and THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 (7:00 AM)

Rules and Regulations Governing Medical Licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia

William Harp, MD, Executive Director, Board of Medicine

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2005 (7:30 AM to 3:30 PM)

Practice Management Seminar: Your Place In Today's Medicine, Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News: To register, please visit: <http://www.sma.org/residents/symposium/index.cfm>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005 (Noon) and THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005 (7:00 AM)

Medical Alternatives to Blood Transfusion

Dr. Bruce D. Spiess, MD, Anesthesiology

Raymond Roman, Jr., Hospital Liaison Committee for Jehovah's Witnesses

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005 (Noon) and THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005 (7:00 AM)

Marcella F. Fierro, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, Legal Medicine

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006 (Noon) and THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006 (7:00 AM)

Regulatory Compliance for Physicians Why Does It Matter

Ron Clark, MD, Chief Medical Officer

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006 (4:00 PM)

Contract Negotiations, West Hospital, 6th Floor Conference Room

Steve McCoy, Williams and Mullins

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006 (Noon) and THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006 (7:00 AM)

Research in the Academic Environment

Jerome F. Strauss, III, MD, PhD, Dean, School of Medicine

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006 (Noon) and THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006 (7:00 AM)

Health Policy and the Legislative Process

Don Gehring, Vice President, Government Relations and Health Policy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2006 (Noon) and THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006 (7:00 AM)

Medical Teaching Methods

Stephanie Call, MD, Program Director, Internal Medicine

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006 and THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006 – NO GME SESSION ON THURSDAY

Advanced Clinical Assessment

Julie Beales, MD

Technology Training Courses now Offered

The fall semester training schedule for technology courses is now available on the VCU Training Website. These include topics such as PowerPoint, Blackboard, Photoshop, SPSS, SAS and others useful in teaching and research. In response to requests, there are a few new topics and some shorter sessions added to the fall schedule. To view the VCU Training Web site, go to: <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/training/it/>. Please email Lucy Halunko, Faculty Instructional Technology Services, Center for Teaching Excellence @ lhalunko@vcu.edu if you have any questions about the training offering or if you experience difficulty registering.

Departmental News

Department of Family Medicine



Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook received the National Association of Medical Minority Educators (NAMME) President's Award at the Association's Annual President's Gala on September 10, 2005, in Washington, D.C. NAMME, established in 1975 by a group of educators concerned about the shortage of minority health care providers and the need to establish an organization to address important issues impacting minority students, faculty and administrators in health professions schools, celebrated its 30th year with a full annual conference themed, "A Call to Action: Closing the Diversity Gap through Advocacy."

The NAMME President's Award is given annually to a health professional having distinguished service in the health field or demonstrated excellence in quality practice in one of the health professions as evidenced by commitment to the health of minorities and other disadvantaged citizens in the community, health care institutions, and/or academic institutions of higher education.

Department of Human Genetics

The Partnership for People with Disabilities, an affiliate of the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University has received a three-year award of \$142,500 to improve the integration of the genetic information into leadership training programs, and to prepare a diverse workforce of genetic counselors with interdisciplinary leadership training to serve children with special health care needs and their families. The program, entitled **SYNERGY: Virginia LEND and Genetic Counseling Working Together**, is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND) Program at the Partnership, and the Genetic Counseling Program in the VCU School of Medicine. The program is one of three national awards.

Dr. Joann Bodurtha, LEND Director, is the PI for this project. Lauren Vanner-Nicely, MS, LEND core faculty in Genetic Counseling is SYNERGY Project Director. SYNERGY is funded by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities through a contract with Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Va-LEND began in 1995, and has trained approximately 90 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 faculty 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 SYNERGY grant provides supplemental funding to support genetic counselor training in leadership and disabilities, enhance multicultural recruitment to LEND training, disseminate learning modules in genetic awareness, family history and newborn screening, and provide a focus for enhancing the genetic component of LEND programs nationally.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Richard T. Marconi, Associate Professor, is appointed to Vaccines Against Microbial Diseases Study Section, NIH, beginning September 20, 2005 through June 30, 2008. Congratulations and thanks to Dr. Marconi for taking on this important task for NIH and for the extramural scientific community.

Department of Orthopedic Surgery

Dr. Robert Adelaar, Professor and Chair, joined a group of volunteer surgeons from the US who went to Vietnam this summer to surgically correct debilitating limb deformities and revise amputations for 54 patients, mostly children. Since the program started in 2002, 234 disabled children and adults have received life-changing orthopedic surgery.

The visiting US surgeons shared knowledge with the Vietnamese surgeons as they worked side-by-side during the orthopedic operations. The teamwork improves the skills of local surgeons, and advanced the relationship between the two countries. "Surgeries are good opportunities for both Vietnamese and US doctors, particularly the young ones, to practice and exchange experiences as well as boost understanding between them in regards to surgery and rehabilitation" said Dr. Toan, Chief of Orthopedics at the Viet Duc Hospital in Hanoi.

Prosthetics Outreach Foundation (POF) also co-sponsored the third Vietnamese seminar on surgery of the lower extremities in Hanoi. The conference brings together American and Vietnamese orthopedic surgeons to exchange information and learn new techniques in their field. This year, over 200 Vietnamese surgeons were in attendance.

Dr. Adelaar has said, "I was honored to help the disabled patients in Vietnam. The patients and local orthopedists had a fantastic attitude. This trip was a great learning experience and revitalized my attitude toward medicine. We can make a difference."

The Prosthetics Outreach Foundation restores mobility and independence worldwide to amputees and other disadvantaged persons suffering from orthopedic disabilities. You can learn more about POF's activities at www.pofsea.org.

Department of Pathology

Dr. Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Technical Director of Molecular Diagnostics, Professor of Pathology, was recognized in a September 9 Richmond Times-Dispatch article about health care professionals from Richmond who traveled to Baton Rouge, LA to assist victim of Hurricane Katrina. She assisted at Louisiana State University's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, which had been turned into a temporary medical complex.

Departments of Pediatrics/Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The Division of Pediatric PM&R received their first NIH Funded Grant. The grant of \$100,000 is for a two-year study of Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury. This project is a joint venture of Children's Hospital and VCU. Dr. Suzanne Stevens, Head of Clinical Research at Children's and **Dr. Jacob A. Neufeld**, Associate Professor, Chair, Division of Peds/PM&R are co-PI's.

In response to the accomplishments of the Division of Pediatric PM&R at Children's Hospital and at VCU, Dr. Jacob A. Neufeld was presented the "Department's Chairman's Initiative Awards for 2005" for efforts and successes above and beyond the traditional excellence by David Cifu, MD.

Department of Physiology

Two recent papers by Physiology faculty: **Drs. Vijay Lyall, Gerard L. Heck, and John A. DeSimone** and their colleagues that appeared in the June, 2005 issue of the prestigious, Journal of General Physiology were nominated by Dr. Olaf Anderson, Editor of that journal, for discussion as "Highlights from the Literature" in the American Physiological Society's topical publication, "Physiology" (20: 213, 2005). The papers dealt with the mechanism by which ethanol produces a phasic taste response through taste receptor cell volume changes and how it modulates, in addition, the activity of the VR-1 variant salt taste receptor. In addition to probing the taste mechanisms elicited by ethanol, the papers show how ethanol, which is often used as a vehicle in cell preparations, may produce cell volume changes and cation transport changes that could confound experimental results in other cell types.



Office of Faculty and Instructional Development

School of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia Campus

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Newsline is designed to better inform the faculty about activities and plans affecting the School of Medicine and to encourage open communication. So much that happens is a moving target, so we'll do our best. Send comments and questions and we'll try to find the folks who know the answers (if they'll tell us...) You can submit items for the newsletter to Kathy Kreutzer, Box 980565 or e-mail kkreutzer@vcu.edu.

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