Robert Gallo, MD

What's the Buzz?

Events, Lectures & Workshops

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

- The Department of Radiation Oncology was well represented at the 61st annual meeting and exhibition of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), July 14–July 18 in San Antonio, Tex.
  - The theme of this year’s meeting was “Building Bridges, Cultivating Safety, Growing Value.”
  - Esther Vicente, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, was among several co-authors from the Department of “Accounting for Respiration-induced Motion of Peripheral Airways in Virtual Bronchoscopy-guided Lung Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy Planning,” which was named as a 2019 AAPM Best in Physics (Therapy) abstract.
  - Dr. Vicente was also awarded a $1,000 AAPM Best Award Travel Fellowship.

- The University of Maryland Medical Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, and University of Maryland School of Pharmacy were well represented at the 39th Congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists, held in Naples, Italy, May 21–24, with the following multidisciplinary presentations:
  - “Access and Use of Bystander Naloxone Among Emergency Department Patients with Opioid Abuse in the Era of Adulterated Heroin with Fentanyl” [total presentation]
  - “Prevalence of Fentanyl Exposure Among Emergency Department Patients with History of Opioid Abuse” [total presentation]
  - Hannah Bach, MD, Emergency Medicine Resident
  - Siamak Moayedi, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
  - Medical students Brenten Hurt, Atiizaz Hussain, Valerie Jenkins, and Ilya Lazzeri
  - Stephen Schenkel, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
  - Hong Kim, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
  - “Clinical Utility of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) in Poisoned Patients with Cardiovascular Collapse: A Retrospective Study of Extracorporeal Life Support Organization’s ECMO Registry” [oral presentation]
  - Lindsay Weiner, MD, Emergency Medicine Resident
  - Michael Mazzeffi, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology

- The National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH) co-hosted and participated in the annual School Health Interdisciplinary Program (SHIP) conference in Columbia, Md., August 6–8. Educational and health leaders from 21 Maryland jurisdictions were in attendance. The theme of the conference was: “Advancing Innovation and Best Practices in School Health.” State agency leaders from the Maryland State Departments of Education, Health, Juvenile Services, and Human Services discussed the importance of addressing the needs of the whole child and shared agency efforts related to school health.

- The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy was well represented at the 2019 AAPM Best Scholars Program this summer hosted by the National Institute on Aging. The event took place on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md., July 2–August 2. This competitive program provides unique opportunities for junior faculty and researchers to gain insight into aging research.

- Vasken Diltsazian, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, recently completed the Butler-Williams Scholars Program 2019 this summer hosted by the National Institute on Aging. The event took place on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md., July 2–August 2. This competitive program provides unique opportunities for junior faculty and researchers to gain insight into aging research.

- Derik Davis, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, recently completed the Butler-Williams Scholars Program 2019 this summer hosted by the National Institute on Aging. The event took place on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md., July 2–August 2. This competitive program provides unique opportunities for junior faculty and researchers to gain insight into aging research.
and molecular imaging to the congressional staffers and general public. The conference was held in Washington, D.C. on July 17. Separately, Dr. Ditlzian was an invited speaker at Shanghai School of Medicine, Shanghai, China, on September 8, 2019. He delivered two oral presentations: “Myocardial Perfusion SPECT and PET Imaging” and “The Role of Cardiac Metabolism Imaging in Myocardial Viability, Sarcoidosis, and Cardiovascular Device Infections.”

- Colleen Hughes Driscoll MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was an invited panelist for the Safe Sleep Initiatives Panel at the 3rd Annual Preventing Child Fatality Summit: Safe Sleep. The program was hosted by B’more for Healthy Babies in June in Baltimore, Md.

- Howard Dubowitz, MB, ChB, MS, FAAP, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, presented “The Neglect of Child Neglect” at the German Youth Institute Conference, Munich, Germany, in June.

- Reha Erzurumlu, PhD, Professor, Department Anatomy and Neurobiology, presented “Somatosensory Circuit Alterations in Neurodevelopmental Disorders,” at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Regional Meeting, on July 12 in Belgrade, Serbia.

- Sharon Hoover, PhD, Associate Professor, and Jill Bohnenkamp, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, both from the Department of Psychiatry, participated in a convening of the National Governor’s Association, Strategies to Promote Child Health, Wellbeing, and Safety in Schools and Communities Multi-State Convening. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz opened the convening of 14 states and respective participants, who were all gathered to engage in strategic planning on school safety. Dr. Hoover presented to directors of homeland security, as well as behavioral health and education leaders on the role of mental health in school safety.

- Isabel Jackson, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, presented “Translating Academic Research into Product Development: The Importance of Understanding GLPs at an Early Stage from an Academic Perspective” at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity Division Program Directors’ Meeting in Rockville, Md., on August 1.

- Toni Pollin, MS, PhD, CGC, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine; Kristin Maloney, MS, MGC, CGC, Instructor, Department of Medicine; and Katherine Bisordi, MS, MGC, CGC, Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, attended the Monogenic Diabetes Research and Advocacy Project (MORAP) at the 2019 Friends For Life (FFL) Conference in Orlando, Fla., July 17–19. FFL is a consumer conference hosted by Children With Diabetes. Drs. Pollin, Maloney, and Bisordi provided education about monogenic diabetes through a presentation and exhibition table.

- Kiriti Shetty, MBBS, Professor, Department of Medicine, presented at the 2019 Emerging Therapies for PBC, NASH, ESLD and HCC Conference, an evidence-based seminar focused on chronic liver diseases. The conference focused on the challenges of diagnosis and treatment of chronic liver disease; current and emerging drug and surgical therapies; and how to incorporate new knowledge to improve patient outcomes. The seminar was held on June 15 at the Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town, D.C.

- Samuel Fisherman, MD, Professor, Department of Surgery, Program in Trauma, gave the following presentations in August:
  • “Will Suspended Animation Ever Become Reality?” at the World Congress of Surgery, Krakow, Poland.

Dr. Fisherman also participated in the panel discussion: “One Night to Save the World,” which was sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences Science and Entertainment Exchange, held in New York, N.Y.

New Faculty

- Aiyte Nur Aktay, MD, joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in July 2019. Dr. Aktay received her medical degree from the University of Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey in 1991. She completed a pediatric residency at Goztepe Social Security Hospital Children’s Hospital, Istanbul-Turkey and an internship at the Department of Pediatrics, Wyler Children’s Hospital University of Chicago School of Medicine in Chicago, Ill. She followed this with a pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Medical College with Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wis.

- Roger Bannister, PhD, joined the Department of Pathology as an Assistant Professor in August 2019. Dr. Bannister will also hold a secondary appointment with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Bannister comes to Maryland from the University of Colorado, where he was an Assistant Professor with the Department of Medicine’s Division of Cardiology. Dr. Bannister will be a major contributor to the T32 Interdisciplinary Training Program in Muscle Biology via his work related to skeletal muscle regulation and function.

- Matthew Grant, MD, joined the Department of Pediatrics as an Assistant Professor in July 2019. Dr. Grant was awarded his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) in 2015 and completed his residency in pediatrics at UMSOM in 2019.

- Kris Scardamalia, PhD, joined the Department of Psychiatry as an Assistant Professor in July 2019. Dr. Scardamalia has extensive experience working with high needs youth and their families as a school psychologist in both the public schools and juvenile services. Her research focuses on the intersection of the education, juvenile justice, and mental health systems and their contribution to the disproportionate number of minorities impacted by the school to prison pipeline.
Hats off to those who have been published!

- Debra Badawi, MD
- Rong Chen, PhD
- Qi Cao, BM, PhD

which was published in the July–August 2019 of Radiographics.

- Vasken Dilsizian, MD
  - Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Imaging Acetabular Fractures,” which was published in Radiologic Clinics of North America on April 1, 2019.

- Howard Dubowitz, MB, CHB, MS, FAAP
  - Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was first author of “Timing and Chronicity of Child Neglect and Substance Use in Early Adulthood,” which was published in the August 2019 issue of Child Abuse and Neglect.

- Colleen Hughes Driscoll, MD
  - Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was featured in the July–August 2019 issue of Biomedical Instrumentation and Technology.

- Sarah Dudley, MD
  - Clinical Instructor, Department of Radiation Oncology, and Vedapurisan Viswanathan, MD
  - Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, authored “Margins in Vulvar Cancer: Challenges to Classical Clinicopathologic Vulvar Recurrence Risk Factors,” which was published in the August 2019 issue of Gynecologic Oncology.

- Vahid Etezadi, MD
  - Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “Does Systemic Antibiotic Prophylaxis Prior to the Placement of Totally Implantable Venous Access Devices Reduce Early Infection? A Retrospective Study of 1,485 Cases at a Large Academic Institution,” which was published in the American Journal of Infection Control on August 20, 2019.

- Aleta Frazier, MD
  - Clinical Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “Mucinous Neoplasms of the Ovary,” which was published in the July–August 2019 issue of Radiographics.

- Rao Gullapalli, PhD, MBA
  - Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Socioeconomic Disparities in Corticocerebral Structures,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of PloS One.
Publications
Continued

Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Cost-Effectiveness of Computed Tomography Angiography in Management of Tiny Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms in the United States,” which was published in Stroke on July 25, 2019.

Jean Jeudy, MD, Associate Professor and Jane Kim, MD, Assistant Professor (last author), both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Spaced Radiology: Encouraging Durable Memory Using Spaced Testing in Pediatric Radiology,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of Pediatric Radiology. Dr. Jeudy also was among the co-authors of “Occult Chronic Thromboembolic Disease in Patients Presenting for Surgical Pulmonary Embolectomy,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of Annals of Thoracic Surgery.

Gaurav Jindal, MD, Associate Professor; Timothy Miller, MD, Assistant Professor; and Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Beyond the First Pass: Revascularization Remains Critical in Stroke Thrombectomy,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of the Journal of Neurointerventional Surgery. Dr. Jindal was among the co-authors of “Comparison of Outcomes after Treatment of Large Vessel Occlusion in a Critical Care Resuscitation Unit or a Neurocritical Care Unit,” which was published in Neuroradiological Clinics on North America.

Kimia Kahlbati Kani, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine was first author of “Cervical Disc Arthroplasty: Review and Update for Radiologists,” which was published in the April 2019 issue of Seminars in Roentgenology. Dr. Kani was also co-author of “Scapulothoracic Dissociation,” which was published in the June 2019 issue of British Journal of Radiology. Separately, Dr. Kani was among the co-authors of “Acute Shoulder Injury,” which was published in the September 2019 issue of Radiologic Clinics of North America.

Narottam Lamichhane, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was the senior author of “Novel Delivery Systems for Checkpoint Inhibitors,” which was published in Medicines (Basel) on July 11, 2019.

Richard Lichenstein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was last author of “Firearm Suicide Among Youth in the United States, 2004–2015,” which was published in Journal of Behavioral Medicine on August 1, 2019.

Elias Melhem, MD, PhD, the Dean John M. Dennis Chairman and Professor of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Lack of Choline Elevation on Proton Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy in Grade I–III Glioma,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of The Neuroradiology Journal.

Ryan Miller, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was among the co-authors of “Screening Eye Exams in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes Under 18 Years of Age: Once May Be Enough?” which was published in Pediatric Diabetes on July 9, 2019.

Timothy Miller, MD, Assistant Professor; Jiachen Zhuo, PhD, Assistant Professor; Elias Melhem, MD, PhD, Professor and the Dean John M. Dennis Chairman, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine; Rao Gullapalli, PhD, MBA, Professor; and Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, Professor; all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine; along with Paul Fishman, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Neurology, and Howard Eisenberg, MD, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, were the authors of “Targeting of the Dentato-rubro-thalamic Tract for MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound Treatment of Essential Tremor,” which was published in The Neurosurgery Journal on August 13, 2019. Dr. Gullapalli was also among the co-authors of “Automated Segmentation of Tissues Using CT and MRI: A Systematic Review,” which was published in Academic Radiology on August 10, 2019. Dr. Zhao was also among the co-authors of “Quantifying Tongue Tip Shape in Apical and Laminar (/s/)-Contributions of Palate Shape,” which was published in the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research on August 29, 2019.

Jason Molitoris, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Estimating Survival in Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancers and Brain Metastases: An Update of the Graded Prognostic Assessment for Gastrointestinal Cancers (GI-GPA),” which was published in the June 2019 issue of Clinical and Translational Radiation Oncology.

Robert Morales, MD, Assistant Professor, and Prashant Raghavan, MBBS, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, along with David Eisenman, MD, (last author) Associate Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, were among the co-authors of “Pattern and Severity of Transverse Sinus Stenosis in Patients with Pulsatile Tinnitus Associated with Sigmoid Sinus Wall Anomalies,” which was published in Laryngoscope on July 13, 2019. Separately, Drs. Morales, Raghavan and Eisenman were the authors of “Imaging Necrotizing Otitis Externa,” which was published in the July 2019 issue of Seminars in Roentgenology.

Michael Mulligan, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “How to Diagnose Enchondroma, Bone Infarct, and Chondrosarcoma,” which was published in the May–June 2019 issue of Current Problems in Diagnostic Radiology.

Erin O’Connor, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was first author of “Why is Clinical fMRI in a Resting State?,” which was published in the April 2019 issue of Frontiers in Neurology.

John Papadimitriou, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Pathology, in collaboration with the Instituto de Nefrologia, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was among the authors of “Graft Dysfunction in Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney Transplantation (SPK): Results of Concurrent Kidney and Pancreas Allograft Biopsies,” which was published in the American Journal of Transplantation on July 9, 2019.

Elizabeth Parker, PhD, MD, Assistant Professor (lead author), and Chris D’Adamo, PhD, Assistant Professor, both from the Department of Family & Community Medicine, were among the co-authors of “An Onsite Fitness Facility and Integrative Wellness Program Positively Impacted Health-Related Outcomes Among Teachers and Staff at an Urban Elementary/Middle School,” which was published in Global Advances in Health & Medicine on September 9, 2019.

Thomas Ptak, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Nonatherosclerotic Peripheral Arterial Disease,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of the Journal of the American College of Radiology.
Amit Sawant, PhD, Associate Professor; Chris Johnstone, Medical Research Physicist; Stewart Becker, PhD, Assistant Professor; Zejko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, Professor; Isabel Jackson, PhD, Assistant Professor; and Yannick Poirier, PhD, Assistant Professor; all from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the authors of “A Dose of Reality: How 20 Years of Incomplete Physics and Dosimetry Reporting in Radiobiology Studies May Have Contributed to the Reproducibility Crisis,” which was published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on July 6, 2019.

Zuoyi Shao PhD, Assistant Professor; Shaolin Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor; Fuwen Zhou, BM, MM, Dr rer nat, Assistant Professor; Adam Puche, PhD, Professor; and Michael Shipley, PhD, the Donald E. Wilson Distinguished Professor and Chair; all current and former members of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, were authors of “Reciprocal Inhibitory Glomerular Circuits Contribute to Excitation-Inhibition Balance in the Mouse Olfactory Bulb,” which was published in eNeuro on May 30, 2019.

Clint Sliker, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine was among the co-authors of “Preoperative Imaging for Facial Transplant: A Guide for Radiologists,” which was published in the May 2019 issue of Radiographics. Dr. Sliker also was first author of “Imaging of Neck Visceral Trauma,” which was published in Radiologic Clinics of North America on April 1, 2019.

Nikki Tirada, MD, Assistant Professor and Gauri Khorekar, MBBS, Assistant Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Why Patients Decline Digital Breast Tomosynthesis: Results From a Patient Survey in an Urban Academic Breast Center,” which was published in Current Problems in Diagnostic Radiology on July 9, 2019.

Ze Wang, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Targeted Genetic Analysis of Cerebral Blood Flow Imaging Phenotypes Implicates the INPP5D Gene,” which was published in the September 2019 issue of Neurobiology of Aging.

Charles White, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Coronary Venous Anatomy and Anomalies,” which was published in the Journal of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography on August 7, 2019.

Brittney Williams, MD, Assistant Professor; Wei Chao, MD, PhD, FAHA, Anesthesiology Endowed Professor in Translational Research; and Lin Zou, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor; all from the Department of Anesthesiology and the Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research (STAR), were among the co-authors of “Toll-like Receptor 7 Contributes to Inflammation, Organ Injury, and Mortality in Murine Sepsis,” which was published in the July 2019 issue of Anesthesiology.

Amelia Wnorowski, MD, Assistant Professor; Barton Lane, MD, Assistant Professor; and Jade Wong-Yon-Cheong, MD, Professor; all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Performing a Basic US Examination: Road Map for Radiology Residents,” which was published in the July–August 2019 issue of Radiographics.

Junfang Wu, BM, PhD, Associate Professor, and Marta Lipinski, PhD, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Anesthesiology, were the corresponding authors of “cPLA2 Activation Contributes to Lysosomal Defects Leading to Impairment of Autophagy After Spinal Cord Injury,” which was published in the October 2019 issue of Cell Death & Disease. In addition, Drs. Wu and Lipinski, published an invited review article titled, “Autophagy in Neurotrauma: Good or Bad or Dysregulated,” which was published in the August 2019 issue of Cells.

Mingyao Zhu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Technical Note: Quality Assurance of Proton Central Axis Pencil-Beam Spread-Out Bragg Peak Using Large-Diameter Multilayer Ionization Chambers,” which was published in Medical Physics on July 25, 2019.
Grants & Contracts

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

Jonathan Bromberg, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Surgery, and Emmanuel Mongodin, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, received a four-year, $2,314,936 award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NH/NHLBI) for “Immunological and Functional Consequences Triggered by the Gut Microbiota Regulate Alloimmunity and Cardiac Transplant Outcome.”

Shuo Chen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, was awarded a five-year, $2.3 million DP1 award for “A Multivariate Mediation and Deep-Learning Framework for Genome-Connectome-Substance Use Research.”

Sara Coddington, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Physiology, received an Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA) in the amount of $61,610 for “Conformational Dynamics of the Helix Voltage Sensor of the Potassium Channel Herg.”

Niel Constantine, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Institute of Human Virology, has been awarded a corporate grant from Trinity Biotech Inc. in the amount of $90,925 for “Clinical Trial for the Trinity Biotech Uni-Gold Syphilis Treponemal (Tp) test.” This FDA clinical trial will focus on the suitability and accuracy of a rapid test to detect specific Treponemal antibodies in finger stick, whole blood, and serum samples at CLIA-waived sites.

Reha Erzurumlu, PhD, Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a one-year, $381,304 supplement grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH/NINDS) for his existing R01 grant, “Thalamocortical Circuit Defects in Developmental Brain Disorders.”

Reny Henderson, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, has been chosen for the Society for the Advancement of Blood Management (SABM) Research Starter Grant Award which will fund his study “Hematological and Endothelial Function after Autologous Blood Infusion in Cardiac Surgery Patients.”

Rao Jaladanki, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, received a four-year, $1,189,600 VA Merit competitive renewal award for “Surgical Studies on Mucosal Homeostasis.”

Asaf Keller, PhD, Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a five-year, $2.4 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH/NINDS) for “Serotonin and Pain Modulation.”

Anthony Kim, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery; Graeme Woodward, MD, Professor and Interim Chairman of Neurosurgery; and Jeffrey Winkle, PhD, Professor, Department of Surgery, received a one-year, $115,000 Maryland Innovative Initiative (MII) Phase I grant from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) for “Development of the DART Therapeutic Nanoparticle Platform for Fxl4-Positive Cancers.”

Bruce Krueger, PhD, Professor, Department of Physiology, received a two-year, $424,875 R21 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH/NIEHS) for “Sexually Dimorphic Epigenetic Regulation of Fetal Brain Development by Environmental Stressors.”

Aaron Levy, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Physiology, received a National Research Service Award (NRSA) in the amount of $122,452 for “Dissecting Pre-Vs Postsynaptic Actin Dynamics in Synapse Structure and Strength.”

Thomas Longden, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, received a two-year, $200,000 award from the American Heart Association for “Blood Flow in Learning and Memory.”

Junfang Wu, BM, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, and Steven Michael Jay, PhD, from University of Maryland, College Park, received a five-year, $2,799,596 RF1 grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH/NINDS) for “Dementia Following Spinal Cord Injury: Mechanism and Therapeutic Targeting.”

Appointments

We applaud our colleagues on their recent appointments!

Derik Davis, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was named to the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Sports Medicine.

Tracy Bale, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Director, Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development, was appointed as an Allan and Maria Myers International Visiting Fellow at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Melbourne, Australia in September 2019. Dr. Bale was also elected to serve as President for the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) for the 2020–2022 term on September 21, 2019.

Vasken Dilisizian, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, will be the incoming President of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) from 2019–2020. He was interviewed by HealthCare Business News magazine and was featured on the cover page of the June issue titled “SNMMI 2019: Fostering Collaboration to Advance Nuclear Medicine.”

Irina Timofte, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine has been appointed Lung Transplant Associate Program Director for the University of Maryland.

Heidi Wehring, PharmD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, has been elected as a Member at Large to the Board of Directors of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP). She will serve a two-year term from July 2019–June of 2021. This is a national organization of more than 3,000 members.

We applaud our colleagues on their recent appointments!
Honors & Awards

Congratulations to the following who have received honors!

» The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling team attended the 33rd National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling, held July 18-20 in Denver, Colo. The annual conference is the premier educational and networking event for problem gambling and responsible gambling professionals in the country—with attendees in this field from across the nation and worldwide. During the event, the Center received two awards that support Problem Gambling Awareness, prevention, treatment, and recovery:
  » Excellence in Prevention—selected by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) Prevention Committee and awarded to Mary Dreyer, Program Director. This award acknowledged the prevention effort working with youth groups located in counties with casinos in Maryland.
  » Lifetime Achievement Award (the highest award presented by NCPG)—awarded to Lori Rugle, PhD, ICGB II, BACC, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry

Joshua Abzug, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, was selected by the American Association for Hand Surgery to be the recipient of the 2020 Lean & Green Award. Dr. Abzug was chosen based on his article published in the July 2018 issue of Hand, “The Safety and Benefits of the Semitendinosus for Closed Reduction and Percutaneous Pinning of Pediatric Upper Extremity Fractures.” The article highlights evidence-based sterility while decreasing costs and medical waste associated with the use of Kirschner wires to treat hand fractures. The award includes a $1,000 honorarium, complimentary meeting registration, and a digital diploma.

» Tracy Bale, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Director, Center for Epigenetic Research in Child Health and Brain Development, was honored with the 2019 Joseph Erlanger Distinguished Lectureship Award of the APS Central Nervous System Section from the American Physiological Society in September 2019.

» Sharon Hoover, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, was recently awarded the Sydney Berman Award from the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). This award is given each year to one recipient for their contributions to the school-based study or interventions for learning disorders or mental illness.

Christopher Jewell, PhD

Christopher Jewell, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was awarded by The White House with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE is the highest award the United States bestows on scientists and engineers in the early stages of their career.

» Mark Kvarta, MD, PhD, PGY-3 Resident, Department of Psychiatry, was recently selected for the 2019 National Institute of Mental Health’s Outstanding Resident Award.

The competitive award recognizes individuals with talent, particularly at early stages of careers. The award further recognizes the work of the awardees, as well as encourages the development of research careers. The award program was held on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md., September 12-13.

» Margaret McCarthy, the James and Carolyn Frenkil Dean’s Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacology, was honored with the 2019 Gill Transformative Investigators Award from the Gill Center for Biomolecular Sciences on September 25, 2019.

» Daniel Roche, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, has been awarded the prestigious travel award by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), which will be awarded in Orlando, Fla., December 8-11, 2019.

Research Communication Network

Many thanks to the following who serve as your liaison for the information you see at What’s the Buzz?

DEPARTMENTS
  • Anatomy & Neurobiology: Lesle Fitzpatrick fitzpatrick@som.umaryland.edu
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  » Center for Investigative Research in Aging (CIRA): Tracy Bale, PhD bale@som.umaryland.edu
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  » Graduate Programs in Life Sciences (GPLS): Sharon Groves sgroves@som.umaryland.edu
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What’s the Buzz?

If you would like to acknowledge an award, presentation, publication, noteworthy accomplishment, or other noteworthy information, please send the information to the liaison within your department, program or center or office. You may submit your Buzz items online: https://umbforms.wfuc.com/forms/2950d456101b25673/