NOTES FEBRUARY 2006
THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Department of Internal Medicine Receives Gift to Enhance the Heart Center

The VCU Heart Center has recently received a $5 million gift from the Pauley Foundation. Stanley and Dorothy Pauley’s pledge will be used to help the university recruit more cardiology specialists and to further the institution’s goal of keeping up with the rapidly changing technology needed to treat heart disease.

Stanley Pauley is the chair and CEO of Carpenter Company, and his relationship with VCU is notable in many ways. He is a long-time supporter of VCU, a trustee of the School of Engineering Foundation and a member of the VCU Founder’s Society. As a patient at the Heart Center, Mr. Pauley was impressed with the dedication and care for people shown by the entire staff.

“We are fortunate to have a faculty comprised of gifted physician-educators, many of whom are internationally recognized,” said Dr. George Vetrovec, chair of the Cardiology Division. “Additional funding will allow us to retain and expand our faculty and staff. The gift and the associated naming makes us one of a distinct few named Academic Heart Centers particularly with this type of support.”

“We are thrilled to share in the Pauley Foundation’s generosity,” said Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. “It is the generous philanthropy of friends that helps the Department move from national prominence to preeminence.”

In recognition of the gift, the Heart Center will be renamed the Pauley Heart Center.

Faculty Publications


Wendy Klein, MD, Leads Women’s Health Conference

This year’s Women’s Health Conference, the largest of its kind on the East Coast, will take place April 21–23 in Norfolk, Virginia. The multidisciplinary meeting was sold out the last four years and has moved to a larger venue this year at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

“Women’s Health 2006: Translating Research into Practice” is designed to provide physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals with a broad range of topics relevant to women’s health across the lifespan. The program includes a host of expert speakers from around the country, including Sandra Swain of the National Cancer Institute, Jacques Rossouw of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Peter Schmidt of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Rosaly Correa of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and JoAnn Manson of Harvard and PI on the Women’s Health Initiative.

This year’s agenda features a special session devoted to Bone Health and includes the Department of Internal Medicine’s Diane Bulobing, as well as other leaders in the field, including John Bilezikian of Columbia, Eric Orwoll of Oregon Health Sciences University and Theresa Guise of UVA. There will also be an optional practicum for the experienced clinician, using surrogate patients to refine physical examination skills. Course Director Wendy Klein, MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Obstetrics Gynecology and Senior Deputy Director of the VCU Institute for Women’s Health, said, “The success of this conference can be measured by the fact that participants return year after year. We really strive to provide the highest caliber of evidence-based medicine and cutting edge science, in order to enhance care.”

The conference is sponsored by the VCU Institute for Women’s Health, one of only 20 National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health designated by the Department of Health and Human Services. The institute coordinates VCU’s resources in women’s health by building collaborative relationships within the university and throughout the region to improve clinical care, health education, leadership development and research in women’s health.

Additional conference details are available at www.womenshealth.vcu.edu/wb2006.

Department of Internal Medicine Celebrates Magnet Status Award

The VCU Health System has recently been designated as a Magnet Health System by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The Magnet Recognition Program was developed to recognize healthcare organizations that provide the very best in nursing care. The VCU Health System joins an elite group of about 200 healthcare organizations worldwide that have received this recognition.

“It is truly an honor to be named a Magnet Hospital,” said Lauren Goodloe, RN, PhD, Director of Medical and Pediatric Nursing and Assistant Dean for Clinical Operations, VCU School of Nursing. “It is a testament to the embodiment of our mission in that the VCU Medical Center is the best place for nurses to work and therefore the best place for our patients to receive care, the best place for the conduct of research and evidence-based practice and the best place to educate students. A great part of what we are able to accomplish is because of our outstanding working relationships with our physician colleagues, without the kind of mutual respect and teamwork that we share, none of this would be possible. Magnet is not a destination, it is an ongoing journey as we continue to raise the bar every day.”

Dr. Richard F. Wenzel, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, said, “We are pleased to recognize the health system’s achievement and our close partnership with an outstanding nursing team at VCU.”

Magnet Status will definitely give us the edge in recruiting and retaining the top healthcare professionals in this market. It is a designation that is difficult to achieve, and there are 63 criteria and 500 pieces of evidence needed for the application. According to the Magnet credentialing center, research has shown that “high quality nurses is one of the most important attributes in attracting high quality physicians.” Therefore, achieving this status creates a positive “halo” effect beyond the nursing services department that permeates the entire healthcare team.

 Residents Share Top Honors at ACP

At the 2006 Virginia American College of Physicians (ACP) Associates Meeting, Antonio Abbate, MD, received top honors for his abstract presentation, “Cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition in an experimental model of post infarction remodeling in the mouse.” Dr. Abbate, a second-year categorical resident, will now compete at this year’s ACP Annual Session in Philadelphia.

In addition, the following Internal Medicine Residents were selected as finalists and will be competing in the poster competition at the Annual Session: Paul Arnold, MD (“Fatal cardiac arrhythmia in a patient with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura”), Khoi B. Do, MD (“False positive Aspergillus galactomannan in an AIDS patient with histoplasmosis”), Sarah Beth Harrington, MD (“Cardiac metastases from metastatic melanoma”), Jenny O. Smith, MD (“Autoimmune hepatitis: Not just for the middle-aged female”), and Susan Wolter, MD (“Irreversible lactic acidosis caused by undiagnosed, fulminating, large B-cell lymphoma”).

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