

the abstract

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FACULTY OF THE
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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the abstract

MISSION: This newsletter is a conduit for information, news and school announcements, and is intended for all School of Medicine faculty members and leadership.

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Lefkowitz to receive National Medal of Science

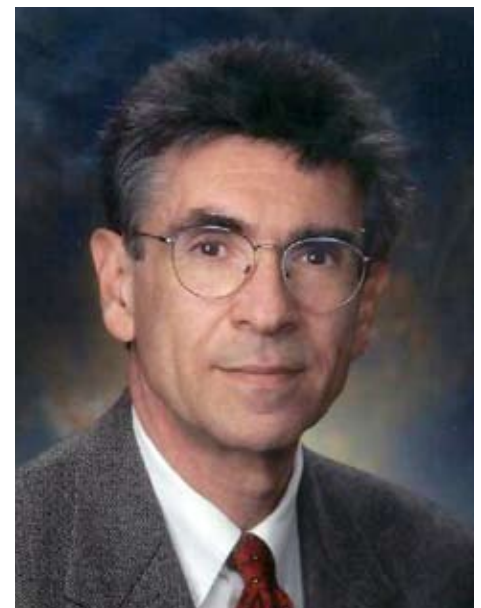
President Bush has named Duke's Robert Lefkowitz, M.D., a recipient of the National Medal of Science for his seminal discoveries in understanding the largest, most important and most therapeutically accessible receptor system that controls the body's response to drugs and hormones.

Bush will present Dr. Lefkowitz with the medal, which is the nation's highest honor for science, at a ceremony on September 29 at the White House.

"Even for a highly decorated and often recognized scientist like Bob, this represents a remarkable and extraordinary achievement," said Chancellor for Health Affairs Victor J. Dzau, M.D. "I am particularly excited and pleased to see Dr. Lefkowitz' work recognized in this way as his discoveries represent the very best in translational science and medicine and have served to ultimately improve the health and lives of millions of people worldwide."

The National Medal of Science was established by Congress in 1959 as a Presidential Award to be given to individuals "deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, or engineering sciences."

"One of the most rewarding aspects of my career at Duke has been the opportunity to mentor more than 200 very talented students and



fellows," said Lefkowitz. "This award honors them as much as it does me. I am as excited about the opportunities and challenges of our work at present as I have ever been, and I'm so honored that the President will acknowledge our cumulative body of work in medicine and the biological sciences."

"I'm thrilled that Bob is being honored in this way as it recognizes the incredible body of scientific work that has characterized his long and illustrious career," said Duke University School of Medicine Dean Nancy Andrews, M.D., Ph.D. "He is an inspiration to the next generation of basic scientists, not only at Duke but around the world."



Research Administration: improving our processes

by Dean Nancy Andrews

One of the highest priorities for the Dean's Office is the improvement in our research administrative processes.

This is a goal shared by myself, the Chairs, and the senior leadership across the University, as an important element of our ability to improve faculty work life. It is clear that faculty – not only at Duke, but at every research intensive institution – are frustrated with the increasing quality assurance requirements, the lack of administrative and technology support, and a lack of input into process changes that have a profound impact on work flow for the faculty and staff.

Approximately 18 months ago, Duke completed a very detailed review of our systems and processes, resulting in more than 100 recommended changes in major areas such as information technology, human resources related to grant administrative personnel, staffing, training and organization. Since that time, we've made significant strides in many areas, and not enough progress in others. The School of Medicine and the University created a joint steering committee that meets twice monthly to set major priorities for subgroups including business process, human resources and information technology.

Some of the improvements include the following:

- increased staff levels in both the pre-award office for the SOM and the post award office
- combined the research administrative functions in the Erwin Plaza building
- implemented new IT tools for dealing with effort reporting (“Other Support”)
- created a faculty advisory committee to vet recommended changes and to alert the steering committee on unmet needs
- implemented process improvements to expedite fund code setup for new awards

There are additional improvements just over the horizon, which include streamlined grant preparation steps, new IT forecasting and reporting tools for faculty and grant staff, and intensified training opportunities for department staff.

The leadership of the SOM and the University are committed to improving our processes. The current NIH funding environment has strained central and departmental budgets and has increased the number of grant applications by the faculty, thus straining our systems even further.

The factors that contribute to process problems are complex, due in part to the decentralized organizational environment we live in. Solutions require clear delineation of responsibility at all levels, with demonstrated accountability for quality. Further, we need to ensure that our processes are only as detailed as is necessary to adhere to our sponsors' defined

rules for the management of external funds. We recognize the need for a systematic and organized method for evaluating compliance needs, and for the need for information systems to support those requirements.

We will continue to update you on our progress over the next year, but there are two initiatives that will be starting within the next two months. The first is an intensive training course for staff who are currently primarily involved in grants administration, but who have been at Duke for less than 2 years. We are designing a curriculum to create our own qualified grant managers at the department level, and we want to develop a sense of community and professional development with these individuals. This will be an ongoing program, after we implement and evaluate the pilot program.

The second event is a research retreat, which is currently being developed by SOM and University leaders. The purpose of the retreat will be to bring together faculty and administrative leadership from each department and institute within the SOM, and from major research schools on campus, with grant administration leaders to discuss the highest priority goals for re-design, and to create a communication pathway that will continue into the future.



The new anatomy lab is equipped with state-of-the-art educational technology. PHOTO BY JARED LAZARUS

Modernizing gross anatomy

The latest in a series of significant milestones converging to further the School of Medicine's educational mission occurred in August with the grand opening of the new gross anatomy lab and its adjoining high-tech fresh tissue lab and teaching auditorium.

All reflect Duke's renewed commitment to merging traditional, hands-on cadaveric study with the latest information access that computer technology can offer. From anatomy atlases to 3-D images of the human body, everything is at the fingertips of faculty and fellows, and ready to go for this year's entering class of medical students. The impact on attracting future medical students is clear.

"These are valuable assets a lot of leading

medical schools don't have," Monte Brown, M.D., Duke University Health System vice president for administration, said of the new labs. "When people walk in they just say 'wow.' You can bet this will now be on the tour for all trainees considering Duke School of Medicine. Combining traditional techniques with the most up-to-date technologies puts Duke in the forefront."

"Today, anatomical medical education combines the ideals of the profession — the acquisition of scientific knowledge and skill balanced with the development of humanistic attitudes and behaviors," said Edward Buckley, M.D., interim dean for education.

While development of sophisticated computerized learning aids have effectively reduced the

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(Gross Anatomy, continued)

amount of time spent on dissection, Buckley said, the physical procedure fosters a spatial and tactile appreciation for the fabric of the human body that cannot be achieved by projections or computerized learning aids alone.

“So whether it is our initiation to the profession as physicians or the scientific method or the use of effective responses, the anatomy lab is as much a part of how we see as what we know,” he said.

Scott Levin, M.D., division chief of plastic, reconstructive and oral surgery, was instrumental in planning the gross anatomy and tissue labs. The expanded space was planned to accommodate undergraduate and graduate medical education as well as the growth plans in the physical therapy, physician assistant and continuing medical education programs.

Now conveniently housed near the other classrooms in a well-lighted and -ventilated facility in the basement of the Green Zone, the new facilities and



PHOTO BY JARED LAZARUS

equipment are a far cry from the former aging gross anatomy lab in the basement of the Bell Building, which eventually will be removed to make way for the expansion of Duke University Hospital.

The new labs and auditorium are another step in the modernization of the School's educational facilities that started with the relocation and expansion of the physical therapy program in Erwin Square. The facilities open new horizons and expanded opportunities in medical

training, CME and creative collaborations with outside partners. The 70-seat auditorium is fully integrated with the labs video monitoring system and offers worldwide video conferencing capability for uses beyond gross anatomy.

Planning is now under way for a new educational building that will be synergistic with the new labs, which were funded jointly by the Duke University Health System and School of Medicine.

“When people walk in they just say ‘wow.’ You can bet this will now be on the tour for all trainees considering Duke School of Medicine.”

Searle Scholars Program

The Searle Scholars Program has again invited Duke University to nominate two faculty members for its annual competition. This award is designed to support the independent research of exceptional young faculty in the fields of biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.

Grants are normally \$300,000 for a three-year period, with \$100,000 payable in the first year and equal sums payable in the second and third years; funding for the second and third years will be contingent upon the submission of acceptable progress reports. Candidates should have begun their first appointment at the assistant professor level on or after July 1, 2007. Appointments must be tenure-track or equivalent.

To date, four Duke nominees have been named Searle Scholars. An additional fifth Searle Scholar is on the faculty at Duke, having come here from Stanford.

Nomination Process

Interested faculty members should email the following nomination materials, by Duke's internal deadline date, to Judith Andersson in the Office of Research Support (jfa4@duke.edu, 681-8925):

- The candidate's CV
- A one-page statement from his/her department chair, detailing the department's commitment to the candidate.
- A draft, three-page research proposal (you may use additional pages for figures and bibliography).
- List of three individuals (preferably outside of Duke) who will provide letters of reference, including one each from the candidate's doctoral and post-doctoral mentors, or similarly placed individuals who are acquainted with the candidate's research achievement and potential (these letters are in addition to your chair's statement).

For more information, including a complete directory of present and past Searle Scholars, please refer to the program website: <http://www.searle-scholars.net>

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Investigators in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Program

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is accepting applications for Investigators in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Program. Taking advantage of recent developments in genomics, immunology and other areas, this program provides an opportunity to bring aggressive, multidisciplinary approaches to investigating infectious diseases. The goal of the program is to provide new opportunities for accomplished investigators still early in their careers to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and pathogen biology. The program is intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund is particularly interested in work focused on the host, as well as host-pathogen studies originating in viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasite systems. Studies in this area may have their root in the pathogen, but the focus of the work should be on the effects on the host at the cellular and/or systemic levels. Excellent animal models of human disease are within

the scope of the program.

Because there is an institutional limit on the number of allowed nominations, there is an internal review and approval process for potential candidates, as detailed below.

Deadlines:

Sep. 5, 2007 (Duke internal)

Nov. 3, 2008 (BWF external)

The official announcement and description of this opportunity may be found on the funding agency's website: http://www.bwfund.org/programs/infectious_disease/pathogenesis_main.html

Award Amount:

The award provides \$500,000 over a period of five years (\$100,000 per year). BWF will offer up to 16 awards this year.

Other funding opportunities

September 25, 2008 – Deadline for applications for the **Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease Centers of Excellence Program**, presented by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Research objectives should emphasize basic, translational or clinical studies of Parkinson's disease, parkinsonisms, and related disorders. Emphasis is placed on multi-disciplinary and collaborative studies that can best be carried out in a center setting. The organizational structure of the Center should be flexible to allow the expeditious translation of new scientific findings and new technological developments to clinical research. Award has no fixed limit.

October 1, 2008 – Deadline for \$75,000 award from the **American Academy of Neurology**, for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinician-Scientist Development Award.

October 30, 2008 – Deadline for **NIH Summer Institute Program** to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research (SIPID) (R25). Award has no fixed limit.

Please visit <http://researchfunding.duke.edu/list.asp?Posted=new> for a comprehensive list of funding opportunities and related guidelines. Contact Mollie Sykes in the Office of Research Administration at 19.684.5175 or gcmall@mc.duke.edu.

Department of Pediatrics Annual Research Retreat

The Department of Pediatrics recently held its annual research retreat. The breadth of clinical, translational, and basic research across the Department was on display, featuring work by students, residents, fellows, staff, and faculty.

The retreat included 8 short oral presentations, 45 poster presentations, and a keynote talk by Richard D. Mooney, Ph.D., associate professor of Neurobiology. The short oral presentations were given by:

- **Catherine Lavau, DVM, PhD, Pediatric Hematology–Oncology**, “Analysis of endocytosis alteration mediated by clathrin assembly lymphoid/myeloid (CALM) gene rearrangements in leukemogenesis”
- **David Brass, PhD, Neonatology**, “Alveolar simplification in pediatric and adult lung diseases”
- **Rasheed Gbadegesin, MD, Pediatric Nephrology**, “A new locus for familial FSGS”
- **Courtney Thornburg, MD, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology**, “Effectiveness of hydroxyurea in children with sickle cell disease”
- **Laura Schanberg, MD, Pediatric Rheumatology**, “Associations between race/ethnicity and clinical SLE features in the atherosclerosis prevention in pediatric lupus erythematosus (APPLE) cohort”
- **Dwight Koeberl, MD, PhD, Medical Genetics**, “Immunomodulatory gene therapy in Pompe disease: Immune

tolerance mediates the efficacy of enzyme replacement therapy”

- **Pat Seed, M.D., PhD, Pediatric Infectious Diseases**, “Disruption of exopolysaccharide capsule assembly attenuates key intracellular and extracellular pathways used by uropathogenic *E. coli* during experimental cystitis”
- **Chay Kuo, MD, PhD, Cell Biology and Neonatology**, “Neural stem cells and postnatal brain development in health and disease”

Mary Hutson, Ph.D. in the Division of Neonatology received the award for the best poster by a junior faculty member, recognizing her poster entitled “Blocking Shh signaling in cardiac neural crest-ablated chick embryos rescues outflow tract septation.”

Amanda Sheets in the Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Graduate Program and the Division of Infectious Diseases received the award for best poster by a graduate student or fellow, recognizing her poster entitled “Mechanism of phase variable adherence in the *Haemophilus cryptic* genospecies.”

Dr. Mooney’s keynote lecture was entitled “A window into the learning brain” and was well suited for the audience, highlighting his work on songbirds and the relationship between song learning and neuronal growth and synapse formation. Overall, the retreat emphasized the high quality of research in the Department of Pediatrics.

Third-year students present research at AOA day

Third-year medical students presented the fruits of their labor at the AOA Scientific Research Symposium. This year, projects ranged from “Enhancing melanoma treatment with resveratrol and its derivatives” to the “The efficacy of selective nuclear factor-kappa-B inhibitors in cancer cachexia.” During the AOA awards ceremony, a surprise award covering the full fourth year’s tuition, the Palumbo Family Medical Scholarship, was presented to Mrinali Patel for her project, “Investigating the Role of Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress in a Murine Model of Age-Related Macular Degeneration.”

The day’s events culminated with a lecture delivered by Barton Haynes, M.D., director of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute and the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology (CHAVI), on the current state of HIV research and the efforts for vaccine development. He stressed how the intractable nature of HIV and its rapid rate of spread led to the development of a global research effort.

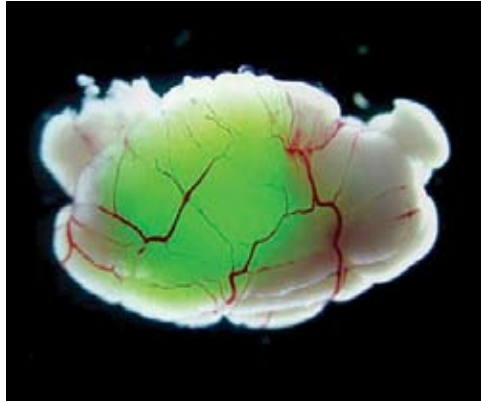
“We’re charged with setting up collaborations and providing help to anyone that needs it, and to help train the next generation of researchers. And I have a sneaking suspicion that an awful lot of this problem will be passed to you.” Haynes told the students. “We need new faces to solve this global health problem and others. What you should know is that the whole of Duke University committed itself to covering global health problems. It’s a wonderful environment for you and a wonderful place to be in 2008.”

Key to treating cancer may be finding its original cell

Duke researchers have identified, for the first time, two types of cells in the brain that can give rise to the malignant brain tumor medulloblastoma.

Robert Wechsler-Reya, Ph.D., of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, in collaboration with Brandon Wainwright's laboratory at the University of Queensland in Australia, created mouse models of medulloblastoma by turning off the patched gene, a key regulator of cell growth in the developing brain cerebellum. In particular, they tested the effects of shutting off patched-in granule neuron precursors (GNPs), which can only make one particular type of nerve cell (neuron), or in stem cells, which can make all the different cell types in the cerebellum. The work is published in the August issue of *Cancer Cell*.

When they deleted patched in the GNPs, 100 percent of the mice developed medulloblastoma. Interestingly, deleting patched-in stem cells first led to the formation of many more stem cells. However, most of these stem cells went on to form normal cell types within the cerebellum. Only the stem cells that



Green fluorescent dye reveals the presence of cells deep within the brain of a mutant mouse that represent a growing tumor.

gave rise to GNPs went on to form the medulloblastoma tumors.

According to Wechsler-Reya, these studies provide the first definitive proof that medulloblastoma can be triggered in a granule neuron precursor or a stem cell. But even more importantly, they suggest that when it comes to cancer formation, the cell type in which a mutation happens is as important as the mutation itself. Although stem cells that lack patched also gave rise to astrocytes and oligodendrocytes, other forms of brain cells, those cells could not form the tumors.

To submit to *Inquiry*, send an email to editorinside@mc.duke.edu.

Fruit fly receptor important for mating

Male fruit flies missing one particular chemosensory receptor engage in mating attempts destined to go nowhere – with other males and with mated females, according to research led by **Hubert Amrein, Ph.D.** and **Tetsuya Miyamoto, Ph.D.**

Another notable discovery emerged from their research, published in *Nature Neuroscience*: The nerve cells (neurons) that express this gene project directly from a sensory input location on the fly's leg to the higher-order processing center of the brain.

UPR genes role in immune response

Alejandro Aballay Ph.D., assistant professor in the Duke Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, and his team have shown for the first time that a family of unfolded protein response (UPR) genes is involved in an immune response to live bacteria.

"This finding opens the possibility that activation of the UPR could be used to help the organism to properly produce natural antimicrobial substances required for defense response against bacterial infections," said Dr. Aballay, whose work was published in the July issue of *Developmental Cell*. "Because we showed that overexpression of UPR genes protects our study animal, the roundworm, which has key aspects of defense response (note: innate immunity) that are highly conserved across mammals including humans, we are hopeful for an alternative way to help the organism fight bacterial infections."

PSA test biased against obese men

Testing men for elevated levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in the blood — the gold standard screening test for prostate cancer — may be biased against obese men, whose PSA levels tend to be deceptively low. And this bias may be creating more aggressive cancers in this population by delaying diagnosis, according to a new study led by Stephen Freedland, M.D., and others in the Duke Prostate Center and the Durham Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center.

"We know that obese men tend to have lower PSA values than their normal-weight counterparts, possibly caused by larger blood volumes which dilute the readings," said Freedland. "Now we know some of the real implications of this — that these men are at a disadvantage in terms of prognosis compared to normal-weight men."

The researchers published their findings online in the journal *BJU International*.

Cardiology Collaboration

Husband and wife duo Svati Shah, M.D., M.P.H. and Patrick Hranitzky, M.D. are redefining teamwork. He, a clinical electrophysiologist and she, a genetic epidemiologist, are joining forces with one of the Department of Cardiology's newest faculty members, Geoffrey Pitt, M.D., Ph.D., to tackle the problem of sudden cardiac death in an entirely new way.

Three physicians, within the Division of Cardiology, Geoffrey Pitt, M.D., Ph.D., Svati Shah, M.D., M.H.S., and Patrick Hranitzky, M.D., are combining their research interests to tackle an increasingly important problem in the fight against sudden cardiac death. Implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) are now the standard treatment for patients at increased risk for sudden cardiac death due to impaired cardiac function, because of their proven effectiveness at reducing death due to arrhythmia. The downside is that the devices are expensive and implanting them carries the normal risks associated with invasive procedures. In addition, only 9-10 percent of those patients who receive the devices will ever need them (citation needed).

“The broader question is why do certain people develop arrhythmias. For the past 10 or 15 years, much of the focus was on inheritable, Mendelian traits that lead to increased risk of arrhythmias,” said Shah, M.D., who is a faculty member in the Center for Human Genetics. “However, there is evidence that there are more common genetic variants that can lead to less severe cardiac phenotypes.” Shah and Pitt hope to combine their genetic expertise to locate genes respon-



Left to right: Patrick Hranitzky, M.D., Svati Shah, M.D., and Geoffrey Pitt, M.D., Ph.D.

PHOTO BY KELLY MALCOM

sible for these phenotypes.

“Certain people develop higher risk once they’ve had some cardiac insult, such as a myocardial infarction while some develop arrhythmias in response to certain drugs,” explained Pitt. The holy grail of cardiac electrophysiological research is to identify what is different about those patients who benefit from ICDs. Pitt, who studies ion channels, hypothesizes that patients who develop arrhythmias may carry genetic mutations in ion channels in the heart.

“These mutations can lead people to develop arrhythmias when given medications like the drug cisapride or certain

antihistamines that have since been pulled from the market because of this risk. Similar mutations in the same or other ion channels may increase risk of sudden death in the setting of heart failure,” said Pitt.

Pitt and Shah will have a unique data resource at their disposal in carrying out these genetic studies. Developed by Patrick Hranitzky, M.D., over the past 3 to 4 years, they will be able to utilize a clinical and biological sample bank of about 1,500 electrophysiological patients called EP Gen. “EP Gen is special because it is a repository of not just blood for DNA, but serum and other tissue that can be used to analyze gene and protein expression to potentially identify novel biomarkers. This is probably the only biorepository of this type in the United States,” said Hranitzky. In fact, a number of other projects have spun off of the EP Gen database.

Ultimately, Shah, Pitt, and Hranitzky hope their efforts will identify the mechanism behind the genetic risks for sudden cardiac death and further refine the criteria used to determine who receives ICDs. Other team members include Duke Cardiology Fellows Kent Nilsson, M.D., Albert Sun, M.D., Jason Koontz, M.D., Ph.D, Jonathan Piccini, M.D. and Daniel Haithcock, M.D.

Awards and Recognitions

Julian M. Aldridge III, M.D., assistant professor, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, received the Frank H. Bassett III Teaching award at Duke; he also received the American Orthopaedic Association – Japanese Orthopaedic Association Exchange Traveling Fellowship Award.

Richard Auten, M.D., Thomas Murphy, M.D., Ira Cheifetz, M.D., Judy Voynow, M.D. and Rose-Mary Boustany, M.D. have been elected to the American Pediatric Society.

Dan Blazer II, M.D., Ph.D. has won the Oscar Pfister award from the American Psychiatric Association (APA) for studies integrating religion and psychiatry.

Hayden B. Bosworth, Ph.D., a research professor in the Department of Medicine, has won a two-year \$275,000 grant from a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program, which evaluates efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic healthcare disparities in local communities.

Coleen Cunningham, M.D., chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, has recently been appointed liaison from the Office of AIDS Research to the NIH Council of Councils, which advises the NIH director on priorities and resources.

Jonathan Davidson, M.D. has won the APA Adolf Meyer Award.

Gerald A. Grant, M.D., assistant professor, Division of Neurosurgery, received the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation Young Clinician Investigator Award. This award grants support to young faculty who are pursuing careers as clinician investigators.

Ravi Jhaveri, M.D. and Courtney Thornburg, M.D. of the Department of Pediatrics have been elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

Ranga Krishnan, M.D., has received the Institute of Living's C. Charles Burlingame Award for 2008.

Joanne Kurtzberg, M.D., chief of the Division of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank at Duke, has recently been appointed to the new Advisory Council on Blood and Stem Cell Transplantation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Kerry Lee, M.D., of the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics has been selected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Ed Levin, Ph.D. was named President-elect of the Neurobehavioral Teratology Society (2008-2009).

H. Kim Lyerly, M.D., director of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, has been appointed by President Bush to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Lyerly was one of eight appointees named to the board on June 12, 2008. The National Cancer Advisory Board is an advisory committee of the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Paul Nagy won a Triangle Business Journal Health Care Hero Award, Allied Health category.

Tannithsha Reya, Ph.D. of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology and **Michael Ehlers, Ph.D.** of the Department of Neurobiology have been selected for Duke University's Thomas Langford Lectureship Award.

Scott Swartzwelder, Ph.D. has earned the Executive Career Field Performance Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Haresh Tharwani, M.D. has won an Excellence in Medical Student Teaching from the APA.

Pilot funds awarded

Science Council chooses five recipients

The Chancellor's Science Advisory Council's inaugural Pilot Funds program will support five projects for fiscal year 2009. They received 35 proposals, and evaluation criteria were scientific novelty and merit, departure from a PI's current research program, and a lack of funding for the proposed work. Each award is \$75,000 for one year.

The five recipients are:

- **Alejandro Aballay, Ph.D.** – "Intelligent command of defenses: neural regulation of innate immunity."
- **Jen-Tsan Ashley Chi, Ph.D.** – "microRNA cross-species trans-splicing as a novel mechanism for malaria resistance in sickle cell disease."
- **Xiao-Fan Wang, Ph.D.** – "Identification and functional characterization of microRNAs and their target genes involved in the promotion of hepatocellular carcinoma metastasis."
- **Geoffrey Pitt, M.D., Ph.D.** – "Defining unexpected roles for voltage-gated Ca²⁺ channels in development and birth defects."
- **Raphael Valdivia, Ph.D.** – "Mutational analysis of genetically intractable organisms."

Feng receives Hartwell award

Guoping Feng, Ph.D. will share the inaugural Hartwell Biomedical Research Collaboration Award with colleague Andrew Pieper, MD, Ph.D., of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The new award will provide \$270,000 over three years to continue their research into obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Welcome

The Duke University School of Medicine would like to recognize the following new, and newly appointed, faculty members, current as of July 2008:

Gansuvd Balgansuren, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pathology

Lionel Lloyds Bañez, M.D.
Assistant Professor in Surgery

Raymond Carlton Barfield, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Raquel Rae Bartz, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

Sarah Kay Bartz, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Dan German Blazer III, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Martha McLean Bolton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor in Pediatrics

Kristen Elisabeth Boswell, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Michael Jay Campbell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Ivan Kinhyur Chinn, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Saumil Mahendra Chudgar, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in the
Department of Medicine*

Matthew Janik Crowley, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Medicine*

Rachel E. Dew, M.D.
*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

C. Virginia Fenwick, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

James Curtis Fudge, Jr., M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Jeffrey Giles Gaca, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Jeffrey Michael Greeson, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Brian Carey Griffith, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Medicine*

Peter Michael Grossi, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Janet Knight Horton, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology

Erich Senin Huang, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Eugene Ickjin Hwang, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Brant Allen Inman, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery

George Lee Jackson, Ph.D.
*Assistant Professor in
the Department of Medicine*

Karen Schwenk Johnson, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Radiology*

James Reginald Kelly, M.D.
Professor of Medicine

Bruce Maurice Klitzman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor in Surgery

Michael Henry Land, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Robert William Lenfestey, M.D.
*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

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Welcome

Howard Levinson, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Qijing Li, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Immunology

Tom Kuoyuan Lin, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Jesse Liu, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Roberto José Manson, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery

David Morris Marks, M.D.

*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Melanie Kristen Means, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Rhonda M. Merwin, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Cara Louise O'Brien, M.D.

*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Medicine*

Herbert Pang, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Biostatistics
and Bioinformatics*

Sara Kate Pasquali, M.D.

*Medical Instructor in the
Department of Pediatrics*

Michelle Janette Pearce, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Brian Wells Pence, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor in Community
and Family Medicine*

Stacey Leanne Peterson-Carmichaell, M.D.

*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Pediatrics*

Stephen Michael Philcox, M.D.

*Medical Instructor in
the Department of Medicine*

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