



## **2016 FACULTY AWARD WINNERS**

### **Rural Preceptor of the Year Award**

*Kimberly R. Becher, M.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Family Medicine*

### **Excellence in Mentoring Award**

*Dilip Nair, M.D.  
Professor  
Department of Family Medicine*

### **Excellence in Leadership Award**

*Gary O. Rankin, Ph.D.  
Professor and Vice Dean  
Basic Sciences*

### **Most Published Department Award**

*Department of Orthopaedic Surgery*

## FACULTY IMPACT AWARD

A Faculty Impact Award has been established to recognize Faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. The individual Faculty member should have brought distinction to him/herself and to JCESOM in several areas, including but not limited to:

**Teaching & Mentoring:** the primary mission of JCESOM is to produce medical students who are well-versed in the basic and clinical sciences, and they continue to excel in their post-graduate work. To achieve this function requires not only the devoted participation of the Faculty, but also necessitates the presence of gifted Faculty who can lead and inspire students to achieve the best that is within themselves.

**Scholarship:** In addition to teaching, the JCESOM has an important role in the continued growth and development of the numerous fields associated with human health, ranging from the understanding of the nature of the disease process, how it impacts on the patient and his/her community. This role is carried out by Faculty members who have earned national and international leadership positions in the research of all aspects of human health and disease, and who continue to make important advances in their own fields.

3. **Service:** Although “service” is difficult to assess, the testimonials of colleagues within the Institution and associated outside of the Institution can be evaluated with respect to the role that the Faculty member plays in the academic life of the Institution, in his/her profession, and in the myriad of activities with service to patients and associates.

The first recipient of this new award *currently* serves as Professor of Orthopaedic Traumatology, Professor of Pediatrics, Vice Chairman of Orthopaedic Research, Chairman of the Orthopaedic Research Steering Committee, Medical Director of the Senior Fracture Program, Director of the Marshall Orthopaedics Osteoporosis Clinic, Associate Editor for the WV Medical Journal and Associate Editor for the Marshall Journal of Medicine.

This faculty member has been the driving force behind the scholarly achievement in his department as is evidenced by the departmental award for Most Published.

He has been named Top Doctor in Orthopaedics by Castle Connolly and this month was honored by the governor of WV with the Distinguished Mountainer Award.

With great pleasure we recognize Dr. Franklin Shuler as the inaugural recipient of this award.



## DEANS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL CARE

This award recognizes one clinical faculty member who demonstrates exemplary patient-oriented services and conscientiously responds to the compelling needs of our community.

This year's recipient currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, MS1 Course Director, MS2 Course Director, MSIV Course Director, Medical Director of Clinical Skills, Director of Family Medicine Interest Group, Faculty mentor for Rural Family Medicine Scholar Program, Reviewer for the Marshall Journal of Medicine, serves on the Board of Directors for School of Medicine Alumni Association, and participates in the Marshall Medical Outreach program.

This physician is described in her nomination letter as often being one of the first to arrive at the office each morning, checking results and tasks and reading charts for upcoming patient appointments that day. She is never afraid to put in the time extra time and effort to provide excellent care for her patients; whether that means calling to check on them, making house calls or organizing an 8 hour office visit so that a large family can have all of their children seen the same day.

One of her patients provided the following statement:

This physician in no way gives just typical care to her patients. She makes calls herself, time and time again. She works my kids in so that they aren't terrified at the walk in clinic. She gets referrals for all the specialists we need. She makes new referrals when the first ones don't work. She is a face that our kids know is friendly and they love her.

Her department chair indicates that her student and resident evaluations are consistently rated in the highest category of approval in all aspects of teaching, including attitude, knowledge and availability.

Medical student comments include:

I had the privilege of working with her on my hospital week at the start of my family rotation. She is extremely hard working and has very high expectations of her students and rightfully so. She teaches at any given opportunity and leads by example. I learned so much from her both in terms of medical knowledge as well as bedside manner.

....what makes her special is the way her patients speak about her --- on numerous occasions throughout my rotations I have had the immense joy of listening to her patients speak about her.

Simply put, she's one of the best teachers I have ever had and will probably ever have and I consider myself extremely lucky to have been able to learn so much from the best.

One of her residents comments include:

She "strives for excellence in patient care ....during my month on family medicine hospital service, we had countless admissions and many sleepless nights. Despite the volume of patients, she was always adamant about ensuring that each patient's list of needs and problems were covered. She does not settle for a cookie cutter admission and problem list. She ensures that each patient's plan of care is individualized and that during their admission to the hospital they receive the best care possible. I give this example of an in-patient experience, but this is seen just as easily during outpatient clinic. She considers each aspect of the patient's life from physical to emotional, when developing the plan for her patients.

Thank you, Dr. Adrienne Mays, for your commitment to excellence in clinical care.

Well done, and congratulations!



## DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

This award recognizes and rewards faculty who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to educational excellence and have sustained a compelling record of excellence in teaching and learning.

The recipient of this award currently serves as Associate Professor of Surgery, and Residency Program Director of Surgery.

His love for teaching transcends across the medical education continuum. He has served as a mentor for first and second years and in this capacity exposes them to early clinical experience as a plastic surgeon. Those students interested in a career in surgery will seek him for advice as to how to better their residency application. He presents a wound healing lecture to students in the surgery clerkship. Fourth year students often rotate through his plastic surgery elective or spend time with him during the surgery sub-internship. He also welcomes visiting students who are interested in surgery residency.

As the surgery program director he has implemented many educational changes. Because of his efforts, substantial progress has been made in changing the culture of education throughout the Department of Surgery. He has set a standard of excellence and motivates each team member to strive for excellence daily.

Resident comments include:

- \* With the input of residents he has consistently raised the standard each year. He is helping to shape a new era of surgical education.
- \* He not only leads an exceptionally busy clinical practice, but he also devotes a significant amount of his time to improving the residency program and the residents. Since the beginning as our Residency Program Director he has had a clear vision of the type of residency he would like to build and taken strong steps to incorporate his ideas. He has redesigned our educational conferences, our clinical rotations and the career development of residents. He takes a dedicated interest in the personal development of each resident. Through his devotion to improving the residency program as well as the surgical residents he exemplifies true leadership.
- \* He puts time and effort into making sure his residents are succeeding to the best of their abilities. He is a great motivator and is always willing to stand up and recognize residents for their hard work.
- \* He holds himself accountable and is extremely passionate about what he does and the success of his residents.

Thank you, Dr. Farid Mozaffari, for your commitment to excellence in education.  
Well done, and congratulations!



## DEANS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH

### Basic Science Research:

This award recognizes faculty members who have made significant and long-lasting research contributions that have advanced the fields of biomedical, behavioral, clinical, or medical research.

The recipient of this award currently serves as Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Research Cluster Coordinator. Her career in research encompasses nearly 3 decades. She has published more than 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals and 7 book chapters.

She has presented her research at more than 120 national and international meetings.

She has been invited to present her work all around the country and the world including seminars in India, The Netherlands, and France. She has also chaired sessions at national and international conferences.

She has been Guest Co-Editor and Guest Editor for 2 scientific journals and is currently an Associate Editor for the Marshall Journal of Medicine. She is a Reviewer for more than 20 scientific journals.

Her work is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and NASA. She reviews grants for the NIH, the AHA, the Veterans Affairs Administration, and other institutions.

She is currently a standing member of an NIH-NHLBI study section and a member of the AHA Great Rivers Research Committee.

As the Evaluation Coordinator for the NIH funded WV-INBRE program she is responsible for the evaluation of this statewide program. She also serves as research mentor for one of the INBRE funded major research award investigators, Dr. James Walters, at Bluefield State College. Dr. Walters is conducting a cardiovascular research project in zebrafish, and she has been an excellent mentor for him.

Her department chair describes her as one of the most active and productive researchers at the medical school.

Her laboratory has shown that oxidants such as hydrogen peroxide induce inflammation and alter adipose differentiation, which plays a role in several diseases including obesity.

She has also shown the beneficial effects of exercise in lowering atherosclerotic lesions in mice by upregulating antioxidant enzymes such as catalase in the arteries.

Her long term interest include the dysfunction of adipose tissue during the aging process.

Her lab investigates the role of epigenetic regulators and RNA regulatory mechanisms with the goal of shedding light onto the causes that lead to age-related diseases and identify targets to treat them. Findings from her studies could potentially have a significant impact on human health in our communities and around the world.

Work performed in her laboratory over the past 20 years has led to groundbreaking discoveries in the mechanisms of pain in endometriosis. Her clinical studies have shown the beneficial effects of antioxidant therapy (Vitamin E and C) in lowering pain associated with endometriosis.

Her laboratory in collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Marshall University Joan C Edwards School of Medicine is currently working to better understand the mechanisms behind endometriosis associated pain with the hope of uncovering more effective treatment.

Since endometriosis increases the risk of ovarian cancer she is studying the role of peritoneal microenvironment on endometriosis related ovarian cancer.

Dr. Nalini Santanam, thank you for your commitment to excellence in basic science research. Well done, and congratulations!

