

NEWSLINE

School of Medicine Newsletter - May 1999 – Vol. 2, No. 4

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

Congratulations to May 16 Graduates!

On May 16, 1999, the School of Medicine graduated 153 M.D. students, 3 M.D./D.D.S. students, and 4 M.D./Ph.D. students, in addition to 64 master's degree students, 29 Ph.D. students, and 43 students with certificates in pre-medical basic health sciences. We wish all of these graduates the best of luck in their next endeavors!

Dr. John Ward Honored with MCV Physicians' Distinguished Clinician Award

In recognition of his distinguished career in patient care, John D. Ward, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Division of Neurosurgery, was recognized at Commencement. In his 20-plus years with the University, Dr. Ward has cared for patients across the United States and abroad, and each year volunteers his time to lead a medical team to Guatemala, caring for a large number of children there, and providing follow-up care in Richmond, as needed. Congratulations to Dr. Ward for this recognition by his peers.

1999 Dean's Awards Are Announced

The following individuals were honored with the 1999 Dean's Awards at the School of Medicine graduation ceremony on May 16, 1999:

Louis S. Harris, Ph.D., received the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Harris is the Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and the Harvey Hoag Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., received the Educational Leadership Award. Dr. Messmer is Associate Dean for Medical Education and Associate Professor of Radiology.

Sheryl L. Garland, M.H.A., received the Community Service Award. Ms. Garland is Administrative Director of the Office of Ambulatory Care of MCV Hospitals.

Please congratulate these individuals, all of whom have long records of contributions to the MCV Campus of VCU.

Chair Search Update

RADIOLOGY: Dr. B.J. Manaster will be resigning as Chair effective June 1. Her husband has accepted a deanship in Denver. Dr. James Tatum has been appointed permanent chair.

HUMAN GENETICS: The search is in the initial stages. Dr. David Wilkinson, Chair, Department of Pathology, is search committee chair.

PEDIATRICS: There are about 20 candidates; these applications are currently being reviewed. There are an exceptional number of internal candidates. Dr. Joel Silverman, Chair of Psychiatry, is search committee chair.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION: There are five finalists including two internal candidates.

A recommendation will come from that committee soon. Search Committee Chair is Dr. John Ward, Neurosurgery.

New "Faculty Expertise Directory" Features School of Medicine Researchers and Clinicians

Can other faculty, students, or even biomedical research companies learn about your research interests and experience? They can if you are listed in the "Faculty Expertise Directory"! This directory is available on-line through the VCU Web site (www.medschool.vcu.edu) and provides a very useful resource for locating faculty with specific research skills. The Directory can be searched by faculty name, department, or keyword. In the coming months the system will be upgraded to allow keyword and descriptive information changes by the faculty. Congratulations to Dr. Jan Chlebowski, Meenu Tolani, and Diane Parlow for all of the work that has gone into developing this valuable resource.

*special tip – after going to www.medschool.vcu.edu homepage, click on Graduate Programs; then scroll down to bottom of page and click on "Faculty Expertise Directory."

Alpha Omega Alpha Inducts New Members

Alpha Omega Alpha, the honorary society recognizing achievement and leadership in medicine, inducted medical students, housestaff and faculty at the Honors Days Ceremony on May 6, 1999. The keynote speaker for this event was Dr. Donald Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine. Congratulations to all of these outstanding individuals.

<u>Housestaff</u>	<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Alumni</u>	<u>Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award</u>
Scott T. Forrest, M.D. Pierre Virgilio Pavot, D.O. Jane L. Rozycki, M.D.	Christopher Murray Wise, M.D.	Christopher C. Colenda, M.D. Douglas T. Harryman, II, M.D.	Daniel M. Jannuzzi, M.D.

<u>Junior Year AOA Members Class of 2000</u>	<u>Senior Year AOA Members Class of 1999</u>		
Christopher Robert Brown James Marvin Coghill, Jr. Daniel Charles Grinnan Sarah Catherine Josephs James Lin Amy Eileen Messier David Okwudi Okonkwo Elham Rajae	Renee Ann Beirne Heidi Lisa Braun Steven Ricker Carter Kalpana Chalasani Robert Doniger Ecker Christine Marie Enos Brent Cabell Faulkner David Galbis-Reig	Meredith Paige Gilson Mark Lindsay Hagy Peter Nikias Kamilakis Brian Scott Neely Andrea Karin Prosser Ersalan Ahmed Rahman Sean Oliver Rassman Jessica Helen Schroeder	Michelle Miller Spears Derek James Thomas Rachel Rebecca Waller Edmond Pryce Wickham, III John Joseph Wittman, Jr.

Promotion and Tenure - Use the New Policy Guidelines To Streamline the Process

As you are probably aware, the School of Medicine has new Promotion and Tenure Guidelines as of July 1997. What you may not know is that the new guidelines allow the School of Medicine to make recommendations to the University President, Dr. Trani, through the Vice President for Health Sciences Office, rather than through the University Promotion and Tenure Committee. These new guidelines thus provide for review by SOM faculty and a streamlined process for promotion and tenure recommendations. Please familiarize yourself with the new guidelines on the School of Medicine web site (www.medschool.vcu) under "Faculty Policies and Procedures," *The Advisory Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure* (a document complementary to the legal document) is also available there for your review.

Number of Medical School Applications is Lower; GPA & MCAT's are Higher

So far the 1999 applicant pool for MCV School of Medicine numbers 4126, 10% lower than for 1998 – this is similar to a national trend of a 6.5% reduction in medical school applicants. The number of Virginia applicants to MCV has also declined 8% (882 applicants). The reasons for this trend are unknown, however, this could represent a natural decline after the 1988-96 "boom," when applications to MCV increased 154%. Since 1996, the total decline in applicants has been 22%. The GPA and MCAT scores of matriculating students have continued to rise since 1994, and the average for those accepted so far in 1999 is a 3.6 GPA and 31.4 MCAT. (information provided by Dr. Cynthia Heldberg, Associate Dean for Admissions)

New Faculty Orientation Day Announced for Monday, October 4, 1999

Mark Your Calendars!! Location: Medical Sciences Building; Program TBA. For more information on new faculty orientation, please contact Donna Cantrell, OCME, 8-5413 or Carol Hampton, 8-6594.

Departmental News: _____

Ob-Gyn

Emily "Mimi" Bennett, a nurse practitioner and Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was honored with the Miriam Manisoff Award at the 23rd Annual Planned Parenthood Conference for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Healthcare in Philadelphia. This national award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the advancement of nurse practitioners in practice, scholarship, or leadership. Ms. Bennett was also recently elected President of the National Certification Corp., which certifies some 52,000 obstetrics, gynecologic, and neonatal nurses and nurse practitioners.

Pathology

Dr. Joy L. Ware was awarded the Women in Medicine Faculty Organization, MCV Campus, Professional Achievement Award at the 7th Annual Women in Medicine Pathways to Leadership Conference, held this year in Charlottesville, VA on April 16, 1999. This award was established in 1993 to acknowledge the special contributions of women faculty in the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Ware was recognized for her outstanding leadership in scholarly endeavors, teaching expertise, and success as a mentor and role model. The Conference was sponsored by the three Virginia Schools of Medicine, (VCU, UVA, & EVMS), the Medical Society of Virginia, and the Richmond Academy of Medicine, and coordinated this year by UVA.

Physiology

Dr. Linda Costanzo was recognized by medical students at the SOM Honor's Day ceremony on May 6 for her excellence in teaching in the MI and MII years -congratulations!

Amy Goodyear, a 2nd year graduate student doing research in the lab of Dr. Scott Walsh, OB/GYN, had her abstract, "Oxidative Stress and TNF (alpha) Stimulate Transendothelial Migration of Neutrophils" selected as one of the President's Presenter Awards by the 1999 Scientific Program Committee of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation.

Dr. Roland Pittman was recently elected to Fellowship in the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. He was inducted during a ceremony in March at the National Academy of Sciences Building in Washington, DC. (*information provided by Debbie Bohn, Department of Physiology*)

NIH Seeking Input on Electronic Publishing _____

NIH Director Harold Varmus, M.D., has created a Web page to discuss the role of electronic media in disseminating the results of biomedical research. The site is a follow-up to a proposal distributed by Dr. Varmus, in which he sought input on using the Internet, e-mail, and other electronic media to enhance the publication of research results. NIH officials hope the proposal and the subsequent discussion will lead to publication techniques that, among other things, accelerate dissemination of information, reduce frustrations with traditional mechanisms for publication, and save substantial sums of public and private money. The Web site can be found at <http://www.nih.gov/welcome/director/ebiomed/ebiomed.htm>. (*information from AAMC STAT - May 10, 1999*)

Sanger Hall to Turn Gray

As reported in the last newsletter, the exterior of Sanger Hall will be undergoing a renovation, during which the blue and green mosaic panels will be covered by new panels - as it turns out these will be a of a neutral gray color.

Several readers asked about acquiring the distinctive old panels, but we have learned that these will not be removed, just covered over. Apparently one goal is to provide a more uniform and modern look to the building's exterior, but several people noted that we will lose the convenience of using Sanger as a landmark to give directions to patients, families, and other MCV Campus folks, e.g., "Turn right at the blue building." Some readers sent suggestions for the building's new look, including: making the exterior a VCU Art Department Project; having an electronic health message broadcast across the building; a tone on tone portrait of Dr. Trani...thanks for your comments, we'll keep you informed as information becomes available on the renovations.

Construction on Campus is Beginning in Earnest

As you have noticed, the construction for the Gateway building is beginning, which adds to the activity already underway on Sanger Hall and West Hospital. Please be aware that although roadwork is scheduled at night whenever feasible, this is not always possible, and streets and delivery access may be blocked, and re-routed, from day to day. For information on construction plans, progress, and schedules for Sanger Hall, West Hospital and Gateway Construction Projects, go to:

VCU Facilities Management Website<<http://www.vcu.edu/fmd/currentprojects/project.htm>>

The website itself is under construction with information for West Hospital to be added along with other updates. A "Gridlock Avoidance Committee" led by Facilities Management is working to help keep the MCV Campus accessible to patients, faculty, staff, and students during the next two years of construction. Remember to take it easy and allow extra time for yourself, visitors, and patients as we move toward new and better facilities at our Academic Medical Center.



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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 KKREUTZER@vcu.edu.

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