Focus on Outpatient Clinic Activities

Effective May 1st, the Department of Internal Medicine announced the appointment of Dr. Mitchell Shiffman as Associate Chair for Outpatient Clinic Activities. The newly created position focuses on improving efficiencies in the clinic and standardizing practice policies which will allow for substantially increased responses to our clinic demands.

Dr. Shiffman’s leadership experience, his outstanding achievements as the Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Program, and directorship of the Hepatology Section of the Division of Gastroenterology made him a natural choice for the position.

During his tenure in the Department, both programs have experienced a tremendous growth in patient volume and scientific accomplishments. Dr. Shiffman, considered one of the leading hepatologists in the nation, played a critical role in providing an environment where cutting-edge technology and state-of-the-art treatment can be provided to patients.

Dr. Shiffman plans to review the entire outpatient clinical practice for all divisions and to provide data to help the faculty. “We have enormous demand for the services,” said Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc, chairman of the Department.

Division of Hematology/Oncology Receives Awards

In June, Dr. Thomas Smith, chair of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, was awarded the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) “Statesman Award” for 20 years of outstanding service to ASCO. He also received the Medical College of Virginia Foundation’s Robert Irby MD Award this year for philanthropic service to the foundation and VCU.

In May, the Division was given the Hematology/Oncology News International HOPE Small Practice Leadership Award for rural cancer outreach. Rural cancer outreach saves resources and increases VCUHS oncology referrals by 330% from rural areas and non-oncology referrals by 9%. “We are proud of the many accolades given to the Division of Hematology/Oncology,” said Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc, chair of the Department.
Resident Life: 2008 Graduation and Recognition Ceremony

The Department of Internal Medicine Resident Graduation and Recognition Ceremony was held on May 29, 2008. We honor the faculty members and residents who won the awards this year.

Outstanding Ward Attending:
Lenore Buckley, MD, MPH
Finalist: Todd W.B. Gehl, MD

Outstanding Attending in a Specialty or ICU Setting:
Alpha A. "Terry" Fowler, III, MD
Finalist: Marjolein de Wit, MD

Faculty Excellence in Teaching:
Antonius Abata, MD, Daniel E. Bechard, MD, Lisa Brath, MD, Stephanie A. Call, MD, MD, MPH, and Frank Fulco, MD

Excellence in Teaching by a Non-Physician Educator:
Patricia Fulco, Pharm.D

Most Skilled CPC Diagnostician:
Richard F. Wenzel, MD, MSc

Orhan Muren, MD Award for Outstanding Fellow:
Betsy Klemper, MD

Housestaff Diagnostician Award:
Bo Chao, MD, MS, and Robin Sharp, MD

Michael Wayne Riffert, MD Award for the Outstanding Intern:
Sofia M. Shea, MD

Outstanding Junior Resident:
Reena H. Hemrajani, MD, and Huzeefah Syed, MD, MPH

Higgins Award for the Outstanding Senior Resident:
Karen A. Burch, MD

Arthur Klein, MD Memorial Award (for the Internal Medicine house officer chosen by his or her peers who best demonstrates the healing values of carefully listening to patients and explaining):
Karen A. Burch, MD

Scholar’s Prize (for excellence in scholarship during residency):
Bo Chao, MD, MS

Medicine Faculty Award (for uncompromising intellectual and personal commitment to the art and science of medicine):
Darryn L. Appleton, MBChB

Excellence in Teaching Award (for demonstration of outstanding teaching skills and commitment to the education of others):
Darryn L. Appleton, MBChB

NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has implemented an award mechanism that is designed to facilitate the transition from postdoctoral research to a stable independent research position. This award mechanism is the K99/R00.

The K99 consists of two phases. The first phase provides one to two years of mentored support for highly promising, postdoctoral research scientists. The second phase follows with up to three years of independent support contingent upon securing an independent tenure track (or equivalent) position.

Who is eligible? Outstanding postdoctoral candidates who have a clinical or research doctorate (including MD, PhD, DO, or equivalent) are eligible. Candidates must have no more than five years of postdoctoral research training at the time of application.

How much support is available? Total cost for phase one (K99) should not exceed $90,000. Candidates are required to commit a minimum of 75% effort during the mentored phase. Total cost for phase two (R00) may not exceed $249,000 per year. This amount includes salary, fringe benefits, research support allowance and applicable indirects. The applicant is required to devote 75% of their effort to research.

Please note that the transition from the mentored phase to the independent investigator phase is not automatic and is subject to review of the awardee’s research training/career development and an evaluation of the materials submitted in support of the R00 application.

For more information, please go to the following link:

Questions may be directed to Cindy Kinney, Associate Administrator, at clancyey@mcvh-vcu.edu

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


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