Annual Muren Lectureship Established

On Thursday, December 9, the Department of Internal Medicine initiated the annual Muren Lectureship to honor the legendary teaching of Dr. Orhan Muren. The first speaker for the Muren lecture was Dr. Leonard Hudson, Chairman of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Hudson delivered a state-of-the-art presentation on Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). He is a world authority on ARDS.

Dr. Muren is a native of Turkey. From 1939 to 1945, he attended the University of Istanbul School of Medicine. After serving in the Turkish Army and spending a few years in private practice, Dr. Muren served as a resident in Elizabeth General Hospital, New Jersey. He served as Chief Medical Resident at Lincoln Hospital in New York City, and then entered the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he completed a fellowship in Pulmonary Disease and Tuberculosis. He then completed a fellowship in Cardiology at Howard University.

Dr. Muren came to Virginia in 1958 to serve as a staff physician in the tuberculosis sanitarium, then located on the 10th floor of E.G. Williams (North) Hospital. The unit was not officially a part of MCV, and Dr. Muren was not a faculty member. However, he was frequently consulted by residents on complex patient management issues. Within a year, the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Kinloch Nelson, was familiar with Dr. Muren's reputation and invited him to join the faculty.

In the mid-1960s, MCV Hospital opened its first Respiratory Intensive Care Unit, funded by an NIH grant. The unit is now called the Medical-Respiratory ICU. Dr. Muren was one of the first attending physicians in the new unit and was considered the nation's first intensivist. Dr. Muren has published widely, including one seminal article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1969 that has been cited in other publications over 10,000 times.

Dr. Muren was dedicated to excelling in teaching, clinical diagnosis, and patient care. He received the Best Teacher Award and Outstanding Attending Award 22 consecutive years! He retired in 1991 as Professor Emeritus but remains active in teaching clinics.
Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc.
William Branch Porter Professor and Chairman

Endowed Professorships

Occasionally in the odyssey of life one encounters extraordinary fellow travelers whose love and generosity influence generations of followers and whose gifts arrive unconditionally for great causes. When friends of the Department of Medicine endow professorships or chairs, they chart a path of high standards for our faculty and students. They provide opportunities for unusually gifted professors to pursue their academic passions. Briefly stated, they make a difference.

Very recently, the Department of Medicine has received two endowed professorships: one from Dr. Lewis Baird and family for Innovative Cardiology and a second from Dr. Jane Page for Bioethics and Humanities, named best teacher by the 1999 MCV graduates, was named the first Page Professor.

Endowed professorships are especially important and urgent priorities in the current era of managed care. They help us avoid the distractions created by the bureaucracy of managed care, they keep us focused on the academic mission, and lead to excellence.

As we enter a new century, we also enter a new era in the Department of Internal Medicine: we have institutionalized innovation with the Baird Professorship and have institutionalized bioethics and humanities for the medical students at VCU. Our friends have made a difference.

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc.

Department of Internal Medicine Receives New Endowed Professorship in Bioethics and Humanities

Dr. Jane Page, an alumna of the Medical College of Virginia, wanted to honor the Department of Internal Medicine. Pursuing this end, she was introduced to Dr. Richard P. Wenzel at which time she expressed concerns about the erosion of physician standards and ethics in the managed care era. Dr. Wenzel suggested a way to honor the Department, her late husband Dr. Sidney Page, and take an active part in ensuring high ethical standards would be to establish a professorship.

Thus, through the generosity of Dr. Jane Page and the late Dr. Sidney Page, the Sidney G. Page, Jr. M.D. Professorship of Bioethics and Humanities was established as a permanent endowment. The professorship will support the work of a distinguished clinician in Internal Medicine who also directs the Center for Bioethics and Humanities. With the help of the Page Professorship, the Center’s goal is to emphasize the importance of Bioethics and Humanities in the curriculum and to the medical school as a whole. The Page Professor must also be actively engaged in the care of patients and should serve as a role model for students, residents, and colleagues in the compassionate care of patients.

The first named Page Professor is Laurie Lyckholm, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology. After completing her residency and serving as Chief Resident at Creighton University, Dr. Lyckholm completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at The University of Iowa, and subsequently, she completed another fellowship in medical ethics at The University of Chicago. Since joining the faculty at VCU, she has developed a highly praised course in medical ethics and humanities, and currently serves as the director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities. She also maintains a busy clinical practice, both on the MCV Campus and with the Cancer Outreach Program.

Endowed Professorships

Ocasionaly in the odyssey of life one encounters extraordinary fellow travelers whose love and generosity influence generations of followers and whose gifts arrive unconditionally for great causes. When friends of the Department of Medicine endow professorships or chairs, they chart a path of high standards for our faculty and students. They provide opportunities for unusually gifted professors to pursue their academic passions. Briefly stated, they make a difference.

Very recently, the Department of Medicine has received two endowed professorships: one from Dr. Lewis Baird and family for Innovative Cardiology and a second from Dr. Jane Page for Bioethics and Humanities, named best teacher by the 1999 MCV graduates, was named the first Page Professor.

Endowed professorships are especially important and urgent priorities in the current era of managed care. They help us avoid the distractions created by the bureaucracy of managed care, they keep us focused on the academic mission, and lead to excellence.

As we enter a new century, we also enter a new era in the Department of Internal Medicine: we have institutionalized innovation with the Baird Professorship and have institutionalized bioethics and humanities for the medical students at VCU. Our friends have made a difference.

Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc.

Department of Internal Medicine Receives New Endowed Professorship in Bioethics and Humanities

Dr. Jane Page, an alumna of the Medical College of Virginia, wanted to honor the Department of Internal Medicine. Pursuing this end, she was introduced to Dr. Richard P. Wenzel at which time she expressed concerns about the erosion of physician standards and ethics in the managed care era. Dr. Wenzel suggested a way to honor the Department, her late husband Dr. Sidney Page, and take an active part in ensuring high ethical standards would be to establish a professorship.

Thus, through the generosity of Dr. Jane Page and the late Dr. Sidney Page, the Sidney G. Page, Jr. M.D. Professorship of Bioethics and Humanities was established as a permanent endowment. The professorship will support the work of a distinguished clinician in Internal Medicine who also directs the Center for Bioethics and Humanities. With the help of the Page Professorship, the Center’s goal is to emphasize the importance of Bioethics and Humanities in the curriculum and to the medical school as a whole. The Page Professor must also be actively engaged in the care of patients and should serve as a role model for students, residents, and colleagues in the compassionate care of patients.

The first named Page Professor is Laurie Lyckholm, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology. After completing her residency and serving as Chief Resident at Creighton University, Dr. Lyckholm completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at The University of Iowa, and subsequently, she completed another fellowship in medical ethics at The University of Chicago. Since joining the faculty at VCU, she has developed a highly praised course in medical ethics and humanities, and currently serves as the director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities. She also maintains a busy clinical practice, both on the MCV Campus and with the Cancer Outreach Program.
Dr. Betty Anne Johnson, Associate Professor, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care, and Director of VCU Student Health Services, along with Dr. Richard P. Wenzel, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, announced the appointment of Dr. Betty Anne Johnson as the new Director of VCU Student Health Services. Dr. Johnson brings a wealth of experience in health services administration and has previously served as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the School of Medicine.

Dr. Rakesh Kukreja, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiology, has received a five-year, $1.5 million grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH for a study entitled "Molecular Mechanisms of Pharmacological Preconditioning for the Treatment of Left Ventricular Dysfunction." This grant will support research aimed at understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying the protection of the heart against injury caused by ischemia and reperfusion.

Dr. Geoffrey W. Krystal, Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology, has received a $47,821 grant from the Commonwealth Health Research Board for a study entitled "A Physiologic Study of the Leptin and Gonadotropin Pulsatility in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome." This study will investigate the role of leptin and gonadotropins in the regulation of insulin sensitivity and reproductive function in women with polycystic ovary syndrome.

Dr. Maria Iuorno, Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, has received an A.D. Williams grant for a study entitled "A Physiologic Study of the Leptin and Gonadotropin Pulsatility in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome." This grant will support research aimed at understanding the role of leptin and gonadotropins in the regulation of insulin sensitivity and reproductive function in women with polycystic ovary syndrome.

Dr. Muren is a native of Turkey. From 1939 to 1945, he attended the University of Istanbul School of Medicine. After serving in the Turkish Army and spending a few years in private practice, Dr. Muren returned to Turkey to complete a fellowship in Pulmonary Disease and Tuberculosis. He then completed a fellowship in Cardiology at Howard University.

Dr. Muren came to Virginia in 1958 to serve as a staff physician in the tuberculosis sanitarium, then located on the 10th floor of E.G. Williams (North) Hospital. The unit was not officially a part of MCV, but Dr. Muren was a faculty member. However, he was frequently consulted by residents on complex patient management issues. Within a year, the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Kimolch Nelson, had heard of Dr. Muren's reputation and invited him to join the faculty.

In the mid-1960s, MCV Hospital opened its first Respiratory Intensive Care Unit, funded by an NIH grant. The unit is now called the Medical-Respiratory ICU. Dr. Muren was one of the first attending physicians in the new unit and was considered the nation's first intensivist. Dr. Muren has published widely, including one seminal article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1969 that has been cited in other publications over 10,000 times.

Dr. Muren was dedicated to excelling in teaching, clinical diagnosis, and patient care. He received the Best Teacher Award and Outstanding Attending Award 22 consecutive years! He retired in 1991 as Professor Emeritus but remains active in teaching clinics.