Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Faculty Commons. A “commons” is a place where members of a community meet for sharing, support and recognition. The purpose of this e-letter is to share the important accomplishments of our terrific faculty. We can be better informed about what our colleagues are doing, we may identify potential collaborators, and we can feel proud of being a part of this group of excellent clinicians, educators and researchers.

For this first issue, we solicited information from College of Medicine department chairs about accomplishments from April-October, 2007, so there’s a lot! We are planning a bi-monthly schedule, and once communication lines are firmly in place I am hopeful that all departments, and all colleges, will participate. We have tried to highlight the many impressive things you are doing, in the areas of teaching, research and service. This is our first try, and feedback about the newsletter is welcome as it is very much a work in progress.

So, read on. Please welcome our newest faculty and when you see one of the colleagues highlighted here, a smile and a “good job!” are due.

Faculty Achievements

Honors & Awards ~ Congratulations to:

Steven Blatt MD and Victoria Meguid MD, Department of Pediatrics, and Ron Saletsky PhD, Department of Psychiatry, were honored for their work as part of the ENHANCE (Excellence in Health Care for Abused and Neglected Children) Services for Children in Foster care, a primary care, multidisciplinary program that serves the medical, emotional/behavioral and developmental needs of children in foster care. The ENHANCE team, including nursing and social work members, were awarded the Light of Hope Award from Onondaga CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) on 9/25/07. In addition, Steven Blatt, MD received a separate Light of Hope Award for his contributions as director of the program.
**Grants Awarded**

**Robert Barlow, PhD- Ophthalmology**  
PI: Supplement Award. NIH-R01.

**Peter Calvert, PhD-Ophthalmology**  
Career Development Award. Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), 4 years  
PI: “Mechanisms of signal-dependent photoreceptor protein localization and transport.” NIH-National Eye Institute-RO1  
PI: The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation of southern California, Vision Research Grant

**John Epling MD- Family Medicine**  
PI: An evidence-based medicine and research skills curriculum for graduate medical education: The ACE course. Innovations in Medical Education award, SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Wendy Kates, PhD- Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences**  
PI: “Biomarkers for psychosis in Velocardiofacial Syndrome”, 4 year renewal, NIH-National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

**Stewart Loh, PhD-Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**  
Andrea Manyon MD and Eugene Bailey MD - Family Medicine – Co-PIs: “An interdepartmental pilot demonstration project of the integrated standardized patient evaluation”. Innovations in Medical Education award, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Nancy Nussmeier, MD – Anesthesiology

Rosemary Rochford, PhD - Microbiology and Immunology
PI: “Antiangiogenic Therapy for AIDS-Associated Lymphomas”. NIH-National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Usha Satish, PhD - Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
PI: “Impact of Carbon Dioxide on Human Decision-Making”. Syracuse Center of Excellence for Environmental and Energy Systems

BN Singh, PhD - Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Mary Lou Vallano, PhD - Neuroscience and Physiology
PI: “Adolescent Ethanol Exposure and NMDA Receptor Maturation in Cerebellum. NIH-National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and DepA

Stephan Wilkens, PhD - Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Publications

Bulygin VV, Milgrom YM. (2007), Studies of nucleotide binding to the catalytic sites of Escherichia coli Y331W-F1-ATPase using fluorescence quenching. PNAS 104: 4327-4331.
http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/104/11/4327


Aron J, **Chatterjee D**: Transient Pourfour du Petit Syndrome. Anesthesia and Analgesia, 104:1616, 2007

**Chen XJ, Wang, XW, Butow RA.** (2007) Yeast aconitase binds and provides metabolically coupled protection to mitochondrial DNA. PNAS 104:13738-13743. [http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0703078104v1](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0703078104v1)


Aron JH, **Fink GW**, Swartz MF, Ford B, **Hauser MC, O'Leary CE, Puskas F**. Cerebral Oxygen Desaturation After Cardiopulmonary Bypass in a Patient with Raynaud’s Phenomenon Detected by Near-Infrared Cerebral Oximetry. Anesth Analg 2007; 104


Perederina AO, Esakova O, Schmitt ME, Krasilnakov AS. Specific binding of a Pop6/Pop7 heterodimer to the P3 stem of the yeast RNase MRP and RNase P RNAs. RNA. Aug 23; Epub ahead of print.
http://www.rnajournal.org/cgi/reprint/rna.654407v1

Published Abstracts


Presentations

National

Amberg D. Invited guest speaker. CIFAR Genetics Networks meeting, Seattle WA, Sept., 2007


Calimlim JR. “Use of Propofol & Other Conscious Sedation”. Presented at The FASA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April, 2007


Nussmeier, N. “Translational Research: From Bench to Bedside (Session Moderator) and “Current Surgical Management of Heart Failure”. Presented at the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, 29th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, April 2007.

International


Turner C. “Paxillin Signaling to the Cytoskeleton”: “Fibronectin, Integrins & Related Molecules”, Gordon Research Conference, Lucca (Barga), Italy, April,07

Turner C. “Paxillin-PKL Interactions and VAV2 Signaling”: “Invadopodia, Podosomes and Focal Adhesions in Tissue Invasion”, FEBS Workshop, Ortona, Italy, Sept., 2007

Posters


Service

Irene Sills, MD, Pediatrics, appointed by the New York State Dept. of Health to serve as a member of an expert workgroup putting together a resource guide on childhood diabetes for families and schools

Steven Blatt, MD, Pediatrics, is one of only three physicians named to Governor Spitzer's Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Steve has also served as an advisor on children's affairs to New York Chief Judge Judith Kaye.

Rich Cross, PhD- Appointed to a committee by the Provost of SUNY to advise her on policies regarding the implementation of the Empire Scholar Program.

State and National Appointments

Richard Beers, MD became an Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology in May 2007.

Andrea Manyon, MD and James Greenwald, MD presented to the Central New York legislative aides at “Project Medical Education”, Albany NY.

Jennifer Moffat, PhD- Will serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the 32nd International Herpes Virus Workshop held in July in Asheville, NC.

Nancy Nussmeier, MD was appointed to the Board of Directors, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists Foundation in 2007; appointed to the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and the Anesthesia Leadership Committee; Legislative Commission on Science & Technology Assembly Task Force on University- Industry Cooperation Roundtable Discussion on The Future of the Medical Device Industry in NYS, Skaneateles, NY, September, 2007

Joseph W. Sanger, PhD- Appointed as Board member on the Board of Directors of the Greater Syracuse and North Country Division of the American Heart Association.

Elinor Spring-Mills, PhD - Appointed to the NYS Health Research Science Board;-Appointed Chair of the Patricia S. Brown Breast Cancer Education Community-Based Demonstration Projects.

Donna-Ann Thomas, MD became President Elect, NYSSA Committee on Pain Management and Member, NYSSA/MSSNY for the Palliative Care Education and Training Council of the State of New York.
A Special Thank You

A special "Thank you" to the following faculty who served as mentors in the Junior Faculty Mentoring Program this past year. Support and guidance of junior faculty is critical to their success and to ours, and the time and commitment provided by these very busy senior faculty is greatly appreciated.

Richard Beers, MD – Anesthesiology
Timothy Damron, MD - Orthopedics
Vivian Gahtan, MD - Surgery
Patricia Kane, PhD - Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Barry Knox, PhD - Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
David Lehmann, MD, PharmD - Medicine
Victoria Meguid, MD - Pediatrics
Jennifer Moffat, PhD - Microbiology & Immunology
Thomas Schwartz, MD - Psychiatry
Nancy Nussmeier, MD - Anesthesiology
Mark Schmitt, PhD- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Bettina Smallman, MD - Anesthesiology
Paula Trief, PhD - Psychiatry
Mary Lou Vallano, PhD - Neuroscience & Physiology
Steven Youngentob, PhD - Neuroscience & Physiology

Teaching Contributions

J. Robert Calimlim, MD. Anesthesiology. Formulated the Anesthesia Course 0898: Clinical Anatomy of Regional Nerve Blocks as a unique elective for medical students. The learning objective is to learn how to administer peripheral nerve blocks. The course will be taken as part of a course offered to anesthesiology residents and pain fellows with supervision by anesthesia faculty. April, 2007

Luis J. Mejico, MD. Neurology and Ophthalmology. BEST TEACHING AWARD Department of Neurology, SUNY Upstate Medical University - June, 2007.

Promotions

College of Medicine
Winnie Cheung, DO was promoted to Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology in May 2007.

Wenshi Gao, MD was promoted to Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology in May 2007.

Jack Hsu, MD was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure of Otolaryngology in July 2007.

Paula Rosenbaum, PhD was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure of Medicine – Research Outcomes in June 2007.

Usha Satish, PhD was promoted to Professor (previously tenured) of Psychiatry in June 2007.

Neal Seidberg, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics in June 2007.

Donna-Ann Thomas, MD was promoted to Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology in May 2007.

Zhong-Jin Yang, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Anesthesiology in April 2007.

College of Health Professions
Susan Miller, PhD was promoted to Associate Professor and Chair of Physical Therapy.

New Faculty

College of Medicine
Dr. Mirna Abdallah, Instructor, Department of Anesthesiology
Dr. Abdallah received her medical degree from Lebanese University in Lebanon and completed her residency in Anesthesiology here at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Dr. Jeffrey Amack, Assistant Professor, Department of Cell & Developmental Biology.
Dr. Amack received his doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Utah.

Dr. Tanya Beckford, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.
Dr. Beckford received her medical degree from and completed her residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University.
Dr. Priya Bhandarkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology
Dr. Bhandarkar received her medical degree from Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Medical College in India and completed her residency in Diagnostic Radiology at New York University School of Medicine.

Dr. Y. Katharine Chang, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics.
Dr. Chang received her medical degree from Albany Medical College and completed her residency at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, University of Michigan. She joins us from the faculty of Blanchard Valley Hospital in Ohio.

Dr. Cynthia Corpron, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
Dr. Corpron received her medical degree from the University of Michigan and completed her residency at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson. She pursued additional training in a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care and as a research fellow in Trauma and Surgical Oncology. She joins us from the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine and Albany Medical College.

Dr. Ziad El-Zammar, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology
Dr. El-Zammar received his medical degree from Damascus University School of Medicine in Syria and completed his residency in Neurology and a fellowship in Neurophysiology here at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He pursued additional training in a Cerebrovascular/Stroke fellowship at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. He will work to create a stroke service at St. Joseph’s Hospital in close collaboration with the University Hospital Stroke Center.

Dr. Amy Friedman, Professor with tenure, Department of Surgery.
Dr. Freidman received her medical degree from and completed her residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She pursued additional training as a Surgical Research Fellow at SUNY Downstate and as a Transplant Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She has held several faculty appointments, from SUNY Downstate, University of Pennsylvania and Yale University. She joins SUNY Upstate as the Chief of the Transplant Service.

Dr. Robert Lambert, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
Dr. Lambert received his medical degree from the University of Virginia and completed his residency at SUNY Stony Brook. He pursued additional training at Stony Brook in critical care.

Dr. Jennifer Mackey, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
Dr. Mackey received her medical degree from Ross University in the West Indies and completed her residency here at SUNY Upstate Medical University. She pursued additional training at Upstate in pediatric emergency medicine.

Dr. Alicia Pekarsky, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Dr. Pekarsky received her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University and completed her residency in Pediatrics at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, PA. She pursued additional training in Child Abuse here at SUNY Upstate Medical University.
Dr. Tricia Tavares, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Dr. Tavares received her medical degree from New Jersey Medical School and completed her residency at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, PA. She pursued additional training in pediatric hematology and pediatric oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. David Wormuth, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
Dr. Wormuth received his medical degree from and completed his residency training at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He joins us with experience as an Attending in Rochester and from private practice. He has also been voluntary faculty at Upstate since 2002.

Dr. Christina Yambo, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Dr. Yambo received her medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine and completed her residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital. She joins us with experience from St. Joseph’s Hospital and as a Family Practitioner from the Onondaga County Jail and Folsom (Deaf, Hard of Hearing) Center in Rochester.

College of Health Professions
Dr. Jeffrey Lawson, Assistant Professor, Department of Arts & Sciences.
Dr. Lawson received his doctoral degree from the University of West Virginia. He joins us from the University of Pittsburgh where he was a Research Associate.

Faculty Development
Upcoming Events

November 27 – Noon-time Seminar, 318 Library
Sara Grethlein, MD, “Grants for Innovations in Medical Education - Pilot Program for the Development of a 2-Part OSCE in the Areas of Professionalism, Cultural Competence and Resident Physician Counseling Skills.”

November 28 - Ross Poster Session, 3-5, Institute for Human Performance

Departmental Honors

BIOCHEMISTRY - Over 90 yeast researchers, most from Upstate New York, Ontario, and Quebec, visited Upstate on Saturday, April 21 for the 2007 Northeast Regional Yeast Meeting, organized by Patty Kane and Mark Schmitt, along with Scott Erdman from SU Biology Dept.


MICROBIOLOGY - Grad student Stacy Leisenfelder received the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, the highest SUNY-wide honor bestowed on students, April, 2007.
Other News

Students available for research help in 2008
The College of Medicine Summer Student Fellowship and Work Study Programs offer students opportunities to assist you in your research program. The Research Administration Office maintains a directory of Upstate faculty willing to supervise students during the summer and students consult this directory to find appropriate sites. The directory is online at the Research Administration Office website at http://www.upstate.edu/researchadmin/development/intramural.php. If you would like to host a student for the summer but you are not currently listed, contact Barbara Humphrey at humphreb@upstate.edu.

Funding Update Weekly E-Newsletter
Funding Update is a weekly report emailed to faculty that includes information about recently issued NIH funding opportunities and announcements; other funding information; and general information for researchers. To get more information or to be added to the Funding Update list, please contact Barbara Humphrey at humphreb@upstate.edu.

Intramural Research Grant Program
Next Deadline: 12/1/07 (because this deadline falls on a Saturday, the deadline is extended to 12/3/07)
Description: to provide support for meritorious research likely to lead to extramural funding. Applications in the following categories will be accepted for the 12/1/07 deadline:

- **Bridge Funding** to enable PIs who have lost extramural support to continue their research for an interim period until additional extramural support is obtained.
- **Equipment Grants** to enable researchers to acquire equipment that enables them to continue and further their research and enhance their competitiveness for extramural research support. Priority will be given to equipment that will be available to multiple users or to establish a core research facility. Priority will also be given to requests that include matching funds.
- **Postdoctoral Research Fellowships** to attract postdoctoral research fellows to our campus. Accepted three times/year at standard application receipt dates

Contact: http://www.upstate.edu/researchadmin/development/intramural.php or Barbara Humphrey: humphreb@upstate.edu

Useful Links

Promotion and Tenure Information
http://www.upstate.edu/facultydev/promotion.php

Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development
http://www.upstate.edu/facultydev/