Dr. Mary Nettleman Accepts a New Position

Mary Nettleman, M.D., professor and chair of the division of General Medicine, has recently accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Medicine in the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University in Lansing.

A Vanderbilt graduate, Dr. Nettleman joined the faculty at the Medical College of Virginia of VCU in 1996. Dr. Nettleman is a superior clinician, scholar and teacher. She has been mentor and advisor to numerous students and fellows of Medicine. She enjoys a reputation for personal integrity, respect for her students and colleagues, and exemplary professionalism.

“Mary is a natural mentor and role model for young physicians. I have always been impressed with her vision and leadership,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. “Her career will undoubtedly flourish no matter where she goes. We wish her well and will miss her here at VCU.”

Introducing the New Chief Residents

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Dr. Georgia McIntosh

Born in Memphis, Alan W. Dow, M.D., moved to Greenville, Delaware at age 14. He majored in cognitive science at the University of Virginia where he met his very charming and very patient wife, Tara. He ventured out to the Midwest for medical school at Washington University in St. Louis before moving to Richmond for residency. He enjoys doing the New York Times crossword puzzle, using his grill, gardening, and traveling as much as time and money allow. He is a Virginia football season ticket holder and plans to begin work on a Masters of Health Administration this year.

Dr. Dennis Wisted

Georgia N. McIntosh, M.D., was born and raised on the outskirts of Washington D.C. In continuance with her family’s tradition, she attended Howard University and graduated with a B.S. in Biology in 1996. She later attended medical school at The Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania, concentrating her free time on community outreach programs and mentoring minority high school students interested in the medical profession. Georgia matched in the VCU Internal Medicine Residency Program and has enjoyed her residency training in the categorical track. After her chief residency year, she plans to continue her training in Infectious Diseases. In her spare time, Georgia and her fiancé, Chris, enjoy biking and reading literature of the Harlem Renaissance.

Edmond P Wickham, III, M.D. ("Trey"), a Richmond native, obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in Environmental Science before receiving his medical degree from VCU. He remained at VCU where he completed a combined residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. During this time, he was a member of the hospital ethics committee and a co-instructor for an evidence-based medicine resident lecture series. Also during his residency, he married his wife, Jennifer, who has a graduate degree in urban planning and historic preservation. Trey enjoys listening to live music, playing guitar and mandolin, and running. He plans to pursue a career in academic medicine after completing his chief residency.

Dennis D. Wisted, M.D., was born and raised with his three younger brothers in Southern New Jersey and is a lifelong fan of Philadelphia’s professional sports teams. Shortly after arriving at The College of William and Mary in 1992, he met his future wife, Allison. The couple married in 2000. Dennis graduated in 1996 with a B.S. in Chemistry and in 2000 received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Following medical school, Dennis returned to Virginia for residency training in Internal Medicine at VCU. After completing his chief residency, he hopes to practice General Internal Medicine in the Richmond area.
Betty Anne Johnson Named Interim Chair of General Medicine

Upon Dr. Mary Nettleman’s departure to Michigan State University, Dr. Betty Anne Johnson is assuming the duties of interim chair of General Medicine. Equipped with an M.D. from Harvard and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Iowa, Dr. Johnson joined the faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine in 1985 and rose to the rank of Professor in 2000. During this time, she has been a busy clinician and administrator as well as engaging in clinical research and teaching.

She has been Director of Student Health for the University since 1987 and contributed significantly to the field of college health through her clinical research efforts in screening for sexually transmitted diseases and TB. She has also provided leadership to college health in the areas of quality improvement and accreditation. At VCU, she has created a supportive environment and mentored her staff to enhance their development and expertise. This has resulted in a great number of awards to the VCU Student Health Services in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention.

Dr. Johnson implemented an ambulatory care curriculum that is now a core component of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. She is a recognized leader, always willing to share her expertise with her peers, students and the community. She is a role model for the many students and residents with whom she crosses paths.

“It is a pleasure to have someone with Betty Anne’s personal commitment, intelligence, enthusiasm and efficiency in leadership as a colleague,” said Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Residents in Medicine Apply Compassion and Life-Saving Skills

Katie Bar, M.D., one of our interns, was jogging in Washington, D.C. on the Mall when she came upon a man without a pulse, unresponsive and down on the ground. She gave CPR for approximately 15 minutes, when the EMS arrived to take the man to the hospital. She heard later that the man did well and was discharged from the hospital. Katie was notified that she will receive a “Lifesaver Award” from Washington D.C. in the next two weeks.

Baha Mohseni, M.D., one of our senior residents, responded to a patient with a ventricular tachycardia-related cardiac arrest on a flight from Tehran, Iran. She had to defibrillate the patient, but when she opened the medications cart, all of “code” medications were listed in German – a language she does not speak. However, she managed to distinguish the important drugs, administered the correct ones, and stabilized the patient, who apparently did well.

Both patients were fortunate to have their respective crises in close proximity to a VCU Internal Medicine Resident.

Susie Beirne Accepts New Appointment

Congratulations to Susie Beirne, Director of Clinical Operations, on her appointment as Administrator in the Department of Surgery, which will become effective in July. Susie has been instrumental in the growth of our outpatient practice and billing operations. She began working in the Department of Medicine in November 1987, and since that time our charges and receipts have increased substantially. We will miss Susie but wish her well in her new position.

NEW FUNDING FOR HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY STUDIES

The NIH recently funded Dr. Steven Freer's new grant application titled, “Checkpoint abrogation and MEK 1/2 inhibition in myeloma.” The award is from 5/1/03 to 4/30/07 for $697,500. The goal of this study is to develop a novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of multiple myeloma employing checkpoint abrogators such as UCN-01 in combination with inhibitors of the MEK/12/RAF kinase pathway. Co-investigators are Drs. Paul Dent (Radiation Oncology), Yun Dai (Internal Medicine), and Chris Gının (Biostatistics).

The Department of Defense funded another of Dr. Grant’s applications, “Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor-Based Strategies for Imatinib-Resistant CML.” The award is from 5/1/03 to 5/31/06 for $148,632. The proposal’s main objective is to develop a novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of CML, including patients who initially failed or who no longer respond to imatinib. Dr. Geoffrey Kryscy (Internal Medicine) is a co-investigator, and Dr. Paul Dent (Radiation Oncology) is a consultant.

2003 House Staff Awards

The Annual House Staff Awards Ceremony took place in the Medical Sciences Building Auditorium May 29, 2003. The department honored those faculty members and residents who were voted by the housestaff to be truly the best of the best. Kathy O. Kretzer and Jeanne Schlesinger performed chamber music before the celebration started. Dr. Steven Freer, Director of the Internal Medicine Residency program, led the ceremony, which was followed by an ice cream social.

Best Attending in an ICU or Subspecialty Setting:

Alpfa (Berry) Fowler, M.D., and Andreas Prinz, M.D.

Best Ward Attending:

Mary Helen Hackney, M.D., and Frank Fulco, M.D.

Outstanding Junior Resident:

Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D.

Finalists: J. David Kay, M.D., and Rajeev Pannekar, M.D.

Higgins Award for the Outstanding Senior Resident:

Daniel Carl, M.D.

Finalists: Cathy Grossman, M.D., and Sarah Hellewell, M.D.

Outstanding Junior Resident:

Daniel Carl, M.D.

Finalists: Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D. and Stephen Phillips, M.D.

Excellence in Physical Examination (Bristol-Myers Squibb Award):

David Friedel, M.D.

Outstanding Housestaff Clinician Award:

Pamela Christenson, M.D. and Sarah Hellewell, M.D.

Finalists: Anne Leahy, M.D., and Elizabeth Kleiner, M.D.

Scholar’s Prize:

Daniel Carl, M.D.

Finalists: Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D. and Dennis Waterfall, M.D.

Best Attending in an ICU or Subspecialty Setting:

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