On February 20, 2004, the Department of Internal Medicine held its Celebration of Excellence event at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. 200 people attended including the Dean of the School of Medicine Dr. H.H. Newsome, Director of Patient Care Services Dr. Lauren Goodloe, CEO of MCV Hospitals Mr. John Duvall, and several departmental chairs. Dr. Richard P. Wenzel briefly addressed the meaning of excellence, concluding “I would argue that understanding excellence is to recognize that it is not defined by a single heroic moment of a unique event of huge proportions but instead by the day-to-day pursuit of our best efforts, our highest standards, our unselfish commitment to reach out and help others.”

Awards were presented to the housestaff and faculty members who distinguished themselves through their outstanding work and determination. The list of the awards recipients follows:

**Housestaff**
- Excellence in Leadership: Lisa Ellis, M.D.
- Excellence in Life-Long Learning: Anne Lipke, M.D. and Chinh Nguyen, M.D.
- Excellence in Intern Leadership: Jennifer Perkins, M.D.
- Excellence in Fostering Resident Community: Sammy Pedram, M.D.
- Housestaff Excellence in Teaching: Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D.

**Research**
- Faculty Award for Distinguished Research: Elizabeth B.D. Ripley, M.D.
- John F. Kuemmerle, Jr., M.D.
- Shobha Ghosh, Ph.D.
- Marjolein de Wit, M.D.
- Marta J. luorno, M.D.
- Suzanne R. Lavoie, M.D.
- Richard K. Sterling, M.D.
- Wally R. Smith, M.D.

**Clinical Care**
- Faculty Award for Distinguished Clinical Care: John M. Wilberpoon, M.D.
- Mary Helen Hackney, M.D.
- Todd W.B. Gehr, M.D.
- Donald F. Kirby, M.D.
- Christopher M. Wise, M.D.

**Teaching**
- Distinguished Clinical Teaching: Mark A. Wood, M.D. and Franklin J. Zieve, M.D.
- Distinguished Teaching & Demonstration of Humanistic Qualities: Wade K. Smith, M.D.
- The Art & Science of Clinical Practice Best Attending Physician: Andy G. Proson, M.D. and Leanne M. Yanni, M.D.
Faculty Profile: Dr. Rakesh Kukreja

Dr. Rakesh Kukreja is an outstanding, internationally recognized scientist, a dynamic leader in the field of molecular cardiology, and undoubtedly a star in the Division of Cardiology and the Department of Internal Medicine. He is an expert in the area of free radical injury to the myocardium, oxidative stress, heat shock proteins and delayed preconditioning of cardiovascular system.

Dr. Kukreja has a consistent track record of teaching contributions. In the past few years, he has given Medical Grand Rounds, lectures on women’s health and primary care, and led Board Review courses. This year, he has served as co-preceptor with Dr. Leanne Yarmi in the ACC resident clinic. She serves on the IBH and has participated in clinical research on congesive heart failure. A quintessential internist, she is highly regarded for her ability to care for patients with challenging, complex medical problems. “When I first cross-covered Lynne in the primary care setting, I felt like I was covering an outpatient MRICU! She is a master clinician, always evidence-based in her approach, but with judgments tempered by prudactuality. It is an honor to work side-by-side with her,” said Dr. Betty Anne Johnson, chair of the General Medicine division.

Faculty Profile: F. Lynne Clemo, M.D.

Dr. Lynne Clemo is one of the finest primary care physicians at VCU. She has seamlessly integrated the demands of an extremely busy clinical practice with outstanding teaching and mentoring of health care professionals at all levels.

A graduate of Randolph Macon College and the University of Virginia School of Medicine, she completed her residency at VCU and has been on faculty since 1988. Currently she is among the most productive and accessible providers in the General Medicine Faculty Practice in the Ambulatory Care Center. She has also provided expert care as Assistant Medical Director at VCU’s Student Health Services for over 15 years where she helped found the Travel Medicine Program. At both sites, she is frequently consulted by peers as well as junior faculty. Dr. Clemo’s clinical expertise is widely recognized throughout the Medical Center and University, and her intellect and excellent judgment have won the universal respect and admiration of her colleagues, housestaff and students alike. Dr. Clemo is also the model of the self-less learner. She is a regular at Medical Grand Rounds, stays current with the literature, and analyzes the evidence behind the consensus guidelines and recommendations.

Dr. Clemo has a consistent track record of teaching contributions. In the past few years, she has given Medical Grand Rounds, lectures on women’s health and primary care, and led Board Review courses. This year, she has served as co-preceptor with Dr. Leanne Yarmi in the ACC resident clinic. She serves on the IBH and has participated in clinical research on congestive heart failure. A quintessential internist, she is highly regarded for her ability to care for patients with challenging, complex medical problems. “When I first cross-covered Lynne in the primary care setting, I felt like I was covering an outpatient MRICU! She is a master clinician, always evidence-based in her approach, but with judgments tempered by prudactuality. It is an honor to work side-by-side with her,” said Dr. Betty Anne Johnson, chair of the General Medicine division.

Upcoming Grand Rounds

April 1  “VCU Winners of the ACP-ASIM Associates Day Program”
Emily Delhord, M.D., R3, Arne Lipke, M.D., R2, Chinh Nguyen, M.D., R3, TJ Wallace, M.D., R1

April 8  ANNUAL HUMANITIES LECTURE
“An Affection with Bodies: The Doctor’s Malady”
Michele Respaut, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, French Department, Wellesley College

A distinguished researcher and educator, Dr. Respaut has been published on a variety of topics and her studies currently focus on Literature and Medicine. Several of her articles have appeared in such journals as The French Review, Sites, Literature and Medicine, as well as the MLA publication Teaching Literature and Medicine. Her last publication on Jacques Dutillo’s French film, “Ponette, the Perennial Mourning Child,” was featured in a special issue devoted to Children and Illness in the journal Literature and Medicine.

April 15  “Invasive Candidiasis in the Hospitalized Patient”
Daniel J. Diekema, M.D., M.S.
Associate Professor (Clinical) of Medicine and Pathology

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

April 22  “The High Vascular Risk of Atherogenic Dyslipidemia: Its Comprehensive Management in Coronary Disease”
B. Gregory Brown, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

April 29  “No Free Lunch?”
A Panel Discussion About the Interaction of Physicians and Pharmaceutical Company Representatives in the Academic Setting

Robert Perry, M.D.

Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Professor, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care, Department of Internal Medicine, VCU

May 6  ANNUAL CHARLES THOMAS LECTURE
Organized by the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology
Cornelia M. Weyand, M.D.
Professor, Department of Medicine, Associate Professor, Department of Immunology, Consultant, Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology–Immunology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

May 13  ANNUAL MARKHAM AWARD LECTURE
Organized by the Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care
John M. Witherspoon, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care, Department of Internal Medicine, VCU

May 20  Clinicopathologic Conference: Medicine/Radiology/Pathology

May 27  TBA

Note: Location Change to George Ben Johnston Auditorium

June 3  HOUSESTAFF AWARD CEREMONY

June 10  ANNUAL WILLIAM BLACKARD LECTURE
Organized by the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Grand rounds are held at 12:00 noon in the Medical Sciences Building Auditorium. The calendar is subject to change.
Faculty Profile: Dr. Rakesh Kukreja
(continued from page two)

“Dr. Kukreja’s major contribution has been the foundation of our basic research program,” says Dr. Hess. “He has assumed the responsibility of the laboratories of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology and has continued to lead our group into national and international prominence.” He is a sought-after speaker of many international programs, is well-funded by the NIH, and contributes significantly to peer-reviewed literature. Dr. Kukreja has an established history of extramural funding, with current funding exceeding $4.0 million. He recently invented a new and potentially important use for the male erectile dysfunction drug Viagra. His research has shown that rabbits and mice given Viagra don’t suffer as much heart damage from induced heart attacks as animals that do not receive the drug. This work may lead to future development of a new group of compounds which could be used for both acute and chronic cardioprotective therapy. He is one of the few distinguished scientists who is taking his original “bench work” thought to completion to clinically relevant therapeutics.

Dr. Kukreja has been active as a mentor, having supervised several graduate and post graduate students as part of their training in addition to post doctoral research fellows and cardiology fellows. “Dr. Kukreja is a role model for the dedicated scientist in an academic center,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, Chair of the Department.