

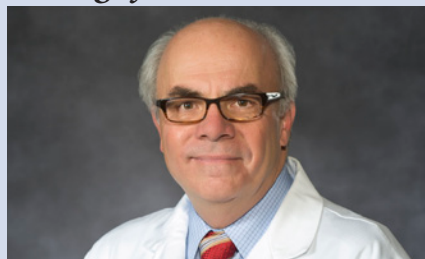


PROGRESS NOTES

A Quarterly Publication of the Department of Internal Medicine

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

Message from the Chair



John E. Nestler, MD, Department Chair

Welcome to 2015, and to the beginning of another exciting year for the Department of Internal Medicine!

This issue of Progress Notes highlights the new Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (Dr. Jay Kuemmerle); an innovative interdisciplinary clinical program designed to provide the highest quality care to our older patients with complex medical problems (the Center for Advanced Health Management, directed by Dr. Peter Boling); a faculty member who is the veritable “triple threat,” who excels in both basic and clinical research, clinical care and the education of our trainees (Dr. Antonio Abbate); and a valued staff member whose efforts have greatly advanced our Internal Medicine M3 Clerkship and Medical Grand Rounds (Brie Dubinsky). We also congratulate our own Dr. Richard Wenzel for his receipt of the VCU Presidential Medallion and Dr. Curt Sessler on his inauguration as President of the American College of Chest Physicians.

These individuals and the programs they have put into place exemplify the wide range of expertise and talent that abounds in our department. Their dedication to clinical and academic excellence, as well as that of all our faculty and staff, is the foundation for the department’s continuing upward trajectory and increasing national prominence.

I look forward to the many new programs that will be initiated in 2015, to hearing of the achievements of both our new faculty and those of us “seasoned” faculty, to implementation of innovative educational initiatives, and to supporting the academic efforts of our faculty through new mechanisms that the department will be establishing. It will indeed be an exciting time ahead, and I wish you all a healthy, enjoyable and rewarding New Year!



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Geriatric Medicine Launches Innovative Center and Model of Care



Dr. Peter Boling and the Center for Advanced Health Management team stand in the lobby of their newly opened outpatient facility in the heart of Richmond, Virginia.

The recently opened **Center for Advanced Health Management (CAHM)**, led by **Peter Boling, MD**, Chair of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, is a new outpatient program at VCU Medical Center. CAHM represents a collaboration of MCV Physicians and insurance providers. The Center opened in September of 2014, and is designed to be an advanced medical home for qualified complex patients. It features an innovative healthcare model that offers comprehensive treatment through an interdisciplinary team that sees patients in the CAHM facility, their homes, the hospital, and long term care settings.

The goal of CAHM is to improve care access, coordination and quality, to in turn minimize emergency and long term admissions, and ultimately reduce the total cost of care. Typically 60-70% of medical care costs are incurred by 5-10% of patients. Those that generate the bulk of expenses are individuals who have multiple complicated problems and often cycle in and out of acute care and long term care facilities.

The current healthcare landscape relies on a fee-for-service model that incentivizes high patient volumes and referrals to multiple providers. However with complex patients this can result in brief appointments and a lack of care coordination, which can lead to mistakes, further medical needs, and more costs. Because of this, demand is growing for a value-based, as opposed to a volume-based, model of healthcare.

To meet this changing landscape and the needs of its patients, CAHM's principal goal is high value and improved outcomes, rather than high volume. Dr. Boling, along with CAHM Practice Administrator, Julia Batson, and Division for Geriatric Medicine Administrator, Jay Holdren, built the CAHM model specifically to achieve this. They factored in outside research, best practices, growth projections, facility design, and geographic location. Having

pioneered the specialty in the central Virginia area, Dr. Boling brings unparalleled experience in delivering and innovating geriatric medicine. The effect of this, Dr. Boling explains, is that "patients are not rushed through the appointments; being able to offer care at a slower pace when needed allows for necessary in-depth assessment. This is an opportunity to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care and create a true advanced medical home."

Three main features set CAHM apart – its patient population, its inter-disciplinary team, and a purpose-built outpatient facility. This allows the Center to offer a truly different care experience.

In order to target the population at risk of being in cycles of expensive medical stays, CAHM primarily serves a selected patient population. The initial focus is on patients who are dually enrolled Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in the Virginia Commonwealth Coordinated

Care (CCC) demonstration. This program is strengthened by the presence of insurance company representatives who have their own work space at CAHM, where they help streamline care.

Another key feature of CAHM is an in-house inter-disciplinary medical team. The team includes medical doctors, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical social workers, and a pharmacist who work together. The standard solution for treating complex patients is assigning care coordinators to their cases, but coordinators are often overworked and not well integrated into the care process, leaving room for errors. Having comprehensive care available in one visit, under one roof at CAHM, reduces communication lapses between providers and the burden of care on the patient. "This process takes a team; and the providers are thrilled with this model because here they have a chance to do what they were trained to do," says Dr. Boling.

"The people who have come to work with us are the best and the brightest. The patients are happy because their quality of life is improved. We are excited to continue the model and strive for strong care and a more financially viable system," Dr. Boling, Director of CAHM.

CAHM's outpatient facility was carefully planned and purpose-built to help patients, faculty and staff have better overall experiences. The floor plan supports natural and easy collaboration between team members. Patient rooms are equipped for the needs of older populations, including beds that can lower to the floor and space for family members. The waiting room is bright and inviting, and the patient check-out desk is set apart from the entry desk for patient privacy. Administrative offices are on site, making it a truly comprehensive facility for patients, faculty, and staff. The Center is located in the center of the Richmond area at the junction of Interstates 95 and 64 and is readily accessible by public transportation.

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The Center for Advanced Health Care Management aims to save more than 10% per year in care for its patients. While that is an ambitious goal and there are many obstacles, there are already success stories. For instance, a recent patient who had been routinely admitted to emergency rooms prior to beginning care at CAHM came in with over 40 prescribed medications. After creating a health plan for her, the Center team was able to consolidate that to just 8 medications.

“So far, it has been a win-win-win – patients, providers, and insurance companies are happier,” says Ms. Batson. “While this model of care costs more up front, we are optimistic about achieving the benefit of reducing costs in the long run. With sufficient shared actuarial experience we then plan to work out a shared savings model with payers.” CAHM currently has one active managed care contract with 1,000 enrolled patients and anticipates the completion of additional contracts in the coming months.

Dr. Boling deflects praise for his efforts, but CAHM and its early signs of success are rooted in his constant striving for better care for patients who are most vulnerable, something he has been doing for decades at VCU and in central Virginia. The Washington Post



The CAHM outpatient facility is centrally located in Richmond and easily accessible by public transportation.

recently profiled Dr. Boling for his efforts in innovating healthcare ([click here to read](#)).

Ultimately, Dr. Boling is pleased to see the Center for Advanced Health Management come to fruition. “We have a fantastic team,” Dr. Boling says. “The people who have come to work with us are the best and the brightest. The patients are happy because their quality of life is improved. We are excited to continue the model and strive for optimized, accountable care in a financially viable and sustainable care system.” **IM**

New Chair Continues Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition in Strong Trajectory

In June of 2014, **John (Jay) Kuemmerle, MD**, was named Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Dr. Kuemmerle looks to build on the Division’s core mission of providing strong clinical patient care, innovative basic and translational research, and excellent training. He is excited to be adding new faculty and new technology offerings to the Division as a part of this.

Dr. Kuemmerle has played an active role in the Division for over two decades. He has served as a gastroenterologist at VCU since 1993 and has held leadership positions throughout his time here, including: Medical Director of the GI Clinic; Fellowship Program Director; Associate Chair of Gastroenterology for Research; Vice Chair and Interim Chair of the Division. Dr. Kuemmerle is an active researcher within the Division, as well, and is the Principal Investigator of an NIH R01 grant in addition to other research activities.

The Division has a robust clinical operation of both on-campus programs and clinics as well as outpatient offices throughout the region. It operates the **Digestive Health Center**, the Advanced Liver Program, the Pancreatitis Clinic, and the Nutrition Clinic, and contributes its expertise to the Alvin M. Zfass Endoscopy Unit.

Through these programs and clinics, the Division offers a number of techniques unique to central Virginia. Those include ablation therapies for Barrett’s esophagus and early cancers of the esophagus, therapeutic endoscopies for people with hepatobiliary disorders, chromoendoscopy and confocal laser microscopy for IBD patients, and nutritional expertise for bariatric patients and patients requiring home TPN. **Dr. Richard Sterling** and the Hepatology Section are also pioneering a non-invasive liver biopsy technique in the region through a new technology called Fibroscan.

The Alvin M. Zfass Endoscopy Unit offers a wide variety of endoscopic procedures, including both routine and advanced endoscopy. The

Division recently welcomed internationally recognized endoscopist, Dr. John Baillie, as the new Director of the Endoscopy Unit. “Dr. Baillie is a world class therapeutic endoscopist and a thought leader in the field of endoscopic research,” says Dr. Kuemmerle. “We are excited for his leadership and expertise, especially for our junior faculty looking to pursue careers in academic gastroenterology and endoscopic research.”

In addition to its wide variety of programs and clinics, the Division has an expansive regional presence through its outpatient offices at Mayland and Stony Point in the greater Richmond area. Outside of Richmond, Division faculty see patients in Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, and Petersburg.

Dr. Kuemmerle will also focus on further developing the Division’s strong research portfolio. The Division currently leads the Department of Internal Medicine in funding and its research ranges from basic science to clinical trials. “Our funding continues to grow each year through federal individual and multicenter grants, foundation grants, and clinical trials for patients” says Dr. Kuemmerle. “We are actively recruiting clinician-educators and physician-scientists that will extend our clinical care and research missions and our collaborative research with other divisions and departments at VCU and other Universities.” Within the Division, core faculty have active research programs in



Dr. John Kuemmerle, the new Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, brings a legacy of clinical and research leadership at VCU to the position.

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IBD, GI motility disorders, cholesterol metabolism and treatment of lipid disorders, Barrett's esophagus, and a wide spectrum of liver diseases including viral hepatitis and fatty liver disease.

The strong clinical and research presence of the Division creates an excellent environment for education and training. The Division offers **four fellowship training programs**: a three-year, ACGME-accredited fellowship in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; a one-year, ACGME-accredited Transplant Hepatology Fellowship; a one-year Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship; and a

one-year IBD/Nutrition Fellowship. "We endeavor to make our fellow trainees not just competent gastroenterologists but scholars in their specialties," says Dr. Kuemmerle. "Our robust expertise and presence in clinical care and research give junior faculty a unique opportunity for career development as well."

Dr. Kuemmerle's experience in leadership, clinical care, and research, coupled with the broad expertise and activity of the faculty, puts the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition on a strong trajectory to continue as a leader in its field. **IM**

Clinical Researcher Advances Cardiology through Research and Leadership

In the latter half of 2014, Cardiologist, Physician-Scientist and "James C. Roberts, Esquire" Professor of Cardiology, **Antonio Abbate, M.D., Ph.D.**, of the Division of Cardiology began three NIH-funded phase II clinical trials studying heart failure patients. In addition to this research, he also accepted the offer from **Dr. Kenneth Ellenbogen**, Chair of Division of Cardiology, to serve as Vice Chair. Dr. Abbate will continue to develop and expand his own translational research and clinical care while working to facilitate and improve research within the Division of Cardiology and the Pauley Heart Center.



Dr. Antonio Abbate, a physician scientist active in research, clinical care, and training in the Division of Cardiology, speaks with a patient during clinic hours.

Dr. Abbate completed his medical degree followed by his Ph.D. in cellular and molecular cardiology in Rome at the University Campus Bio-Medico and Catholic University, respectively. He joined the VCU Division of Cardiology as a physician-scientist after completing additional medicine training here in 2007. Since then he has published over 250 articles in scientific journals. He is currently the principal investigator or co-investigator of a number of clinical trials and the lead investigator in multiple preclinical studies.

As a clinical researcher, Dr. Abbate divides his time between basic science, responsibilities with clinical trials, and clinical care, which is spent in the Coronary ICU and in the clinic. "What I enjoy about my job is I can go from the molecular mechanism of disease in the basic science lab to treating patients in the ICU who

are the sickest of the sickest."

The phase II trials that Dr. Abbate is leading now at VCU are the result of more than seven years of research and collaboration that began with basic science in animal models and has been granted over \$3 million by the NIH. In that time, Stefano Toldo, Ph.D., a senior post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Abbate's lab, has helped set up and conduct experimental models of heart failure; Benjamin Van Tassell, PharmD, has served as co-PI on the clinical trials; and **Fadi Salloum, Ph.D.**, has worked at VCU with Dr. Abbate from day 1, providing help, support and micro-surgical expertise.

A major finding of their research involved the effect of inflammation on the contractility and relaxation of the heart. The current NIH-funded phase II trials look at the effect of the drug anakinra in reducing inflammation in patients at risk for heart disease. Anakinra blocks an inflammatory agent called Interleukin-1 (IL-1) that presents following heart attacks and can lead to heart failure. Two prior studies, the VCU-ART and VCU-ART2 studies, suggested a beneficial effect of anakinra in the prevention of heart failure. Currently, patients are enrolled in the VCU-ART3 study at VCU Medical Center. Dr. Abbate's goal is to involve a teaching hospital and a community hospital in these trials as well. If results in the anakinra phase II trials show efficacy, the next step is larger phase III trials to seek FDA Approval for the specific indication.

Dr. Abbate points out that VCU resources and faculty have been important factors in the progress of his research. For instance, in the early stages, **Dr. Alpha (Berry) Fowler**, the Chair of the Division of Pulmonary Disease, and Dr. Norbert Voelkel provided access to the Victoria Johnson Research Laboratories for animal models. The **VCU Pauley Heart Center** also provided support through funding for early clinical trials, and **Dr. George Vetrovec** has acted as a key mentor.

"It is a good time to be at VCU – there is a lot of expansion and excitement," says Dr. Abbate. "I am absolutely impressed by the breadth of research in the Division, both here and at the VA – last year, our faculty alone produced more than 100 publications."

In his new role as Vice Chair of the Division of Cardiology, Dr. Abbate will use his accrued research skills to focus on coordinating scholarly

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efforts in the Division. Despite the challenge posed by a highly competitive research environment nationally and the responsibility to maintain the highest levels of patient care and learner training, Dr. Abbate looks forward to advancing research. "It is a good time to be at VCU – there is a lot of expansion and excitement," he says. "I am absolutely impressed by the breadth of research in the Division, both here and at the VA – last year, our faculty alone produced more than 100 publications."

"Our goal is to work with investigators and coordinators to make sure our research infrastructure helps expedite the process instead of inhibiting it," says Dr. Abbate. As a part of this effort, the Division

is pursuing deeper research collaboration, and has already started a monthly Cardiology Research Conference led by Dr. Salloum. "We have to build on the group concept and collaborate with one another to compete within the broader research community," says Dr. Abbate. "We have to create a culture that supports innovation, allows researchers to overcome setbacks, and fosters scholarly efforts in classrooms, laboratories, and clinical settings."

Dr. Abbate looks forward to continuing his own scientific projects and facilitating research as Vice Chair of the Division of Cardiology. "There are many challenges, but we have dedicated faculty, immense gratitude from patients, and an environment that makes it worth it." **IM**

Update from the Associate Chair for Faculty Development

Internal Medicine Faculty continue to do amazing things and help make ours a premier department. Development of our faculty is as vital to our progress as our trainees' development, and our faculty are looking for exciting career paths and opportunities.

Recently we have been focusing on the process and steps toward Promotion and Tenure. We have participated in both School of Medicine programs as well as programs just for our faculty. This year we instituted divisional reviews of assistant professors and associate professors in rank for three years. These reviews focus on streamlining career goals and advancement toward Promotion and/or Tenure (P and T). We have also started a P and T boot camp for individuals planning on nomination for promotion either in 2015 or 2016.

This year we have started a series of meetings for newly hired assistant professors. The group meets quarterly to discuss topics, network, and address questions and concerns that arise. The participants are also encouraged to find a mentor(s). The DOIM website has been updated with new mentoring materials and this material can be a valuable resource for both mentors and mentees.

Excellence in clinical teaching remains a key goal for our faculty.

In February we will again offer the Stanford Clinical Teaching Course which provides an opportunity for sharing ideas on instructing, as well as learning and practicing teaching techniques specific to clinical settings.

Check out our website for information about programs, tools, and resources:

<http://www.intmed.vcu.edu/faculty/facultydevelopment.html>.

For questions or to participate in our programs please call Betsy Ripley, MD, MS, Associate Chair for IM Faculty Development at 804-828-1955.



Elizabeth (Betsy) B. D. Ripley, MD, MS
Associate Chair for Faculty Development

Elizabeth (Betsy) B. D. Ripley, MD, MS
Associate Chair for Faculty Development
Associate Professor
Division of Nephrology

Update from the Associate Chair for Outpatient Operations

Evolution and growth continue to impact almost every aspect of our ambulatory operations. While our practices were once housed almost solely at VCU Medical Center, and the burden of access and travel was on our patients, our faculty now see patients in clinic sites from Fredericksburg to South Hill, from Williamsburg to the far West End of Richmond, and just about everywhere in between. By every account, the expansion of our footprint has been both successful and well-received by our communities and patients.

We continue to make changes to meet nationally-driven mandates. The march towards meaningful use of the electronic health record is in progress with increasing enrollment in our patient portal, which has been a great way to get patients more engaged in their own healthcare. The ongoing rollout of ambulatory CPOE (Computerized Provider Order Entry) is another effort driven by national mandates. Its goal is to eliminate errors related to handwriting or transcription, decrease delays in order completion, and minimize duplicate or

incorrect orders.

Finally, as many of you have heard, the much anticipated, and frequently delayed, arrival of ICD-10 will bring computerized assisted coding into our practice, starting with the ambulatory setting.

Lisa Brath, MD
Associate Chair for Outpatient Operations
Program Director, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) Fellowship
Medical Director, Respiratory Care Services at VCUHS
Professor of Medicine
Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine



Lisa Brath, MD
Associate Chair for Outpatient Operations

Coordinator Plays Key Role in Department Education

Brie Dubinsky is the primary coordinator for the **M3 Medicine Clerkship**, Department of Internal Medicine **Medical Grand Rounds**, and assists in coordinating the Internal Medicine **Acting Interns (AI) Program**. Her roles are integral to the Office of Educational Affairs' mission of providing the highest level of medical training.

The M3 Medicine Clerkship is an intensive two month experience on medical teams at VCU Medical Center and the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center for third year medical students. In addition to clinical work, the clerkship involves weekly conferences and scheduled departmental lectures and rounds. Brie's responsibilities include running e-curriculum, making sure all assignments are reviewed and graded on time, preparing summaries for final grading, coordinating examinations, core lectures and teleconferences, as well as facilitating Department of Medicine Summary Letters (Chair's Letter) at the end of the students' M3 year.

In the Fall Semester of 2014 the Medical Clerkship implemented a new format to reflect a change in the School of Medicine's curriculum. The clerkship is now more student-centered, and it allows students to select their electives sooner and better tailor their education to their interests and goals. A 12-week inpatient/outpatient schedule was replaced with an inpatient-only 8-week clerkship which runs six times per year. "I believe that the students' experience in the clerkship has been overwhelmingly positive; it provides a great opportunity for them to work closely with some of our senior faculty members," says Ms. Dubinsky. "The clerkship leadership, Drs. **Jeff Kushinka** and **Steven Bishop**, are very active and visible, making sure the students are having a good experience. **Dr. Stephanie Call**, the Residency Program Director, is also very involved with our work and that helps tremendously," adds Ms. Dubinsky. "She brings to our attention what is important for the students as they prepare for residency."

Dr. Kushinka, Director of the Clerkship, says of Ms. Dubinsky, "She is a great resource for all Department faculty and staff when any issue arises regarding undergraduate medical education. Most importantly," he adds, "she is a fierce advocate for our students and is dedicated to providing them with the best possible clerkship experience."

Another aspect of Brie's work is coordinating Medical Grand Rounds



Brie Dubinsky coordinates a number of programs in the Educational Affairs Office that keep the Department a leader in training.

for the Department of Internal Medicine, directed by Dr. Call. The series now has an advisory committee which makes sure the Department brings in speakers with appeal to all levels of learners. It is expected that every Division will suggest at least one prominent expert in their specific field. Dr. Nestler and Dr. Call develop the Grand Rounds topics in partnership and have already started building the schedule for the next academic year.

While Gilda Harris-Howard is the primary coordinator of the Acting Interns (AI) Program, Ms. Dubinsky also takes part in its work, preparing the AI Addendum summaries and helping students with the transition from M3 to M4 year and the paperwork required in their Department of Medicine Summary Letters (Chair's Letter). The leadership of the program changed as of Fall Semester 2014 and the program director is now **Dr. Adam Garber**.

Ms. Dubinsky is currently working towards her masters degree in Adult Learning at VCU, and she looks forward to continuing her role with the Office of Educational Affairs. "I love this job because I am challenged every day," says Ms. Dubinsky. "Our office is a touchstone for people as they go through their learning: from students' lectures to internship and residency. It's a joy to see our former students become our Chief Residents and faculty members." **IM**

Congratulations to **Adam Kaiser, MD**, Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Fellow, for receiving an *"Outstanding Case Report"* Award for his Presentation at the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) 2014 Annual Conference.

Pictured from right to left at the October conference in Austin, TX, are **Drs. Kristen Miller**, **Adam Kaiser**, **Curt Sessler** (President of the American College of Chest Physicians, Director of the VCU Center for Adult Critical Care, and Medical Director of the Medical Respiratory ICU at VCU), **Lisa Brath** (Program Director of VCU's Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) Fellowship, and Medical Director of Respiratory Care Services at VCU).



Welcome to Our New Faculty

Phoebe Ashley, MD, MS, FACC, has joined the Division of Cardiology. She comes to VCU from Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, WA.

John Baillie, B.Sc.(Hons), M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. (Glasg.), F.A.C.G., F.A.S.G.E., has joined the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition as the VCUHS Director of Endoscopy. He comes to VCU from leadership positions at Duke University, Wake Forest University, and most recently Carteret Medical Group in Morehead, NC.

Stamatina Danielides, MD, has joined the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology. She comes to VCU from the faculty of the NIH Rheumatology Training Program in Bethesda, MD.

William McGuire, MD, has joined the Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Palliative Care. He comes to VCU from Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, VA.

Amy Paul, MD, has joined the Division of Geriatrics. She comes to VCU after completing her Geriatrics Fellowship Training at

the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in West Campus, FL.

Elizabeth Phan, DO, has joined the Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Palliative Care. She comes to the faculty after completing her Palliative Care Fellowship Training at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Julie Reznicek, DO, has joined the Division of Infectious Diseases. She comes to VCU from Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

Brant Ward, MD, PhD, has joined the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology. He becomes a full faculty member after completing his Physician-Scientist Training at the VCU School of Medicine in Richmond, VA.

Hussam Watti, MD, has joined the Division of Cardiology. He comes to the faculty from a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Cardiovascular Department at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA.



Congratulations to Dr. Richard Wenzel for receiving Virginia Commonwealth University's Presidential Medallion in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement.

In December of 2014, **Dr. Richard Wenzel**, Professor Emeritus in the Division of Infectious Diseases, was honored by **Michael Rao**, President of VCU, and the VCU Board of Visitors with the VCU Presidential Medallion. Dr. Wenzel served as Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine from 1995-2009.

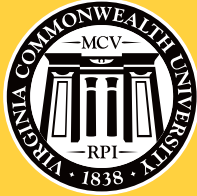
In addition to his contributions at VCU, Dr. Wenzel served as a member of the editorial board of The New England Journal of Medicine for many years, and is the journal's first Editor-at-Large (2001-present). He is the former president of the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) and the former councillor of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).



Congratulations to Dr. Curt Sessler for being Named President of the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST).

In November of 2014, **Curtis N. Sessler MD, FCCP**, was named the 77th President of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Sessler is the Orhan Muren Distinguished Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine of the VCU Department of Internal Medicine. He is also the Director of the VCU Center for Adult Critical Care, and the Medical Director of the VCU Critical Care and the Medical Respiratory ICU.

Dr. Sessler is a very active member of CHEST and has served on their Board of Regents, chaired numerous Sections, and has editorial roles in their publications, *CHEST* and *CHEST SEEK*.



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