



JOHNS HOPKINS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
Message from the Chair
Faculty Appointments and Promotions
Major Awarded Grants & Honors
OCTOBER 2007

Appointments and Promotions - OCTOBER

Promotion to Associate Professor of Medicine:

Yukari C. Manabe, M.D., November 1, 2007, Infectious Diseases

Promotion to Assistant Professor of Medicine:

Dan Arking, Ph.D., July 1, 2007, Institute of Genetic Medicine

Jennifer L. Hayashi, M.D., July 1, 2007, Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology

Appointment as Instructor in Medicine:

Shalini Chandra, M.D., October 1, 2007, General Internal Medicine (CIMS)

Christine Chia-Chi Soong, M.D., October 1, 2007, General Internal Medicine (CIMS)

Appointment as Research Associate in Medicine:

Ping Gao, Ph.D., November 1, 2007, Hematology

Appointment as Visiting Scientist:

Shu-hui Yeh, Ph.D., October 1, 2007, Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology

Secondary Joint Appointments:

Frank Michael Bengel, M.D., July 1, 2007, Cardiology

Nael Fakhry Osman, Ph.D., July 1, 2007, Cardiology

Effective dates noted above. New academic appointments are approved as indicated; new clinical appointments may still be pending. 11.7.07

Awards and Honors

The September 2007 medical education issue of JAMA had three articles first authored by graduates of the General Internal Medicine fellowship program, **Romsai (Tony) Boonyasai** (currently on faculty at Hopkins Bayview) for "Effectiveness of Teaching Quality Improvement to Clinicians: a systematic review;" **Darcy A. Reed** (currently on faculty at the Mayo Clinic) for "Association between funding and quality of published medical education research," and **Donna Windish** (currently on faculty at Yale) for "Medicine residents' understanding of the biostatistics and results in the medical literature".

Shukti Chakravarti, Division of Gastroenterology, received a second year of funding from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) to investigate the role of extracellular matrix proteins in a mouse model of colitis. Direct cost of \$130,000; Award period: June 2007-June 2008.

Two of the six JHU researchers recently elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine are Department of Medicine faculty. **Aravinda Chakravarti**, Institute of Genetic Medicine, is director of the Center for Complex Disease Genomics and professor of medicine, pediatrics, molecular biology and genetics, and biostatistics. His research focuses on genomic-scale analysis of the human genome, computational analysis of gene variation and function, and understanding the molecular genetic basis of common genetic disorders, including mental illness, heart disease and birth defects. **Andrew Feinberg**, Division of Molecular Medicine, is the King Fahd Professor of Medicine, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Oncology as well as director of the Center for Epigenetics. His research focuses on the epigenetic basis of human complex traits in general, including altered chromosome methylation and loss of imprinting in cancers, the molecular basis of Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, autism and psychiatric illness.

Linda Fried, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, received an excellent score for the renewal of her Older Americans Independent Center (OAIC) grant. This renewal includes another 5 years and will allow the pursuit of causes and manifestations of frailty in the elderly. Dr. Fried, a pioneer in defining and understanding frailty, has proposed through research that frailty is a medical syndrome that may have a multisystem root, including inflammatory, hormonal and musculoskeletal bases. She and her colleagues also have developed simple screening tests to help care providers predict whether their older patients will develop frailty or physical disabilities in the near future.

William Greenough, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, was selected to receive the 2007 Outstanding Service Award from the Bangladeshi-American Foundation. Dr. Greenough was cited for being the founding President of the Bangladesh Information Center (BIC) and for the important leadership roles he held at the International Center for Diarrheal Diseases Research in Dhaka.

Jodi Segal, Division of General Internal Medicine, was named Chair-Elect for the Eastern Region of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR). Established in 1940, AFMR is an international multi-disciplinary association of scientists engaged in all areas of biomedical investigation-patient-oriented, translational, and basic research. AFMR fosters research in the medical sciences, provides leadership in articulating and publicizing the aims and goals of scientific research, disseminates the knowledge medical research generates, and identifies and supports efforts to achieve these objectives.

Jeremy Walston, Division of Geriatrics, along with Laura Dugan, UCSD, are one of five research teams who received \$400,000 to collaborate on translational and multi-disciplinary research on aging are the first recipients of the Hartford/AFAR Collaborative Research Awards, an extension of the Paul B. Beeson Career Development Scholars Program. The grant is entitled, "Systemic Inflammation and Central Nervous System Dysfunction: A Mechanistic and Translational Pilot." The project examines a unifying hypothesis that both peripheral inflammation and central neurotransmitter deficits provide a feed-forward mechanism leading to cognitive decline and frailty. To date, little is known about the biology that underlies this vulnerability to adverse neurocognitive outcomes associated with aging and frailty. Drs. Dugan and Walston hope to identify key molecular pathways connecting inflammation to cognitive decline, and to have a biological risk profile for frail older adults most at risk for iatrogenic adverse cognitive outcomes. They plan mouse and human studies to test the hypothesis.

New Grants

Shukti Chakravarti, Division of Gastroenterology, This grant was awarded to investigate the role of an extracellular matrix protein lumican in the cornea by the National Eye Institute

Period: 6/05/07-6/30 08 Direct cost \$289,000

Award Title: 2R56EY011654-12, The role of Lumican in the Cornea

Michael Goggins and **Marcia Canto**, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center are recipients of the 2007 V Foundation for Cancer Research Translational Research Grants. The grant, a \$600,000 three-year commitment, was awarded to only six talented research teams nationwide. Award Title: Expanding the target population for pancreatic cancer screening.

Four new educational grants were funded to the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology:

1. a new HRSA multidisciplinary geriatric fellowship training grant; PI: **Chris Durso**
2. Geriatrics Education Center; PI, **John Burton**
3. Geriatrics Academic Award for clinician educator career development to A. **Danelle Cayea** and B. **Jennifer Hayashi**