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Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia Campus

## School of Medicine eNews

Volume 13 - Number 4 - Fall 2014

We have email addresses for only about half of our medical school's **16,000** alumni, so to help keep your classmates connected, [please forward](#) this issue of *SOM eNews*!



### Student News

#### Zero to sixty

Orientation. Boot Camp. Team work. The 216 incoming students who make up the Class of 2018 were welcomed to campus with a week's worth of orientation activities culminating in the annual White Coat Ceremony. See [photos of the Class of 2018](#) and [meet Bentley Massey](#) who had a whirlwind couple of weeks in August. First he got the call that he'd been admitted to medical school. Then he learned a scholarship would help him pay for it. But he never expected a couple of Redskins players to help him move in!

#### MD-PhD student lands 3-year NCI grant

Jeremy Meier has received the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award totaling \$123,000. Read more about [Meier's research](#) exploring the potential role that mitochondria play in cancer progression and therapeutic resistance.

#### Aging in place

Medical students are part of an interdisciplinary team that offers chronic disease management and wellness education at a nearby apartment building for older adults. The two-year-old program connects classroom to real-life experience and provides the building's residents the kind of care that lets them remain in their homes. [Watch the 11-minute segment](#) that aired on the local PBS affiliate, starting at the 1-minute mark.

### Research News

#### Non-invasive technique could revolutionize imaging metastatic cancer

A new approach to imaging local and metastatic tumors uses firefly luciferase – the bioluminescent substance that makes fireflies glow. Listen to Human Genetics Chair Paul Fisher, Ph.D., explain to the local PBS radio station how this approach could [revolutionize the detection and treatment of a variety of cancers](#).

#### Center targets cocaine addiction

Despite 30 years of research, no approved medication exists for cocaine addiction. Read more about the 5-year, \$6 million NIH grant that will [bring together clinical and basic science researchers](#) for preclinical and early clinical trials that will guide decisions on moving forward with large-scale studies.

#### Statewide cancer clinical trials network

The VCU Massey Cancer Center was awarded a \$4.4 million NCI grant to support a statewide network in Virginia that brings clinical trials to patients in

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#### [Update Your Contact Info](#)

Mark your calendars for

#### Reunion Weekend 2015

April 17-19, 2015  
For Class Years  
ending in a '5 or '0.

#### Reunion Weekend 2016

April 15-17, 2016  
For Class Years  
ending in a '6 or '1.

#### Reunion Weekend 2017

April 7-9, 2017  
For Class Years  
ending in a '7 or '2.

#### Reunion Weekend 2018

April 20-22, 2018  
For Class Years  
ending in a '8 or '3.



In the **Annual Fund**, gifts of all sizes combine to create

their own communities and fosters minority access to trials. Read more about the [grant that went to only a dozen centers in the nation](#).

## Clinical News

### How do you increase the use of online patient portals?

In a surprising finding researchers learned that one out of three patients aged 60-69 used online patient portals – the highest rate of any age group studied. Read more about the study, published in the Annals of Family Medicine, that examined [cost-effective ways small- to medium-sized primary care practices](#) can encourage patients to go online to access their personal health records.

### Cancer drug found to be superior infertility treatment

New findings could change the current medical protocol for the treatment of women with polycystic ovary syndrome. The cancer drug letrozole has been found to improve live birth and ovulation rates when compared head-to-head with gold-standard clomiphene. Learn more about the national, [multi-center clinical trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#).

## Alumni News

### Reunion Weekend 2015 - April 17-19

MD alumni whose graduation year ends in a '5 or '0 should mark their calendars. Activities kick off with Friday evening's Class Parties. There's also a CME course, campus tours and many opportunities to reconnect with classmates. You can even play a round of golf with the students in the annual charity tournament. Look for registration info in January and, meanwhile, direct any questions to Jodi T. Smith at (804) 628-2248 or [jtsmith@vcu.edu](mailto:jtsmith@vcu.edu)

### Alumni in the news

Congratulations to the [Class of 1987's Janet Eddy](#) and [housestaff alumna Cynthia Romero](#) who've been honored by the Medical Society of Virginia for their service to their communities. [PhD alumnus Sebastian Joyce](#) returned to campus to speak at the Microbiology and Immunology Research Seminar Series, where he gave 5 commandments to young scientists. The Richmond Times-Dispatch featured the [Class of 2014's Jeremy Powers'](#) surprise reunion with a transplant patient who describes how Powers' compassion made an impression he never imagined.

### 12th & Marshall

This fall, the medical school debuts 12th & Marshall, a twice yearly magazine that will chronicle the life of our school, our students, our faculty and — importantly — our alumni. Look for the photo-filled inaugural issue in your mailbox soon.

## School News

### Faculty in the news

[Endocrinology Chair Francesco Celi, M.D.](#), talked to the NY Times Magazine about how turning the thermostat down a few notches at night could lead to metabolic benefits. [Celeste N. Powers, M.D., Ph.D.](#), has been installed as president of the United States & Canadian Academy of Pathology. [Peter Boling, M.D.](#), is marking 30 years of his House Calls program providing care for patients too ill or disabled to get to a doctor's office.

### CME Opportunities

For additional information and to register for the courses below, visit

medical student scholarships that will be awarded next fall. You can make your [gift online](#).

### In Mailboxes Soon

Look for the inaugural issue of the medical school's new magazine 12th & Marshall.

## 12TH & MARSHALL



VCU School of Medicine

### Class Notes

Share your news in the spring issue of 12th & Marshall. [Go online](#) to tell us the latest.

### Rams on the Road

Join VCU Alumni for one of nine away games during the men's basketball season. From Brooklyn, to Cincinnati to Davidson, [is there one near you?](#)

Check out the upcoming [offerings](#) from the medical school's Continuing Medical Education conferences.

### Take the entrepreneur survey

Please [share your insight](#) on ways VCU can help prepare entrepreneurial students.

[Past issues](#) of SOM eNews are online.

[www.cme.vcu.edu](http://www.cme.vcu.edu) or call (804) 828-3640 or (800) 413-2872.

***Practical Neurology Update for Primary Care***

***November 15, 2014***

***MCV Campus***

Physicians, PAs, nurse practitioners and other health care professionals who treat patients with neurological conditions in the primary care setting will hear the latest evidence based information regarding clinical diagnosis and treatment. Faculty presentations will be focused on headaches, migraines, neuropathy, tremor and Parkinson's disease. The program also includes clinical case discussions with the opportunity for participants to bring difficult cases to the conference for our expert faculty to offer consultation and feedback.

***20th Annual VCU Sports Medicine Update in Primary Care Conference***

***December 5-7, 2014***

***Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va.***

An intensive update of topics of specific interest to physicians in primary care, pediatrics, internal medicine, sports medicine and osteopathic medicine. The update includes faculty panels along with optional skills workshops and, new this year, an update on cycling injuries. Other healthcare professionals are welcome to attend.

***13th Annual Alumni Update Course***

***April 18, 2015***

***MCV Campus***

The one-day program will cover the latest in a broad range of fields. The course coincides with Reunion Weekend but is open to all alumni. You'll hear leading faculty discuss hypertension, cystic fibrosis, marijuana and preventing errors in the clinical setting.

***Richmond CME for Docs***

***4th Wednesday of each month, 6 - 8 p.m.***

***Bon Secours Heart Institute, 7001 Forest Avenue, Richmond***

A collaboration between Bon Secours Medical Group and the VCU Office of Continuing Medical Education has resulted in a relevant, evidence-based CME series. The monthly lectures are aimed at helping physicians to improve and enjoy the practice of medicine. Offered at no charge to participants, the lectures are open to physicians and physician extenders.

We're interested in your comments on this communication. Please [email](#) us your thoughts.

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**For More Information:**

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