Department Chair Search Update

Dr. Jack Lanier will step down as Chair from the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health (PMCH) effective January 2001. A search committee for the Chair position has been formed with John Seeds, M.D., (Chairman, OB-GYN) as Chair, and following members: W. Hans Carter, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Biostatistics; Robert Holsworth, Ph.D., Director, Center for Public Policy; Ronald Hunt, D.D.S., M.S., Dean, School of Dentistry; Nora Klinker, M.D., Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine; Nancy Langston, Ph.D., R.N., Dean, School of Nursing; Robert Stroube, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Deputy Director for Public Health; Dr. Michael Edmond, Internal Medicine; Kathleen Kreutzer, M.Ed. Assistant Professor, Dean’s Office/PMCH (PMCH); Shelley Harris, Ph. D. Assistant Professor, PMCH; Akwasi Amponsah, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor, PMCH; William R. Nelson, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, PMCH.

Dr. George Kunos, Department of Pharmacology/Toxicology, stepped down as Chair on May 18. Dr. Billy Martin is Acting Chair. A search committee has been formed: Dr. Walter Nance, Human Genetics, Chairman; Dr. Margaret Biber, Physiology; Dr. Jan Chlebowski, Biochemistry; Dr. Dennis Ohman, Microbiology/Immunology; Dr. John Povlishock, Anatomy; Dr. Susan Robinson, Pharmacology/Toxicology; Dr. Robert Balster, Pharmacology/ Toxicology.

Dr. Jan Chlebowski is Acting Chair of the Department of Biochemistry. A search committee has been formed to search for a replacement for Dr. Robert Yu, who left earlier this year: Dr. Joy Ware, Pathology, Search Committee Chairman; Dr. Robert Balster, Pharm/Tox; Dr. Richard Glennon, Medicinal Chemistry; Dr. Gordon Ginder, Massey Cancer Center; Dr. Philip Hylemon, Microbiology; Dr. Joyce Lloyd, Human Genetics; Dr. David Muddiman, Chemistry; Dr. Glenn VanTuyle, Biochemistry; Dr. Carmen Sato-Bigbee, Biochemistry; Dr. Zendra Zehner, Biochemistry.

Dr. Joseph H. Laver will become Chair of Pediatrics effective July 1, 2000. Dr. Laver was the top choice of the search committee. He is currently Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina. Thanks to the Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Joel Silverman, Department of Psychiatry, for their service to the University in this important task.

The Human Genetics Chair Search Committee, chaired by Dr. David Wilkinson, Chair of Pathology, has interviewed three of four candidates.

Reminder: SOM Teaching Excellence Award Nominations due June 19th

Nominations for the School of Medicine Teaching Excellence awards are due June 19, in the Dean’s office. Categories of awards in the program initiated last year are Teaching Excellence, Whitby Award for Clinical Teaching, Distinguished Mentor, and Award for Educational Research or Education Innovation. Details are located at http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/intranet/facdev/ann_tech_awards.htm. For questions contact Carol Hampton, Associate Dean, Faculty and Instructional Development, 8-6594, carol.hampton@vcu.edu. Awards will be presented on Monday October 23, 2000, at 12 noon in the Medical Sciences Building Auditorium.

Drs. Walter Lawrence and Z. Reno Vlahcevic Receive Presidential Medallion

VCU President Dr. Eugene Trani presented the Presidential Medallion, one of VCU’s highest honors, to Dr. Walter A. Lawrence, Jr., founding director and director emeritus of the Massey Cancer Center, and Dr. Z. Reno Vlahcevic, Charles Caravati Professor of Medicine and Chairman, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine. Other recipients were Richard Newdick, professor emeritus of theater and former department chairman and W. Baxter Perkinson, Jr., D.D.S., a 1970 alumnus and member of the university board of visitors. These individuals were selected by the VCU Board of Visitors for this honor from among many outstanding nominees from faculty, students and staff of VCU.
The VCU Health System will be in effect July 1, 2000. It was approved at all levels: the Virginia Legislature, the
Governor, the MCV Hospitals Authority Board and the VCU Board of Visitors. A major purpose of the new
VCU health system is to better integrate all components of the clinical enterprise to meet the missions of the
academic medical center: patient care, teaching research, and service. Some changes in leadership to direct this new
structure involving the clinical aspects of the School of Medicine, MCV Physicians and MCV Hospitals are:

VCU Health Systems CEO and Vice President of Health Sciences: Hermes Kontos, M.D., Ph.D., 2 year term
Dean, School of Medicine: Dickie Newsome, M.D., 3 year term
Executive Director for Clinical Services: Sheldon Retchin, M.D.
Chief Operating Officer for Clinical Services: Donna Karen Bahensky, M.H.A.
Chief of Medical Services: Ron Clark, M.D.
Chief Financial Officer: Dominic Puleo, M.H.A.
Executive Director for Ancillary Services and Health Information Systems: Carl Fischer, M.H.A.

The new VCU Health Authority Board will be expanded from 16 to 21 members. Appointments are made by the
VCU Board of Visitors, Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Senate Elections and Privileges Committee, and
the Governor. The Board members will be announced when all appointments are made. We look forward to this
new structure to help guide us in this time of change in academic medicine. Please contact the VCU Health
System Hot Line at 628-0434 with ideas and issues of concern for the new leadership.

Research in Medical Education

From time to time we will bring you abstracts of articles with implications for medical education.
Please contact Dennis Hoban, Director of Education Research, School of Medicine at (email address) with any
comments or suggestions.

Title: Obstacles to promotion? Values of women faculty about career success and recognition. Committee on the
Status of Women and Minorities, Virginia Commonwealth University, MCV Campus.
Authors: Buckley LM; Sanders K; Shih M; Kallar S; Hampton C

Abstract: To assess attitudes of female faculty about career progress, resources for career development, and values related to
academic success and recognition. METHOD: In 1997, the authors surveyed all faculty at Virginia Commonwealth
University School of Medicine and its associated Veterans Affairs Medical Center. RESULTS: Of 918 faculty, 567 (62%)
responded to the survey; 33% of the respondents were women. Compared with men, women faculty were less likely to be
tenured or at the level of professor, spent more time in clinical activities, had less time for scholarly activity, and reported
slower career progress. Women were more likely to report that promotion and tenure criteria had not been reviewed with
them. Significant differences were found between female physicians and non-physician faculty; female physicians reported
the least time for scholarly activities and poorest understanding of promotion and tenure criteria. When the authors asked
faculty how they valued certain indicators of career success, women were less likely to value leadership than were men.
Female physicians were less likely to value scholarship and national recognition as indicators of their career success.
CONCLUSION: This survey found important differences in career progress of male and female faculty, with women
reporting less time for career development. In addition, there were differences in values related to career success and
recognition, which were most pronounced for female physicians. These differences may have an important impact on
promotion for women in general and particularly for female physicians.

Title: Teaching Diagnostic Skills: Clinical Vignettes or Chief Complaints?
Journal: Advances in Health Sciences Education 5: 3-10, 2000. Authors: Nendaz MR, Raetzo MA, Junod AF, Vu NV.

Abstract. Two formats of case presentation are traditionally used for teaching problem-solving skills: clinical vignette or
chief complaint formats. While the first one is more commonly used, it does not completely reflect the actual problem-
solving process during the real encounter, which may hamper the learners to integrate separately acquired data gathering
skills into their reasoning process and affect their diagnostic performance in practice. This study compared diagnostic
accuracy when the reasoning stimulus was a case vignette containing all diagnostic information versus the patient's chief
complaint only. Forty-two medical students, 53 residents and 60 general internists participated in the study. Diagnostic
accuracy was significantly lower for the chief complaint format at the student, resident, and practitioner levels. Analysis of
the data gathered in the chief-complaint format revealed that the faulty diagnostic decisions resulted from a failure to gather
critical data. The results suggest that data gathering techniques, the semiology of diseases, and medical reasoning should be trained in association and that this effort should be pursued beyond medical school.

**Title:** Handedness and sex differences in intelligence: evidence from the medical college admission test.  
**Journal:** Brain Cogn 1998 Oct;38(1):87-101  
**Authors:** Halpern DF; Haviland MG; Killian CD

Abstract: Analysis of Medical College Admission Test subtest scores by writing hand preference and sex suggests that (a) right hemispheric dominance is associated with intellectual giftedness in verbal reasoning (left-handers obtained higher scores on the verbal reasoning test and were overrepresented in the upper tail of the distribution), (b) different patterns of brain lateralization are associated with different subcomponents of cognition (right-handers scored higher, on average, on the writing test and were overrepresented in the upper tail of the distribution), and (c) men generally score higher than women on tests of scientific knowledge (the most striking differences between men and women were on the biological and physical science tests).

**AOA Members Announced**

Congratulations to these faculty and students, who have been named to Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the medical honor society:

**Senior Year AOA Members of the Class of 2000**
- Craig Brendon Birgfeld
- Jason Alexander Cillo
- James Blair Garnett
- Kenneth Clark Hite
- Dana Michele Holwitt
- Patrick Joseph Keaney
- Sophia Dolly Lin

**Junior Year AOA Members of the Class of 2001**
- Mariana Lynn Abraham
- David Maxwell Barrett
- Brian Martin Cameron

**Housestaff**
- Douglas R. Allen, M.D., Pediatric Cardiology
- Giselle G. Hamad, M.D., Surgery
- Ryan D. Mire, M.D., Internal Medicine

**Faculty**
- R. Paul Fairman, M.D., Internal Medicine
- Anthony Minisi, M.D., Internal Medicine

**Alumni**
- Jeffery K. Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.

**Volunteer Clinical Faculty**
- Katherine LaVan Smallwood, M.D.

**Results of Match Day 2000**

For the students of the School of Medicine, March 16, 2000, brought good news. Of the 142 students who participated in the National Residency Matching Program (165 in the class), 126 or 93% matched with their first, second or third choice of hospital training programs, according to Dr. Hugo R. Seibel, Associate Dean of Medicine for Student Activities in the School of Medicine. 48% entered primary care specialties, just short of our Virginia Generalist Initiative goal of 50%. Thirty-two students matched to MCV Programs. 110 students matched out of state, and 53 to in-state institutions, compared to 92 out of state, 67 in state, and 40 to MCV programs in 1999.

The National Resident Matching Program started over 45 years ago (1952; it matches graduating medical students with hospitals for internship and residencies). In December and January, the candidates for residencies interview. By February 16, 2000, they had ranked their choices and the hospitals ranked the students. The rank lists were sent electronically to the central computer facility in Washington, D.C. where the pairings are made. The results came out in the form of an envelope addressed to each of the candidates. March 16, 2000 was a long awaited day of celebration of the accomplishments made over the past four years of medical training. We are proud to celebrate and congratulate these seniors. (information provided
by Janet Mundie)
MCV Faculty Featured in Richmond Magazine

Many of you have seen the cover of the April issue of Richmond Magazine that features our own Paul Fairman, M.D., from the Division of Pulmonary Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine. Paul is one of a dozen Richmond medical professionals who were interviewed in the issue about their health care careers and the future of medical care. Ron Merrell, M.D., Chair of Surgery, is also interviewed in the issue, as is Dr. Nancy Langston, Dean of the VCU School of Nursing, and James Schmitt, M.D., Chief of General Internal Medicine at the VAMC.

A special feature of this issue of Richmond Magazine is a list of the city's top physicians selected among 50 specialties. These physicians were selected by a survey distributed to doctors in the area. As with the previous survey conducted in 1998 by the Richmond Magazine, VCU faculty were disproportionately represented in this year's survey. The following VCU faculty physicians were elected as Richmond Magazine's Top Doctors, as voted by Richmond physicians:

ALLERGIES: Dr. Anne-Marie Irani
CARDIOLOGY: Dr. George W. Vetrovec*
CRITICAL CARE SURGERY/TRAUMA SURGERY: Dr. Rao Ivatury*
DERMATOLOGY: Dr. Algin B. Garrett, Dr. Julia R. Nunley
EMERGENCY MEDICINE: Dr. Joseph P. Ornato*
ENDOCRINOLOGY: Dr. John N. Clore, Dr. David F. Gardner
FAMILY/GENERAL PRACTICE: Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook
GASTROENTEROLOGY: Dr. Amy Foxx-Orenstein
GENERAL SURGERY: Dr. Eric Demaria
GENETICS: Dr. Joann N. Bodurtha*
GERIATRIC MEDICINE: Dr. Peter A. Boling, Dr. Sheldon M. Retchin
HEMATOLOGY: Dr. Marcus E. Carr
INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Dr. Suzanne R. Lavoie, Dr. Sara G. Monroe
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE: Dr. Wendy S. Klein
NEPHROLOGY: Dr. James Chan, Dr. Todd W. B. Gehr
NEUROLOGY: Dr. Robert T. Leshner
NEURORADIOLOGY: Dr. Fred J. Laine, Dr. Wendy R. K. Smoker
NEUROSURGERY: Dr. John D. Ward, Dr. Harold F. Young
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY: Dr. Ellen L. Brock
HIGH RISK MATERNAL/FETAL MEDICINE: Dr. Thomas C. Peng
NEONATAL/PERINATAL: Dr. Gary Gutcher, Dr. Henry J. Rozycki
ONCOLOGIC SURGERY: Dr. Harry D. Bear *, Dr. James P. Neifeld
ONCOLOGY: Dr. Thomas J. Smith
ONCOLOGY-GYNECOLOGIC: Dr. Eileen M. Segreti, Dr. John B. Wheelock
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY: Dr. John A. Cardea *
ORTHOPEDIC HAND SURGERY: Dr. Robert S. Adelaar
OTOLARYNGOLOGY: Dr. Laurence J. DiNardo, Dr. Daniel Wohl
PATHOLOGY: Dr. William J. Frable
PEDIATRICS (SPECIALIZED): Dr. James Chan (ped neph), Dr. William B. Moskowitz * (ped cardio)
PEDIATRIC SURGERY: Dr. Charles Bagwell, Dr. Jeffrey Haynes*
PHYSICAL MEDICINE: Dr. David X. Cifu*
PLASTIC/RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY: Dr. Andrea L. Pozez, Dr. Issac L. Wornom III
PSYCHIATRY: Dr. James L. Levenson, Dr. Joel J. Silverman
CHILD PSYCHIATRY: Dr. Dean X. Parmelee, Dr. Neil Sonenklar
PULMONARY MEDICINE: Dr. R. Paul Fairman*
RADIATION ONCOLOGY: Dr. Robert M. Cardinale
RHEUMATOLOGY: Dr. Lenore M. Buckley, Dr. Chris M. Wise
SPORTS MEDICINE: Dr. Thomas P. Loughran*, Dr. Wilhelm A. Zuelzer
THORACIC SURGERY: Dr. James W. Brooks, Sr., Dr. Neri Cohen
VASCULAR RADIOLOGY: Dr. Jaime Tisnado
VASCULAR SURGERY: Dr. Raymond Makhoul

Doctors with * denote the most votes in that category.

Please join in congratulating these faculty physicians on this honor of being recognized by their community peers for their clinical skills. (information provided by Dr. Sheldon Retchin) (Editor’s Note: if MCV-trained Physicians
were included, the list above would be longer still; many medical student and housestaff graduates of MCV, now practicing elsewhere, were on the list as well – congratulations to our basic science and clinical teachers!)
Please join us in congratulating these faculty members who were recently promoted! Note: from now on, all faculty will be considered for promotion under the 1997 guidelines.

### PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR (ALREADY TENURED)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
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<tr>
<td>Robert A. Fisher, M.D.</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>Scott W. Kauma, M.D.</td>
<td>Obstetrics/Gyn.</td>
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<td>Rakesh C. Kukreja, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Daijin Ko, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
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<td>J. Ross McClung, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>James M. Messmer, M.D.</td>
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<td>William B. Moskowitz, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Michael Neale, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>Karen M. Sanders, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Leslie S. Satin, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Pharmacology/Toxicology</td>
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<td>Thomas J. Smith, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>C. Kristoffer Valerie, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
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<td>Edward S. Wong, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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### PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

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<td>Lenore M. Buckley, M.D.</td>
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<td>Thomas J. Ferro, M.D.</td>
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<td>Mitchell L. Shiffman, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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### PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR (COLLATERAL)

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<tr>
<td>Michael F. Godschalk, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>1990 Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret M. Grimes, M.D.</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Anne Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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### PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

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<tr>
<td>Suzanne E. Barbour, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Microbiology &amp; Immun.</td>
<td>1997 Guidelines</td>
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<td>Paul Dent, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
<td>1997 Guidelines</td>
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<td>Ann S. Fulcher, M.D.</td>
<td>Radiology</td>
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<td>Colleen K. Jackson-Cook, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Human Genetics</td>
<td>1990 Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol A. Prescott, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>1997 Guidelines</td>
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<td>Stanley H. Benedict, Jr., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
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<td>M. Imad Damaj, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Sherry Elliott, M.B.A.</td>
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<td>Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Scott D. Gullquist, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Anna V. Espinel-Ingroff, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Paul R. Jolles, M.D.</td>
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<td>Norma D. McKenzie, M.D.</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>Linda D. Meloy, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Leonard Moses, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Irene F. Newsham, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Anatomy</td>
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<td>Elizabeth B. O. Ripley, M.D.</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Brenda L. Seago, M.L.S.</td>
<td>Medicine-Dean’s Office</td>
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<td>Eileen M. Segreti, M.D.</td>
<td>Obstetrics/Gyn.</td>
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<td>Elbert Sholar, M.D.</td>
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<td>Sue S. Sreedhar, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<td>Elizabeth J. Waterhouse, M.D.</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
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<td>Sara L. White, M.D.</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
(no peer review required; recommendation letter and curriculum vitae required)
Aileen A. Edwards, M.D.  Medicine-Dean’s Office
Sashidhar N. Reddy, M.D.  Internal Medicine

AFFILIATE AND NON-PAID, VOLUNTEER FACULTY
(no peer review required; recommendation letter and curriculum vitae required)

PROMOTION TO CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Henry A. Bowen, M.D.  Psychiatry  Julia G. McLaughlin, Ph.D.  Psychiatry
Frederick Rahal, M.D.  Pediatrics  James A. Shield, Jr., M.D.  Psychiatry

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Family Practice
M. Lee Blackburn, M.D.  Steven S. Leblang, M.D.  Ralph MacMillan
Mark Rosenberg, M.D.  Stuart Solan, M.D.  Michael Taylor, M.D.
Dennis Thomas, M.D.  Marvin Williams, M.D.  Edward Zakaib, M.D.

Pediatrics
Daniel Davidow, M.D.  Harry Gawanter, M.D.

Psychiatry
Gwendoline Fisher, M.D.  William L. Harp, M.D.  David S. Hulburt, LCSW

PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT CLINICAL PROFESSOR
Barbara Kahler, M.D.  Pediatrics  Mary S. McLean Olinger, M.D.  Psychiatry

Gateway and General Construction Update
1. Pile driving will continue on a sporadic basis over the next two months as sheeting and shoring is installed to stabilize the street, buildings and tunnel that surround the Gateway site. To reduce noise and vibration, a screw dug the holes, but at 20 ft the holes collapsed and pile driving is needed for the last 10 ft.
2. Another 50 caissons must be drilled over the next three months with 2-3 ft diameter holes that go down 50-70 ft and may also require some pile driving. The first 13 caissons luckily did not require the pile driver.
3. In May, Marshall Street in front of the Gateway site was reduced to 2 lanes to accommodate heavy equipment like cranes to excavate, prepare a foundation, and erect steel. Marshall Street will not return to 3 lanes until about Jan 2001 and to 4 lanes in June 2001.
4. At the corner of Clay and 11th Street in front of McGuire Hall Annex, a concrete pad was poured for a new bus stop shelter. (information provided by Mr. Stanley Hartman)

Our Faculty Help to Develop USMLE Exams
A number of SOM faculty serve on committees to develop the United States Medical Licensing examination (USMLE), administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). In the words of Dr. L. Thompson Mowles, President of NBME, “The National Board chooses test committee members very carefully; selection to a USMLE Committee brings honor to the individual and to his or her parent institution”. Congratulations to these nationally recognized experts!
Peter Boling, M.D. - Step 1 Test Material Development Committee (TMDC) for Pathology
David Gardner, M.D. - Step 3 TMDC on Chronic Illness and Ongoing Conditions, and Step 3 Interdisciplinary Review Committee (IRC)
James L. Leveson, M.D. - Step 3 TMDC for Behavioral and Occupational Medicine, Step 3 IRC
Ronald C. Merrell, M.D. - Step 3 Computer-based Case Simulation TMDC
Dean X. Parmelee, M.D. – Step 1 Behavioral Sciences Task Force, Step 1 Interdisciplinary Review Committee
School of Medicine Dean’s Office

On April 8, Aileen Edwards, Director of Admissions and Minority Affairs, was elected as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Southern Group on Student Affairs, Minority Affairs Section. Ms. Edwards will serve for a two year term as Regional Vice Chair and then move into a two year term as Chair. Student Affairs is one of several special interest groups organized as part of the AAMC.

Pre-Medical Advisor’s Conference a Success: The SOM held its fourth annual Virginia Pre-Medical Advisor’s Conference on Friday, March 31st. Pre-medical/health advisors from universities and colleges throughout Virginia were invited to meet and talk with Deans, Directors, and Chairmen from the three Virginia (VA) medical schools. The conference, held at MCV’s Alumni House and Conference Center, was well attended with over thirty advisors representing many of the undergraduate schools in VA. The site of the Pre-Medical Advisor’s Conference rotates among the three medical schools making it easily accessible for advisors to attend. Next year, it will be held at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Sponsored by the Generalist Initiative, this conference is an effort to establish a close relationship with advisors throughout the state. The conference evaluation indicated that the conference does enhance the quality of pre-medical advising.

Department of Emergency Medicine

The Emergency Medicine Residency Program was approved this year and the first 8 residents in Emergency Medicine will begin in July.

Dr. Joseph P. Ornato, Professor and Chairman of Emergency Medicine, received two prestigious awards: 1) The American Heart Association National Emergency Cardiac Care Lifetime Achievement Award, and 2) the Mid-Atlantic American Heart Association's Golden Heart Award.

Dr. Kevin Ward, Associate Professor and Director of Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine, received the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine's Research Award.

Department of Internal Medicine

The Virginia Chapter of Club Med was the winner of the Evergreen Award at the National American College of Physicians Meeting. Club Med will also win an award for the greatest increase in membership Lisa Ellis, M III, wrote the proposal for the Evergreen Award and it was built around the club med at MCV. Congratulations!

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was awarded a three year grant for $315,000 from the National Science Foundation, for a the grant period 3/1/00-2/28/03, for work entitled, “Determinants for DNA Binding by a Prokaryotic Zinc-finger Transcription Factor”.

Department of Neurology

The NIH Epilepsy Research Center was funded for five years starting on January 1, 2000, representing 15 years of continuous funding of this internationally prominent epilepsy research program. This award represents over $1.1 million total cost per year. Dr. Robert J. DeLorenzo, Chairman of Neurology, is the Principal Investigator.

Dr. Jack Pellock, Professor and Chair, Division of Child Neurology, has been asked to serve as a committee member of the Olympic Prize – International Olympic Committee for sport sciences.

Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery

The Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery would like to invite all interested professionals to its 8th Annual Hayden Otology Symposium on June 24, 2000. This year's Symposium is entitled "Recent Advances in the Management of Skull Base Lesions" and includes presentations that will be of interest not only to the otolaryngologists, but also to neurologists and neurosurgeons. For more information on this event or for all of the department's continuing education courses, please contact Lauralee Grove at 828-2785 or visit our website at www.views.vcu.edu/ent/.
Department of Pathology
On June 2-3, Joy L. Ware, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, hosted 30 scientists from across the country in a meeting on the MCV Campus. The meeting, "Prostate Cancer in Minority Populations", is sponsored in part by the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health. The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate the current understanding of biological factors influencing the incidence and progression of prostate cancer in high-risk populations, with an emphasis on African Americans.

W. Greg Miller, Ph.D., Professor, was appointed as Chair of the Area Committee on Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology for the NCCLS (National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards) for the year 2000.

Beginning January 2000, Dr. Margaret Grimes, Vice-Chair and Director of the Pathology Residency Program, received a two-year appointment to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee for Pathology.

Department of Psychiatry
Dr. Kenneth Kendler has been awarded the 2000 National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) Distinguished Investigator Award, an important recognition of Dr. Kendler’s service to the field of Psychiatry and Psychiatric Genetics. Additionally, Dr. Kendler has been named the 2001 Thomas William Salmon Lecturer, confirmed by the Thomas William Salmon Committee of Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene and the Board of Trustees of the New York Academy of Medicine. Previous recipients include a long list of luminaries in the field of psychiatry.

Department of Surgery
On March 27, 2000, VCU’s new Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (PCICU) received its first patient, a one-year old undergoing her third and final surgery to correct hypoplastic left heart syndrome; her doctors say she is doing well. The PCICU is the only one if its kind in a five-state radius.

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery welcomes two new faculty members on July 1; Abe DeAnda, Jr., M.D., Assistant Professor, and Vigneshwar Kasirajan, M.D, as Assistant Professor at Hunter Homes McGuire VAMC.

On May 25, Physicians for Peace, a Norfolk based non-profit organization, led a medical team of three plastic surgeons, one orthopedist, one physiatrist and two physical therapists to Turkey to work with local physicians to assist land mine victims. Hanger, Inc., the largest limb prostheses manufacturing company in the United States, committed to help by procuring hundreds of used prostheses for distributions overseas. Joining this team was Dr. Austin Mehrhof, chairman of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, who with other team members will share his skills with his counterparts at three different medical centers in Diyarbakir and Istanbul. The team will teach health professionals while there so that local physicians can operate without future outside assistance. In addition to daily clinics & rounds, each physician will speak during educational conferences that are planned at each site. For more information about Physicians for Peace visit their web site at www.physiciansforpeace.org. Information from Laurie McKay-Smith and excerpted from the Department of Surgery Web Site

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Newline 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!