

VCU School of Medicine

Virginia Commonwealth University

26th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program



Arnold Gold Faculty
Humanism Award



VCU/VCUHS Leadership
in Graduate Medical
Education Award



Teaching Excellence
Awards



MCVP Distinguished
Clinician Award



WISDM Professional
Achievement Award

MMEC Learning Theater
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Faculty Excellence Awards Program

12:00PM	Welcome.....	<p>Amelia Grover, M.D., FACS Interim Senior Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development</p>
26th Annual Presentation of Awards		
	<p>Outstanding Departmental Teacher Awards..... in Health Sciences Education</p>	<p>Arturo P. Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. Dean, VCU School of Medicine Executive VP for Medical Affairs, VCU Health System</p>
	<p>Outstanding Teacher Awards..... in Undergraduate Medical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards ● Faculty with High Evaluation Awards 	<p>Luan Lawson, M.D. Senior Associate Dean of Medical Education and Student Affairs</p>
	<p>Teaching Excellence Awards.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Enrique Gerszten, M.D. Faculty Teaching Excellence Award ● The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching ● The Distinguished Mentor Award ● The Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award 	<p>Arturo P. Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. Dean, VCU School of Medicine Executive VP for Medical Affairs, VCU Health System</p>
	<p>MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award.....</p>	<p>Scott P. Stringer, M.D., Ph.D. President MCV Physicians, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs</p>
	<p>Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award..... presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation</p>	<p>Christopher Woleben, M.D. Associate Dean for Student Affairs</p>
	<p>Women in Science, Dentistry and Medicine..... Professional Achievement Award</p>	<p>Jennifer Koblinski, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Pathology President, WISDM Faculty Organization</p>
	<p>VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical..... Education “LGME” Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fellowship Director Award ● Program Director Award ● Program Coordinator Award 	<p>Brian Aboff, M.D., M.M.M, FACP Senior Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education</p>
1:00PM	Closing Remarks.....	<p>Amelia Grover, M.D., FACS Interim Senior Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development</p>

All attendees are invited to lunch in the Lobby, see last page of program for lunch ticket.

The Awards

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS*

The Enrique Gerszten, M.D. Faculty Teaching Excellence Award recognizes extraordinary accomplishment in all aspects of education. This award is the School of Medicine's highest recognition for teaching. The award is funded by gifts to the MCV Foundation. The recipient receives a cash award from the endowment fund for scholarship and educational development.

The Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching recognizes superior teaching in clinical medicine taught in the last two years of medical school and residency training, and encourages excellence in an increasingly complicated and challenging educational environment. The award is funded by a gift to the MCV Foundation. A cash award from the endowment fund is given to the recipient.

The Distinguished Mentor Award recognizes significant contributions to the career development of others, such as mentorship to fellow faculty members, junior faculty, residents, fellows, graduate students, post-docs, medical students or other mentoring relationships. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 and \$1,000 for scholarship and educational development.

The Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award recognizes an individual faculty member, a group, or an academic unit for a significant educational innovation or educational research. The recipient receives a cash award of \$500 with an additional \$1,000 for scholarship and educational development.

A plaque with each award recipient's name and photo will be displayed in the McGlathlin Medical Education Center.

LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD PRESENTED BY THE ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION

The Humanism in Medicine Awards, initiated by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, recognize a graduating medical student and a faculty member at participating medical schools. The purpose of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award is to underscore the value of humanism in the delivery of care, and those who show respect, to patients and their families. The principles of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy and service are paramount qualities in the recipients of this award. The Gold Foundation bestows a personalized certificate and a \$1,000 prize each on a graduating medical student and a faculty member, nominated and selected by their peers. Additional information about the award may be found at <https://medschool.vcu.edu/about/deans-office/faculty-affairs/awards/>.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE, DENTISTRY, AND MEDICINE (WISDM) PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The primary purpose of this annual award is to recognize those women who are a role model and mentor, promoting the professional development of other women faculty, and demonstrate excellence in: 1) success as a mentor and role model for women faculty; 2) professional excellence: accomplished in their primary area of practice (clinical, basic sciences, etc.); 3) leadership: university administrative duties, and other leadership roles; 4) Scholarship; 5) teaching expertise. Additional information about the award and the list of previous recipients may be found at <https://medschool.vcu.edu/about/deans-office/faculty-affairs/awards/>.

The Awards

MCV PHYSICIANS DISTINGUISHED CLINICIAN AWARD

Sponsored by the MCVP Associated Physicians, this annual award recognizes clinical excellence among faculty at the VCU Medical Center. Criteria considered include, but are not limited to, the following attributes for patient care: compassion, clinical effectiveness, efficiency, comprehensiveness, availability and responsiveness to patients. For additional information, contact MCV Physicians.

VCU/VCUHS LEADERSHIP IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to medical education by program coordinators, residency and fellowship directors. Criteria for selection include: a fully accredited residency program; evidence of dedication and effectiveness in teaching residents/fellows; behaviors that are value-based and highly principled; an exemplary role model; a program with benchmark features from which the field can learn; participation in a national program director's association. For additional information, contact the Graduate Medical Education Office.

OUTSTANDING DEPARTMENTAL TEACHER AWARD IN HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION

Honors outstanding teaching in departments with substantial teaching commitments in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Selection is determined by a process developed by each basic sciences department. Each award recipient receives an outstanding teacher pin, a certificate, and \$100 for educational development.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS IN UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards recognize a faculty member as the best teacher in each course and clerkship in the Pre-Clinical and Clinical years through student and course director evaluations. Each award recipient receives an outstanding teacher pin, a certificate, and \$100 for educational development.

Clinical Faculty with High Evaluation Awards recognize faculty who have received a ranking of excellent or higher on student evaluations in the clerkships. Each award recipient receives a certificate.



The School of Medicine Teaching Excellence Awards Program was established in 1999.

Additional information may be found at:
<https://medschool.vcu.edu/about/deans-office/faculty-affairs/awards/>

Faculty Excellence Awards Recipients

Enrique Gerszten, M.D. Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Edmond P. Wickham III, M.D., MPH
Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Amanda George, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Distinguished Mentor Award

Huiping Zhou, Ph.D., AGAF, FAASLD
Professor and Interim Chair of Microbiology and Immunology

Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award

Pete D. Meliagros, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Edmond P. Wickham III, M.D., MPH
Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement Award

Colleen Jackson-Cook, Ph.D., FFACMG
Professor of Pathology, Human & Molecular Genetics, and OB/GYN

MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award

John M. McCarty, M.D.

G. Watson James Endowed Professor of Hematology in the Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Palliative Care in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Faculty Excellence Awards Recipients

VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education “LGME” Award

"Fellowship Director Award"

Ravi Vachhani, M.D.

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

"Program Director Award"

Nicole W. Karjane, M.D.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

"Program Coordinator Award"

Catherine Remines

Senior Program Coordinator, Department of Pediatrics

Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in Health Sciences Education

Departments of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Family Medicine & Population Health, Human and Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology,
Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Physiology

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

Best Teacher and High Evaluation Awards in the Course and Clerkship

Enrique Gerszten, M.D. Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
Edmond P. Wickham III, M.D., MPH



Dr. Edmond "Trey" Wickham III is a beloved physician and educator whose passion for his patients and students is evident in every aspect of his work. Following his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1995, Dr. Wickham earned his medical degree from VCU in 1999 and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society that same year. He continued his training at VCU, completing a combined residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, serving as Chief Medical Resident. Driven by his passion for endocrinology, he pursued a fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at VCU and later obtained his Master's in Public Health.

Joining the VCU School of Medicine faculty in 2006, Dr. Wickham quickly established himself as an exceptional educator. His teaching has been recognized with numerous awards, beginning with an Outstanding Teaching Award in the Endocrine Course during his first year as an M2 lecturer. Medical students consistently recognize his excellence in teaching, honoring him with eight outstanding teacher awards for his work in the SOM M2 Endocrinology Applied Medical Science Course. He has also received the Teaching Excellence Award for Overall Teaching Effectiveness (2009) and the Faculty Award for Excellence as a Clinician-Educator (2019) from the Department of Internal Medicine.

Described by colleagues as having a "gift for inspiring" students, Dr. Wickham fosters an engaging learning environment where students thrive and know he genuinely cares about their success. He seamlessly blends complex medical concepts with practical applications, ensuring his students grasp both the "why" and the "how" of medicine. Whether he's leading lectures, facilitating small group discussions, or mentoring students one-on-one, Dr. Wickham prioritizes a holistic approach to education that extends beyond textbooks. He provides individualized guidance, helping learners define their career aspirations and overcome challenges, all while fostering their confidence and independence. His impact is all-encompassing. As one student succinctly expressed, "I want to be Dr. Wickham when I grow up."

In addition to being an influential educator, Dr. Wickham is an NIH-funded and award-winning researcher with 40 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, 43 published abstracts, and over 60 invited lectures and seminars. As the Director of Research at the VCU Healthy Lifestyles Center, he leads research initiatives focused on developing effective strategies for preventing and treating obesity, particularly in adolescents. Recognizing the growing need for specialized training in obesity medicine, Dr. Wickham started the Obesity Medicine Fellowship at VCU, the only one of its kind in Virginia. This initiative created a program that equips future physicians with the knowledge and skills to effectively treat obesity, and it is currently under consideration for membership in the Obesity Medicine Fellowship Council, which would allow graduates to become certified by the American Board of Obesity Medicine (ABOM).

Dr. Wickham has made significant contributions to the development of innovative medical education programs as well. He played a key role in shaping the curriculum for medical students by incorporating novel elements such as the M3 evidence-based medicine debates and the M4 obesity elective. Dr. Wickham's educational leadership experience includes acting as the associate program director (2008-2014) and then program director (2015-present) for the Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship. His advisees consider him to be one of the most impactful faculty members during their training. Former mentee Trang Le, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at VCU SOM notes that Dr. Wickham's "educational efforts have been nothing short of extraordinary," citing the Diabetes Immersion Experience, during which fellows live as a patient with diabetes for a week. Dr. Wickham is an inspirational educator who embodies the highest standards of professionalism. His selection as recipient of this award, the highest recognition for teaching in the School of Medicine, reflects his enduring legacy as an exceptional educator who transforms the lives of his students.

Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

Amanda George, M.D., Ph.D.



Several themes emerged in the letters of support for Dr. Amanda (Mandy) George's nomination for the Irby-James Award: an overall appreciation of her effective and engaging teaching style and compassionate patient care coupled with a recognition of her unparalleled patience, kindness, humility, passion and selflessness as a servant leader. Dr. George strikes a rare balance between being supportive yet challenging and being approachable while having high expectations of her learners to "step up, be curious, follow through, and take full responsibility for their roles as primary care physicians."

After receiving her undergraduate education at Duke University, Dr. George then earned her M.D. and Ph.D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology from VCU in 2010. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Duke University before joining VCU faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine in 2013. Medical students voted her Best Teacher in the M3 Internal Medicine Clerkship in 2014, and residents honored her with the Faculty Excellence Award in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2023. Her dedication to her students and residents is also evident in their glowing testimonials. One resident recalls an overwhelming and challenging patient interaction, to which Dr. George offered: "Would you like to see me do it first?" This seemingly simple question, alongside practical tips and genuine encouragement, exemplified Dr. George's ability to empower her learners. As another resident aptly reflects, "Dr. George cares about those she leads, and I remember her

taking time to get to know me, asking about my family and children." Dr. George's commitment to both educating and nurturing her learners is a testament to her dedication to their growth and well-being, shaping them into compassionate and well-rounded physicians.

Dr. George's teaching prowess extends beyond the bedside. Her innovative approach to revamping the residency Journal Club curriculum showcases her commitment to staying at the forefront of medical education. Residents describe these sessions as "incredibly well thought out" and "one of the greatest gifts" she gives to them as she helps them develop skills to effectively digest new medical literature, determine whether a novel therapy is applicable to their patient population and efficiently interpret complex statistical analysis.

In 2019, Dr. George was selected by her peers for the Excellence as a Clinician Educator award, the same year she received the prestigious American College of Physicians Academic Teaching Award. Additionally, Dr. George has been selected as a Richmond Top Doc for the past six years, and in the past three years, she has received the most votes in the ambulatory Internal Medicine category. Dr. George has also distinguished herself through her leadership within the Internal Medicine Residency program. As director of the Resident Primary Care Clinic at VCU Health's Ambulatory Care Center, she manages the clinic logistics, working to ensure residents "have continuity with their panel of patients over time," which she achieved through changes to resident and patient scheduling. Rebecca Forrest, M.D., Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency, states, "Dr. George does not only do all of these things, she does them exceptionally well and with a humility and lack of need or desire for recognition...Our learners admire, respect, and most importantly - learn how to be the best doctors possible from Dr. Mandy George."

Colleague Megan Lemay, M.D., perfectly describes Dr. George's impact as a clinician-educator: "Do you have a teacher who was your role model in medical school or residency? The one who pops into your head when you reach a challenge? The one who you try to emulate when you want to perform at your best? The one you tell your learners about? This is Dr. Amanda George for every resident who has ever worked with her. I guarantee there is a VCU graduate who is right now asking themselves, 'What would Dr. George do?'"

Distinguished Mentor Award

Huiping Zhou, Ph.D., AGAF, FAASLD



Dr. Huiping Zhou is a Professor and Interim Chair of Microbiology and Immunology at VCU. Her impact as an exceptional mentor extends beyond academics and technical guidance to include genuine care about the professional development and overall well-being of her mentees, creation of a positive and collaborative lab culture where curiosity and critical thinking thrive, and nurturing long-lasting relationships with those she mentors. She invests time in understanding her mentees' aspirations, tailoring her advice to help them achieve their career goals. Even after her mentees have moved on to other institutions, she continues to offer guidance and support, and many around the world consider her their “forever mentor.”

Dr. Zhou's career at VCU began after she received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Pharmaceutical Science from the University of Kentucky in 1998. She also holds a B.S. in Pharmacology (1986) and M.S. in Biochemistry (1989) from China Pharmaceutical University. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA). She also served as President of the Chinese American Liver Society (CALS) from 2019 to 2020. Dr. Zhou is internationally recognized for her cutting-edge research in the pathogenesis of cholestatic liver disease, bile acid cell signaling, and the study of drugs that treat liver and gastrointestinal diseases. She has consistently received R01 funding from the NIH and a VA Merit Award for her work, and her extensive

background in, and passion for, these areas has been instrumental in shaping the research and academic development of her students. Dr. Zhou has authored an extensive body of work, including over 140 peer-reviewed journal articles and more than 200 book chapters and published abstracts or proceedings, some of which list her students as authors. She has contributed to research published in top journals such as *Hepatology* and *Gastroenterology*.

Having mentored more than 60 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting scientists, and young faculty while at VCU, Dr. Zhou's dedication to fostering the next generation of scientists is evident. This dedication is not limited to those pursuing advanced degrees; Dr. Zhou has also mentored numerous high school and undergraduate students throughout her time at VCU. She actively involves her students in professional development opportunities, such as conference presentations, manuscript writing, and grant applications, and many of them received individual NIH F31 or F30 grant support for their research in Dr. Zhou's laboratory. The vast majority of her students have received travel awards to national and international meetings to present their research, and many of her trainees have gone on to hold prestigious positions in academia and industry worldwide.

In the numerous letters of support for Dr. Zhou's nomination for the Distinguished Mentor Award, her mentees consistently emphasize her warmth and approachability, qualities that contribute significantly to her success as a mentor. One mentee shared, "She has an open-door policy where no matter is too small to discuss despite her very busy schedule." This commitment to being present for her students allows her to provide tailored support at every stage of their academic and professional development. They also appreciate her commitment to their personal and professional growth, citing her frequent invitations to her home for holidays and celebrations. The nomination and support letters paint a clear picture of a distinguished scientist who is an equally distinguished and dedicated mentor. Dr. Zhou's legacy is one of academic rigor paired with genuine care, a combination that has profoundly shaped the lives and careers of those fortunate enough to call her their mentor.

Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award

Pete D. Meliagros, M.D.



In 2015, as a chief resident in Internal Medicine at VCU, Dr. Pete Meliagros recognized a crucial gap in resident training and saw a chance to make a real difference in the way residents learned essential procedures. He noticed that the traditional "see one, do one, teach one" method did not optimize patient safety. Dr. Meliagros, along with colleagues, began to implement a six-step pedagogical framework of "learn, see, practice, prove, do and maintain" for teaching and assessing procedural skills, laying the foundation for a complete overhaul of the procedural training curriculum at VCU. They developed simulation training sessions which remain the cornerstone of resident training to this day. Dr. Meliagros later completed a mastery-based learning course to further enhance the simulation sessions, which he subsequently expanded to include all procedures that Internal Medicine residents conduct at the bedside. As explained in his own words, "These mastery sessions allow residents to achieve a standard in their own time with deliberate formative feedback ... My goal is to introduce simulated sessions before clinical procedures," fostering a safe and controlled learning environment for skill development.

As a consummate innovator, when Dr. Meliagros identifies a need, he develops a solution. For example, he co-founded a procedure medicine team, offering residents an elective rotation opportunity for advanced training to further hone their skills. Additionally, he implemented a system of biannual resident evaluations designed to ensure that residents are meeting the highest standards

of procedural competency. Dr. Meliagros also collaborated with experts to develop standardized checklists for all procedures, ensuring consistency across the institution and minimizing the potential for errors. He spearheaded the development of a dedicated mobile application, which serves as a centralized platform for these checklists along with procedural videos, learning modules, and relevant literature, effectively functioning as a "one-stop shop" for all procedural information. He is currently developing a universal application to connect learners and standardize procedural training across institutions. Knowing the power of technology to enhance medical education, Dr. Meliagros became an early adopter of virtual reality (VR) as a teaching tool for medical procedures, providing residents with an immersive learning environment where they could practice invasive procedures, troubleshoot issues, and refine their technique without any risk to patients. These resources demonstrate Dr. Meliagros' deep understanding of the challenges faced by medical trainees. His investment in their success is readily apparent in their description of him as "one of the most approachable attendings," who is a "patient, effective teacher ... constantly available for support and coaching."

Dr. Meliagros' dedication to medical education has not gone unnoticed: in 2022, residents selected him as the recipient of the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, and in 2023, he achieved the designation of Fellow of Hospital Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Meliagros' innovations have earned him national recognition as a leader in the field of procedural training, resulting in being an invited educator for the American College of Physicians Annual Meeting and an advisor to the ACGME on assessment and milestones for procedure competency. Dr. Brandon Fainstad, a professor at the University of Colorado, has worked closely with Dr. Meliagros over the past two years and can attest first-hand that one of Dr. Meliagros' "most remarkable qualities" is his "willingness to take on the heavy lifting" and approach each task with "unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. His work is characterized by meticulous attention to detail and a drive for excellence that inspires everyone around him." Dr. Meliagros' innovative work not only transformed procedural training at VCU but continues to make waves on a national level, shaping the future of medical education. We are fortunate in the School of Medicine to call him one of our own.

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Edmond P. Wickham III, M.D., MPH



"Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will bear them and be influenced by them for good or ill." Buddha

Dr. Edmond "Trey" Wickham III lives this adage from Buddha every day of his life in his interactions with those he encounters. Patients, students, and colleagues all know him for his effective communication skills and the care with which he speaks. His efforts to promote empathy, address sensitive topics, and foster a positive and inclusive healthcare environment do not go unnoticed and highlight the high level of integrity, compassion and respect he brings to his patients and their families.

One of the hallmarks of Dr. Wickham's approach to medicine is his focus on patient-centered care. He conveys complex medical information in an understandable manner and empowers patients to take an active role in their health. Dr. Wickham recognizes that true healing encompasses not just the physical but also the emotional and social well-being of his patients. Using motivational interviewing techniques such as open-ended questions, reflective listening, affirmation and summarizing, he seeks to understand his patients' concerns in order to develop an individualized therapeutic plan.

Dr. Wickham's humanistic values extend into the classroom, where he spotlights the importance of empathy in healthcare. During a lecture on diabetes to medical students, he invited a patient with chronic disease to speak about the social impacts of their condition. This teaching method allowed for a deeper understanding of the patient experience that goes beyond a textbook. Dr. Wickham balances theoretical knowledge with real-world clinical examples, all while bringing awareness to the barriers patients may face. Dr. Wickham also actively encourages colleagues to reconsider potentially stigmatizing language, especially when discussing obesity medicine. Dr. Trang Le, a former mentee and current colleague, states that in particular, Dr. Wickham "has been effective at communicating the effects of weight bias on patient-provider interactions and contributed to educating learners at all levels about the severe consequences of bias in healthcare." Dr. Wickham's proactive style of addressing sensitive topics and promoting respectful communication distinguishes him as a leader in building a more humane healthcare system.

Through the years, Dr. Wickham's commitment to his patients, students, and the medical profession has earned him numerous awards and accolades. In 2003, he was honored with the "Martin Hoffman Physician Award" for his empathy and compassion as a physician. Richmond Magazine has also recognized his clinical skills with over a dozen "Top Doc" awards. However, Dr. Wickham's legacy is not just about his accomplishments but about his commitment to modeling humanistic values in action. His dedication to humanism reaches beyond his clinical and academic roles and into the community where he educates the public about obesity. Notably, he developed a community garden and served as an advisor for FIT4Kids, a non-profit focused on improving children's health. These initiatives speak volumes about Dr. Wickham's character and his desire to make a positive difference in the community as a whole.

In his letter of support for this award, Dr. Le speaks to Dr. Wickham's influence as a physician and educator at VCU, stating, "He is always enthusiastic, approachable, and professional in every interaction that I have ever observed whether with patients, learners, or other team members. I continue to look to him as a role model and leader in all aspects of empathetic patient care and teaching." It's clear that Dr. Wickham embodies the true spirit of humanism in medicine, not just through his words, but through his actions and his lasting impact on his patients, students, and colleagues.

Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement “WISDM” Award

Colleen Jackson-Cook, Ph.D., FFACMG



Dedicated, compassionate, enthusiastic, exceptional, organized and delightful are just a few adjectives used to describe Dr. Colleen Jackson-Cook, who began her career at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1986 as an Instructor in the Department of Genetics. By 2005, she had been promoted to Professor with Tenure in three departments: Pathology, Human Genetics and Obstetrics & Gynecology. Since that time, Dr. Jackson-Cook has mentored more than 100 graduate students, medical residents and fellows, as well as junior faculty in her role as Program Director for the ACGME Laboratory Genetics and Genomics PhD Fellowship Training Program in the Departments of Pathology and Human & Molecular Genetics. She is a member of the SOM Graduate Education Program and a founding fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and a member of the Board of Directors for the Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics.

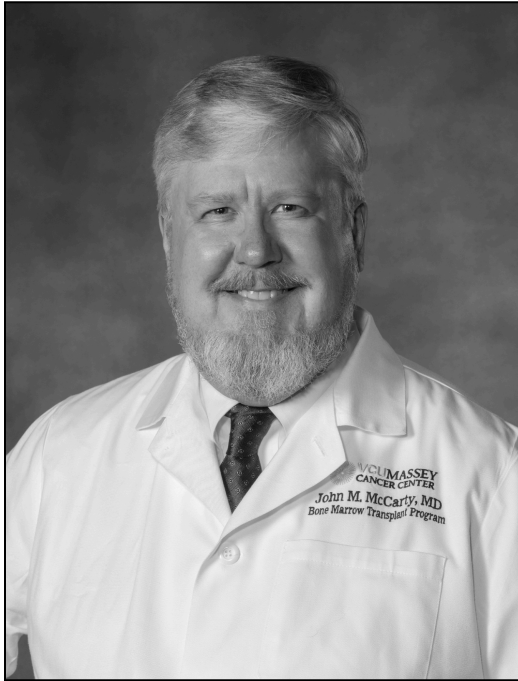
Hannah Wollenzein, Ph.D., a laboratory genetics and genomics fellow mentored by Dr. Jackson-Cook says Dr. Jackson-Cook is “one of the clearest lecturers” she ever had. She adds that Dr. Jackson-Cook “has creative ways of explaining complex genetics concepts ... you can tell she cares that each student understands the material presented.” Elizabeth Barrie, PhD, FACMG, echoes these sentiments, explaining that whether she is working with a student one-on-one or addressing a lecture hall, Dr. Jackson-Cook “fosters an environment where learners feel both at ease and intellectually

challenged.” A former fellow mentee, Aida Catic, Ph.D., of ACL Laboratories in Illinois, notes that many of Dr. Jackson-Cook’s former trainees “have gone on to make significant contributions to the field, a testament to her effectiveness as an educator and mentor.” Simply put, her “influence extends well beyond the classroom and laboratory.” Dr. Jackson-Cook’s promotion of the professional development of women has shaped many careers and her devotion to education is evidenced by the multitude of teaching awards she has amassed over the years: Outstanding Teacher Award for the M1 Molecular Basis of Disease course (six times); Outstanding Teaching Award for Graduate Education, Department of Human Genetics (eight times); and Excellence in Teaching M1 students (14 times). A co-director of an introductory level graduate course in Human Genetics states, “The running joke among the instructors, based on fact, was who would finish as the students’ second highest rated instructor in this course” given that Dr. Jackson-Cook “was always ranked first.”

In addition to teaching and mentoring, Dr. Jackson-Cook served as manuscript reviewer for more than 22 journals/societies and has authored over 100 articles and chapters in high-caliber publications and peer reviewed journals. She is the principal investigator for two active R01 grants as well as co-investigator on additional grants totaling millions of dollars in funding, and she is continuously invited to participate in NIH study sections. In her letter of nomination for Dr. Jackson-Cook, Susan Roseff, M.D., Professor and Interim Chair for the Department of Pathology, shares that Dr. Jackson-Cook is recognized nationally and internationally for her contributions to the clinical molecular cytogenetics field as well as for being a key leader in creating the International Mosaic Down Syndrome Society, a group for whom she has served as a scientific advisor for over 25 years. As summarized by Dr. Roseff, Dr. Jackson-Cook’s “friendly and unassuming nature makes it easy for those around her to consult her. Her ways are quiet yet firm, and her dedication and loyalty to her profession, students, mentees, family, and friends are real. She has a charm and a humble manner that befriends those around her. Her moral and ethical standards are of the highest caliber, and her compassion is genuine.”

MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award

John M. McCarty, M.D.

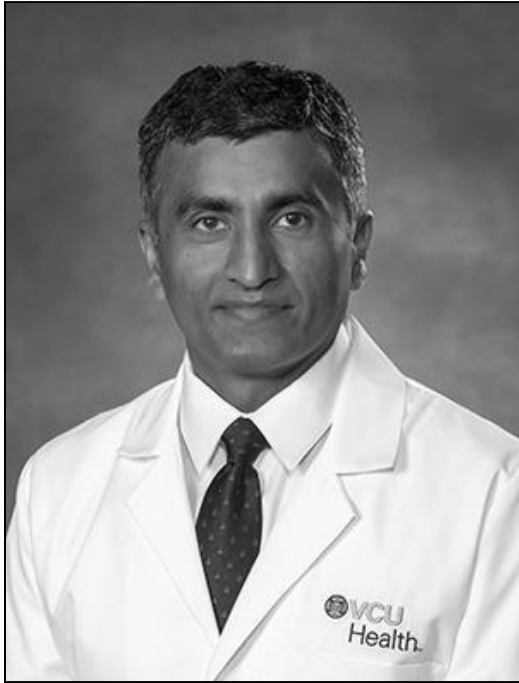


Throughout his nearly three decades at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical Center, Dr. John McCarty has not just treated diseases, but transformed lives, leaving an indelible mark on the field of cellular immunotherapies and transplantation. A graduate of Princeton University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. McCarty joined the VCU faculty in 1996 as a physician scientist after completing his Internal Medicine residency at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts and a Hematology/Oncology fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center of the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. He was a research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky and was part of the effort to clone and characterize the biology of the platelet and stem cell growth factor thrombopoietin. There, Dr. McCarty wrote the seminal manuscript defining the regulatory mechanisms by which this essential growth factor was controlled in maintaining basal platelet counts and in severe bone marrow aplasia. This work was continued in his laboratory at VCU and the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center and was supported by an R01 and a VA Merit Review Award.

In 2000, Dr. McCarty transitioned into the role of Interim Medical Director for VCU's Bone Marrow Transplant program which had once thrived but had dwindled from 135 transplants a year to approximately 50. He quickly stabilized the program, and under his leadership, the program grew to between 150-200 transplants per year. As noted by Dr. Gordon Ginder, Professor of Internal Medicine at VCU, the program's success "was rightly attributed to Dr. McCarty's strong reputation as an expert clinician and tireless engagement with the Hematology Oncology practices throughout the state of Virginia," ensuring that they were equipped to provide the best possible care to patients in need. Dr. McCarty was subsequently selected among national candidates as the permanent Director of the program. He didn't simply revive the program; he spearheaded its evolution. Recognizing the potential of cellular immunotherapies, he transformed the program into the Cellular Immunotherapies and Transplantation (CIT) Program, propelling it to national recognition and its designation as a Center of Experience in Cellular Therapies as well as a Center for Medical Excellence for insurers who cover transplants in Virginia. Dr. McCarty embraced new technologies and treatments, pioneering the development of the largest CARt program in Virginia and introducing groundbreaking gene therapies for sickle cell anemia and other previously challenging conditions. Drs. Patricia Sime and Curtis Sessler, Chair and Associate Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, credit Dr. McCarty for his active roles in clinical research, clinical trials and leadership in clinical trial networks as important contributions to "the tremendous respect with which the VCU CIT program is held." Dr. McCarty has been a member of the Transplant Steering Committee of the Alliance for Cancer Clinical Trials and the Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Trial Network since 2007.

Described by colleagues as a "prodigious investigator," Dr. McCarty has been involved in designing, developing and implementing numerous phase I, II, and III clinical trials. Dr. Robert Winn, Director of Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, speaks to Dr. McCarty's "commitment to innovative cancer therapies with a patient-centered approach that represents both the art and science of cancer care." Dr. Winn references Dr. McCarty's own definition of a successful physician as one who "must be a compassionate humanist, a consummate clinician, an effective teacher, and a curious researcher," and adds "Given that definition, Dr. McCarty truly succeeds as a distinguished clinician." While Dr. McCarty's career is decorated with achievements, it's his empathy, commitment to his patients, and his "genuine, caring, and upbeat personality" that reflect the heart of a physician who goes above and beyond, touching the lives of his patients and colleagues. Dr. McCarty's journey is a powerful reminder that a distinguished clinician is more than just a skilled practitioner; they are a beacon of hope, a source of comfort, and a champion for their patients.

VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education
“LGME” Award for Fellowship Program Director
Ravi Vachhani, M.D.
Gastroenterology Fellowship Director



Dr. Ravi Vachhani is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, and Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program. As the Program Director for the past 12 years, Dr. Vachhani has made significant contributions to the field of gastroenterology and his fellowship program, demonstrating exceptional dedication as a teacher, mentor, and scholar.

Dr. Vachhani received his medical degree from the Medical College of Ahmedabad in India, and he completed his internal medicine, gastroenterology, and advanced therapeutic endoscopy training at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit Michigan. He joined the VCU faculty in 2008 and has been a rising star ever since.

As a leader, he consistently demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to medical education and provides mentorship both personally and professionally. Perhaps his greatest strength is that he continually challenges trainees to grow and learn in a manner that is both inviting and conducive. Dr. Vachhani leads by example. He is well read in the latest literature which helps motivate trainees to strive to be the best clinician that they can be.

As a mentor and educator, Dr. Vachhani possesses the rare but exceptional qualities of having great clinical acumen, compassion, and passion while spreading an infectious energy. He has consistently gone above and beyond to support and guide trainees. He fosters a safe learning climate filled with intellectual curiosity and debate to enhance critical thinking skills and further medical students', residents', and fellows' educational foundation.

He has been recognized both locally and nationally for his excellence as a clinician and medical educator. He is a previous winner of the Leadership in Graduate Medical Education Award (2018) and earned “Top Gastroenterology Doctor” from Richmond Magazine just last year. The American Board of Medicine presented him with the Extraordinary Performance Award for his work on the ABIM Item-Writing Task Force and this year was named to ABIM’s Gastroenterology Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment Committee.

Ultimately, his ongoing dedication to advancing medical education for trainees through fostering a strong learning climate, holding high standards, creating learning opportunities, and leading by example are what make him the perfect recipient for this award.

VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education
“LGME” Award for Program Director
Nicole W. Karjane, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program
Director



Dr. Nicole Karjane is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been a member of the VCU faculty since 2004, and has served as the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program Director since 2012. Her excellence as a program director combined with her significant national graduate medical education leadership roles makes her a logical choice for the LGME Award.

Dr. Karjane received her medical degree from Pennsylvania State University and completed training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the VCU Health System. She practices general obstetrics and gynecology and has expertise and special interests in pediatric and adolescent gynecology, contraception, and minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

In her role as a Program Director, she makes every effort to know her residents in their entirety. From the moment she meets them as applicants, she becomes their passionate advocate for life. She sets the expectation that her program considers the whole candidate during the recruitment and resident selection process. Once in training, she continues her whole person approach to support each resident's needs and desires for individualized experiences to help them reach their goals for fellowship and practice. Dr. Karjane also worked with the DEI

leadership to develop a new curriculum for the Ob/Gyn residents and expanded these efforts to the department's faculty with grand rounds and faculty development. Most recently she worked with the School of Medicine to help create a unique acting internship opportunity for underrepresented fourth year medical students. She has worked with a local family to cover housing expenses for students during their rotation which is often a significant barrier to participation in away rotations.

She helped set the national standards for gynecology training through her work as member, and later Chair, of the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG) residency education committee. She also serves as an elected member of the national Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG).

Having recently completed the prestigious Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program (ELAM), Dr. Karjane's capstone project on eliminating medical student mistreatment will serve as a significant new initiative for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and others throughout the institution.

In view of her longstanding success as Director of the OB/GYN residency program, combined with her extraordinary national leadership, Dr. Karjane has proven herself to be a leader in graduate medical education.

VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education “LGME” Award for Program Coordinator

**Catherine Remines
Pediatric Fellowships Program Coordinator**



Catherine Remines’ undergraduate training in early childhood education makes her a perfect fit for the Department of Pediatrics. Starting as a program coordinator for the pediatric residency in 2015, she now helps to support and oversee the operational activities for 12 graduate medical education training programs in the Department of Pediatrics.

Catherine is known for her embodiment of collaboration, service, and teamwork. She consistently goes above and beyond to foster a collaborative environment that brings out the best in her colleagues. Her willingness to support and contribute to the success of the team is truly remarkable.

Her dedication to service is evident in her unwavering commitment to VCU Health’s pediatric GME and the broader community. She has been a strong pillar of support for fellowship program directors, fellows and coordinators resulting in success in all aspects of fellowship administration ranging from recruitment, onboarding, offboarding and organizing the logistics of pediatric fellowship curricula.

Her selfless dedication to helping others is an inspiration to all those fortunate enough to work alongside her. While doing that, she is always looking out for the well-being of the trainees as well as her co-workers.

In the words of one of her colleagues, *“Cathy is a valuable asset to programs and their coordinators with her exceptional knowledge and years of experience. She is an awesome colleague; extremely dependable, [and] she always has snacks! She is committed to the needs of the residents and fellows.”* What sets Catherine apart is her exceptional teamwork skills. She consistently demonstrates an innate ability to work harmoniously with colleagues from various departments leading to the successful execution of complex projects. Her communications skills, adaptability, and open mindedness contribute to creating an environment where every team member feels valued and empowered.

In recognition of her expertise as a program coordinator, superior teamwork skills, and determination, it's clear that Catherine Remines is a Leader in Graduate Medical Education.

*Outstanding Departmental Teacher Award in
Health Sciences Education*

John Bigbee, Ph.D.

Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology

Brian “Binks” Wattenberg, Ph.D.

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

E. Marshall Brooks, Ph.D.

Department of Family Medicine and Population Health

Dana Lapato, Ph.D.

Department of Human and Molecular Genetics

Daniel Miller, Ph.D.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Katherine Nicholson, Ph.D., DVM

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Carlos Escalante, Ph.D.

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Selection of the outstanding departmental teacher is determined by a process developed by each basic sciences department.

*Outstanding Teacher Awards in
Undergraduate Medical Education*

Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards

Class of 2027 Scientific Foundations of Medicine

Sadia Sayeed, M.D.	Foundations of Disease
Rebecca Martin, Ph.D.	Immunity and Infection
Hind Al Saif, M.D.	Molecular Basis of Health and Disease
M. Imad Damaj, Ph.D.	Principles of Autonomics and Pharmacology
Charles Anderson, Ph.D.	Principles of Physiology

Class of 2027 Applied Medical Sciences A

Trang Le, M.D.	Endocrine
Milan Patel, M.D.	GI
John Quillin, Ph.D., CGC	Marrow
Melissa McGinn Greer, Ph.D.	Movement
Nathan Webb, M.D.	Reproduction

Class of 2026 Applied Medical Sciences B

Dana Selley, Ph.D.	Behavioral Sciences
Kerri Carter, M.D.	Cardiovascular
Taylor Haight, M.D.	Neuroscience
Andrew Barber, M.D.	Pulmonary
Megan Lo, M.D.	Renal

Class of 2026 Longitudinal Curriculum

Meera Pahuja, M.D.	Overall Longitudinal Curriculum
Charles Alley, Ph.D.	Anatomy
Audrey Lafrenaye, Ph.D.	Histology
Selvaraj Muthusamy, MBBS, Ph.D.	Pathology

Class of 2026 and 2027 Practice of Clinical Medicine

Shadi Ghadermarzi, M.D.	Class of 2026 PCM Preceptor
Glenn Mizrach, M.D.	Class of 2026 PCM Preceptor (Family Medicine)
Trang Le, M.D.	Class of 2026 PCM Small Group Leader
Emily Kershner, M.D.	Class of 2027 PCM Small Group Leader

Class of 2025 M-III Clerkships

Carol Marcelo, M.D., FHM	Ambulatory
Jeffrey Dodd, M.D.	Family Medicine
Bahnsen Miller, M.D., FACP	Internal Medicine
Stephanie Bissonnette, D.O., MPH	Neurology
Myrlene Judy, M.D.	Ob-Gyn
Elizabeth Wolf, M.D., MPH	Pediatrics
Ryan Chiarella, D.O.	Psychiatry
Sayuri Jinadasa, M.D.	Surgery

*Outstanding Teacher Awards in
Undergraduate Medical Education*
Faculty with High Evaluation Awards

Class of 2025 M-III Clerkships

Kandace McGuire, M.D.	Ambulatory
Aman Gill, M.D.	Family Medicine
Anu Patel, M.D.	Family Medicine
Angeliki Stamatouli, M.D.	Internal Medicine
Umar Alam, M.D., D.O.	Neurology
Samuel Taylor Jr., M.D.	Neurology
Nicole Karjane, M.D.	Ob-Gyn
Norma Jones-Ives, M.D.	Ob-Gyn - Riverside
Adel Abdallah, M.D.	Pediatrics
Marna Lewis-Prince, M.D.	Pediatrics
Lauren Nutile, M.D.	Psychiatry
Eric Trinh, M.D.	Psychiatry
Paschalia Mountziaris, M.D., Ph.D.	Surgery
William Timmerman, M.D.	Surgery - VAMC

Excellence in Learning Environment Response Team

Mitigating Mistreatment and Promoting Excellence

At VCU School of Medicine, we strive to foster an equitable, inclusive environment that is free from bias, discrimination and harassment, where our students can safely learn and thrive. We hold our students, trainees and faculty to high standards, and expect professionalism and mutual respect among all learners and educators. The Learning Environment Exemplar process allows students to recognize outstanding people who have positively contributed to the VCU SOM learning environment being an exemplary place to learn and work. The following faculty members have been recognized as the 2023-2024 Professionalism Exemplar Awardees via medical student nominations:

Michael Amendola, M.D.	Vascular Surgery
Mathula Thangarajh, M.D., Ph.D.	Pediatric Neurology
Charles Anderson, Ph.D.	Physiology
J. Christian Barrett, M.D.	Internal Medicine

*Congratulations Faculty Inductees to
the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society
"Worthy to Serve the Suffering"*

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) is the only medical school honor society in the world. It seeks to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession by promoting scholarship and research in medical schools; encouraging a high standard of character and conduct among medical students and graduates; and recognizing high attainment in medical science, practice and related fields. The VCU Chapter is the Brown Sequard Chapter. Nominations are made by members and voted on once a year in the spring.

2024 Inductee

Arturo Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Department of Dermatology

2024 Teaching Excellence Awards Nominees

Vikram Brar, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Nicole Deiorio, M.D., Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Scott Graham, M.D., Professor of Neurosurgery

Kimberly Jefferson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology

Tim Johnson, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Tiffany Kimbrough, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Alex Krist, M.D., MPH, Professor of Family Medicine & Population Health

Masoud Manjili, Ph.D., DVM, Professor of Microbiology & Immunology

Joel Moll, M.D., Professor of Emergency Medicine

Eric Nelson, M.D., Associate Professor of Urology and Pediatrics

Alex Rittenberg, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine

Edgar Rodas, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery

Richard Sterling, M.D., M.Sc., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G., F.A.A.S.L.D., A.G.A.F., Professor of Internal Medicine

Michelle Troendle, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine

** Congratulations to our Nominees! **

Clerkship Leadership Teams

Bennett Lee, Megan Lemay, Hayley Mathews Ambulatory Medicine

Denee Moore, Briana Lowery Family Medicine

Nate Warner, Patrick Fadden, Thomas Bryan Internal Medicine

Neel Dixit Neurology

Fidelma Rigby, Marta Vicente, Megan Lo Obstetrics and Gynecology

Cliff Lee, Kyle Trowbridge, Risham Qureshi Pediatrics

Kathryn Jones, Ryan Chiarella, Crystal Adamchek Psychiatry

Eric Nelson, Autumn Griffin Surgery

Special Thanks

Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development

Jean Bailey, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Faculty Development

Bakir Brown, Executive Assistant

Aimee Grover, M.D., Interim Senior Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development

Jody Hedstrom, Faculty Affairs and Development Coordinator

Kathy Kreutzer, M.Ed., Director, Special Projects

Kenneth Foster Warren, Ed.D., Senior Instructional Technologist

Office of Medical Education

Lelia Brinegar, Ed.D.

Amanda Ennis, M.A.

Photographers

Kenneth Foster Warren, Ed.D., Teaching Excellence Award Portraits

Cindy Blanchard, Cynthia Newmark Photography, Faculty Excellence Awards Program

Previous Teaching Award Winners

Enrique Gerszten, M.D. Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Linda S. Costanzo, Ph.D., 1999
James L. Levenson, M.D., 2000
R. Paul Fairman, M.D., 2001
Isaac Keith Wood, M.D., 2002
Robert L. Balster, Ph.D., 2003
Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D., 2003
Suzanne E. Barbour, Ph.D., 2004
Robert F. Diegelmann, Ph.D., 2005
David F. Gardner, M.D., 2006
Leslie S. Satin, Ph.D., 2007
Enrique Gerszten, M.D., 2008
Tomasz Kordula, Ph.D., 2009
Raphael J. Witorsch, Ph.D., 2009
Alan Dow, M.D., M.S.H.A., 2010
Craig E. Cheifetz, M.D., 2011
Margaret M. Grimes, M.D., M.Ed., 2012
Clive M. Baumgarten, Ph.D., 2013
Fidelma B. Rigby, M.D., 2013
Susan D. Roseff, M.D., 2014
Diane M. Biskobing, M.D., 2015
Beth K. Rubinstein, M.D., 2016
Kimberly W. Sanford, M.D., 2017
Stephanie Call, M.D., M.S.P.H., 2018
Virginia Pallante, M.S., 2018
Frank Fulco, M.D., RPh, 2019
John W. Bigbee, Ph.D., 2020
J. Christian Barrett, M.D., 2021
Barry V. Kilpatrick, M.D., FAAP, 2021
Mark Parker, M.D., FACR, 2022
Sarah Hobgood, M.D., 2023

Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching

David R. Salter, M.D., 1999
Joel A. Blum, M.D., 2000
Cesar I. Kanamori, M.D., 2001
Robert K. Schneider, M.D., 2003
Robert A. Adler, M.D., 2004
Alpha (Berry) A. Fowler, III, M.D., 2005
Brian J. Kaplan, M.D., 2006
Stephanie A. Call, M.D., M.S.P.H., 2007
John G. Pierce, Jr., M.D., 2008
Douglas S. Franzen, M.D., M.Ed., 2009
Barry V. Kirkpatrick, M.D., 2010
Frank A. Fulco, M.D., 2011
Marjolein de Wit, M.D., M.S., 2012
Mary Ann Turner, M.D., 2013
Catherine E. Grossman, M.D., 2014
Rahul J. Anand, M.D., 2015
Clifton C. Lee, M.D., 2015
Paula A. Ferrada, M.D., 2016
James Levy, M.D., 2016
Duane C. Williams, M.D., 2017
Phoebe Ashley, M.D., 2018
Josephina Vossen, M.D., Ph.D., 2019
Jason M. Kidd, M.D., 2020
Michelle N. Brooks, M.D., 2021
Danielle Noreika, M.D., 2022
Lisa K. Brath, M.D., 2023

Previous Teaching Award Winners

Distinguished Mentor Award

John Bigbee, Ph.D., 1999
W. Hans Carter, Jr., Ph.D., 2000
Suzanne R. Lavoie, M.D., 2000
Daniel H. Conrad, Ph.D., 2001
Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., 2001
Cynthia M. Heldberg, Ph.D., 2002
Sandra P. Welch, Ph.D., 2002
Deborah L. Haller, Ph.D., 2003
George R. Leichnetz, Ph.D., 2004
Roland N. Pittman, Ph.D., 2005
David X. Cifu, M.D., 2005
Chris Gennings, Ph.D., 2006
John E. Nestler, M.D., 2006
James M. Messmer, M.D., M.Ed., 2007
John N. Clore, M.D., 2008
Clive M. Baumgarten, Ph.D., 2009
Richard G. Moran, Ph.D., 2009
Richard M. Costanzo, Ph.D., 2010
Paul H. Ratz, Ph.D., 2010
Daniel H. Conrad, Ph.D., 2011
Louis J. De Felice, Ph.D., M.S., 2012
Therese M. Duane, M.D., 2012
Aron J. Lichtman, Ph.D., 2013
Diomedes E. Logothetis, Ph.D., 2014
Hamid I. Akbarali, Ph.D., 2015
Antonio Abbate, M.D., Ph.D., 2016
Alpha A. (Berry) Fowler, III, M.D., 2017
S. Murthy Karnam, Ph.D., 2017
Sarah Spiegel, Ph.D., 2018
Steven Crossman, M.D., 2019
Michael Miles, M.D., Ph.D., 2019
Ananda B. Amstadter, Ph.D., 2020
Kenneth A. Ellenbogen, M.D., 2020
Amir A. Toor, M.D., 2021
S. Stevens Negus III, Ph.D., 2022
Tomasz Kordula, Ph.D., 2023

Educational Innovation/Educational Research Award

Joann N. Bodurtha, M.D., M.P.H., 1999
Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D.,
and Rita Willett, M.D., 1999
Carol L. Hampton, M.M.S., 2000
Alice S. "Dolly" Pakurar, Ph.D., 2001
Thomas M. Kerkering, M.D., 2002
Charles O. Frazier, M.D., 2003
Edward J.N. Ishac, h.D., 2004
J. Dennis Hoban, Ed.D., 2005
Isaac K. Wood, M.D., 2006
Leanne M. Yanni, M.D., and Team, 2007
Alan Dow, M.D., M.S.H.A., and Team, 2008
Curtis N. Sessler, M.D., and Team, 2008
Thomas Palliative Care Program, VCU Massey Cancer
Center, 2009
Molecular Diagnostics Practicum Academic Unit, 2010
Pawan Suri, M.D., 2011
Lelia E. Brinegar, M.Ed.,
and Christopher M. Woleben, M.D., 2012
Ellen L. Brock, M.D., M.P.H., and Staff of the Center
for Human Simulation and Patient Safety, 2013
John (Christian) Barrett, M.D.;
Gonzalo, M. L. Bearman, M.D., M.P.H.;
Michael P. Stevens, M.D., M.P.H., 2014
Peter A. Boling, M.D., Alan W. Dow, III, M.D.,
M.S.H.A., Joel D. Browning, B.S., Christopher L.
Stephens, M.S., and the Reynolds Interprofessional
Team, 2015
Michael S. Ryan, M.D., M.E.H.P., 2016
Michael Joyce, M.D., and Sammy Pedram, M.D., 2017
Steven Bishop, M.D., 2018
Peter Haar, M.D., Ph.D., Marvin "Alex" Meredith,
Ph.D.; Gross Anatomy Teaching Faculty; VCU
Radiology Residency Program; VCU CT
Technologists, 2019
Megan S. Lemay, M.D., Sara Wilson McKay, Ph.D.,
and John E. Nestler, M.D., MACP, 2021
Kimberly Pedram, M.D., 2022
Sarika Modi, M.D., 2023

2024 Awards Selection Committees

Teaching Excellence Awards

Teaching Awards Selection Committee

Jean Bailey, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Associate Dean for Faculty Development (non-voting)
J. Christian Barrett, M.D., Internal Medicine
Amelia Grover, M.D., Co-Chair, Interim Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development (non-voting)
Jody Hedstrom, B.A., Faculty Affairs and Development Coordinator (non-voting)
Sarah Hobgood, M.D., Internal Medicine
Eun Lee, Ph.D., Microbiology and Immunology
Joel Moll, M.D., Emergency Medicine
Katherine Nicholson, Ph.D., DVM, Pharmacology and Toxicology
Danielle Noreika, M.D., Internal Medicine
NK Gbujie, M-IV Student Representative
Divya Shah, M-IV Student Representative
Brandon Toll, D.O., Neurosurgery, Housestaff Representative
Natalie Truby, Graduate Student Representative
John Urbach, M.D., Psychiatry

Outstanding Teacher Awards in Undergraduate Medical Education

Pre-Clinical Curriculum Committee

Lelia Brinegar, Ed.D., Office of Medical Education
Lindsay Irwin, Class of 2026 Curriculum Representative
Monica Jinsi, Class of 2026 Curriculum Representative
Avni Malik, Class of 2026 Curriculum Representative
Kiana Rahimi, Class of 2026 Curriculum Representative
Sarah Durisek, Class of 2027 Curriculum Representative
Sonya Feeser, Class of 2027 Curriculum Representative
Rachel Fry, Class of 2027 Curriculum Representative
Yumna Rahman, Class of 2027 Curriculum Representative

M-III Clinical Education

Ambulatory Clerkship Committee
Family Medicine Clerkship Committee
Internal Medicine Clerkship Committee
Neurology Clerkship Committee
Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship Committee
Pediatrics Clerkship Committee
Psychiatry Clerkship Committee
Surgery Clerkship Committee

VCU/VCUHS Leadership in Graduate Medical Education Award

Graduate Medical Education Committee

VCU School of Medicine, Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development

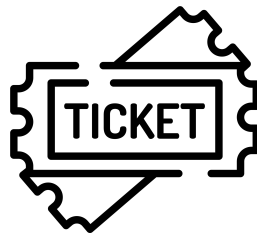
The Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development (OFAFD) serves two functions for the School of Medicine. It is the central location for oversight of School of Medicine faculty-related policies and guidelines governing appointments, promotions, and tenure. It is also responsible for the design, development, and delivery of activities that enhance the roles, work-life, and professional development of faculty at VCU School of Medicine. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs promotes a culture of faculty success and excellence and provides leadership and counsel to faculty in the School's 26 basic health science and clinical departments, as well as 13 affiliated institutes and centers on issues related to work goals, performance, recruitment, compensation, recognition, and advancement. The Associate Dean for Faculty Development leads efforts to ensure scientists, clinicians, and educators are engaged in opportunities that develop their skill sets in evidence-based teaching, scholarship and innovation, and advance their career. The office also coordinates a 12-credit graduate certificate focusing on teaching and scholarship in medical education. The office addresses professionalism, wellness, and CME.



A list of calendar events can be found on our website at:
<https://medschool.vcu.edu/about/deans-office/faculty-affairs/>.

The Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development **thanks you** for your participation in the awards program.

We look forward to seeing you next year!



This page is also your ticket for lunch in the Lobby. Enjoy!