Mr. Kenny Johnson, a Williamsburg businessman, has given the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine $1,000,000 in honor of his wife Vickie. Mrs. Johnson has suffered from crippling emphysema for a number of years. Through this gift, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson wish to promote basic research into chromic obstructive pulmonary diseases at the VCU Medical Center. An emphasis will be placed on emphysema. Dr. Alpha (Berry) Fowler, III, chairman of the Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, commented, “The Johnson gift will spark the beginnings of a comprehensive research effort at VCU that will ultimately lead to novel interventional therapies for emphysema.”

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Faculty Profile: Dr. Shaun Ruddy

Dr. Shaun Ruddy, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Internal Medicine, has been a committed academic with a lifetime record of achievement. A Yale graduate, Dr. Ruddy was Associate Professor at Harvard prior to coming to VCU in 1974 when he became Chair of the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, and the Elam C. Toone Professor of Internal Medicine, Microbiology. He has been Professor Emeritus since 2000.

For 25 years, Dr. Ruddy led an NIH-sponsored laboratory that investigated the workings of the Complement System, a sequence of proteins that mediate the inflammatory response. His lab was responsible for the discovery of several of the complement proteins that control inflammation.

In addition to his original research, Dr. Ruddy has been active in his clinical field of rheumatology. He chaired the subspecialty Board for Rheumatology for the American Board of Internal Medicine and was President of the American College of Rheumatology. He continues to enjoy seeing patients and does so both at the Ambulatory Care Center and Stony Point.

He was one of the founding editors of the Textbook of Rheumatology, which is currently in its 7th Edition. It is the leading textbook in its field, translated into a number of different languages. The current edition is interesting because it has an accompanying DVD (not CD-ROM) with streaming videos and extra still images. It also has a new “E-dition,” as the publisher Elsevier, calls it, which is an Internet version that is updated continuously. Dr. Ruddy is the Editor for Electronic Media in the 7th Edition.

Dr. Ruddy is also a co-editor of ACP Medicine, a general textbook of Internal Medicine, formerly known as Scientific American Medicine; it is available as a Web site on the Internet, where it is updated continuously. Other faculty members from our Rheumatology division contributed to that text as well – Dr. Chris Wise contributed three chapters, and Dr. George Mosley contributed the chapter on Sclerosis and related disorders.

Dr. Ruddy also co-edited the Rheumatology Section of the 13th edition of Mosenthal Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP13) for the American College of Physicians, published last year.

Karen Sanders Accepts National VA Position

Effective November 5th, 2004, Dr. Karen Sanders was appointed Acting Chief, Office of Academic Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Dr. Sanders will direct the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), through which VHA conducts the largest coordinated education and training effort for health care professionals in the nation. The office oversees the current and future health trainer workforce of the VA health care system and the nation. VHA has affiliations with over 1,200 educational institutions. Each year, approximately 83,000 students receive clinical training in VA facilities. Through programs in over 30 disciplines, including 107 medical schools, OAA contributes to continued excellence in patient care and to the recruitment and retention of health care staff for the VA. OAA maintains close ongoing relationships with colleges and universities, professional organizations, and accrediting bodies for health education programs. OAA components include the Graduate Medical Education Office, the Associated Health Education Office and the Office of Administrative Operations.

Dr. Sanders comes to her position as Acting Chief after two years of part-time work in OAA overseeing Resident Supervisors Policies and the Graduate Medical Education portfolio. She will be splitting her time between her Richmond and Washington offices.

Dr. Sanders has been a Department of Internal Medicine faculty member since 1985 and currently holds a professorship at the VCU’s division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology.

VCU School of Medicine Teaching Awards 2004

This year, the Irby-James Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching was won by Department of Internal Medicine professor Dr. Robert Adler. Several other departmental faculty members received awards as outstanding teachers in undergraduate medical education.

Best Teacher in the Course and Clerkship Awards

M-I courses:
Lauren Lyckholm, MD
Michael Edmond, MD, MPH

M-II courses:
Andrea Castillo, MD
Robert Downs, Jr, MD
Douglas Herman, MD
Christopher Wise, MD
Todd Gehe, MD

M-III courses:
James Schmitt, MD

M-IV and M-II courses:

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James Schmitt, MD

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Dr. Thomas Smith received the following letter from a breast cancer patient cared for at our Stony Point Office:

"everything is going very well. Slowly my strength is recovering and some side effects are diminishing. I appreciate all the wonderful care you and your staff provided me. You guys set the bar so high, it's hard for these other doctors' offices to compare."

Faculty with High Evaluation Awards

M-I courses:
Wally Smith, MD

M-II courses:
David Gardner, MD
Wade Smith, MD
Michael Edmond, MD
Sarah Monroe, MD
Susan DiGiovanni, MD
Alpha (Berry) Fowler, III, MD
R. Paul Fairman, MD

M-III clerkships:
Lauren Lyckholm, MD
Kevin Cooper, MD
Domenic Sica, MD
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Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, said, “The generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will be a huge stimulus for a major research effort that will ignite creativity and discovery for decades.”

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine Division Accepts Gift for Emphysema Research Center

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