

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter – September 2000 – Vol. 4, No. 1

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Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department Chair Search Update

Dr. John Cardea, Chair, Orthopedic Surgery, has announced his planned retirement in June of 2001; he will remain as Chair until his successor is chosen, and after that time will retain his faculty position, active practice, and other leadership positions. A National search is commencing with **Dr. Austin Mehrhof**, Plastic Surgery, as Chair of the Search Committee. Internal and external candidates are welcome.

Dr. Billy Martin was named permanent chair of **Pharmacology/Toxicology** on August 1, 2000. Thanks to the search committee, led by **Dr. Walter Nance**, Human Genetics.

The search committee for the Department of **Preventive Medicine and Community Health, Dr. John Seeds (Ob-Gyn) Chair**, is reviewing applications and hopes to begin interviews shortly.

The **Biochemistry Chair Search Committee** has begun its work; **Dr. Joy Ware**, Pathology, is Search Committee Chairman. **Dr. Jan Chlebowski** is Interim Chair of the Department of Biochemistry.

Dr. Robert DeLorenzo has resigned as chair of the **Department of Neurology**, and **Dr. Alan Towne** was named interim chair on September 1, 2000. A Search committee is being assembled with Dr. John Ward (Neurosurgery) as Chairman.

VCU Health System Update

The five physician representatives to the new VCU Health System Authority Board have been named: Dr. Lenore Buckley (Internal Medicine; appointed by Governor James Gilmore), Dr. John A. Cardea (Orthopedic Surgery; appointed by Governor Gilmore), Dr. Ronald C. Merrell (Surgery; appointed by the Virginia House of Delegates), Dr. Mary Decker Nettleman (General Internal Medicine; appointed by the Virginia House of Delegates), and Dr. John D. Ward (Neurosurgery; appointed by the Virginia Senate).

In addition, **Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz** (Internal Medicine) has been named Medical Director for Ambulatory Care and **Dr. Steve Sigworth** (Internal Medicine) will be the Medical Director for Utilization Management and Assistant Medical Director for Performance Improvement.

Women In Medicine Program Wins National Award

Our Women in Medicine Program is this year's recipient of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award for its outstanding contributions in **institutional leadership**. This national award will be presented during the AAMC's annual meeting at the Women Liaison Officers' and Academic Chairs' Reception and Dinner on Sunday, October 29, Chicago. This annual award was instituted by AAMC in 1993, and may be given to either an institution or individual. Congratulations to our faculty and students who have made outstanding contributions on behalf of our WIM program!

Welcome to our New MI Students!

On August 9, 2000, the new medical school class of 2004 began its orientation. The applicant pool consisted of 4067 applicants, a 1.4% decrease from previous years. The average GPA of the pool was 3.38 with the average MCAT 27.2. There was a 12% decline in Virginia applicants, resulting in 778 Virginians in the pool. Of the 4067 applicants, 534 total students were interviewed: 285 from Virginia and 249 from out of state. Placements were offered to 358 students: 216 from Virginia, and 142 from out of state.

The class of 2004 is made up of 172 students. For the first time in its history, the SOM class is 52% female, with a total of 90 women. There are nine (5.23%) under represented minorities in this year's class, including African American and Hispanic-Puerto Rican. The average age of the class is 23.3. The youngest class member is 21 and the oldest is 41, and there are 38 students over the age of 25.

As undergraduates, the majority of the class of 2004 majored in biology (46%), and a total of 66% majored in science. Only 23% were non-science majors. The average GPA of the class was 3.45, and the average MCAT was 29.3. Twenty of the out of state students are from CA (12%) and 6% are from MD. Fourteen other states are also represented in this class. There are 62 colleges represented in the class, including 12 Virginia colleges. The majority of the class is from the UVa (23%), 8% are from VCU, and 6% are from W & M. Other colleges and universities represented include Virginia Tech, Washington and Lee, JMU, George Mason, Brown, Colgate, Cornell, UCLA, Princeton and Duke. Some trivia about the class: there are two married couples in the class and a set of twins.

In addition, this year is the first year that students can complete their supplemental applications electronically through the Internet. Previously the application was available on-line to be printed and mailed in. Now the entire application can be submitted electronically. If you are interested in going back to school, the application process is available at <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/admiss/>

Computer Literacy Survey Results

For the past ten years, a computer literacy survey was given to all first year medical students to guide our Computer Based Instruction Lab (CBIL) in its planning to support our students and curriculum. With a 97% return rate for this year (compared to a return rate of 72% in 1991), here are the results to a few of the questions asked for the year 2000 as compared to ten years ago, plus a few newer questions.

Questions	1991 (%)	2000 (%)
1. Written a 5+ page paper using word processing program	96	100
2. Used E-mail	42.6	100
3. Played a game on a PC	95.9	96.4
4. Used computer-assisted instruction program in college	61	64.5
5. Performed your own computer literature search	73.8	94.7
6. Organized info using a database	41.8	44.6
7. Used a statistical program to analyze research data	50	73.9
8. Written a computer program	56.6	33.1
9. Worked in a lab where some experiments were computer controlled	50.8	63.2
10. Used a spreadsheet program	49.2	94.7
11. Used a Macintosh computer	64.7	72.5
12. Used an IBM (or compatible)	84.4	87.5
13. Used a mainframe computer	32	9.6
14. Do you own a computer?	38.5	85.4
15. Have you had classes before med school in computer hardware?	55.7	19.2
16. Have you had classes before med school in computer software?	45.9	33.7
17. Have you had classes before med school in computer programming?	3.3	23.9
18. Do you have a web page?	N/A	8.3
19. Have you taken a class online?	N/A	20.7
20. Have you used the WWW to search for information?	N/A	100
21. Do you use an ISP?	N/A	68.3
22. Do you have a palmtop device?	N/A	10.0

Café Express

Café Express opened on June 19, 2000 in Hunton Hall. The café features prepared-to-order deli sandwiches and wraps, freshly tossed Caesar salads, Starbucks Coffee and Freshen Smoothies. The hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Coffee and smoothies are served from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reminder: SOM Teaching Excellence Awards, October 23

The School of Medicine Teaching Excellence Awards will be held Monday, October 23, 2000, at 12:15 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building Auditorium. Awards will be distributed in many categories, including: Teaching Excellence, Whitby Award for Clinical Teaching, Distinguished Mentor, Award for Educational Research or Education Innovation, Outstanding Teacher Awards for each Medical Student Course and Clerkship, and Outstanding Teacher Awards for each basic science department. Come out, show your support for teaching, and join everyone afterwards for a luncheon reception on the plaza!

Sanger Hall Renovations

E-mail updates of the Sanger Hall Renovation Project will be sent periodically by Donald Cosgrove, Director of Construction Management, to the faculty and staff with Sanger Hall addresses. Of these 1,369 faculty and staff members, 906 have e-mail address, so those who receive the updates are encouraged to share information with colleagues who are not in the e-mail system. If you have any questions or concerns about the construction process, contact Donald Cosgrove at 828-7890, or e-mail him at dmcosgro@vcu.edu. The updates will be sent on an as-needed basis.

Check out www.vcuhealth.org

The newly enhanced web site, geared towards consumers, includes health care news & information, a reference section, on-line appointment request system, and a physician locator.

Department News

Department of Family Practice

Drs. Steve Woolf, Steve Rothemich, and Bob Johnson were funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for a one-year planning and feasibility study on establishing a practice-based research network in Virginia, with an invitation to apply for continuation funding thereafter. **Steve Woolf and Tony Kuzel** were also funded by the same agency for a two-year project to study medical errors in primary care settings in collaboration with faculty from Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine.

Janet Eddy, M.D. recently received the Volunteer Family Physician of the Year award from the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians at their annual meeting.

Department of Internal Medicine

Congratulations to **Arun Sanyal, M.D.**, who has been selected as the new Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Arun has a national and international reputation, is a well-funded investigator with several current NIH awards, and also serves as the Department's Associate Chair for Research. He is a prolific author, an acclaimed teacher and clinician, and an accomplished administrator.

Department of Pathology

After months of planning, a **totally redesigned Pathology website** was launched in July. A team of subject matter experts from across the department created a conceptual design in the form of a detailed flowchart that provided a blueprint for the web page. Entirely new content was developed from the perspective of potential users. This approach ensured that the content presented on the web page is current, concise, and relevant to the needs of our audience. Information is divided into categories that reflect our critical missions of education, research, and clinical service. Please spend some time visiting our web pages at <http://views.vcu.edu/pat>.

Mary E. Barcus, M.D., joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Molecular Diagnostics on July 10th. Dr. Barcus is a graduate of the VCU School of Medicine, and she trained in the Department of Pathology as a resident and fellow. She completed a fellowship in Molecular Diagnostics on June 30th.

Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, presented a talk at the Spring Meeting of the College of American Pathologists/ASCP. Her topic was "DNA Array-based Detection of Nucleic Acids in Molecular Oncology and Microbiology."

Carleton Garrett, M.D., Ph.D., Division Chairman of Molecular Diagnostics, attended the 34th Brazilian Congress of Clinical Pathology in Sao Paulo, speaking on the subject of tumor markers.

Enrique Gerszten, M.D. and Marvin J. Allison, Ph.D., Professors of Pathology, along with **Dr. Danny R. Sawyer**, created their second educational CD-ROM called "Paleopathology 2." The CD-ROM features soft tissue diseases and dental pathology of the Andean cultures over an 8000-year period.

Shawn E. Holt, Ph.D.; Lynne Elmore, Ph.D.; and Heidi Liss, D.P.M. presented data at the Telomerase and Telomere Dynamics in Cancer and Aging Symposium in San Francisco in June. Dr. Holt spoke on the topic of "Chaperones and Telomerase: A Functionally Significant Interaction." Dr. Elmore gave a poster presentation called "Timing of Telomerase Expression May Influence Its Biological Effect," and Dr. Liss presented a poster on "Expression of Human Telomerase in Normal Diploid Fibroblasts may Provide a Selective Growth Advantage In Vitro."

Richard A. McPherson, M.D., Professor and Division Chairman of Clinical Pathology, was co-author of *Widmann's Clinical Interpretation of Laboratory Tests*, 11th Edition along with Ronald A. Sacher, MB, Bch. The textbook, published by F.A. Davis Company, includes information on prenatal testing of fetuses, hepatitis C and new viral infections, new strategies in coagulation testing, diagnosis of cancer risk, diagnosis of myocardial infarction, molecular analysis in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, and an update on detecting and safeguarding against contamination of blood supplies.

William I. Rosenblum, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pathology, spoke at The Holocaust Museum of Virginia's program called "Nazi Doctors and the Ethics of Human Experimentation." Dr. Rosenblum's topic was "False Reassurance about Biomedical Ethics in America" on Sunday, May 7th.

Susan D. Roseff, M.D., Assistant Professor, joined our faculty as Medical Director of the Blood Bank on July 17th. Dr. Roseff had been the Medical Director for the American Red Cross Blood Services in Charlotte, NC. She earned her M.D. from Albany Medical College and received resident training at the George Washington University Hospital.

Alphonse Sirica, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, is the recipient of a Wellcome Visiting Professorship for 2000, one of 28 awards made nationally. The Wellcome Visiting Professorship Award is made through the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Dr. Sirica will present a Wellcome Visiting Professor Lecture, "Biliary Cancer: Pathogenesis to New Therapeutic Strategies," to the Faculty of Penn State College of Medicine during the week of October 10-13, 2000.

Dr. Sirica is also an Invited Speaker at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Clinical Single Topic Conference on "Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis: Controversies and Consensus" in Atlanta, GA, September 15-17, 2000. The title of the talk was "Altered Growth Factor Pathways in Biliary Cancer."

David S. Wilkinson, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of Pathology, was the featured guest on WRVA radio's "Ask the Doctor" program on August 12th. The one-hour program, sponsored by the Richmond Academy of Medicine, included an interview and caller questions.

Margaret M. Grimes, M.D., Vice Chair for Graduate Medical Education, was appointed Chair of the Program Directors' Section of the Association of Pathology Chairs. This two-year term began in July, 2000.

Department of Physiology

Dr. Linda Costanzo is serving as faculty moderator of the Physiology Forum on Medschool.com, a website providing comprehensive e-learning resources for medical students around the world.

The American Society of Nephrology recently selected a paper co-authored by **Linda Costanzo** and Erich Windhager entitled "Calcium and Sodium Transport by the Distal Convoluted Tubule of the Rat" (American Journal of Physiology, 1978) as a Milestone in Nephrology. The paper is only the 45th paper in the nephrological literature to be so honored by the Society.

Dr. Roland Pittman presented a paper entitled "Radial PO₂ Profiles in Single Microvessels of the Hamster from Phosphorescence Quenching Measurements" (co-author Dr. Alexander S. Golub) at the 28th annual meeting of the International Society on Oxygen Transport to Tissue in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. **Dr. Pittman** is also co-author (with Dr. A.S. Popel from Johns Hopkins University) of the chapter "Mechanics and Transport in the Microcirculation" in the recently released 2nd edition of *The Biomedical Engineering Handbook*, the standard reference book in this field.

Three members of the physiology faculty were invited to give symposium lectures or research poster presentations at international meetings this summer. **Dr. George M. Feldman** (Professor, Dept. of Nephrology and Affiliate Professor in Dept. of Physiology) presented the lecture: "Current Concepts of Sour Taste Transduction" at the International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste (ISOT-2000) Brighton, UK, in July.

Dr. Vijay Lyall presented the poster: "Intracellular pH Regulation in Taste Receptor Cells by Basolateral Membrane Na⁺/H⁺ Exchanger, Type 3" at the International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste (ISOT-2000) Brighton, UK, in July, 2000.

Dr. John A. DeSimone presented the lecture: "Intracellular pH Regulation in Taste Receptor Cells" at the international symposium: Chemosensitivity 2000 in Bochum, Germany, August, 2000.

Dr. Vijay Lyall presented the poster: "Taste Receptor Cells: pH Sensors with Epithelial Cell Polarity" at the international symposium: Chemosensitivity 2000 in Bochum, Germany, August, 2000.

Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health

The **Third MPH Program Research Day** was held August 18, 2000. Eight students presented scholarly research project findings. Since April 1999, 33 students have presented scholarly research results to Departmental faculty as part of the culminating experience required for the MPH degree.

The **MPH Program was ranked eleventh nationally** among Community Health Programs by U.S. News & World Report.

MPH Program has scheduled eight **Brown Bag sessions** during the academic year; everyone with an interest in public health is welcome. For more information, please contact Karen Bryant at x89785.

Dr. Jack Lanier, Department Chair, has been named a new member of the Board of Trustees of The McAuley Institute. Located in Silver Spring, MD, the Institute supports the work of community-based organizations and their partners to create affordable, accessible housing and communities that celebrate the dignity and vitality of the human spirit.

Department of Psychiatry

The Department of Psychiatry is listed **number 14 in the Citation Index for 1990-1998**. Additionally, the department is listed number five in the Impact Assessment and is superseded by only one American university on this list.

Drs. Kenneth Kendler, Lindon Eaves, and Michael Neale are ranked, respectively, 2, 15 and 20 on the Authors of High-Impact Papers in Psychiatry, 1990-1998. No other institution except for the National Institute of Mental Health has three members on this distinguished list.

Dean's Office

This spring, **Paul Mazmanian, Ph.D.** was elected to a second term as Continuing Medical Education Section Representative, Southern Group on Educational Affairs, AAMC. In addition, **Dr. Mazmanian was named Chairman of the AAMC Research in Medical Education (RIME) conference for the term November 2000-November 2001.**

David Salter, M.D., (Director, Clinical Curriculum and Associate Professor of Surgery) has been awarded a VCU Instructional Development Center Scholarship for the Faculty Mentoring Program in Instructional Technology for 2000-2001. The VCU Faculty Mentoring initiative is designed to assist selected faculty in developing the means to enhance instruction through technology for their own classes and to extend their knowledge and skills to be able to serve as mentors for other faculty in their units. Faculty selected for participation receive laptop computers and special assistance from IDC in finding effective ways to use technology in their teaching. Dr. Salter also has been appointed to two USMLE committees: the Gross Anatomy Test Committee and the Step I Test Material Development Committee for Gross Anatomy. Additionally, Dr. Salter has been accepted into the Harvard Executive Program, "Skills for the New World of Health Care," John F. Kennedy School of Government, Nov. 11-19, 2000.

Kathy Kreutzer, M.Ed, Laurie Lyckholm, M.D. (Internal Medicine) and Carol Hampton, M.M.S. will present a workshop entitled "Starting an Interdisciplinary Ethics and Humanities Course: You Can Do It" at the AAMC Annual Meeting in October. This was one of 15 workshops accepted for presentation through a peer review process from nearly 50 submissions and recognizes the SOM Bioethics and Humanities Course as a model for other schools.

Lenore Buckley, MD, MPH, (Internal Medicine), Karen Sanders, MD (Internal Medicine) and Carol Hampton, MMS, will present another workshop at AAMC as part of the Women in Medicine section of the program: "Using a Faculty Survey to Drive Organizational Change."

Our **multimedia development team** from the Computer Based Instruction Lab and the Curriculum Office will present a AAMC Research in Medical Education poster "Electrifying the Medical School Curriculum: Evaluation of a Web-based Course to Refine the Process." Team members include Drs. Paul Fairman (Internal Medicine) and Margaret Grimes (Pathology), M2 respiratory course co-directors; Dr. Dennis Hoban, Dr. Jim Messmer, and Robby Reynolds from Curriculum; and Jeanne Schlesinger, Chris Stephens, Brenda Seago, and Carrie Williams from CBIL.



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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 also submit items for the newsletter to Kathy Kreutzer at Box 980565 or e-mail at KKREUTZER@vcu.edu.

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