Thinking ahead to bring the best in everything we do...

Former JCESOM dean Charles H. McKown Jr. once said, “If you are not thinking five years ahead, you will be ten years behind.” During changing times in higher education and healthcare, the School of Medicine is moving forward because of the dedication and enthusiasm of its faculty, students and staff. As we are finding ways to improve and advance medical education, we remain committed to training physicians who care for patients with respect and compassion, and researchers who continue to exemplify scientific integrity.

This issue of PEN highlights programs and accomplishments which demonstrate that by thinking ahead, together, we can create a better future for our students and our patients.

Darshana Shah

Awards and Honors

Anatomy & Pathology

Sasha Zill is spending his second summer as a DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, German Research Foundation)-sponsored visiting professor at the Universities of Universities of Bielefeld and Cologne in Germany.

Darshana Shah has been selected to participate on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Women in Medicine & Science (GWIMS) Communications Subcommittee.

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology

Piyali Dasgupta’s research involving diabetic retinopathy was featured on WOWK-TV, the CBS affiliate for Charleston-Huntington, W.Va., Channel 13, on January 14, 2012. Her paper, “MG624, an α7-nAChR antagonist, inhibits angiogenesis via the Egr-1/FGF2 pathway,” from Angiogenesis, was featured on the website LeadDiscovery.

Gary Rankin was a finalist for the 2012 Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) Award in Excellence in Pharmacology/Toxicology.

Nalini Santanam was invited to join the American Heart Association Special Taskforce for Scientific Classifications, March-April 2012.

Grants Received

Anatomy & Pathology

Darshana Shah received $2,000 in funding from The Arnold P. Gold Foundation to create and develop a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) at the JCESOM.

Orthopaedics

Franklin D. Shuler received $25,000 for “Biomimetic Nanofiber Scaffolds Seeded with Adipose-derived Stem Cells for Rotator Cuff Injury Repair,” as part of the Marshall-UK Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), December 2011.

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology

Richard Egleton received $20,000 (funded) to study “Circulating microRNA and vascular dysfunction in diabetes” from the Cell Differentiation and Development Center Internal Grant Program.

Multidisciplinary

Jingwei Xie and Pier Paolo Claudio are each recipients of the first $25,000 grants awarded through the Joint Pilot Research Program set up by Marshall and the University of Kentucky as part of their Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) partnership. The program, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is aimed at speeding the time for laboratory discoveries to benefit patients. Xie, who will collaborate with Franklin D. Shuler, will use his award to develop a method that may improve surgical repair of rotator cuff injuries. Claudio will help develop an assay that will potentially allow the development of personalized treatment for lung cancer. Claudio will collaborate with Rolf Craven of the University of Kentucky Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology.

Professional Milestones

Biochemistry & Microbiology

Pier Paolo Claudio has received two U.S. Provisional Patent Applications, “Methods and composition for site-selective Mda-7/IL24 gene delivery” and “Methods of screening chemotherapeutic agents and treating cancer.”

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Wade Douglas leads Multicultural Advisory Council

Wade G. Douglas, M.D., joined the Department of Surgery as an assistant professor and as a specialist in surgical oncology and head and neck surgery at the ECCC in 2005. Now associate professor, he serves as residency program director for the Department of Surgery. He is chair of the JCESOM and Cabell Huntington Hospital Colorectal Screening Task Force, director of the ECCC Tissue Procurement Facility, and surgical oncology consultant for the VA Medical Center, among other duties. He is also a member of the West Virginia Cancer Genomics Network, established to analyze cancer DNA here in West Virginia.

Dr. Douglas studied biology at Florida A&M University, and received his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville. He completed his residency at Morehouse School of Medicine, and a fellowship in surgical oncology and head and neck surgery at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. While at Roswell, he focused on techniques of minimally invasive cancer surgery.

His research interests include the feasibility of robotics for surgical oncology; lymph node mapping of patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity; and molecular characterization of normal squamous epithelial and squamous carcinoma cells of the upper aerodigestive tract.

Dr. Douglas is serving as chair for the newly established Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC). This council, made up of faculty, staff, residents and students, will guide the institution in promoting inclusive excellence.

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Philippe Georgel was chair and co-organizer of the Workshop on Next Generation Sequencing and Bioinformatics in Huntington, W.Va., October 27, 2011. He was also the co-organizer of the Cell Differentiation and Development Center Symposium, “Epigenetic Regulation of Gene Expression and Bioinformatics,” held at Marshall University on March 23, 2012.

Endocrinology
Abid Yaqub was appointed program director for the Endocrinology and Metabolism Fellowship, Department of Medicine, after serving as the associate director for five years, July 2011.

Family & Community Health
John Parker was elected and installed as president-elect of the West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians at its annual meeting in Charleston, W.Va., March 29-April 1, 2012.

Orthopaedics
Ali Oliashirazi was course chairman for “Controversies and Technological Advances in Primary and Complex Primary Hip and Knee Replacement” at the Annual Marshall University Arthroplasty Course, May 18-20, 2012. He is also vice president of the Cabell County Medical Society.

With the assistance of Franklin D. Shuler, MU Orthopaedics was selected as a study site for TRUST: Trial to evaluate UltraSound in the Treatment of tibial fractures. This was a Prospective Randomized Multicenter Trial.

Franklin D. Shuler held, “How Healthy are Your Bones,” Community Service – free osteoporosis, balance and blood pressure screenings, free at home fall risk assessments, January 2012.

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology
Piyali Dasgupta was invited to serve as an external examiner for A.T. Jolayemi’s doctoral thesis entitled, “Studies on Some Pharmacological Properties of Capsicum Frutescens-derived Capsaicin in Experimental Animal Models,” University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa. Dasgupta is a member of the American Society of Investigative Pathology.

Journal Reviewers
Anatomy & Pathology
Maria A. Serrat reviews manuscripts for the Journal of Applied Physiology; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA; and American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology.

Biochemistry & Microbiology
Pier Paolo Claudio is a reviewer for numerous journals, and is an editor for Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research; International Journal of Biomedical Science; Drugs News and Perspectives; Drugs of Today; Drugs of the Future; Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research; and Current Signal Transduction Therapy.

Philippe Georgel is on the editorial board of Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, and is associate editor for Biochemistry and Cell Biology. He reviewed three manuscripts for Nucleic Acids Research, one for Biochimica Biophysica Acta, and one for Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

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**Endocrinology**
Abid Yaqub is a reviewer for Annals of Internal Medicine, the official journal of the American College of Physicians.

**Internal Medicine**
Lynne Goebel is an associate editor of the West Virginia Medical Journal.

**Orthopaedics**
Franklin N. Shuler is an associate editor of the West Virginia Medical Journal, serving on the Publications Review Committee, January 2012.

**Pediatrics**
Aaron McGuffin became a reviewer for Academic Medicine in 2012.

**Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology**
Piyali Dasgupta reviews manuscripts for Journal of Virological Methods and Recent Patents on Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery.

Lawrence M. Grover reviews manuscripts for Hippocampus.

Gary Rankin reviews manuscripts for: Drug Metabolism and Disposition; ISRN Toxicology; Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health; Toxicology; and Toxicology Research

Nalini Santanam reviews manuscripts for Atherosclerosis; Journal of Nutrition and Metabolism; Brain Research; Life Sciences; Cardiology Research and Practice; PLOS One; and Cardiology Research and Practice.

**Grant Review Activity**

**Anatomy & Pathology**
Maria A. Serrat reviews grants for Graduate Women in Science National Fellowship Program, April 2012.

**Biochemistry & Microbiology**
Pier Paolo Claudio is a grant reviewer for the Italian government Ministry of Research (MIURC), 2012.

Philippe Georgel reviews grants for CancerCare, Manitoba, Canada.

**Role of obesity and cancer is research focus of Travis Salisbury**

Molecular biologist Travis Salisbury, Ph.D., has been an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology since 2009.

Dr. Salisbury has special interests in hormone signaling and a specific ligand-activated transcription factor known as the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) which plays roles in environmental toxicity, endocrine disruption and carcinogenesis. Recently he obtained a grant from The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation (PhRMA) to further investigate the potential role of the AHR in obesity and cancer. The findings of this work are relevant to human health, given the recognition that obesity increases human risk for several different types of cancers, including breast cancer.

He is a graduate of Kent State University, where he earned his doctorate in physiology. He received postdoctoral training as a research fellow in the field of molecular endocrinology at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and Washington State University in the departments of pharmacology and molecular biosciences, respectively.

He is a member of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the Society of Toxicology. Recently he presented his research at the Experimental Biology Meeting; the Society for Toxicology Meeting; and the Gordon Conference, Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity. He also lectures in medical pharmacology and general toxicology, and was presented with the 2011 Faculty Award by Marshall BMS graduate students.

Vincent E. Sollars reviews grants for West Virginia IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Pilot Grant Program, Spring 2012; Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program managed by the Florida Department of Health, Spring 2012; and James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program managed by the Florida Department of Health, Spring 2012.

Vincent E. Sollars is on the ISRN Genetics journal editorial board beginning March 2012, and has been on the Frontiers in Epigenomics journal editorial board since January 2011.

Hongwei Yu is an ad hoc study section member for Cystic Fibrosis Research and Translation Core Centers, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)/National Institutes for Health (NIH).

**Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology**
Piyali Dasgupta was invited by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) to serve as a reviewer for Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) grant applications in the section “Nicotine Effects on Lung Cancer Promotion: From Cells to Patients.”

Richard Egleton is a grant reviewer for the American Heart BRAIN CL 1 Peer Review Study Group, April 2012, and a reviewer for University of Kentucky CCTS Pilot Grants.
Richard Niles leads team in investigating melanoma

Richard M. Niles, Ph.D., is professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, and senior associate dean for research and graduate education. He has served on the Dean’s Advisory Committee since 1992, and is CEO and founding member of Progenesis Technologies, LLC, a Marshall University-associated research and development company established to demonstrate the feasibility of manufacturing genetically-engineered bacterial alginates on an industrial scale for a competitive price.

He has served on and chaired many grant review panels for the NIH, the DoD Breast Cancer Research Program, the DoD Prostate Cancer Research Program and the American Institute for Cancer Research. He is the principal investigator of a $9.2 million Center of Biomedical Research Excellence grant from the NIH. In 1995, he was appointed to the executive committee for the American Institute for Cancer Research Annual Conferences.

He received his bachelor of science degree in biology from Rhode Island College; his master of science degree in botany from the University of New Hampshire; and his doctorate in plant pathology and biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. In 2009 he was awarded the Graduate Faculty Achievement Award from the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student Organization in recognition of teaching and mentoring excellence.

With the rapid increase in the incidence of melanoma, especially in the under 40-year-old population, Dr. Niles’s major research interest is investigating the mechanism by which dietary constituents such as vitamin A, resveratrol (red wine), quercetin (apples), etc., arrest growth of melanoma cells and prevent melanocytes from being converted to melanoma cells.

SOM hosts AAMC nationwide simulcast

JCESOM hosted its first Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)-sponsored TEDMED Conference, held in Washington, D.C., on April 10-13. More than 150 AAMC-member institutions nationwide hosted this live conference, allowing participants to see every session, every speaker and every performance taking place on the TEDMED stage in real time, even submitting questions and comments directly to the stage.

Conference speakers included global leaders from science, research, technology, academia, business, government and the arts. JCESOM participants found the live simulcast to be inspirational and “life-changing.”

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Gary Rankin was a reviewer for the NIH Special Emphasis Panel, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), March 2012.

Nalini Santanam reviews grants for the American Heart Association Cardiovascular Committee 2B.

Monica A. Valentovic is a study section grant reviewer for NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), March 30, 2012.

Invited Presentations

Anatomy & Physiology
Sasha Zill was invited to the University of Bielefeld, May 2011, and the University of Koeln, July 2011, both in Germany, to present a talk entitled “Active sensing of force and load in the stick insect leg.”

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology
Piyali Dasgupta was invited to co-chair a minisymposia entitled, “Modeling Cancer: Biological and Therapeutic Implications,” organized by the American Society of Investigative Pathology, Experimental Biology Conference, 2012.

Piyali Dasgupta, Jamie K. Lau, Kathleen C. Brown, Haitao Luo and Yi C. Chen presented “Nicotine induces the up-regulation of alpha-7-nicotinic receptors (α7-NACHRs) in human squamous cell lung cancer cells via transcriptional mechanisms” at the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, April 21-25, 2012.

Richard Egleton was invited to speak on “Metabolic syndrome and the blood brain barrier” at the Symposium on Prevention of Metabolic Syndrome by Dietary Phytochemicals at the Department of Food Science at The Pennsylvania State University, September 28, 2011; “Alzheimer’s treatment: What’s in the discovery pipeline?” at the JCESOM and Cabell Alzheimer’s minisymposium on March 19, 2012; and “Cerebrovascular dysfunction in diabetes: Does circulating micro RNA play a role?” at the Marshall University Cell Differentiation and

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Development Center Symposium on Epigenetic Regulation of Gene Expression and Bioinformatics, March 2012.

Rebecca Furby*, Preeya Shah, Aileen Marcello, Carla Cook, Richard Egleton and Nalini Santanam spoke about “Circulating miRNA’s regulating insulin signaling in Type 1 diabetic Rat model” at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), St. Louis, Nov. 9th -12, 2011. [*Recipient of FASEB-MARC Travel Award for presenting at ABRCMS and recipient of ASBMB-FASEB summer research fellowship.]

Preeya Shah, Rebecca Furby, Aileen Marcello, Carla Cook, Richard Egleton and Nalini Santanam presented “Circulating miRNA’s regulating angiogenesis signaling in Type 1 diabetic Rat model” at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), St. Louis, Nov. 9 -12, 2011.

Lawrence M. Grover was invited to present a lecture at the West Virginia Sleep Society meeting to be held in Parkersburg, W.Va., Oct. 12-13, 2012.


Travis Salisbury was invited to speak on “Adipocyte/cancer cell interactions are connected to aryl hydrocarbon receptor signaling” at West Virginia State University, February 2012.

Nalini Santanam spoke about “Fat biomarkers from the WV-Appalachian Heart Study” at the 20th South Eastern Lipid Research Conference (SELRC), Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., Oct. 6th -8th, 2011.

Nalini Santanam was invited to speak at the South Eastern Lipid Research Conference, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., Oct 6- 8, 2011. She was also invited to speak at the Nutritional Sciences Seminar Series, University of Kentucky, Lexington, March 27, 2012. Courtney Crain, Carla Cook, Jia Fei and Nalini Santanam presented “Obesity related markers in catalase transgenic mice” at the Society of Free Radical in Biology & Medicine 18th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Nov. 16-20, 2011.

Christopher Adams*, Carla Cook, Todd Gress, Nepal Chowdhury, Elliot Setser, Andrew Mcunu, Kevin Johnson, Paulette Wehner and Nalini Santanam presented “Sex differences in Epicardial fat biomarkers-WV Appalachian Heart study,” at the West Virginia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, Nov. 22, 2011. [*Winner of the best poster award and selected to present in the national ACC meeting.]

Books & Book Chapters

Anatomy and Pathology

Darshana Shah and Elizabeth Armstrong. “From Freedom to Learn to Freedom to Innovate: The Harvard Macy Institute Story.” In: Enhancing the professional culture of academic health science centers: The interplay among education leaders, their programs, and the organizational environment. Accepted for publication, 2012.

Biochemistry & Microbiology


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Internal Medicine

Orthopaedics


Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology


Peer-Reviewed Publications

Anatomy & Pathology
Sasha Zill, A. Büschges, J. Schmitz. “Encoding of force increases and decreases by tibial campaniform sensilla in the stick insect, Carausius morosus.”


Biochemistry & Microbiology


A. Greco, M. Mancini, S. Gargiulo, M. Gramanzini, P.P. Claudio, A. Brunetti, M. Salvatore. “Ultrasound biomicroscopy in small animal research: applications in molecular and preclinical imaging.”

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Honor Society to promote tradition of the caring doctor

A group of third year medical students has been instrumental in bringing a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) to the JCESOM. Marshall is one of 99 chapters that have joined GHHS since its inception only a decade ago. Many thanks to Bi Mo, Gordon McMenemy, Blake Epling, Stephen Roy, Amy Roy, Joanie Garrett, Matt Christiansen and Hilary Hott for their efforts.

In addition, a Marshall team made up of the chapter advisor, a student and a resident will participate in the Biennial 2012: Building on a Decade of Humanism in Action to be held in Chicago on October 4-6. This event will offer participants an opportunity to network with colleagues committed to patient-centered, compassionate care.

GHHS chapters are a part of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, whose mission is to perpetuate the tradition of the caring doctor by emphasizing the importance of the relationship between the practitioner and the patient. The objective is to help physicians-in-training become doctors who combine the high tech skills of cutting edge medicine with the high touch skills of effective communication, empathy and compassion. Students and faculty at 94 percent of American allopathic and osteopathic schools now participate in at least one Gold Foundation program.

With the long tradition of community service held by the faculty, students and staff of the JCESOM, bringing the GHHS chapter to campus will offer opportunities for medical students, residents and faculty to explore new ideas and approaches and to develop meaningful ways to connect to patients and their families.
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Monia Taranta, Ilaria Naldí, Settimo Grimaldi, Laura Salvini, Pier Paolo Claudio, Francesca Rocchio, Alex F. Munoz, Stefano Prete, Caterina Cinti. “Magnetically driven bioreactors as new tools in drug delivery.” Bioanalysis and Biomedicine, Sept. 5, 2011.


Endocrinology


Internal Medicine


Orthopaedics


Franklin D. Shuler was a contributor to “Outcomes assessment in the SPRINT (Study to Prospectively Evaluate Reamed Intramedullary Nails in patients with Tibial Fractures) Multicenter Tibial fracture trial: Adjudication committee size has trivial effect on trial results.” Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, 64(9):1023-1033, 2011. He also contributed to “Economic evaluation of reamed versus unreamed intramedullary nailing in patients with closed and open tibial fractures: results from the Study to Prospectively Evaluate Reamed Intramedullary Nails in patients with Tibial Fractures (SPRINT).” Value in Health, 14:450-457, 2011.


Pediatrics

Heidi Lewis, James Lewis. “Safe and effective methylphenidate therapy in a pediatric patient with glaucoma.” Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders, 4:1, 2012. Note: Heidi Lewis is a 2011 JCESOM graduate who is currently a resident in radiology at Tampa General Hospital.


Nalini Santanam. PPAR Research, 2012 (special issue, invited review, in press).


Multidisciplinary

International Meeting Presentations
Biomedical Sciences
Pier Paolo Claudio presented three invited lectures about his research at the National Cancer Institute and the CEINGE Institute in Naples, Italy, and at the meeting, “Fragment of history: Seminar on the oral medicine of the past and of the future,” in Sorrento, June, 2012.

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology
Gary O. Rankin gave a presentation in May 2012 at BIT’s Fifth Annual World Conference in Beijing about his research in resveratrol, conducted in cooperation with Monica A. Valentovic and funded by a grant from the NIH. He led a scientific session, “Cancer rehabilitation, nutrition and management of cancer related complications.” Prior to the meeting, Rankin visited the School of Biosystems Engineering and Food Science at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, where he gave a seminar about his work in the field of chemical-induced injury to the kidney. Rankin was accompanied on the trip by Dr. Yi Charlie Chen, an associate professor of biology at Alderson-Broaddus College. Both Rankin and Chen are lead researchers in the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, a federally funded program to help build biomedical research expertise across the state. Rankin is the principal investigator of the project and Chen is on the steering committee.


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WIMS forum offers women an opportunity to network

The WIMS Inaugural Leadership Forum, held May 16-17 in the Cabell Huntington Hospital Board Room, gave junior and senior faculty, along with several second and third year medical students, an opportunity to gain insight into workplace strengths and weaknesses and discuss career issues.

WIMS Executive Council: Faculty members Darshana Shah, Elaine Hardman, Jung Han Kim and Kathleen O’Hanlon; MU Advance Liaison Beverly Delidow; medical students Shawndra Thompson (AMWA) and Miranda Carper (Graduate Student Organization). Not shown are Paulette Wehner, Shirley Neitch and Shawn A. McKinney.

Future women professionals, from left: Rachel Edwards, Kathryn Blair, and Miranda Carper. Edwards said the forum opened her eyes to some of the challenges other female physicians have faced. Carper was provided with mechanisms she can use to be a successful researcher, and appreciated the opportunity to gain advice from mentors she respected.

Junior faculty, from left: Piyali Dasgupta, assistant professor of pharmacology and Maria Guadalupe Lopez-Marti, assistant professor of pediatrics. Dasgupta appreciated the tools in the seminar that emphasized how to deal with daily challenges, accept changes in your career path and not get burned out while achieving goals. She said the seminars have given her skills to achieve better ‘work-life-balance.’ Lopez-Marti found the workshop extremely practical in raising her self-awareness about personal and career issues and increase her networking capabilities. She found it a great experience to get to know new role models within the institution.

Beverly Delidow, not pictured, found it helpful to step back and think about how and why you got where you are, and what you’d like to do next. “We have a lot of dynamic and accomplished women at Marshall,” Delidow said.
The Academy of Medical Educators welcomes its incoming class, and wishes the best to the outgoing academy graduates.

**Academy Candidates**  
**Class of 2012-2013**  
*Master Educator candidates:*  
Paul B. Ferguson, Neuroscience  
Maria G. Lopez-Marti, Pediatrics  
April Kilgore, Pediatrics  
Thomas Dougherty, Pathology  
Julie A. Phenco, Psychiatry  
Jose Mario Fontanilla, Internal Medicine  
Tamara Gravano, Physical Therapy  
Yi Po Chiu, Physical Therapy

*Teaching Scholar Candidates:*  
Baraa Alabd Alrazzak, Pediatrics  
Jessica Granger, Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Academy Graduates Class 2011-2012**  
*From left:* Mohammad Ebraheem, Amanda Pauly, Sarah Price, Dana Ellen, Darshana Shah, Penny G. Kroll, Wesam A. Bolkhir

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**Translational Genomic Research Institute focuses on applying biomedical research directly to patient care**

*Photo by Rick Haye/ Marshall University.*

The Charles H. McKown, M.D., Translational Genomic Research Institute, located on the top floor of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center, was dedicated in a ceremony on Dec. 6. Completed in the summer of 2011, the institute has 10,500 square feet of research space. In addition to studying ways to apply biomedical research directly to patient care, researchers will work to identify specific genes responsible for various cancers.
National Meeting Presentations

Multidisciplinary

Anatomy & Pathology
Maria A. Serrat, Rebecca M. Williams. “Large molecule delivery to the growth plate increases with limb temperature measured by in vivo multiphoton imaging.” Poster presentation at Experimental Biology Meeting, San Diego, April 21-25, 2012. Serrat was also a poster judge at the American Physiological Society Scholander Competition held at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego during that time.


Zill also presented two posters, both of which examined how signals from sense organs of the legs are used in the control of walking movements. The first study presented a new model for integration of sensory feedback within the frame of reference of the plane of leg movement, done both in Huntington and in Germany with Dr. Josef Schmitz of the University of Bielefeld and Dr. Ansgar Bueschges of the University of Cologne. They used morphological data from studies by Sumaiya Chaudhry, a Marshall sophomore, using the confocal microscopy facility of the Biomedical Sciences program. The second study successfully tested elements of the model in a robotic leg equipped with strain gauges, representing the collaborative work with engineers and students at the Biorobotics Laboratory at Case Western Reserve University.

Biochemistry & Microbiology


Biochemistry & Microbiology

Endocrinology


Geriatrics
Suraj Shah, Guillermo Madero, Shawn Maynard and Shirley M. Neitch won first prize with their poster, “A Driving Assessment Clinic: Structure and Statistics,” in the case studies and clinical innovations category at the 2012 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting held in Seattle, May 2-5. Shah, a, a medical resident, presented the poster. Geriatrics won the West Virginia Geriatric Society poster competition for second time on a row.

Orthopaedics

Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology
oral presentation at the mini-symposia, “Combating Cancer Through Improved Diagnosis and Therapeutics,” both held by the American Society of Investigative Pathology.


Monica Valentovic spoke at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, focusing on her lab’s work to evaluate ways to reduce the side effects of cancer chemotherapeutic drugs. In addition, she presented at the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, where she discussed her work to examine the mechanisms for reducing cancer chemotherapy adverse effects to the kidney, research funded by the NIH. She served as chairman of the meeting’s Renal Toxicology Session, March 2012.


Pulmonary


Urology

Lawrence M. Wyner. “Captain Lord’s
Marshall Research Day Winners

Marshall University hosted its 24th Annual Research Day on March 19. Please visit the following link for information about their topics. musom.marshall.edu/news/Upload/2012resdaywinners.pdf

Richard G. Irwin  
MSII  
Educational Research

Kimberly Weaver  
MSII  
Poster, Clinical Science

Tilahun Belay  
Resident, Internal Medicine  
Poster Clinical Vignette

Laura Thompson  
MSIV  
Oral Clinical Science

Andrea Lauffer  
Resident, MedPed  
Oral Presentation Clinical Vignette

The Third Annual Hematology/Oncology Update for the Primary Care Physician

The Third Annual Hematology/Oncology Update for the Primary Care Physician attracted more than 68 people, including 13 residents and eight medical students, to the ECCC on April 27. The day-long event provided health care professionals with an update on breast cancer screening, lung cancer screening, approaches to difficult benign hematological cases, and other cancer-related issues pertinent to a generalist’s practice. Visiting physicians Roy E. Smith, with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Kevin McDonagh, with the University of Kentucky’s Markey Cancer Center, lectured, as did Andrew Freeman, Lynne Goebel, Anmir Hussain, Rajesh Sehgal and Maria Tirona, all with the JCESOM. Tirona, chairwoman of the planning committee, said planning for next year’s event is already underway. Event sponsors included the School of Medicine, the ECCC and Cabell Huntington Hospital.
Regional Meeting Presentations

Biochemistry & Microbiology


Endocrinology


Internal Medicine

Lynne Goebel. “Patterns of Vitamin D response and follow up in a university practice setting.” Abstract presented at the West Virginia Geriatric Society Meeting, Oct. 21, 2011, Charleston, W.Va. She also was a judge for the poster competition at the West Virginia American College of Physicians Meeting, Oct. 21, 2011.


Orthopaedics


Psychiatry


Staff, Student & Resident Accomplishments

Anatomy & Pathology

Rebekah K. Sine, Morgan L. Efaw, Alison R. Williams, Maria A. Serrat.

“Effects of Omega-3 Fatty Acids on Bone Development.” Poster presentation by Rebekah Sine (Alderson-Broaddus College) at the 9th Annual Undergraduate Research Day at the West Virginia Capitol, Charleston, W.Va., January 26, 2012. Sine presented research conducted in Serrat’s lab during the 2011 summer INBRE program at Marshall University.

Biomedical Sciences

Biomedical sciences doctoral candidate Johannes Fahrmann presented his research to explore the effects of omega-3 fatty acids in early stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia at the American Society for Investigative Pathology ASIP Annual Meeting at the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, April 2012. Fahrmann works in the lab of W. Elaine Hardman.

Mike Brown, a biomedical sciences doctoral candidate working in Monica Valentovic’s lab, presented at the mid-March Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He discussed his research examining ways to reduce liver damage caused by acetaminophen use.

Aaron Dom, an MS1 student, presented some of his research at the Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego, April 2012. Both oral presentations were selected for the same abstract, “MG624, an alpha7-nicotinic receptor antagonist, inhibits angiogenesis in human small cell lung cancer.” Presentation 1 was in “To Grow or Not to Grow,” and Presentation 2 was a “blitz” presentation for the Blood Vessel Club. Both sessions were hosted by the American Society for Investigative Pathology.

Orthopaedics

“Extraskeletal effects of Vitamin D: potential impact,” and “Antibiotic-Like Actions of Vitamin D,” co-authored by Sammy Hodroge, Adam Short, Josh Hendrix, Dana Lycans, Elias Salloum, members of the JCESOM Medical Student Orthopaedic Interest Group, have been accepted for publication in the West Virginia Medical Journal. The articles are scheduled to publish in July/August 2013.

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Pharmacology, Physiology & Toxicology
Undergraduate student Clayton M. Crabtree, working with Piyali Dasgupta, was awarded the Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid Research Grant from NASA (2012-2013) for his research proposal entitled, “Alpha7-Nicotinic Receptor Antagonists in Retinal Angiogenesis.” (Budget: $1,800).

Rebecca Furby, a senior from Shepherd University and a Marshall SRIIMS fellow for summer 2011, was the recipient of the MARC-ASBMB (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) and MARC-FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) award for research she performed at Nalini Santanam’s laboratory. Furby presented her research at the ABRCMS Annual Conference held at St. Louis. (MARC stands for Maximizing Access to Research Careers.)

Christopher Adams, first year cardiology fellow, presented and won first prize for the best poster presentation in both regional and national conferences held by the American College of Cardiology. He was one of only 12 cardiology fellows in the United States selected to present his work to the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology Conference held in Las Vegas in February 2012. Adams presented the research, “Perivascular Fat Biomarkers and Corresponding Echocardiographic Evidence: WV-Appalachian Heart Study,” that he contributed to in collaboration with Nalini Santanam’s laboratory. This study was supported by the NIH-funded WV-INBRE supplement grant.

Other
Joan C. Viksjo presented her paper, co-written with Academy member Wesam Bolkhir, Nesreen BenHamed and Kelly Schrapp, “Improving the Feedback Process and Medical Student Performance: An Exploratory Study,” at the 23rd Annual Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference, Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio, on June 3, 2011. The abstract was published in the Conference’s Proceedings. Viksjo is also a doctoral student in higher education administration at Marshall University.

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Flags
I am pointed towards danger, perhaps… an exanthem turned enanthem, a marrow awakened at night, a fever-stiffened neck, an inappropriate touch.

Once inside, the green flag signals everyone. I am symptomatically engaged in battle, an historic examiner, searching for signs of imminent death.

Do I need to raise the blue flag? A call for oxygen to the gasps of the cyanotic for fluids to the cold and unperfused vasodilated in vicious cycle by a circulating enemy?

Or can I move with caution the yellow flag yielding more time, for more information, to gather blood or peer through bone and increase my certainty of the origin of this war?

By the end of this day, the white flag is raised half-mast, perhaps… to one lost in the fight wounded beyond victory despite the protection of a doctor fully surrendered.

Aaron Michael McGuffin, M.D.
Poem published in the February 2012 Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

Photo by MUSOM graphic designer David Kendall.

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