



Faculty Mentor Matching Initiative

JOAN C. EDWARDS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Starting out as a new faculty member can feel overwhelming, especially the idea of not knowing what you don't know—about teaching, research, clinical care, achieving tenure and promotion, and about life in general at JCESOM.

Mentoring has long been recognized as an effective method for new faculty to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors for their academic responsibilities, especially those that are institution-specific. As the demands made on new faculty and the need to integrate more quickly have increased, the idea of a mentor-matching initiative has emerged as an efficient and valuable way for new faculty to come up-to-speed.

This new faculty initiative was piloted in Fall 2012. The initiative is based on the premise that no single individual can possess all of the experience and expertise that a new faculty member needs in order to plan and develop a successful career. Instead, a collection of “mentoring partners” assists each other in nonhierarchical, collaborative, cross-cultural partnerships, each contributing according to his or her own knowledge and experience. The initiative is volunteer, peer driven, and its activities are determined by the real-time needs of new faculty. The faculty mentors highlighted in this publication are colleagues with significant professional experience, and are willing to support new faculty members in navigating their early careers.

This publication will be revised annually. If you wish to participate in our bi-annual new faculty orientation and volunteer as a peer mentor to our incoming junior faculty, please submit your updated CV to rockel6@marshall.edu.

PIER PAOLO CLAUDIO, M.D., Ph.D.



Pier Paolo Claudio, M.D., Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Surgery. His early research focused on understanding the

molecular mechanisms governing malignant transformation that could help design tailored anticancer therapeutic strategies. Toward this end, he has carried out in the past 20 years studies to understand the crosstalk between factors that contribute to cancer progression versus those that protect from it.

While on the Temple University faculty, Dr. Claudio expanded his research to develop a novel delivery system for safer gene therapy protocols that employ ultrasound contrast agents to deliver therapeutic genes to diseased tissue. The ability to incorporate drugs or genes into detectable site-targeted nanosystems represented a new paradigm in therapeutics (also known as theranostics) that his laboratory continues to explore as a therapeutic alternative that will usher in an era of image-based drug delivery. Since joining the Marshall faculty in 2006, he has implemented the ultrasound-guided gene therapy system with the aid of two NIH grants, seeking to determine its effectiveness in delivering therapeutics to prostate and pancreatic cancers. He also explores the effects of dietary products on cancer, focusing on the effects that various diet components have on cancer growth and metastasis. Recent observations indicate that, in several types of human cancer, a subset of cancer cells behaves similarly to stem cells. The capacity of these cells to self-renew and differentiate into heterogeneous, aberrant progeny makes them capable of both initiating tumor growth in animals and repairing tumors after chemotherapy. These studies are providing important mechanistic insight that in the future could translate into simple dietary changes during the course of anticancer treatments. Dr. Claudio has published more than 100 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and written 13 book chapters on cancer therapeutics, and he is the editor of four books on cancer.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Swimming.

FAMILY:

Married, with two children, two dogs, and two cats.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

The collegiality of the faculty and the opportunity of a path to success. The Marshall University School of Medicine has been a tremendous environment for me to grow and express my capabilities. I am grateful for the opportunity that has unraveled in front of me.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

The opportunities to teach and work with students and to develop new research projects involving graduate and undergraduate students are my primary reasons for seeking an academic career. One of my major goals as a science educator of Ph.D. students as well as of future medical doctors is to demonstrate the relevance of cancer biology and its connection to medicine.

I believe that by piquing students' curiosity, they will be motivated to learn more about biology and medicine on their own. I have dedicated my time to encourage and train my students and other group members to reach their highest potential. As an adviser, I strive to instill my students with a powerful sense of independence. While I strongly believe in providing sufficient assistance and resources, I emphasize the necessity to engage in excellence in training and autonomous research. Thus, I significantly push students to maximize their potential by leading novel and innovative projects.

I feel that it is extremely rewarding for me to see students succeed. Most of the students that I mentored occupy now high-profile positions either in the industry or in Academia. It is important to me to be able to pass on the knowledge I have accumulated during the years of my training to future healthcare givers and scientists because I look at them as my legacy.

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PIYALI DASGUPTA, Ph.D.



Dr. Dasgupta is a tenure-track professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Toxicology. Originally from India, she arrived at Marshall University after completing

postdoctoral fellowships at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, N.Y., and the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Fla. During her postdoctoral fellowship, she discovered that nicotine could prevent the death of non-small cell cancer cells induced by chemotherapeutic drugs.

After her postdoctoral fellowship, Dr. Dasgupta joined JCESOM in August 2007. At the present time, studies in Dr. Dasgupta's laboratory examine how components of tobacco can promote the progression of lung cancer. Nicotine is the major active and addictive component of cigarette smoke. Specifically, her research focuses on how nicotine can facilitate the growth and metastasis of small cell lung cancers. She is also part of the Nutrition and Cancer Center at Marshall University and investigates the anti-cancer activity of capsaicin (the active ingredient of chili peppers) in lung cancer. Dr. Dasgupta is the recipient of several extramural grants from the NIH, Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute and the PhRMA Foundation.

Dr. Dasgupta is a member of several prestigious scientific associations like the American Society for Investigative Pathology, American Association of Cancer Research and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. She was the only junior investigator selected nationally to receive the ASPET-Astellas Award from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in 2009. Marshall University has honored her with the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award (MU-DASA) in 2009 and the John and Francis Rucker Graduate Faculty Award in 2010. She has over 20 peer-reviewed publications, most as first author, in acclaimed journals including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and *Cancer Research*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Martial arts, fitness, reading.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

Excellent leadership, great colleagues, great work environment.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

Nobody can be successful alone. You are helped by your mentors, so it is important you help the next generation of researchers so that the research program becomes stronger and better.

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BEVERLY C. DELIDOW, PH.D.



Dr. Beverly C. Delidow is the coordinator of the Cancer Biology Research Cluster, Biomedical Sciences Program. She is an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and

Microbiology, specializing in the study of the Wnt signaling pathway in melanoma.

Dr. Delidow earned both her Bachelor of Science degree in zoology, with honors, and her Master of Science in biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She earned her Ph.D. in physiology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Her post-doctoral training included a year as a Best Fellow, studying insulin-like growth factor-I expression in the ovary (Banting and Best, Department of Medical Research, University of Toronto). She also obtained further training in molecular biology studying the regulation of rat ovarian granulosa cell proliferation and proto-oncogene expression (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Connecticut Health Center), and the regulation of prolactin gene expression in rat pituitary tumor cell lines (Dept. of Anatomy, University of Connecticut Health Center).

Dr. Delidow joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1993. In 1999, she received the Marshall University Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award, Junior Recipient in All Fields.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Photography
Creative writing (short fiction, novels, poetry)
Cooking
Bird watching
Rose Gardening

FAMILY:

I have a dog and two cats.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

The opportunity to become part of a program that was growing and evolving.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

Because you never know when it can make a huge difference to someone.

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MEHIAR EL-HAMDANI, M.D.



Dr. Mehiar El-Hamdani, associate professor of medicine, is a native of Tripoli, Libya, where he completed medical school at Tripoli University in 1989 with an M.B.B.Ch. degree. He completed

four years of training in obstetrics and gynecology in Tripoli, after which he moved to the United States and completed internal medicine training at Marshall University in 1999.

Dr. El Hamdani joined the department of Internal Medicine as a faculty member until December 2003, when he began training in cardiovascular medicine and interventional cardiology at Marshall. During his tenure in the Department of Internal Medicine, he was chair of the Curriculum Committee, member of the Residents' Evaluation Committee and served as a clerkship director. During that time he also attained multiple teaching awards. Dr. El-Hamdani received the certificate of Master Educator from the Academy of Medical Educators Program at Marshall University.

After completing his cardiovascular and interventional cardiology training he joined the department of Cardiovascular Medicine, where he was appointed associate program director of internal medicine in August 2008, and later the program director in September 2011.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Soccer, music.

FAMILY:

Very blessed to have such a family: Nesreen A. BenHamed, spouse, faculty in endocrinology. Successful children: three boys and one daughter, two in college and two in high school.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

I came as an internal medicine resident and felt engaged and welcomed. JCESOM and Huntington are a family and home to me.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

Self-reward

Self-satisfaction

Hope to have positive impact on people that eventually will reach to different communities.

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ADAM M. FRANKS, M.D.



Adam M. Franks, M.D., is an associate professor and associate residency director of the Department of Family and Community Health. Born at Cabell Huntington Hospital, he received

his undergraduate degree in the Fifth Yeager Scholar Class at Marshall University, where he also received his medical degree. During his third year of medical education, he completed the Marshall Primary Care Curriculum, a longitudinal clinical year with the Family Medicine Department. This led to acceptance into the Accelerated Program, allowing the simultaneous completion of his fourth year of medical school and intern year of his family medicine residency. In addition to receiving the Bertha Lake Polan award for the highest GPA in his medical school class, he was inducted into the medical honorary Alpha Omega Alpha and voted the most “Outstanding Resident” in his class for all three years of his residency. After his residency, he attained his CAQ of Advanced Maternal Care and Surgical Obstetrics at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

Dr. Franks has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Family Medicine since 2002 with an office situated in Lavalette, W.Va. His unique training allows him to see a diverse outpatient population with

specific emphasis on obstetrics, pediatrics and procedures. The hospital also finds prominence in Dr. Franks’ schedule, both on the Family Medicine service and Labor and Delivery. He has been the Family Medicine section chief at Cabell Huntington Hospital since 2011. Enjoying teaching, he is a graduate of the Academy of Medical Educators. He has been involved in mentoring both students and residents, leading to teaching awards both at Tennessee and Marshall universities, including the 2012 Rural Preceptor of the Year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Scout leader, soccer coach, church elder and supportive dad. I also enjoy music and movies.

FAMILY:

Married since 1995. Two sons and a daughter spaced evenly every three years.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

Having lived in Huntington since I was 5 years old, I have always realized what a wonderful community Marshall can be. The JCESOM and specifically the Family Medicine program have been instrumental in developing me into a unique physician.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

Being there to experience the joy of a young medical student as they first learn the intricacies of medicine allows me to remember the wonder and excitement I felt in their position.

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TRACY L. LEGROW, Psy.D.



Dr. Tracy LeGrow is the associate dean for academic affairs and an associate professor. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Vermont. She completed a

master's degree at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and spent the next 15 years working as a school psychologist in upstate New York and Northern New Hampshire. Dr. LeGrow completed a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology and Deafness at the Rochester Institute of Technology, home of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf during this time.

Dr. LeGrow returned to school to complete her doctorate in clinical psychology at Marshall University and has been working in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine for the past seven years. Dr. LeGrow is a co-instructor in both the behavioral medicine and psychopathology courses. She served as the psychiatry clerkship director for two years and continues to teach in both the psychiatry and obstetrics and gynecology clerkships. Dr. LeGrow is a graduate of the Academy of Medical Educators.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Reading, camping, cooking.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

I started working here as a graduate assistant in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health when I was working on my doctorate. I found the people there and throughout the school to be very warm and welcoming. When I completed my internship, I returned to work here as a full-time faculty member. I continue to find that there are many opportunities here to grow and develop within one's profession.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

For me, the mentors in my life have always been the ones who have taught me about all the "unwritten" rules for success. They have challenged and supported me throughout my career and my life in general. I would like to be able to offer the same to others.

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GERALD MCKINNEY, M.D., F.A.C.S.



Dr. Gerald McKinney is director of the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery, a general and advanced laparoscopic surgeon, and assistant professor at the JCESOM. He received a bachelor of science

degree in chemistry from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., and a medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. He was a laparoscopic fellow at Texas Institute of Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery Training, Patrick Reardon, M.D., F.A.C.S., director, and was chief resident at Morehouse School of Medicine.

He is the principal investigator in a research project studying BMI and the success rate of antireflux procedures.

Dr. McKinney recently developed a comprehensive simulation lab that includes inanimate, animate and cadaveric training for resident surgical training in advanced minimally invasive surgery. He is a member of the Academy of Medical Educators.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

I have a love of music of all types with a particular interest in modern jazz and I play the piano, guitar and bass guitar. I also love sports and I am current training for a triathlon.

FAMILY

I am married to Shawn Avril McKinney, MD who is a board certified breast oncologist with the Joan C. Edwards Comprehensive Cancer center and we have three children; Simone Angelique age 9, Sinclair Alexandria age 7, and Josiah Russell age 5.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

JCESOM has provided my wife and I excellent opportunities to develop our practice in the our respective interests while giving us the chance to share our knowledge and growth with the institution as well as the community.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

I believe that giving back as a mentor is very important because it can help provide a path of least resistance. As someone that has traveled the road that students and residents are traversing, we can give them insight to the pitfalls and obstacles that they may face. I believe that this can lead to a more focused development of the students and residents, potentially leading to better outcomes in their grades and growth.

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BOBBY MILLER, M.D.



Bob Miller, M.D., is associate professor and associate chair for education of the Department of Pediatrics. He is a member of the Division of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Miller

received his medical degree from Marshall University School of Medicine where he completed a combined internal medicine/pediatrics residency. He then completed a three-year fellowship in neonatal/perinatal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Dr. Miller is involved in graduate medical education at the national level by serving on several committees for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Miller's clinical and research interests focus on neonatal nutrition and biomedical ethics. Dr. Miller is board certified in general pediatrics and has completed subspecialty certification in neonatal perinatal medicine.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Hobby farm, wine making, goats, Marans chickens, travel and cooking.

FAMILY:

Partner Eric Hardin.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

Love the family-type environment and it was nice to be close to home.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

We all struggle with the difficulties that are inherent in caring for patients; what better way to improve the world than to make the path a little easier for those who come after us.

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EDUARDO PINO, M.D.



Eduardo Pino, a native of Cuba, is a summa cum laude graduate of San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He served his transitional internship at Arecibo Regional

Hospital in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, followed by his first pediatric year at Affiliated Hospitals, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, and completed his residency at the JCESOM where he was chief resident. He also received subspecialty training in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, Fla.

At the JCESOM, Pino is associate professor of pediatrics. He is also medical director of Clinical Transformation at Cabell Huntington Hospital, and medical director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Cabell.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

Cooking and eating, running, skiing.

FAMILY:

Wife Nola; daughter Angela, 22; son Anthony, 17, one dog.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO JCESOM?

After completing training at JCESOM, there was an opportunity to continue working with the same enthusiastic, dedicated people who trained me.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AS A MENTOR?

Most of us did not have a dedicated mentor “growing up” in our profession. The ability to have one will make it easier to learn from our successes and failures. The payback for me is seen in the accomplishments of the mentee.

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