

W I S D M

Women in Science, Dentistry & Medicine

WOMEN IN SCIENCE, DENTISTRY & MEDICINE FACULTY ORGANIZATION

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Karen Sanders, MD • Dawn Mueller, MD • Wendy Klein, MD

VCU Women Honored for Leadership and Dedication

The following women faculty within the science, dentistry and medicine fields at VCU have been recognized and honored for their leadership and dedication.

Wendy Klein, MD, FACP, Senior Deputy Director, VCU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, Associate Professor, Medicine & Obstetrics/Gynecology was honored with the 2006 WISDM VCU School of Medicine Professional Achievement Award. Klein, an experienced clinician, teacher, and preceptor to medical residents and students, is known by her colleagues for her innovative approaches, energy, and dedication to women's health care and women in medicine. She designed the Women's Health Residency Program at VCU and co-founded the Women's Health Center at Stony Point. She was the founding president of our WISDM faculty organization in 1992.

Kathryn "Kitt" Finley-Parker, DDS, received the 2006 WISDM Annual Professional

Achievement Award from VCU School of Dentistry. She demonstrates strong leadership skills, as she is currently serving as President of the Richmond Dental Society. Dr. Finley-Parker served three years as an Alternate Delegate to the Virginia Dental Association and one year on its Financial Aid/Scholarship Committee. An active participant in the Richmond and Virginia dental communities, Dr. Finley-Parker is a member of the Metropolitan Academy of Dentistry, the McKee Study Club, and a part-time clinical faculty member and alumna at the VCU School of Dentistry.

Cynthia Heldberg, PhD, Associate Dean for Admissions in the VCU School of Medicine, received a special acknowledgement award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Women in Medicine and Science. Heldberg has worked closely with students, residents, faculty and staff to promote gender equity and professionalism. **continued on page 5**



(l-r): Wendy Klein, MD, with SOM Dean Jerry Strauss, MD, PhD; Kathryn "Kitt" Finley-Parker, DDS, with Betsy Hagan, DDS, and Cynthia Heldberg, PhD, with WISDM President, Bela Sood, MD.

14th Annual WISDOM Pathways to Leadership Conference

Over 200 participants representing ten states gathered to network, share their experiences, and gain insight at the 14th Annual WISDOM Pathways to Leadership Conference. Morning keynote speaker



Some 200 women attended the conference.

Jennifer Daley, MD, discussed the challenges for women in medicine, science, and dentistry to maintaining one's personal integrity and val-

ues under the pressures of trying to "have it all." She also addressed ways of adapting and coping with these challenges.

Virginia Valian, PhD, the afternoon keynote speaker, shed light on the invisible factors that retard women's progress. She also discussed how our perceptions are skewed by implicit hypotheses about gender differences **continued on page 5**

President's Piece



Bela Sood, MD, FAACAP

As I step down as President of WISDM in August, my last column asks the question: what would be a good issue to exit on? My first column three years ago asked whether women's programs are necessary for a university culture. The answer to that rhetorical question was a resounding "yes." It is fitting that I pose a similar question to you as a community of stakeholders in

the well-being of our University: Is this organization as relevant as it was three years ago? I would propose that a good measure of "relevance" is the achievement of the oft-articulated dream that women's programs are not needed because gender equity has been reached.

How does one compute gender equity in academia? Is it the number of women in leadership positions? Is it programs that are supportive of women who have significant responsibilities outside of work? Is it effective and foolproof mentoring programs? Is it metamorphosed promotion and tenure guidelines that accommodate the changing workforce and aid adequate recruitment and successful retention of a diverse faculty? Certainly the faculty development office at VCU SOM has been amazingly and unfailingly supportive of women's advancement. In conjunction with the Dean's office, it has underwritten the travel and tuition for so many women to go to leadership courses. However, is it the accomplishments of a few individual women leaders that suggest success for the University or is it the accomplishments and elevation of the general body of women at our school that must serve as our gauge? And if so, are we there yet?

With a new era in the SOM, ushered in by the hiring of a new Dean, Dr. **Jerry Strauss**, it is an opportune time to scrutinize the role of WISDM and the Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities. Both organizations embrace the operating principle that women and minorities have enough separate professional development issues to necessitate a women's program. The need for a watchdog group to oversee the implementation of these requirements is relevant until the day they are supported by the credibility of written policy. If these goals are not being met, then a determined effort to explore methods to achieve these goals is a must and should not be even open for debate.

On a simplistic level, the best yardstick to assess success is to view the reflection of ourselves in this generic mirror that is held up for us: how has the program, or the culture, altered our own adjustment, growth and advancement in our university? As much as I am proud to be part of a Women's program that has achieved national recognition and the personal fortune of being moderately successful in achieving many of my goals, I have also had many disquieting instances of being witness to occasions that could hardly be called positive. Anecdotes are anecdotes but they provide a rich backdrop to statistics and give a human face to real issues that face faculty on a day-to-day basis. Diversity in faculty recruitment (race, ethnicity and gender) are identified as vital to our university for a variety of reasons.

Amongst many, one reason is that we do lose many center grant opportunities because we lack the diversity necessary to qualify for them. Having heard that concern repeated often I was delighted when I thought I had the perfect opportunity to hire a well-trained man of color from a prominent university into my division. The only catch was that his wife, a physician and a woman of color, also needed a position here. Despite good intentions, the lack of a will to take this to the next stage became obvious as the situation was hashed and rehashed at various levels of the school (and the hospital). The lack of support for a philosophy of diversity recruitment was also abundantly clear. Needless to say this was a lost opportunity for VCU to improve its score card on diverse faculty composition.

From a statistical standpoint, recent data from the AAMC (2004-2005) indicate that women full professors now represent only 4% of all faculty appointments. By rank, women faculty are 12% full professors and 19% associate professors. This is low given that upwards of 51% of the incoming medical school class is made up of women in contrast to

only 25% women in 1980-81. On the other hand, preliminary data from a recent exit survey of faculty leaving VCU indicate that there was no variance in men and women as far as the reason for leaving, which is a measure of more equitable treatment of both genders. When women and men work as partners they enhance the richness of discussion that diverse points of view bring, they model for our young generation the ability to work in teams and the value of interdisciplinary collaborations that are so paramount if not essential to the globalized world.

So I rest my case. Yes, we are at a better place than 3 years ago, but this is just the beginning...we continue to need strong women and minority programs at VCU SOM. As for me, even though I will not be in the forefront of this organization, I leave it in the hands of very accomplished women and men who will continue to receive my support and help.

As Robert Frost wrote, "...but I have promises to keep / and miles to go before I sleep / and miles to go before I sleep..." God bless and good luck! ☺

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

- Marian Wright Edelman

WISDM Book Club

When: Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Time: 6 pm for dinner, finish around 8 pm

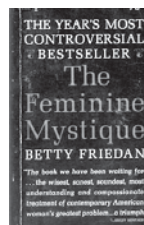
Where: Cafe Gutenberg, 1700 E Main St, Shockoe Bottom

The Book: *Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan

Facilitators: Rita Shiang, PhD, Human Genetics

Margaret McLellan, RD, Obesity Surgery Center
Come, join us, and bring a friend for a laid-back evening and delightful discussion with colleagues. Visit us online to find all of the information above and see reviews of previous books. ☺

<http://www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/WISDMbookclub.html>



Second Annual Women's Health Research Day

by Janett Forte, MSW, LCSW

VCU Institute for Women's Health

A National Center of Excellence Designated by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

The VCU Institute for Women's Health (IWH) hosted the second annual Women's Health Research Day on March 29 at the Medical Sciences Building. The conference was held to celebrate and promote excellence in interdisciplinary women's health research. More than 175 registered for the event, which showcases VCU researchers' work.

"We are thrilled about the wide participation from so many departments and schools, and the growing interest in women's health research at VCU," noted Dr. **Susan G. Kornstein**, Professor of Psychiatry and Obstetrics & Gynecology and Executive Director of IWH.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Jerome F. Strauss III, Dean of VCU School of Medicine. Strauss spoke eloquently about "Women and the Future of Reproductive Science." His main message was that women should be the ones to shape health care policy, availability of specific clinical services, and a needs-driven research agenda for women's health. He also discussed the shortage of women leaders in the field and advocated for medical centers to make room for women at the table to mold such agendas.



(l-r) Faye Belgrave, PhD, Janett Forte, MSW, Wendy Klein, MD, Susan Kornstein, MD, Diane Wilson, EdD, Saba Masho, MD, Robert Downs, MD, and Cathy Bradley, PhD at the Women's Health Research Day.

The event also featured a panel of VCU women's health researchers who discussed topics such as "Osteoporosis: Studies with Women Lead the Way" (Dr. **Robert Downs**), "Breast Cancer, Health Insurance and Women's Labor Supply" (Dr. **Cathy Bradley**) and "HIV Prevention among African American Women: Cultural and Contextual Considerations" (Dr. **Faye Belgrave**).

In addition, 71 research posters were displayed and 33 competed for the Elizabeth Fries Young Investigator Award, conferred on the graduate student, fellow, post-doc, or assistant professor whose research shows the most promise to improve women's health. Microbiology and Immunology graduate student **Jennifer Patterson** won first place with her poster titled "Effects of Hydrogen Peroxide and Lactic Acid on Planktonic versus

Adherent Biofilm Cultures of Gardnerella Vaginalis." Honorable mention went to Dr. John Quillin, Instructor in Human Genetics, and Tanvi Shah, graduate student in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Physiology.

For more information about Women's Health Research Day and the VCU Institute for Women's Health, visit www.womenshealth.vcu.edu.

Readers are encouraged to submit announcements, research articles, review articles, case reports, and letters to the editor to the *Journal of Women's Health*. For more information and submission instructions,



4woman.gov/coe

Benchmarking: Representation of Women and Minority Faculty

by Diane Bishop

The Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities (COSOWAM) regularly examines faculty trends at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine (VCU SOM). This report presents benchmarking on the status of women and black faculty between 1997 and 2005 with particular emphasis on the 2005 data. Data include all full time, ladder-ranked faculty paid by VCU. This excluded: full time VA, MCVP and INOVA faculty and full time faculty who split time between the VA, INOVA and VCU. However, for comparisons between VCU SOM faculty, and the national AAMC data, all full-time faculty -- both ladder-ranked and non-ladder-ranked were included. The faculty data were provided by the VCU School of Medicine Dean's office.

Women Faculty. Of the 750 full-time ladder-ranked faculty in VCU's School of Medicine, 33% (N=247) are women. Most of these women are in clinical science departments (74%), followed by basic sciences (20%) and administrative faculty (7%). Only 3 of the 26 SOM departments are chaired by women. Figure 1 (left) shows that the proportion of women faculty at VCU SOM is slightly higher than the national average between 1999 and 2005. Additionally, compared to the national average, VCU SOM has a higher proportion of associate and full professor women faculty (Figure 2, below).

Figure 1: VCUSOM and National (AAMC) Women Faculty Proportion Comparison

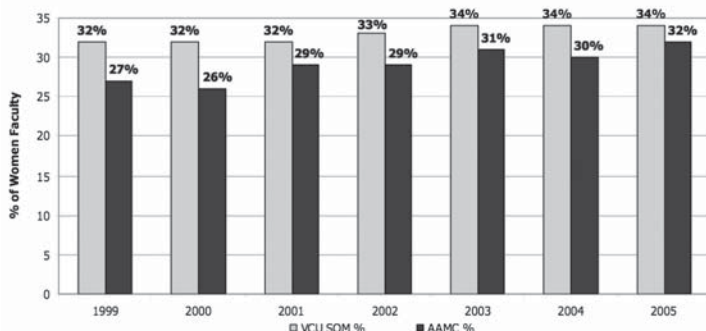
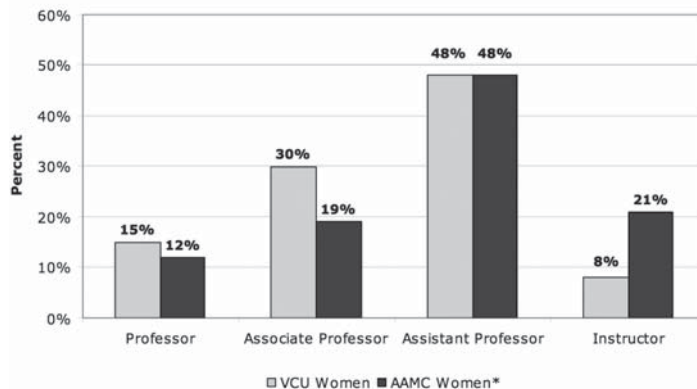


Figure 2: Rank Distribution of VCU and AAMC Women Faculty, 2005



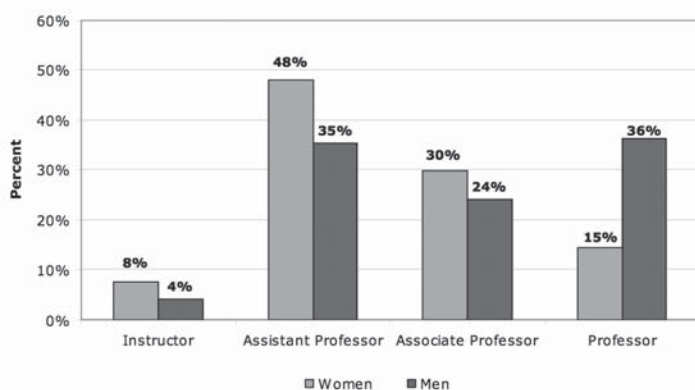
Benchmarking

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When the distribution of VCU SOM women faculty was compared to that of male faculty, there were higher proportions of women at the ranks of instructor (8% versus 4%), assistant professor (48% versus 35%), and associate professor (30% versus 24%), while there was a greater proportion men at the rank of professor (15% versus 36%) (Figure 3, below).

When time in rank of assistant professors was examined, there was no statistical difference between women and men. Women (N=119) on average stayed in rank for 4.5 years while their male counterparts (N=178) remained in rank for an average of 4.3 years (p-value=0.768). The same was true among associate professors; women (N=74) stayed in rank on average for 11.4 years and men (N=121) for 10.5 years (p-value=0.366).

Figure 3: Rank Distribution of VCU Women and Men Faculty, 2005



Overall, a higher proportion of men faculty were tenured as of 2005 compared to women, at 36% and 19%, respectively. However, when tenure status of faculty was examined separately for basic and clinical sciences, no difference in tenure status was observed between women and men in basic science departments. On the other hand, a higher proportion of men faculty were tenured (31%) than women faculty (11%) in clinical science departments.

Black Faculty

Of the full-time ladder-ranked faculty in VCU's School of Medicine, 4% (N=33) are black. Of the 26 SOM departments two are chaired by black faculty. There has been no growth in the proportion of black faculty in the past seven years. Nationally, black faculty has accounted for 3% of SOM faculty, and at VCU the proportion of black faculty was slightly higher, at 4% (Figure 4, below).

Figure 4: VCU SOM and National (AAMC) Black Faculty Proportion Comparison

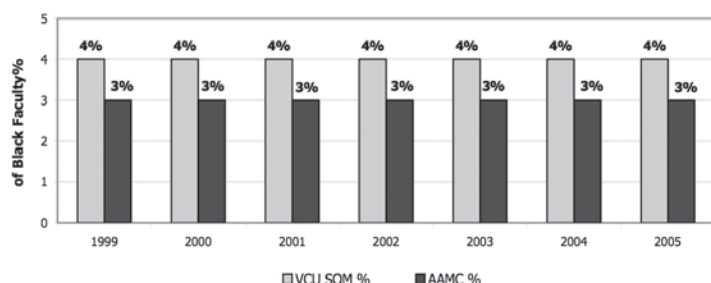
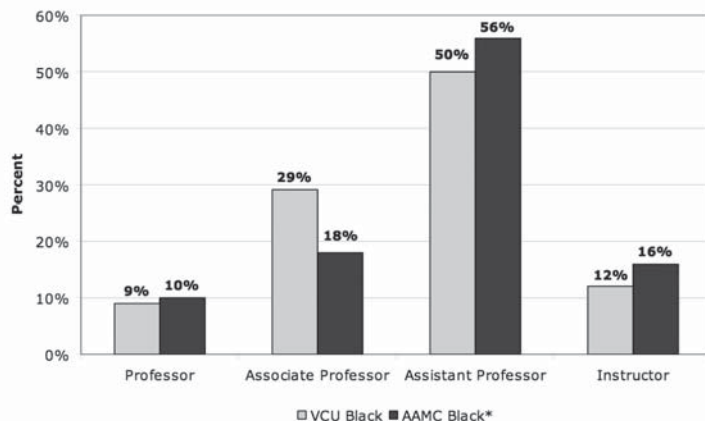


Figure 5 (below) shows that VCU has higher proportions of professors and associate professors, an equal proportion of assistant professors, and fewer black faculty at the rank of instructor.

Figure 5: Rank Distribution fo VCU and AAMC Black Faculty

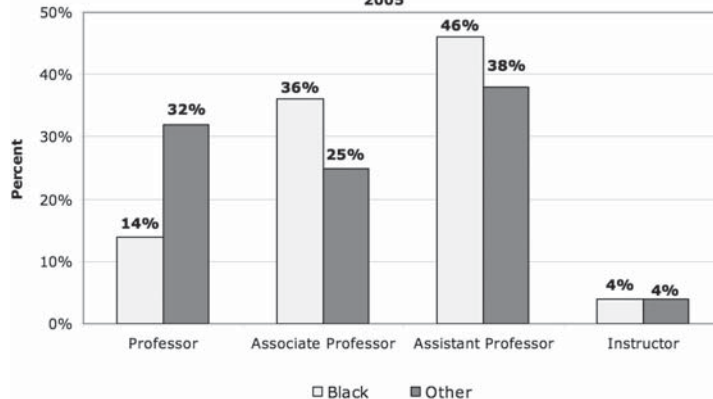


When the distribution of VCU SOM black faculty was compared to faculty of all other races, there were significantly lower proportions of black faculty at the rank of full professor (32% versus 14%; Figure 6, below).

There was no statistical difference between black faculty and all other faculty in time in rank at both assistant and associate professor ranks. Overall, black faculty were less likely to be tenured (15% compared to 32% of faculty of other races). However, no statistically significant difference was found in tenure status and race in basic science departments. In clinical sciences, a higher proportion of non-black faculty were tenured (25%) compared to black faculty (7%).

Although the VCU SOM fares better than the national average in many categories, lack of growth in black faculty, fewer women

Figure 6: Rank Distribution of VCU Black and Other Races Faculty, 2005



and black faculty in leadership positions, and lower proportion of women and black faculty tenured and at full professor rank remain as major challenges.

Other full time faculty racial distribution:

Asian 15% (N=109)

Spanish surname 3% (N=22)

American Indian, less than 1% (N=2)

Special thanks to Diane Bishop, BA, MPH Candidate. Full presentation and benchmarking charts by department compared to AAMC national data may be found at www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/COSOWAM.html. Thanks to Ms. Bishop, Dr. Saba Masbo, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Community Health, and Carol Hampton, Associate Dean, presenters. A list of resources to contact for recruitment of women and minority faculty is also located at this website.

VCU Women Faculty

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She has been described as the “go-to” admissions person who has provided constant support and insight to students and faculty. She served on the steering committee that planned the first Pathways to Leadership conference. Heldberg will be retiring in June concluding her 16 years of service at VCU SOM.



Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, MD, will begin her appointment as Associate Dean of Admissions in the School of Medicine in June. She has served on the School of Medicine faculty since 1993 as Associate Professor of Family Medicine. She brings a wealth of

experience to the Admissions Office in her roles as director of Predoctoral Programs in the Department of Family Medicine, Chair of the VCU School of Medicine Admissions Committee and Co-Physician Coordinator for the M1/M2 Foundations of Clinical Medicine required course. Dr. Whitehurst-Cook also directs the Inner City/Rural Preceptorship Program, which provides educational experiences for medical students interested in providing care to the underserved.

Bela Sood, MD, FAACAP, Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and WISDM president was honored with the YWCA 2006 Outstanding Woman Award for Health and Science for her leadership skills, personal and professional achievement, impact on the community, and commitment to equality and racial harmony. As an advocate for children, she sees herself as a “healer and provider of the best clinical care to children and youth.” Her career has focused on child mental health issues and training of psychiatrists at the local, state and national level. Her nominator writes that she “has given tirelessly to public education around mental health issues to reduce stigma.” She is called upon to testify in public forums on the shortage of services that face children with mental

health issues. She is also a mentor for nurses from India both recognizing the shortage of need for nurses and their importance in patient care.



Mary Ann Turner, MD, vice chair of faculty, Department of Radiology, was awarded the 2006 Distinguished Service Award for Academic Medicine by the Richmond Academy of Medicine, for leadership initiative and promise. Turner received the award for excellence in teaching, patient care and leadership among peers.

She spent 30 years in academic medicine and has been a member of the Richmond Academy of Medicine her entire career. Turner is an active member of the American College of Radiology, serving as a counselor for Virginia. She also is on the board of directors of the Virginia chapter of the American College of Radiology.



Amy S. Sebring has been appointed to the new position as Assistant Dean for Program Review and Strategic Analysis. She will be responsible for strategic policy analysis, budgetary and fiscal analysis and reporting, and other studies regarding strategic resource use in

the School of Medicine. Amy joins us from the Virginia General Assembly’s Senate Finance Committee where she has served as a legislative fiscal analyst responsible for higher education since 2002. Prior to her position in the Senate, she was the finance policy director at the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) from 2000 - 2002. Amy also worked as a budget analyst at the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget from 1997-2000. She has her undergraduate degree in public policy studies from Duke University and a masters degree in public policy from the College of William and Mary. ❓

Articles adapted from Sathya Achia-Abraham, University News Services.

WISDOM Conference

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that create differences in characteristics, behaviors, and perceptions in men and women, and how these small imbalances accumulate to advantage men and disadvantage women.

Breakout session topics included: coding and practice management; speak and be heard: presenting with powerpoint; sex differences: implications and consequences; creating a culture of excellence to attract and retain the best employees; salary negotiation; panel discussion: lessons in leadership.

Professional Achievement Awards recognized the tal-

ents and dedication of women from three of the sponsoring schools. VCU SOM: Wendy Klein, MD; VCU School of Dentistry: Kitt Finley-Parker, DDS; UVA SOM: Laurel Wysong, MD; EVMS: Bonnie J. Dattel, MD. See page 1 for profiles of VCU’s Professional Achievement Awardees.

This conference was presented in collaboration with VCU SOM, UVa SOM, EVMS, Medical Society of Virginia, the Richmond Academy of Medicine, Edward Via Virginia COM, VCU School of Dentistry, and the Virginia Dental Society. ❓



Dr. Vallian discusses the advancement of women.

Report from the VCUHS Board



Betty Ann Johnson, MD

The Board of Directors of the VCU Health System met Tuesday, March 14, 2006, to review and approve the activities of the various Authority Board Committees. The Quality, Safety, Risk and Credentials Committee reported that the organization is finishing preparations for the JCAHO survey. Emergency Department diversion hours are down compared to last year and patient flow has improved as a result of many initiatives. Other quality measures show excellent performance with bloodstream infections

in the ICUs targeted for continuing improvement. The Finance and Property Committee reviewed the Workers Compensation Program and received an update on the Critical Care Hospital, where the caisson foundation installation is complete and foundation concrete work has begun. The Audit and Compliance Committee reviewed the Audit Survey Results for 2005 and examined the Compliance Services Program. The Strategic Planning Committee examined a tool to measure and monitor provider appointment availability in the ambulatory care clinics. Health care professional credentialing applications were approved. Special sessions will be announced in the future for committees to work on the 2007 budget. ❓

Kudos

Edited by Wendy Klein, MD



Sandra Barker, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry. Elected Affiliate Center Scientist in The School of Nursing Center for Biobehavioral Clinical Research. Received Certificate of Appreciation by the Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response National Organization.



Joann Bodurtha, MD, MPH, Professor, Human Genetics. Received the 2006 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award announced by Governor Kaine on February 23, 2006. Award is administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.



Cecelia H. Boardman, MD, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Featured in May 14, 2006 Richmond Times-Dispatch article about working mothers.



Cynthia Nau Cornelissen, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. Received an R01 renewal award from the National Institutes of Health. PI, "A molecular study of the gonococcal transferrin receptor." Also received a new R21 award from the NIH. PI, "Iron acquisition systems in Neisseria gonorrhoeae."



Marjolein DeWit, MD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine). Reappointed to the American Thoracic Society's Critical Care Committee.



Therese M. Duane, MD, FACS, Assistant Professor of Surgery. Presented "Clinical Exam and IT's Reliability in Identifying Cervical Spine Fractures" at the Virginia Surgical Society on April 29, 2006. She also presented "Is Blood Sugar the Next Lactate?" and a poster, "Alcohol's Influence on Identifying Pelvic Fractures after Blunt Trauma" in February, 2006 at the South-eastern Surgical Congress in Florida.



Kathryn "Kitt" Finley-Parker, DDS. Received the WISDM School of Dentistry Annual Professional Achievement Award at the 14th Annual Pathways to Leadership conference on March 17, 2006.



Ann S. Fulcher, MD, Chair, Department of Radiology. Voted the 2006 Top Radiologist in the Richmond Magazine Top Docs Survey. Also presented "Salary Negotiations: What You Need to Know" at the March 2006 WISDOM Pathways to Leadership Conference.



Seema Gadiwalla MD, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine. Received the Distinguished Clinical Care Award by the Department of Internal Medicine.



Betsy A. Hagan, DDS, MBA, Senior Associate Dean, VCU School of Dentistry. Inducted into the new Medallion Society on April 22, 2006.



Carol Hampton, MMS, Associate Dean for Faculty and Instructional Development. Featured in "Perspective on Faculty Development" in AAMC's January, 2006 e-newsletter, Faculty Vitae. The poster, "Reasons for Faculty Attrition Among Respondents to a Faculty Exit Survey" was presented at the AAMC national meeting in November, 2005 and showcased in this same issue of Faculty Vitae.



Cynthia M. Heldberg, PhD, Associate Dean of Admissions, VCU School of Medicine. Received a special acknowledgement award for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Women in Medicine and Science on March 17, 2006 at the WISDOM Pathways to Leadership Conference.



Kathryn L. Holloway, MD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery. Honored by Rutgers University as one of Rutgers Finest Alumni on March 4, 2006.



Lisa Kaplowitz, MD, MSHA, Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs, Virginia Department of Health, and former faculty member in Department of Internal Medicine. Honored as a "Woman of Distinction" on April 2, 2006, by the Richmond Chapter of Hadassah.



Wendy Klein, MD, FACP, Senior Deputy Director, VCU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, Associate Professor of Medicine & Obstetrics/Gynecology. Received the WISDM School of Medicine Annual Professional Achievement Award at the 14th Annual Pathways to Leadership conference on March 17, 2006.



Karen A Kurdziel, MD, Assistant Professor, Radiology, presented the following at the Academy of Molecular Imaging Annual Meeting, March 2006:

- Kurdziel KA, Hirsch JI, Kalen JD, Wilson JD. Human biodistribution of F-18 paclitaxel (FPAC): a potential PET tracer for evaluating multidrug resistance (MDR).
- Francis GF, McCumiskey J, Kalen JD, Kurdziel KA. Determination of post filtering parameters for accurate defect size determination in a cardiac phantom using Tc-99m, F-18, and I-124.
- Kurdziel KA. Translational molecular imaging trials: Design and conduct of high-quality molecular imaging clinical trials - Part II.
- Kurdziel KA. Translational molecular imaging trials: Getting your clinical trials approved and implemented, Part I: At your institution.

An additional one was presented by a colleague:

- Wilson JD, Kalen JD, Hirsch JI, Barrett D, Agarwal R, Kurdziel KA. Evaluation of [18F]paclitaxel (FPAC) as a PET tracer for Pgp expression in cells and in human epithelial tumor mouse xenografts.



Karen M. Sanders, MD, Richmond VAMC Associate Chief of Staff for Education, and VCU SOM Internal Medicine. Accepted a permanent position with the Department of Veterans Affairs national office in Washington DC as Deputy Chief, Office of Academic Affiliations, Veterans Health Administration. She will be maintaining her faculty appointment in the Department of Medicine and continuing her activities with the VCU School of Medicine.



Jean P. Shipman, Director of the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences, VCU Libraries. Awarded the Ida and George Eliot Prize by the Medical Library Association for 2006.



Bela Sood, MD, FAACAP, Professor of Psychiatry, and President, WISDM. Named 2006 Outstanding Woman in the Health and Science category by the Richmond YWCA. Also published the following:

- Weissman MM, Pilowsky DJ, Wickramaratne PJ, Talati A, Wisniewski SR, Fava M, Hughes CW, Garbger J, Malloy E, King CA, Cerda G, Sood AB, Alpert JA, Trivedi MH, Rush, AJ. Remissions in maternal depression and child psychopathology: A STAR*D-Child report. *JAMA*. 2006; 295(12):1389-98.
- SoodAB, Razdan A, Weller EB, Weller RA. Children's reactions to parental and sibling death. *Curr Psychiatry Rep*. 2006; 8:115-120.



Mary Ann Turner, MD, Professor of Radiology and Director of GI Radiology, received the Richmond Academy of Medicine 2006 Distinguished Service Award for Academic Medicine.



Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, MD, Associate Professor, Family Medicine. Appointed Associate Dean of Admissions in the School of Medicine. ?

Submit your accomplishments to share with the VCU community to Dr. Wendy Klein (wsklein@vcu.edu), editor of the Kudos column.

Book Review: *Cloud Atlas* by Joyce Lloyd, PhD



In March, the WISDM Book Club met for dinner and discussed *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell. The group was divided in their opinions of this unusual book, which made for interesting conversation. About half of the women loved the book, and the other half were somewhat less enthusiastic.

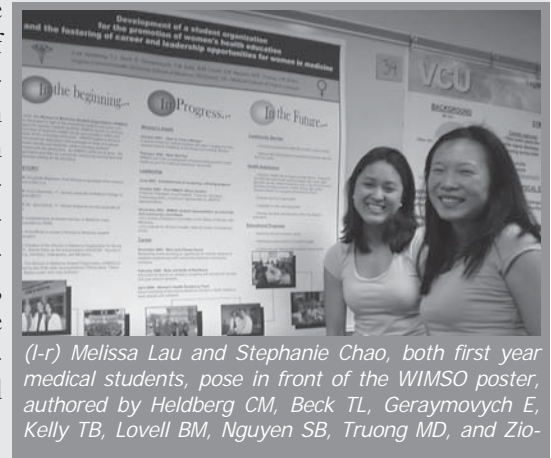
Although *Cloud Atlas* is considered to be a novel, it is really several short stories woven together by loose, sometimes tenuous, connections. The individual stories are told in the form of a musical piece written by one of the characters, moving from one theme to another, and so on, and then back again through the themes to the beginning. This format was distracting for some, because stories were cut off in the middle, to be finished later in the book. But the style also was stimulating, even challenging, and it was great fun to find the links between the yarns. The tales were set in 1850 through the future, everywhere from New Zealand to Belgium to England to California, and from Korea to the Hawaii of the future. Those who loved the book looked forward to reading it again, to tie the threads together that they missed the first time. Everyone felt that the author was extremely clever in his use of language; each of the six stories is written almost in a different dialect of English. This could also be challenging; some even felt that the author was just showing off, but we agreed he is probably brilliant.

Having read the book a few months ago now, the best way for me to begin to describe its flavor is by presenting a few memorable vignettes. Four seniors meet in the garden hut of their maximum security retirement home, plotting their escape. A clone of a slave race learns that her colleagues do not retire to a heavenly paradise as portrayed by their leader, but rather become the stuff from which the next generation is made. A young woman reporter and an older man who is a scientist are stuck in an elevator together and become close friends, finding that they have more in common even than a mutual acquaintance (her father). You will need to read the book to find out which camp you are in. ☺

WIMSO by Mireille Truong: Edited by Tiffany Beck & Tiffany Kelly

On March 29, 2006, Women In Medicine Student Organization (WIMSO) had the opportunity to present a poster at the VCU Women's Health Research Day entitled: *Development of a student organization for the promotion of women's health education and the fostering of career and leadership opportunities for women in medicine*. This project highlighted the development, the progress and the future goals of WIMSO. The poster presented the steps taken to develop and

promote the growth of the organization such as through student leadership training, community outreach, lunch lecture series, awareness days and networking opportunities.



(l-r) Melissa Lau and Stephanie Chao, both first year medical students, pose in front of the WIMSO poster, authored by Heldberg CM, Beck TL, Geraymovych E, Kelly TB, Lovell BM, Nguyen SB, Truong MD, and Zio-

opportunities. In summary, WIMSO was developed in light of the increasing need for advocacy and support for women medical students. WIMSO serves to enhance awareness of women's health issues and education within and outside of the university curriculum. WIMSO fosters a dynamic environment for discussion and exchange of ideas and advice between faculty and students, while promoting students' development into physicians. As WIMSO continues to grow, the organization provides an avenue for community involvement and leadership training for its members. ☺

<http://www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/WIMStuOrg.html>

Women In Science Student Organization Established

by Jamie Sturgill

In keeping with the mission of WISDM, the Women in Science (WIS) student organization has recently formed on the MCV campus of VCU. The purpose of WIS is to facilitate communication amongst women in science, at all academic levels, on both campuses, and to provide women graduate students and others with a strong, supportive group to help further promote career development in the sciences. Furthermore, we hope to encourage younger women (undergrads) to enter into the scientific community by offering mentorship opportunities.

The current officers are:

- President: **Lynn Hull**, second-year PhD candidate from Pharmacology and Toxicology;
- Secretary: **Aimee Hollander**, first-year PhD candidate from Microbiology and Immunology; and
- Treasurer: **Emily Boice**, first-year PhD candidate from Microbiology and Immunology.

To successfully achieve all the goals of the organization, several committees, led by our Vice-Presidents, have been formed:

- Intercampus Relations: **Kristen Wells**, first-year PhD candidate from Epidemiology and Community Health;
- Newsletter: **Audrey Forrest**, second-year PhD candidate from Anatomy and Neurobiology;
- Professional Development: **Aditi Pandya**, first-year PhD candidate from Pharm/Tox;
- Community Development: **Jamie Sturgill**, second-year PhD candidate from Microbiology and Immunology; and
- Development Committee: **Jen Fettweis**, third-year PhD candidate from MBG/Microbiology and Immunology.

WIS is currently planning a summer seminar, tentatively scheduled for July, which will be a panel forum discussing career opportunities for post-graduates. Membership is open to any member of the VCU scientific community. Interested students should contact Kristen Wells at kmwells@vcu.edu. ☺

Calendar of events

Date/Time/Location	Event	Description
4th Monday of each month 4-5pm, Sanger 1-050	WISDM Executive Council meeting	Join us and share your interests! No meetings in July or August.
3rd Weds. of each month 4-5pm, Sanger 1-038	Committee on the Status of Women and Minorities meeting	Meeting monthly, September - June.
July 8 -11, 2006 Washington, DC	AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar	This seminar is for women early in their first faculty appointment who are aiming for a position of leadership in academic medicine. For matching money to support attending, contact Carol Hampton: 828-6594 www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/AAMCprofDev.html
October 27 - November 1, 2006 Seattle, WA	AAMC Annual Meeting	The AAMC's Annual Meeting, the nation's premier meeting for leaders in academic medicine, will be held October 27 - November 1, 2006, at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle. http://www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2006/start.htm

Photo Highlights from WISDOM Pathways to Leadership Conference



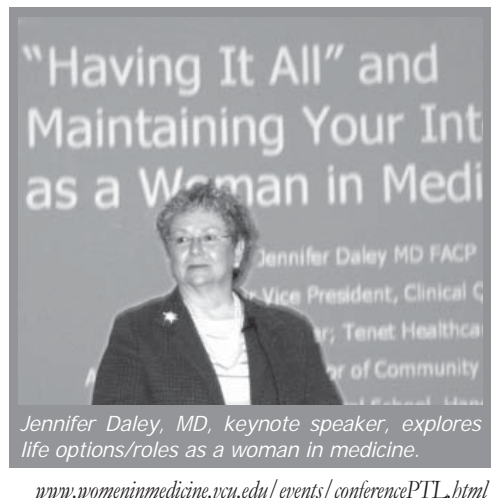
Maria Curran, VP for HR at VCUHS received rave reviews for her breakout session.



Participants peruse the vendor book selection.



Shireesha Narla, MD, Tangada Prema Sudha Rao, MD, Lenore Joseph, MD, Karen Sanders, MD, and Carol Hampton, MMS, pause to smile.



Jennifer Daley, MD, keynote speaker, explores life options/roles as a woman in medicine.

www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu/events/conferencePTL.html

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, MCV Campus, Richmond, Virginia

Women in Science, Dentistry & Medicine Faculty Organization

Mission: Established in 1992, the Women in Science, Dentistry & Medicine Faculty Organization (WISDM) seeks to further the professional goals of women physicians, dentists, scientists, and others at the VCU Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. As a sponsor of forums for open communication, the organization facilitates networking, mentoring, and collaboration among women faculty, housestaff, and medical, dental, and graduate students.

Membership: All women faculty (clinical, basic science, administrative, full-time, part-time, any rank), students, housestaff, fellows, and post-docs in the VCU Schools of Medicine and Dentistry are considered members of WISDM and invited and encouraged to participate in any and all events and meetings. Our men colleagues are welcome to participate in our professional development programs as well. Any faculty member, student, housestaff, fellow, post-doc, retired faculty, alumni, or interested colleague who pays an annual contribution to sustain and support our various programs is a sustaining member. These names will be listed in the WISDM newsletter and/or website. Sustaining members may be recognized in other venues. Funds are used to support professional development activities of the VCU WISDM program. Sustaining membership fees (\$30/year) are requested and collected each academic year, July 1- June 30. Checks should be made out to WISDM and sent to Dr. Susan DiGiovanni, Treasurer: P.O. Box 980160, Richmond, VA 23298-0160, phone: (804) 828-9682 or e-mail: srdigiov@vcu.edu.

Newsletter: The newsletter is published 2-3 times annually by the Women in Science, Dentistry & Medicine Faculty Organization at the VCU School of Medicine. We welcome your questions and comments. Contact President Bela Sood at asood@vcu.edu or (804) 828-4371, or Newsletter Editor Elizabeth A. Micalizzi Seitz at easeitz@vcu.edu.

Web site: For additional information, visit <http://www.womeninmedicine.vcu.edu>