

# what's the buzz?

Self-Reported News from the School of Medicine Community

## GRANTS &

## CONTRACTS



*Congratulations to our very productive faculty on their recent grants and contracts!*

► **Thomas Blanpied, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, received a five-year, \$335,850 subcontract from the University of Pittsburgh as part of a three-investigator, multi-PI R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “CRCNS: Transmitter Release Site Organization in Plasticity and Disease at the NMJ.”

► **Karen Kotloff, MD**, Professor, and **Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor, both from the Department of Pediatrics, were awarded \$1,351,278 over two years under the Center for Vaccine Development’s Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit (VTEU) NIH contract to develop and implement “A Phase 1 Challenge Study to Evaluate Safety, Immunogenicity and Efficacy of a Malaria Vaccine (rCSP adjuvant with GLA-SE) in Healthy Adults.”



Karen Kotloff, MD

► **Jacques Ravel, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and Associate Director of Genomics, Institute for Genome Sciences, and **Patrik Bavoil, PhD**, Professor & Chair of the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis in the School of Dentistry, who has a secondary appointment in our Department of Microbiology & Immunology, have been awarded a five-year, \$ 10.7 million grant from NIH for “Eco-pathogenomics of Sexually Transmitted Infections (EPSTI).” This is a renewal of the current U19 Sexually Transmitted Infections Cooperative Research Center (STI CRC) project “Eco-Pathogenomics of Chlamydial Reproductive Tract Infection (EPCRTI).” The focus of this application is on the discovery of



Jacques Ravel, PhD

biomarkers, with applications in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* mon- and co-infections.

It comprises three projects that will evaluate the human genetics component of the infections, the host response (immune and miRNA), as well as the genital microbiome.

► **Mark Rizzo, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, received a five-year, \$1,822,815 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDKD) for a competing renewal of “Regulatory Mechanisms of Insulin Secretion.”

► **Lisa Shulman, MD**, Professor, Department of Neurology, received a four-year, \$1,000,000 grant from Eugenia and Michael Brin for “Investigating Parkinson Disease Genetics in a Longitudinal Database.”

► **Nevil Singh, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, received one year of bridge funding via an R56 award from the NIH in the amount of \$383,750 for “Modifying T Cell Responses by Combinatorial Targeting of Negative Regulators.”

► **Stefanie Vogel, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, received a sub-award from the University of Maryland College Park for nine months of funding totaling \$70,000 to support “Functionalized Catanionic Surfactant Vesicles (FCSVs): A Platform for Vaccine Development.” The prime sponsor was the Maryland Innovation Initiative.

► **Friedrich Rainer von Coelln, DrMed**, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, received a two-year, \$130,000 training grant from the American Academy of Neurology for “Genetic Determinants of Clinical Heterogeneity in Parkinson Disease.”

► **Tonya Webb, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, received a one-year, \$20,000 award from



Stefanie Vogel, PhD

GRANTS & CONTRACTS *continued*

Tonya Webb, MD

the UM Ventures Seed Grant Program for “Nanoparticle-Based Targeted Immunotherapy For the Treatment of Mantle Cell Lymphoma.”

► **H. Ronald Zielke, PhD**, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded \$8,211,696 over five-years for the University of Maryland Brain and Tissue Bank, an important resource for the newly formed NIH NeuroBioBank. The NeuroBioBank is a combined effort by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and the National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

to provide a central source for human post-mortem tissue for research. Six brain banks throughout the United States will combine their efforts in this endeavor. The previously funded “NICHD Brain and Tissue Bank for Developmental Disorders at the University of Maryland” was renamed as the “University of Maryland Brain and Tissue Bank” in recognition of the broader mission of the NeuroBioBank. Since 1991, the University of Maryland bank has supported the research of nearly 1,000 scientists in 26 countries, resulting in the publication of approximately 700 scientific papers.

► **The Center for School Mental Health (CSMH)**, housed in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry within the Department of Psychiatry, have been jointly awarded (in partnership with the School-Based Health Alliance), a grant from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health’s Adolescent Health Branch, to implement best practices, policies, and financing strategies that support access to—and the expansion of—high-quality and sustainable school-based health services. The \$2.8 million, four-year cooperative agreement with MCHB will support the partnering organizations’ efforts to improve the quality of care delivered by school-based health centers (SBHCs) and comprehensive school mental health programs (CSMHPs) nationwide. The CSMH is co-directed by **Sharon Stephan, PhD**, and **Nancy Lever, PhD**, both Associate Professors in the Department of Psychiatry.



H. Ronald Zielke, PhD

*Congratulations to the following who have received honors!*

► **Nicolas Dorsey, PhD**, a fourth-year medical student in the UMSOM Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) was one of only two MD/PhD students nationwide invited to speak at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)/MSTP Symposium “50 Years of Training Physician-Scientists” in Bethesda, MD on July 17. Dr. Dorsey presented “The Role of STAT6 Modulation of Natural and Inducible Tregs During Allergic Lung Inflammation.” **Achsah Keegan, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology and Center for Vascular and Inflammatory Diseases, is Dr. Dorsey’s mentor and Associate Director of the University of Maryland’s MSTP.

► **Claire Fraser, PhD**, Professor, Departments of Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology and Director of the Institute for Genome Sciences, received the 2014 Drexel Prize in Infectious Disease at the International Symposium on Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease, held at the Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia from June 16–20.

► **Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD**, Associate Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology & Public Health, chaired the task force that compiled a “report card” that graded the condition of the emergency care system in the United States. The results were published as “America’s Emergency Care Environment: A State-by-State Report Card” in the February issue of *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. In early August, the American College of Emergency Physicians, which sponsored the compilation of the report, received a Profile of Excellence Award for Advocacy from the American Association of Medical Society Executives. The award was presented to honor ACEP’s efforts to improve the quality of medical care and expand access to emergency medical care, specifically through its publication of the emergency care report card.

► **Alice Zhang, MS-II**, was the recipient of a 2014 David E. Rogers Fellowship. The award included a \$4000 stipend in support of her summer research project “Disadvantage, Trauma, and Emotional Regulation in Children: The Role of Families in Moderating Physiological Stress Responses.” Alice also presented on her project at the 2014 Medical Student Forum, held at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City on September 4.



Nicolas Dorsey, PhD



## PUBLICATIONS

*Hats off to those who have been published!*



Brian Berman, MD

► **Brian Berman, MD**, Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and Director, Center for Integrative Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Mindfulness Intervention for Child Abuse Survivors: A 2.5-Year Follow-Up” in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 2014 May 20 [Epub ahead of print]. Dr. Berman and **Claudia Witt, MD, MBA**, Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and Center for Integrative Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Effectiveness Guidance Document (EGD) for Chinese Medicine Trials: A Consensus Document” in *Trials*, 2014 May 13;15:169.

► **Uttam Bodanapally, MBBS**, Assistant Professor; **Kathirkama Shanmuganathan, MBBS**, Professor; **Stuart Mirvis, MD**, Professor; and **Jarolsaw Krejza, MD, PhD**, Adjunct Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the authors on “Traumatic Optic Neuropathy Prediction After Blunt Facial Trauma: Derivation of a Risk Score Based on Facial CT Findings at Admission” in *Radiology*, 2014 Sep;272(3):824-831.

► **D. Hunter Boggs, MD**, Resident, and **Minesh Mehta, MB, ChB**, Professor, both from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were the lead and senior authors, respectively, on “Strategies to Prevent Brain Metastasis in High-Risk Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Lessons Learned From a Randomized Study of Maintenance Temozolomide Versus Observation” in *Clinical Lung Cancer*, 2014 Jun 24 [Epub ahead of print]. Dr. Mehta and **James Snider III, MD**, Resident, Department of Radiation Oncology, were the lead and senior authors, respectively, on “Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation: Recent Outcomes and Innovations” in *CNS Oncology*, 2014 May;3(3):219–230.

► **Rong Chen, PhD, MTR**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was invited to be the lead guest editor of the July 2014 special issue on “Advanced Medical Image Analysis” of the journal *Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine*.

► **Shifeng Chen, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors on “Unbiased Analysis of Pancreatic Cancer Radiation Resistance Reveals Cholesterol Biosynthesis as a Novel Target for Radiosensitisation” in the *British Journal of Cancer*, 2014 Jul 15 [Epub ahead of print].



Marcus Chibucos, PhD

► **Marcus Chibucos, PhD**, Research Associate, Microbiology & Immunology; **Owen White, PhD**, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and Associate Director of Bioinformatics; and **Michelle Giglio, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, all from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “Standardized Description of Scientific Evidence Using the Evidence Ontology (ECO)” in *Database*, 2014 July 22;2014.

► **Jonathan Crabtree**, Lead Bioinformatics Software Engineer; **Sonia Agrawal**, Senior Bioinformatics Software Engineer; **Anup Mahurkar**, Executive Director, Software Engineering & IT; **Garry Myers, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology; **David Rasko, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology; and **Owen White, PhD**, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and Associate Director of Bioinformatics, all from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “Circleator: Flexible Circular Visualization of Genome-Associated Data with BioPerl and SVG” in *Bioinformatics*, 2014 Jul 29 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Alan Cross, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, and **Kristina Harris, PhD**, Adjunct Assistant Professor, and **Dean Mann, MD**, Professor, both from the Department of Pathology, were among the co-authors on “The IL-23/Th17 Axis Is Involved in the Adaptive Immune Response to *B. anthracis* in Humans” in the *European Journal of Immunology*, 2014;44(3):752-62.

► **David Dreizin, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Gradient-Echo In-Phase and Opposed-Phase Chemical Shift Imaging: Role in Evaluating Bone Marrow” in *Clinical Radiology*, 2014 Jun;69(6):648-657, and “Focal Nodular Hyperplasia Within Accessory Liver: Imaging Findings at Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging” in the *Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography*, 2014 May-Jun;38(3):424-426.

► **Larry Forrester, PhD**, Associate Professor, and **Jill Whitall, PhD**, Professor, both from the Department of Physical Therapy &



Jill Whitall, PhD

## PUBLICATIONS *continued*

Rehabilitation Science, were among the co-authors on “Manipulating the Stride Length/Stride Velocity Relationship of Walking Using a Treadmill and Rhythmic Auditory Cueing in Non-Disabled Older Individuals: A Short-Term Feasibility Study” in *Gait Posture*, 2014 Jul 12 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Pawel Gajer, PhD**, Research Associate, and **Jacques Ravel, PhD**, Professor and Associate Director of Genomics, both from the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “Phylogeography of *Bacillus anthracis* in the Country of Georgia Shows Evidence of Population Structuring and Is Dissimilar to Other Regional Genotypes” in *PLoS One*, 2014 Jul 21;9(7):e102651.

► **Umar Khan, MBBS**, Fellow, and **Carl Shanholtz, MD**, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Medicine, and **Michael McCurdy, MD**, Assistant Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Medicine, co-authored “Oncologic Mechanical Emergencies” in *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*, 2014 Aug;32(3):495-508. **Amal Mattu, MD**, Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, is the consulting editor for the Clinics series and wrote the foreword for this issue, on the topic of hematology/oncology emergencies.

► **Seth Kligerman, MD**, Assistant Professor and **Charles White, MD**, Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Missed Pulmonary Embolism on Abdominal CT” in *AJR American Journal of Roentgenology*, 2014 Apr;202(4):738-743.



Young Kwok, MD

► **Young Kwok, MD**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, and **John Sorkin, MD, PhD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, were among the co-authors on “Cardiovascular Event-Free Survival After Adjuvant Radiation Therapy in Breast Cancer Patients Stratified by Cardiovascular Risk” in *Cancer Medicine*, 2014 Jul 10 [Epub ahead of print].



Seth Kligerman, MD

► **Barton Lane, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the authors on “Long-Term Influence of Chemotherapy on Steatosis-Associated Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis” in *Medical Oncology*, 2014 Jun;31(6):971. Co-authors included **Min Zhan, PhD**, and **Samer El-Kamary, MB, ChB, MPH**, both Associate Professors, Department of Epidemiology; **Ayse Mindikoglu, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor, and **Yixing Jiang, BM, PhD**, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Medicine; and **William Culpepper, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology.

► **Benjamin Lawner, DO, MS, EMT-P**, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Deputy Medical Director, Baltimore City Fire Department, published a handbook on the interpretation of 12-lead electrocardiograms for pre-hospital personnel. His co-author was **Priya Kamath, MD**, who was a fourth-year student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine at the time the text was developed and who is now an internal medicine resident at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ. Their handbook was distributed to all paramedics in the Baltimore City Fire Department and is now being developed as a statewide educational module by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

► **Mu-Han Lin, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors on “Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy for Pancreatic and Prostate Cancer Using Pulsed Low-Dose Delivery Techniques” in *Medical Dosimetry*, 2014 Jul 30 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Dirk Mayer, Dr. rer. nat.**, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “The Feasibility of Assessing Branched-Chain Amino Acid Metabolism in Cellular Models of Prostate Cancer with Hyperpolarized [1-13C]-Ketoisocaproate” in *Magnetic Resonance Imaging*, 2014 Sep;32(7):791-795.



Minesh Mehta, MB, ChB

► **Minesh Mehta, MB, ChB**, Professor; **Katja Langen, PhD**, Associate Professor, and **William Regine, MD**, Professor and the Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair, all from the Department of Radiation Oncology, published “Letter to the Editor: Expanding the Horizons of Proton Beam Therapy” in *The Cancer Letter*, 2014 Aug 1 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Andrea Meredith, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, was among the co-

## PUBLICATIONS *continued*



Andrea Meredith, PhD

authors on “Nuclear BK channels Regulate Gene Expression Via the Control of Nuclear Calcium Signaling” in *Nature Neuroscience*, 2014 Aug;17(8):1055-63.

► **Mark Mishra, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors on “Genomic Prostate Cancer Classifier Predicts Biochemical Failure and Metastases in Patients After Post-operative Radiation Therapy” in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*, 2014 Aug 1;89(5):1038–1046.



Mark Mishra, MD

► **Pranshu Mohindra, MD, MBBS**, was among the co-authors on “Results of the 2013 Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology Career Planning Survey of Practicing Physicians in the United States” in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*, 2014 Aug;11(8):817–823.

► **Andrew Neuwald, PhD**, Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Institute for Genome Sciences, was the author of “Protein Domain Hierarchy Gibbs Sampling Strategies” in *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology*, 2014 Aug 1;13(4):497-517.

► **Prashant Raghavan, MBBS**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Imaging Genomic Mapping of an Invasive MRI Phenotype Predicts Patient Outcome and Metabolic Dysfunction: A TCGA Glioma Phenotype Research Group Project” in *BMC Medical Genomics*, 2014 Jun 2;7:30, and “Spontaneous Regression and Recurrence of a Tumefactive Perivascular Space” in *Neuroradiology Journal*, 2014 Apr;27(2):195-202. Dr. Raghavan was also among the co-authors on the textbook *Manual of Head and Neck Imaging*, published earlier this year by Springer Verlag (New York).



Pranshu Mohindra, MD,  
MBBS

► **Jacques Ravel, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology and Associate Director of Genomics, and **Owen White, PhD**, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and Associate Director of Bioinformatics, both from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on *The Human Microbiome Science Report*, created for the “Human Microbiome Science: Vision for the Future” conference in July in Bethesda, MD, where scientists discussed current advances, challenges and opportunities for human microbiome research at the NIH. A report of the meeting is now available in the journal *Microbiome* at <http://www.microbiomejournal.com>.

► **David Riley**, Senior Bioinformatics Software Engineer, and **Hervé Tettelin, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, both from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “Parallel Evolution of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Streptococcus mitis* to Pathogenic and Mutualistic Lifestyles” in *mBio*, 2014;5(4):e01490-14.

► **Steven Roys, BS, MS**, Research Associate; **Chandler Sours, BS, MS**, Postdoctoral Fellow; **Kathirkama Shanmuganathan, MBBS**, Professor; and **Rao Gullapalli, PhD, MBA**, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, along with **Jinghao Zhou, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors on “Longitudinal and Prognostic Evaluation of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A 1H-Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Study” in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*, 2014;31(11):1018-1028.

► **Naomi Sengamalay**, Program Manager, **Xuechu Zhao**, Lab Research Specialist and **Claire Fraser, PhD**, Professor, Departments of Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology, all also from the Institute for Genome Sciences, which Dr. Fraser directs, were among the co-authors on “Genome Sequences of Rhinovirus C Isolates From Wisconsin Pediatric Respiratory Studies” in *Genome Announcements*, 2014 Mar 27;2(2); “Genome Sequences of Rhinovirus B Isolates From Wisconsin Pediatric Respiratory Studies” in *Genome Announcements*, 2014 Mar 27;2(2); and on “Genome Sequences of Rhinovirus A Isolates From Wisconsin Pediatric Respiratory Studies” in *Genome Announcements*, 2014 Mar 27;2(2).

► **Terez Shea-Donohue, PhD**, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors on “An Unsuspected



Terez Shea-Donohue, PhD



**PUBLICATIONS** *continued*

Cause of Diarrhoea and Gastrointestinal Bleeding During Corticosteroid Therapy” in *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*, 2014 Jun;77:259–261.

► **Tae-hoon Shin, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Three-Dimensional Magnetization-Prepared Imaging Using a Concentric Cylinders Trajectory” published in *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine*, 2014 May;71(5):1700-1710.

► **J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD**, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery; **Andrew Steven, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, and **Minesh Mehta, MB, ChB, FASTRO**, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors on “Potential of Glycerol to Reduce Intracerebral Edema in Brain Metastases” in *Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics*, 2014 Apr;14(4):379-388.

► **Jade Wong-You-Cheong, MB, ChB**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “A Pilot Study to Evaluate Renal Hemodynamics in Cirrhosis by Simultaneous Glomerular Filtration Rate, Renal Plasma Flow, Renal Resistive Indices and Biomarkers Measurements” in the *American Journal of Nephrology*, 2014;39(6):543-552.



J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD

*A job well done to all who have kept us in the media spotlight!*

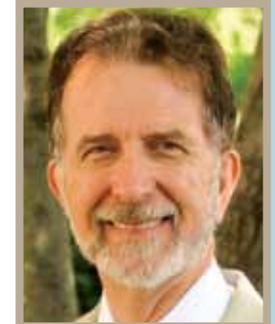
► **Larry Forrester, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, is currently featured on the *U.S. Medicine* website in “Robotics Help Veterans Relearn Walking Skills after Stroke Damage.” The story highlights Dr. Forrester’s research at the Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center with the Anklebot, an exoskeleton robotic system used as a therapeutic device to improve walking in stroke survivors.



Michelle Pearce, PhD

► **Michelle Pearce, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and the Center for Integrative Medicine, was quoted as an expert on meditation in the *Baltimore Sun* article “Meditation Gains Popularity as Means to Promote Mental, Physical Health” on June 6.

► **John Reed, MD, MDiv**, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine, and Center for Integrative Medicine, was interviewed in *The Huffington Post* article “4 Ways We Calm Ourselves Down Without Really Knowing It” on July 23.



John Reed, MD, MDiv



**The 4th Annual  
“Crashing Patient!  
Resuscitation &  
Risk Management”**

**Conference** will be held on Thursday, October 16, at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Organized by **Amal Mattu, MD**, Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, the full-day conference is designed to address risk issues specific to both parties in emergency medicine: the patient and the care provider. Emergency medicine faculty members will present lectures and workshops covering

the optimal care of the sickest patients, including those with vascular catastrophes, traumatic brain injury, and acute mesenteric ischemia. A pre-conference Critical Care Symposium will be presented on October 15. On the 17th, a post-conference workshop will include instruction in airway management and critical skills (presented as a cadaver lab), as well as echocardiography and ultrasound. The conference is designed for emergency medicine specialists but will be of interest and benefit to any healthcare provider who cares for very sick patients. More information about the conference is available at <https://umem.org/page/risk/home>.

## NEW FACULTY



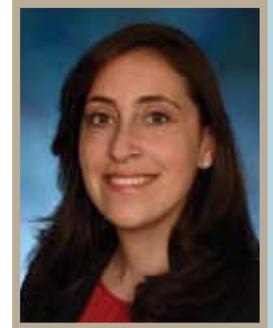
### *We welcome our new faculty!*

► **Zubair M. Ahmed, PhD**, joined the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck surgery as an Associate Professor in July. As a scientist, Dr. Ahmed's primary research goals are the identification and characterization of genes involved in syndromic hearing loss and, specifically, Usher Syndrome. His research is focused on both visual and auditory sensory systems. Prior to coming to the University of Maryland, Dr. Ahmed was an Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology in the Visual Research Group of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), where he also held a secondary appointment in the department of Otolaryngology. Dr. Ahmed received his PhD degree from the University of the Punjab, Pakistan and completed his pre-doctoral as well as his post-doctoral training at the National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD) at NIH. Dr. Ahmed's scientific accomplishments have earned five national and international awards, including a Career Development Award from the RPB Foundation and a Medal of Honor from the President of Pakistan. Dr. Ahmed has authored 65 original reports, six review articles and six book chapters. He has also recently co-edited a book titled "Inner Ear Development and Hearing Loss."

► **Sergio Dromi, MD**, joined the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine as an Assistant Professor on July 1. Dr. Dromi is a physician radiologist specializing in women's imaging, including breast and pelvic imaging. He is a researcher by training and has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals in the areas of image-guided therapy and drug delivery. Dr. Dromi received his medical degree from Universidad Favaloro in Argentina. He joined the Radiology Department of the National Institutes of Health, where he volunteered for seven months before going on to secure a four-year postdoctoral fellow position. His main work involved investigating the effects of pulsed-high intensity focused ultrasound (p-HIFU) and radiofrequency ablation on thermosensitive liposomes and immunotherapy. He also collaborated with other investigators to study p-HIFU combined with t-pa for thrombolysis. Dr. Dromi became Board certified by the American College of Radiology after completing his radiology residency at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. He spent a subsequent year at Georgetown to complete his fellowship in women's and breast imaging.

► **Moran (Roni) Levin, MD**, joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences in August as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Levin received her

medical degree from the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, where she was elected into the Arthur P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine. She completed an Internship in Internal Medicine and a Residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Maryland Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute. Dr. Levin has an interest in international medicine and has participated in numerous ophthalmic medical and surgical missions in Central and South America. She has expertise in all areas of pediatric ophthalmology, including the medical and surgical treatment of amblyopia, strabismus, diplopia, inflammatory diseases of the eye, ocular trauma, nasolacrimal obstruction, pediatric cataracts, pathology of the eyelid and orbit, and retinal disorders such as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). Dr. Levin's adult ophthalmology services include cataract surgery, adult strabismus surgery, laser procedures, and comprehensive adult eye care. She is excited to be returning to UMMS and is especially interested in teaching and in providing humanistic and compassionate care to both her pediatric and adult patients.



Moran (Roni) Levin, MD

► **Saima Riazuddin, PhD, MPH, MBA**, joined the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck surgery as an Associate Professor in July. Dr. Riazuddin's research is focused on the molecular genetics of nonsyndromic hearing loss. Her main goal is to investigate the molecular and genetic basis of hearing loss, utilizing human and mouse genetics, with a strong translational emphasis. Dr. Riazuddin came to the University of Maryland from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), where she was an Associate Professor in the Otolaryngology department and had a secondary appointment in Ophthalmology. Dr. Riazuddin received her PhD degree from the University of the Punjab, Pakistan, and completed her post-doctoral training at the National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders, NIDCD/NIH. Dr. Riazuddin is the principal investigator of two NIH R01 grants and multiple other national and international grants. Dr. Riazuddin has been honored with several national and international awards, including the Ibrahim Memorial Award, the C.W. Cotterman Award, a CCHMC Research Achievement Award, and a Medal of Honor from the President of Pakistan for research excellence. She was also a TWAS Young Affiliate for the Central and South Asian region and is a member of the advisory committee for the Asia branch of The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

## EVENTS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS



*Kudos to our colleagues who are experts in their fields and give their all to represent the School of Medicine!*

- ▶ **Alan Cross, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, presented “Host-Oriented Therapeutics for Infectious Diseases” at “Understanding Pathogenicity: A Workshop for the Biologic Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts” in Geneva, Switzerland on August 3.
- ▶ **Chris D’Adamo, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine, and Director of Research, Center for Integrative Medicine, spoke on a panel about “The Changing Healthcare Landscape” at the Y of Central Maryland’s 2014 Annual Meeting on May 30 in Towson, MD.



Lisa Shulman, MD

- ▶ **Lisa Shulman, MD**, Professor, Department of Neurology, served on the Planning Committee for the NINDS Conference “Parkinson’s Disease 2014: Advancing Research, Improving Lives,” where she also presented on “Opportunities to Improve Outcome Measures in PD Research.” Dr. Shulman also presented “Neurorehabilitation-Seeking Meaningful Outcomes” at the 6th Swiss Movement Disorders Symposium in Bern, Switzerland, from August 28–29.

## APPOINTMENTS



*We applaud our colleagues on their recent appointments!*

- ▶ **Lynn Schriml, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology & Public Health and Institute for Genome Sciences has been named a Senior Editor for the *Standards in Genomics Sciences (SIGS) Journal*, which has moved to BMC (BioMed Central) and can be found at <http://www.standardsingenomics.com>.
- ▶ **Lisa Shulman, MD**, Professor, Department of Neurology, has been appointed as Treasurer of the American Academy of Neurology from 2013–2015, and has been selected for the Board of Trustees of the American Brain Foundation from 2013–2015.

## COMMUNITY



## SERVICE

*Thanks to those who selflessly donate their time, talent and resources. Your goodwill does not go unappreciated.*

- ▶ **Sharon Stephan, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, conducted trainings for mental health and education professionals in the Ukraine and South Korea during the summer of 2014, to assist in their national school-based mental health responses to trauma and disaster.



Sharon Stephan, PhD

## Research Communications Network

Many thanks to the following people who serve as your liaisons for the information you see in *What's the Buzz?* Please send information (within the realm of the categories listed above) that you would like to see in the *Buzz* to the appropriate person within your department, program, center or office.

**Anatomy & Neurobiology:**  
Kristie Nichols

**Anesthesiology:** Pamela Earle-Jackson

**Biochemistry & Molecular Biology:**  
Qun Zhou

**Dermatology:** Betsy Satosky

**Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine:** Brigitte Pocta

**Emergency Medicine:**  
Linda Kesselring

**Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine:** Yimei Wu

**Family & Community Medicine:**  
Karen Webster

**Medical & Research Technology:**  
Cynthia Stambach

**Medicine:** Molly Lutz

**Microbiology & Immunology:**  
Teri Robinson

**Neurology:** Penelope Birkhead

**Neurosurgery:** Mari Jo Pohlner

**Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences:** Robin Kissinger

**Ophthalmology:** Chinneta Pettaway-Willis

**Orthopaedics:** Dori Kelly

**Otorhinolaryngology:** Bryan Ambro

**Pathology:** Rob Christenson

**Pediatrics:** Denise Hansen

**Pharmacology:** Stacey Lukasik

**Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science:** Monica Martinez

**Physiology:** Ken Fahnestock

**Psychiatry:** Vee Porter-Brown

**Radiation Oncology:** Jill Rosenberg

**Surgery:** Meghan Scalea

**Program in Comparative Medicine:**  
Deborah Sanchez

**Program in Genetics & Genomic Medicine:** Ruth Cosentino

**Program in Minority Health & Health Disparities:** Carol Shelton

**Program in Neuroscience:** Tom McHugh

**Program in Oncology:** Robert Mitchell

**Program in Trauma:** Jane Anderson

**Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research:** TBD

**Center for Integrative Medicine:**  
Rebekah Owens

**Center for Mucosal Biology Research (MBRC):** Pam King

**Center for Research on Aging:**  
Kara Longo

**Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research (STAR-ORC):**  
Gabriela Felton

**Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine:**  
Fuliscia Morrison

**Center for Vaccine Development:**  
Carey Martin

**Center for Vascular & Inflammatory Diseases:** Talia Bailey

**Institute for Genome Sciences:**  
Riham Keryakos

**Institute of Human Virology:**  
Nora Grannell

**MD/PhD Program:** Jane Bacon

**Office of Admissions:** Mickey Foxwell

**Office of Development:**  
Rebecca Herman

**Office of Faculty Affairs & Professional Development:**  
Robertha Simpson

**Office of Information Services:**  
Sharon Bowser

**Office of Policy & Planning:**  
Carol Shelton

**Office of Public Affairs:**  
Caelie Haines

**Office of Research Career Development:** Stacie Small Mendoza

**Office of Research & Graduate Studies:** Tom Hooven

**Office of Student Affairs:**  
Dawn Roberts

**Office of Student Research:**  
Jean Marie Roth

Attention all SOM Medical, Allied Health and Graduate Students!

**Buzz Information Link for Students**

A hyperlink is available on the School of Medicine Website for you to submit information to the *Buzz* to acknowledge honors, prizes, presentations, leadership positions and other noteworthy accomplishments. Go to: [http://medschool.umaryland.edu/Public\\_Affairs/buzz.asp](http://medschool.umaryland.edu/Public_Affairs/buzz.asp)