Department Chair Search Update

Dr. Walter Nance, Chair, Department of Human Genetics, has announced his retirement, pending identification of a new Chair. A search committee has been formed, with Dr. David Wilkinson, Chair, Department of Pathology, as Committee Chairman. Members include: Gordon Ginder, Massey Cancer Center; Kenneth Kendler, Psychiatry; William Rizzo, Pediatrics; Robert Balster, Pharmacology/Toxicology; Mara Dinsmoor, OB/GYN; Carlton Garrett, Pathology; Donna Katen-Bohensky, MCV HA; Robert Yu, Biochemistry; George Moxley, Internal Medicine; and Joanne Bodurtha, Linden Eaves, Colleen Jackson-Cook, and Barry Wolfe, Human Genetics.

Dr. Jay Perman, Jesse Ball duPont Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, has accepted the directorship of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical System. Dr. Lindsey Grossman, Division Chair of General Pediatrics, will assume interim leadership of the Department. A search committee for a new Chair has been formed, under the leadership of Dr. Joel Silverman, Department of Psychiatry. Committee members include: John Seeds, OB/GYN; Joyce Lloyd, Human Genetics; Charles Bagwell, Pediatric Surgery; Fred Rahal and Harry Gewanter, Community Pediatrics; Robin Foster, ER; Christopher Woleben, Pediatric Housestaff; Donald Taylor, Children’s Hospital; Sheldon Retchin, MCVP; Carl Fischer, MCV HA; Richard Wenzel, Internal Medicine; Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, Family Medicine; Aristides Sismanis, Otolaryngology; and William Rizzo, Cliff Russell, Martin Graham, and Karl Roth, Pediatrics.

The recommendations of the Surgery Search Committee have been sent to the Vice President and Dean. We anticipate a chairman to be named in the next month to 6 weeks.

The search committee for Chair, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, lead by John Ward, M.D., Department of Surgery, has been reviewing applications and plans to begin interviews soon.

Thanks to all Search Committee members for all their time, effort, and vision in helping us find key leaders essential to the health and growth of the School of Medicine, Academic Health Center and our University.

VCU Research Retreat Initiated by Dr. Trani

On Saturday, January 30, 1999, some 100 of VCU’s highest funded research faculty, center directors, department heads, and other administrators from our community of scholars gathered at the Research Park to discuss strengthening our research and scholarly mission and attracting greater support for it. Issues discussed included: External Funding – multi-investigator grants, training grants, shared equipment grants, and clinical investigator awards; Internal Issues – infrastructure and facilities; Recruitment and Retention of Research Oriented Faculty. Federal research funding in the health sciences has been level over the past several years. With more dollars available at NIH, VCU has an opportunity to substantially increase our research and scholarly activity. Multi-investigator and interdisciplinary grants are particularly encouraged to take advantage of our strengths. The VCU Office of Research and Graduate Studies will support investigators through the grant application process with assistance in budgeting, forms completion, and any other way which may be needed. Phone Ext. 80732, or e-mail wdewey@gems.vcu.edu., to initiate this interaction.
**Faculty in the News**

**Department of Internal Medicine**

Dr. Amy Foxx-Orenstein, Division of Gastroenterology, has been selected to serve as the Chair of the Women in Gastroenterology Committee for the American College of Gastroenterology. The position is for a three-year term.

Dr. Richard Wenzel, Chair, has received the James D. Bruce Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. The award recognizes distinguished contributions in preventive medicine. The award will be presented on Thursday, April 22 at the American College of Physicians Convocation Ceremony in New Orleans, LA.

**Department of Neurology**

Dr. Robert J. DeLorenzo, Chairman of the Department of Neurology, became the first researcher in Virginia to receive the American Epilepsy Society’s prestigious Milken Distinguished Investigator Award. The award carries a $50,000 prize. Dr. DeLorenzo’s research has focused on status epilepticus (SE), a life-threatening seizure disorder. Dr. DeLorenzo has formed one of the world’s leading SE research centers, housing the largest population data base on this type of seizure in the world. He has more than 200 publications to his credit.

**Department of Pathology**

Drs. Henry Gerszten and Marvin J. Allison’s research in paleopathology was the subject of an article in USA Today this fall. Drs. Allison and Gerszten also published a CD-ROM, entitled “Paleopathology I,” for which Chris Stephens, Computer Based Instruction Lab, served as Developer, and P. Bryan Fogelman, Department of Pathology, served as Image Editor. The work was supported by grants from the National Geographic Society, Chilean Conicyd, Universidad de Tarapaca, Earthwatch, and the Department of Pathology, MCV Campus, VCU. If you are interested in obtaining a complimentary copy of the CD-ROM, please contact Dr. Gerszten at Ext. 89746.

Dr. William Rosenblum is co-author and editor for a new CD-ROM “Neuropathology” published in January, 1999. It contains 19 chapters with images, descriptions, index, practice and test questions for medical students (M2 Neurobehavioral Sciences) and residents. The CD-ROM was produced by the School’s Computer Based Instruction Lab (CBIL), Office of Faculty and Instructional Development; Chris Stephens, applications developer; Jeanne Schlesinger and Carrie Williams, instructional developers. Other authors are Drs. Gary Hatfield, N.R. Ghatak, and Julio Martinez.

**Department of Radiology**

The Department of Radiology announces the arrival of several new faculty members:

David G. Disler, MD assumed his position as Section Chief of Musculoskeletal Imaging, August 31, 1998.

David A. May, MD (musculoskeletal radiology) joined the faculty effective October 10, 1998.

Timothy P. Maroney, MD (Section Chief, Vascular/Interventional Radiology) assumed his responsibilities on January 18, 1999.

Dr. Wui K. Chong, MBBS (Abdominal Imaging) joins us on February 1, 1999.

**University Guidelines on Prohibition of Sexual Harassment are distributed**

In October, 1998, all SOM faculty were mailed information about VCU’s commitment towards maintaining an environment free of sexual harassment. To date, 348 faculty have signed and returned the form, enclosed with the policy, to acknowledge receipt of the information. This documentation process is a means of protecting the School of Medicine, VCU, and you. If you have not returned your form, please do so; you may request additional forms from Carolyn Stone at Ext. 86591. Anyone seeking advice or wishing to discuss an alleged incident of sexual harassment should contact the VCU Office of EEO/AA Services at 828-1347. Additionally, the SOM has contact persons you may talk with: For Faculty: Carol Hampton, Faculty and Instructional Development Ext. 86594; for Residents: Mary Alice O’Donnell, Graduate Medical Education, Ext. 89783; for Students: Jennifer Deschenes, Curriculum Office, Ext. 89790.
Reminder: Please Have your VCU One Card ID Made!
If you have not yet done so, please go to the VCU One Card Office, located in Tompkins-McCaw Library to have your new ID photo taken. The new digitized ID photos will be used for the MCVP directory and the University. It takes about 5 minutes – so please take care of this soon! Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

VCU Faculty Mentoring Program in Instructional Technology Offers Multi-Media Equipment and More!
The VCU Faculty Mentoring Program in Instructional Technology is designed to assist 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. Up to ten faculty members, university-wide, will receive laptop computers and special assistance in finding effective ways to use technology in their teaching. The deadline for applications (a short written proposal and letter of endorsement from Chair or Dean) is February 15, 1999. Please contact the Instructional Development Center, VCU Office for Information Technology, for more information, contact Lucy Halunko, Ext. 87713. For application details, go to www.vcu.edu/IDC/

Check out the 1999 Rounds/ Lecture Schedules!
Schedules for presentations on this campus, to be offered this spring are available from several sources, including departmental web sites. Some outstanding presentations, including guest speakers, will be at MCV this spring – here are a few places to check for further information! If you would like your web site listed, send it to us!

Graduate Medical Education Core Lecture Series (Feb 17, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19, 12 Noon, GBJ Auditorium) – call Ext. 89783 for a schedule. Sponsored by Graduate Medical Education.

Interdepartmental Primary Care Conferences (Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, GBJ Auditorium, 12:10 –1 p.m. Contact Shelley Moore at Ext. 84247 for information. Sponsored by Generalist Physician Initiative, Departments of Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

Medical Grand Rounds, Department of Internal Medicine (every Thursday, 12 Noon, MSB Auditorium) Contact Ray Foster, Ext. 85738 or the Departmental Web Site, http://views.vcu.edu/internal-medicine – follow links to “Events and Current News” and then to “Grand Rounds.”

Pediatric Grand Rounds (Every Tuesday, 8:00 am, GBJ Auditorium) Department Web Site: http://views.vcu.edu/pediatricconnection/grandrounds.html

Women in Medicine Conference, “Pathways to Leadership” April 16, 1999
The 7th Annual Women in Medicine Conference will be held April 16, 1999, at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA. This conference is supported by MCV of VCU, the University of Virginia, and Eastern Virginia Medical School in collaboration with the Medical Society of Virginia and the Richmond Academy of Medicine. Call Carol Hampton, Ext. 8-6594, MCV of VCU or Bebe Moore in the UVA Office of Continuing Medical Education for more information: 1-800-552-3723 or 804-924-5310. Watch for registration information in February.

Hospital Practice Seeks Suggestions for Journal Topics/ Authors
The Editor of Hospital Practice, Robert W. Schrier, M.D., has asked for suggestions from internal medicine/primary care faculty for potential topics and individuals who could write editorials or articles for Hospital Practice. The focus of the editorials or articles can be about any issue relating to health care in the United States which is germane to the readership, including basic and clinical science and health services research. The primary readership is focused on primary care physicians in training and in practice. The staff of Hospital Practice provides excellent writing and art support for authors. Authors also receive an honorarium for their published material. Any suggestions may be e-mailed directly to robert.schrier@uchsc.edu.
University Distinguished Faculty Awards
The President’s Office distributed the request for nominations for VCU’s Distinguished Faculty Awards to all faculty in mid January 1999. The awards are Distinguished Teaching, Distinguished Scholarship, Distinguished Service, and University Award of Excellence. The School of Medicine has been very fortunate to have many of its faculty honored over the years. Please review the criteria and nominate faculty for these awards. Send your nominations to the faculty member’s department chair by **Monday, February 22, 1999**. The department chair will send their nominations to the Dean’s office by Tuesday, February 23. Submit only the nomination form, CV and a brief statement supporting the nominations at this time. The School’s Nominating Committee will review this information and make recommendations to the Senior Associate Dean regarding the nominee for each category. Once the four nominees have been chosen, the Department Chairmen of the selected faculty nominee will be responsible for preparing the supporting documentation and forwarding to the President’s office.

Sanger Hall to Change Color!
As part of the re-facing of Sanger Hall, the blue-green panels on the sides of the building will most likely be replaced with a new, more neutral color scheme. Recognizing that we have no say in the matter – NEWSLINE would like to ask – do you have any suggestions for the new color? Submit your ideas to kkreutzer@vcu.edu – we’ll print them in the next newsletter!

VCU Office of Faculty Affairs Faculty Development Workshops for Spring, 1999
Please contact Ms. Velma Jackson-Williams at 828-1347 for more information.
Friday, Feb 19, 9-11 am, **Faculty Outreach to Local and Global Communities**, VCU Student Commons
Friday, Feb 26, 9-11 am, **Re-Centering the Classroom Experience: Creating Deep Learning from Multiple Perspectives and Personal Stories**, VCU Student Commons
Thursday, Mar 4, 9-11 am, **Mentoring and Retaining Faculty of Color**, VCU Meeting Center
Thursday, Mar 4, 1-3 pm, **White Women, Women of Color, and Multiracial Women: Dynamics and Strategies for Becoming Effective Allies**, VCU Meeting Center
Thursday, Mar 4, 2-4 pm, **Grant Writing Workshop: Focus on the Sciences**, MCV Alumni House Board Room
Monday, Mar 29, 9-11 am, **What are the Effects of Student Evaluations of Teaching?**, VCU Student Commons
Monday, Mar 29, 1-3 pm, **Insubordination and Intimidation: How to Maintain Civility in the Classroom**, VCU Student Commons

Office of Faculty and Instructional Development
School of Medicine
Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 980565, Richmond, VA 23298-0565

**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@hsc.vcu.edu.**

**Editor:** Kathy Kreutzer, M.Ed., Box 980565, Richmond, VA 23298-0565; (804) 828-9790; kkreutzer@vcu.edu

**Reviewers:** Carol Hampton, M.M.S., Associate Dean for Faculty and Instructional Development
H. H. Newsome, M.D., Senior Associate Dean, School of Medicine

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