



what's the buzz?

Self-Reported News from the School of Medicine Community

EVENTS, LECTURES

& WORKSHOPS



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



Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MS

► **Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MS**, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, participated in a panel on “Mechanisms of Brain Injury and Novel Therapies” at the Society for Critical Care Medicine 42nd Critical Care Congress, held January 19–23 in San Juan, PR. At the same meeting, **Joseph DuBose, MD**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, and a lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force, presented “Damage Control Surgery and Resuscitation in the Modern Combat Era.”

► **Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD**, the Mary Gray Cobey Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was the plenary speaker at the American Academy of Pediatrics—National Conference and Exhibition (AAP-NCE), Council on Environmental Health Program in New Orleans, LA, late last year. Her topic was “Fetal Life and Adult Disease.” She was also an invited speaker at the joint meeting of the Women’s MSTP Student Associations at both the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Johns Hopkins University on December 7, 2012.

► **R. Michael Benitez, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, was Co-Chair for the section on Valvular Heart Disease at the American College of Cardiology’s Scientific Session in San Francisco in March.

► **Maureen Black, MD**, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, presented “Food Insecurity: Threats to Children’s Health and Development” as a Visiting Professor at Case Western Reserve University: Children’s Access Now (CASE CAN) in Cleveland, OH, on February 8. That

same day, she also presented “Prevention of Toddler Obesity: Healthy From the Start” at Grand Rounds in the Department of Pediatrics at MetroHealth in Cleveland. Additionally, she presented the Global Health Day Keynote “Global Child Development:

Preventing Disparities/Promoting Human Capital” as a Visiting Professor for Sick Kids International at the University of Toronto, in Canada on February 12; “Building Healthy Growth Patterns from the Start” as a Visiting Professor for Grand Rounds at the Department of Pediatrics, Sick Kids, The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, on February 13; and “Child Development and Mental Health from a Global Perspective” at Grand Rounds in the Department of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine on February 20. She also participated on the Scientific Advisory Council to evaluate the Division of Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH, on February 21–22.

► **Megan Brenner, MD, MS**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, presented the “pro” perspective in the debate “Endovascular Repair Should Be the First Line Approach for Traumatic Vascular Injuries” at the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST) annual conference, held January 15–19 in Scottsdale, AZ. At the same conference, **Matthew Lissauer, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, presented “Updates in ACS: Re-evaluating Our Perceptions 10 Years Later.”

► **Curt Civin, MD**, Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Physiology; Associate Dean for Research;



Maureen Black, MD



Curt Civin, MD



Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD

EVENTS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS *continued*

and Director, Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine, presented a lecture on “MicroRNA Maestros of Hematopoiesis and Leukemia” at the Genetics Branch Seminar Series, National Cancer Institute/National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD, on February 21.

► **Jim Shaojun Du, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was invited to give an oral presentation on “Emerging Gene-Transfer and Knockout Technologies in Zebrafish Model” at the Aquaculture 2013 meeting in Nashville, TN, on February 24.

► **Daniel Herr, MD, FCCM**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, and **Matthew Lissauer, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, have both received the Presidential Citation for extraordinary contributions of time, energy, and resources to the Society of Critical Care Medicine. The Society established the Presidential Citation Award in 1995 to honor SCCM members who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. Dr. Herr was also voted Best Physician Partner by the staff of the Department of Rehabilitation Services at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Dr. Lissauer and colleagues received the 2013 Family-Centered Care Innovation Award from the Society for Critical Care Medicine.

► **Benjamin Lawner, DO, EMT-P**, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, presented two lectures (“Pump, Blow, Where to Go? Cutting Edge Compression Strategies for Survival” and “Controversies in Pre-Hospital Care: Beyond the Backboard”); led two skills labs (on the recognition of STEMI on electrocardiograms and the resuscitation algorithm for sudden cardiac arrest); served as a panelist on “Hot Topics in Collegiate Emergency Medical Services”; and facilitated a trauma skills competition at the 20th Annual Conference of the National Collegiate EMS Foundation, held in Arlington, VA, in late February. Additionally, Dr. Lawner and **J.V. Nable, MD, EMT-P**, Clinical Instructor and EMS Fellow, presented lectures at the paramedic refresher course sponsored by the University of Maryland Baltimore County in late February. Seventy paramedics from across the country were trained during this four-day program.

► **Osamah Saeedi, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, presented “Potential Role of E-mail and Text Messaging in Improving Adherence” at the 23rd annual meeting of the American Glaucoma Society, held February 28–March 3 in San Francisco.

► **Jade Wong-You-Cheong, MD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was a co-presenter on “Critical Considerations for Imaging Renal and Pancreatic Transplants” at the Society of Abdominal Radiology meeting in Wailea, HI, on February 26. Dr. Wong gave a presentation on February 28 at the same meeting on “Imaging Evaluation of Liver Transplant and Its Complications.”

APPOINTMENTS



We applaud our colleagues on their recent appointments!



France Carrier, PhD

► **France Carrier, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Cancer Research*.

► **Vasken Dilsizian, MD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was appointed to co-chair the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology initiative on Imaging Needs Assessment, to identify interventions that can assure access to patient care, as well as compliance with Appropriate Use criteria.



Vasken Dilsizian, MD

► **David Kaetzel, PhD**, Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was appointed to the Department of Defense’s Breast Cancer Research Program Review Panel (Pathobiology). He was also appointed to the editorial board of *Cancer Research* (for 2013–2016) and the *Journal of Cancer Research and Therapy*.

► **Matthew Lissauer, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, was appointed to the Ultrasound Committee of the Society of Critical Care Medicine in January for a two-year term.

► **Elizabeth Powell, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, has been appointed to a three-year term as Section Editor for the journal *Neuroscience*.



PUBLICATIONS

Hats off to those who have been published!



Hafiz Ahmed, PhD

► **Hafiz Ahmed, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, was among the co-authors on “A Cod Glycopeptide With Picomolar Affinity to Galectin-3 Suppresses T Cell Apoptosis and Prostate Cancer Metastasis” in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 2013 Mar 11 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Omer Awan, MD**, and **Sampson Kyere, MD**, fourth-year residents, and **Michael Mulligan, MD**, Professor, all in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the authors of “Multiple Myeloma Lesion Detection With Whole-Body CT Versus Radiographic Skeletal Survey” in *Cancer Investigation*, 2013 Feb 13 [E-pub ahead of print].

► **Cynthia Bearer, MD, PhD**, the Mary Gray Cobey Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author on “L1 Cell Adhesion Molecule Signaling Is Inhibited By Ethanol In Vivo in Alcohol” in *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, 2013 Mar;37(3):383-9.

► **Mary Beth Bollinger, DO**, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author on “Factors Associated With Completion of a Behavioral Intervention for Caregivers of Urban Children With Asthma” in the *Journal of Asthma*, 2012 Nov;49(9):977-988.

► **Alexis Boscak, MD**, Assistant Professor; **Kathirkama Shanmuganathan, MD**, Professor; **Stuart Mirvis, MD**, Professor; **Lisa Miller, MD**, Assistant Professor, and **Clint Sliker, MD**, Assistant Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the authors on “Optimizing Trauma Multidetector CT Protocol for Blunt Splenic Injury: Need for Arterial and Portal Venous Phase Scans” in *Radiology*, 2013 Feb 28 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Lucas Carlson, BA, MS-III**; **Emilie J.B. Calvello, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor; and **Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD**, Associate Professor, all from the Department of Emergency Medicine; and **Andrew Pollak, MD**, Professor and Acting Chair, Department of Orthopaedics, were co-authors on a Letter to the Editor titled “Operative Care After the Haiti 2010 Earthquake: Implications for Post-Disaster Definitive Care,”



Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, MPH, PhD and Emilie J.B. Calvello, MD, MPH

which was published in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 2013 Feb;31[2]:429-431.

► **Vasken Dilsizian, MD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was a co-author on “Quantitative PET/CT Measures of Myocardial Flow Reserve and Atherosclerosis for Cardiac Risk Assessment and Predicting Adverse Patient Outcome” in *Current Cardiology Reports*, 2013; Mar;15(3):344-54.

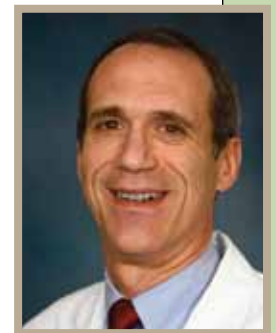
► **Michael Donnenberg, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, is the editor of *Escherichia coli, Second Edition: Pathotypes and Principles of Pathogenesis*, which is currently available for pre-order on Amazon.com. It will be released on August 15, 2013.

► **Annie Frazier, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “Illuminations: Intraventricular Neoplasms” in *Radiographics*, 2013 Jan-Feb;33(1):20.

► **Joyce Frye, DO**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Community Medicine and the Center for Integrative Medicine, was among the co-authors on “Homeopathic Oscillocochin® for Preventing and Treating Influenza and Influenza-Like Illness” in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 2012 Dec 12;12:CD001957.

► **Seth Kligerman, MD**, Assistant Professor, **Jean Jeudy, MD**, Associate Professor, and **Charles White, MD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the authors of “Use of a Hybrid Iterative Reconstruction Technique to Reduce Image Noise and Improve Image Quality in Obese Patients Undergoing Computed Tomographic Pulmonary Angiography” in the *Journal of Thoracic Imaging*, 2013 Jan;28:49–59. Kligerman was also among the authors on “End-Stage Sarcoid Lung Disease is Distinct from Usual Interstitial Pneumonia” in the *American Journal of Surgical Pathology*, 2013 Feb 15 [E-pub ahead of print].

► **Alok Kumar, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow; **Bogdan Stoica, MD**, Assistant Professor; **Boris Sabirzhanov, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow; and **David Loane, PhD**, Assistant Professor, all from the Department of



Michael Donnenberg, MD



Seth Kligerman, MD

PUBLICATIONS *continued*

Anesthesiology; and **Alan Faden, MD**, the David S. Brown Professor in Trauma in the Department of Anesthesiology and Director of the Center for Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research (STAR) and the National Study Center for Shock and EMS were among the co-authors on “Traumatic Brain Injury in Aged Animals Increases Lesion Size and Chronically Alters Microglial/Macrophage Classical and Alternative Activation States” in *Neurobiology of Aging*, 2013 May;34(5):1397-411. Drs. Stoica, Sabirzhanov, Loane and Faden, along with **Junfang Wu, BM, PhD**, Assistant Professor, and **Zaorui Zhao,**

PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, both also from the Department of Anesthesiology, were among the co-authors on “Late Exercise Reduces Neuroinflammation and Cognitive Dysfunction After Traumatic Brain Injury” in *Neurobiology of Disease*, 2013 Jan 8 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Reuben Mezrich, MD, PhD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the authors of “Unbiased Review of Digital Diagnostic Images in Practice: Informatics Prototype and Pilot Study” in *Academic Radiology*, 2013 Feb;20:238–242.

► **Ayşe Mindikoglu, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, and **Laurence Magder, PhD, MPH**, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, published “Impact of Estimated Liver Volume and Liver Weight on Gender Disparity in Liver Transplantation” in *Liver Transplantation*, 2013; 19:89-95.

► **Aruna Panda, BVSc, PhD, MPH**, Assistant Professor; **Ivan Tatarov, DVM**, Research Associate; and **Louis DeTolla, VMD, PhD, DACLAM**, Professor, all from the Department of Pathology and the Program of Comparative Medicine, were among the

co-authors on “Virulence of the Shiga Toxin Type 2-Expressing *Escherichia coli* O104:H4 German Outbreak Isolate in Two Animal Models” in *Infection and Immunity*, 2013 Feb 25 [Epub ahead of print].



Reuben Mezrich, MD, PhD



Ayşe Mindikoglu, MD, MPH



Aruna Panda, BVSc, PhD, MPH

► **Elyse Pine-Twaddell, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author on “Vertical Transmission of Hypopituitarism: Critical Importance of Appropriate Interpretation of Thyroid Function Tests and Levothyroxine Therapy During Pregnancy” in *Thyroid*, 2013 February 11 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Jacques Ravel, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and Associate Director of Genomics at the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), and **Sean Daugherty**, Senior Bioinformatics Analyst, IGS, were among the co-authors on “Genome Sequence of the Human Abscess Isolate *Streptococcus Intermedius* BA1” in *Genome Announcements*, 2013 Jan 31 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Douglas Ross, MD**, Professor; **Mariola Sadowska, PhD**, Research Associate; **Rena Lapidus, PhD**, Assistant Professor; and **Maria Baer, MD**, Professor, all from the Department of Medicine; **Ming Tan, PhD**, Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health; and **France Carrier, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors on “Translational Phase I Trial of Vorinostat Combined with Cytarabine and Toposide in Patients with Relapsed, Refractory, or High-Risk Acute Myeloid Leukemia” in *Clinical Cancer Research*, 2013 Mar 19 [Epub ahead of print].

► **Eliot Siegel, MD**, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors on “ACR-AAPM-SIIM Practice Guideline for Determinants of Image Quality in Digital Mammography” in the *Journal of Digital Imaging*, 2013 Feb;26:10–25.

► **Hervé Tettelin, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology and **Nikhil Kumar**, Research Specialist, both from the Institute for Genome Sciences, were among the co-authors on “Genome-Wide Identification of Genes Required for Fitness of the Group A *Streptococcus* in Human Blood” in *Infection and Immunity*, 2013 Mar;81(3):862-75.

► **Fauzia Vandermeer, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, was among the authors on “Anti-TNF Therapy is Associated With Decreased Imaging and Radiation Exposure in Patients With Crohn’s Disease” in *Inflammable Bowel Disease*, 2013 Jan;19(1):92-8.

► **James White, PhD**, Bioinformatics Software Engineer; **Cynthia Maddox**, Research Specialist; and **W. Florian Fricke, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, all from the Institute for Genome Sciences,



Jacques Ravel, PhD

PUBLICATIONS *continued*

were among the co-authors on “CloVR-ITS: Automated Internal Transcribed Spacer Amplicon Sequence Analysis Pipeline For the Characterization of Fungal Microbiota” in *Microbiome*, 2013 Feb 4;1(6).

► **Su Xu, PhD**, Assistant Professor, and **Rao Gullapalli, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine, were among the authors on “Delayed Hippocampal Effects From a Single Exposure of Prepubertal Guinea Pigs to Sublethal Dose of Chlorpyrifos: A Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Study” in *Neurotoxicology*, 2013 Feb 11 [Epub ahead of print]. Xu was also among the authors on “Design and Characterization of a Novel Fluorinated Magnetic Resonance Imaging Agent for Functional Analysis of Bile Acid Transporter Activity,” in *Pharmaceutical Research*, 2013 Jan 15 [Epub ahead of print].

HONORS



& AWARDS

Congratulations to the following who have received honors!



Gregory Carey, PhD

► **Gregory Carey, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, was presented with the University of Maryland Baltimore’s Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Award for Faculty/Staff on February 7. The award was in honor of his work as director of student summer research and community outreach at the School of Medicine.

► **William Carpenter, MD**, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, has been chosen as the 2013 recipient of the William C. Menninger Memorial Award, presented by the American College of Physicians (ACP). This award is given to those who have made distinguished contributions to the science of mental health.

As part of this honor, Dr. Carpenter gave a lecture at the ACP Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, on April 12. Dr. Carpenter has also been asked to deliver the 2013 Adolf Meyer Award Lecture at the annual meeting of

the American Psychiatric Association, which will be held May 18–22 in San Francisco.

► **Marc Hochberg, MD, MPH**, Professor, Department of Medicine, received the 2012 Distinguished Clinical Investigator Award at the annual meeting of the American College of Rheumatology in Washington, DC, in November 2012. Dr. Hochberg was recognized for his contributions to the clinical epidemiology of arthritis and musculoskeletal disease, particularly osteoarthritis.

► **Mayur Narayan, MD, MPH, MBA**, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, has been recognized by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation with a Gold DOC Award. The Foundation established this recognition to give patients and their family members the opportunity to publicly pay tribute to physicians when they feel the care they have received demonstrates exemplary skill, sensitivity and compassion.

► **Osamah Saeedi, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, has been awarded a Mentoring for Advancement of Physician-Scientists (MAPS) Award from the American Glaucoma Society to study glaucoma medication adherence in the veteran population.

► **Laurie Shallcross, MS-IV**, won second prize for her presentation at the annual meeting of the American Contact Dermatitis Society, held in Miami Beach, FL, on February 28. Her project, entitled “Manganese Oxidation State as a Cause of Irritant Patch Test Reactions,” was supervised by **Anthony Gaspari, MD**, the Shapiro Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology. Dr. Gaspari also supervised the project of the first-prize winner, Nicholas Girardi, a third-year medical student from Drexel University in Philadelphia.

► **Matthew Weir, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, received the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland’s Kidney Champion Award in recognition of his 30-year career in Nephrology and his outstanding efforts in patient care, teaching and research. This award was presented at the November 2012 *Sante: Spoil Your Palate Celebration*, which supports the efforts of the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland.



Mayur Narayan, MD, MPH, MBA



Laurie Shallcross, MS-IV, Anthony Gaspari, MD and Nicholas Girardi at the meeting

NEW FACULTY



We welcome our new faculty!



Marena Patronas, MD

► **Marena Patronas, MD**, joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences in October 2012 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Patronas received her medical degree in 2003 from the Georgetown University School of Medicine. She completed her Ophthalmology residency in 2007 at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center in New York. In 2008, Dr. Patronas did her fellowship in Vitreo-Retinal Surgery at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Patronas spent the last four years practicing medical and surgical retina in a private practice setting in Cleveland and then Columbus, OH. She is especially interested in providing the highest quality of care to patients with various vitreoretinal diseases.

► **D. Chimene Richa, MD**, joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences as an Assistant Professor in late 2012. After receiving her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Richa completed her Ophthalmology residency here at the University of Maryland. She then went on to pursue a fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplastics at Allegheny General Hospital in Pennsylvania, after which she worked at a private practice in the community. Dr. Richa specializes in the treatment of eyelid, lacrimal, and orbital disorders such as excess eyelid skin, droopy eyelids, eyelid lesions, and lacrimal system obstructions. She is trained in functional eyelid and ocular reconstructive surgery as well as in multiple different techniques of cosmetic facial rejuvenation.

► **Osamah Saeedi, MD**, joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences in July 2012 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Saeedi recently completed a fellowship at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University. In 2002, Dr. Saeedi received a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. In 2007, he received his medical degree from the University of Texas-Southwestern, where he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to complete epidemiology research in Egypt. Dr. Saeedi completed his internship in Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in 2008, followed by his Ophthalmology residency, which he completed in 2011 at the University of Texas-Southwestern. Dr. Saeedi has experience performing cutting-edge surgeries in glaucoma and in advanced cataract surgery techniques.

► **Luis Toledo, OD**, joined the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences as an Instructor in August 2012. Dr.

Toledo received his Doctorate in Optometry degree in 2004 from the Inter American University School of Optometry in Puerto Rico. He then joined the Eye and Skin Institute as part of the medical faculty until 2007, when he accepted a position as a Clinical/Lab Instructor at the Inter American University School of Optometry, which he held until 2010, before moving to the continental U.S. In 2011, Dr. Toledo split his time between a national licensing agency, where he was a Clinical Examiner, and working as a private-practice provider in the D.C. area. As a faculty member at the School of Medicine and a provider at Maryland General Hospital, Dr. Toledo's current duties include primary care in the treatment and management of ocular disease; focusing on contact lens fittings of all types, including specialty lenses for specific anterior segment medical conditions like Keratoconus and post surgical corneal anomalies; and Instructor for the Optics, Refraction and Contact Lenses course.

COMMUNITY



SERVICE

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

► **Lily Im, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Director of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, and medical students from the University of Maryland School of Medicine are now providing free glaucoma screenings at Lexington Market. These Site Saver screenings, tentatively scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month from noon until 2 p.m., include a review of medical history, blood pressure/vision/FDT visual field screening, and eye pressure measurements. They provide an opportunity for medical students to interact with the community, learn about glaucoma and get hands on experience with various medical devices used in Ophthalmology, while citizens in the community will benefit from the screenings by learning more about glaucoma and their specific risk factors for the disease.

GRANTS &

CONTRACTS



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

► **Eileen Barry, PhD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, received a new, three-year, \$1.1 million R01 grant for “Advancement of a Defined, Protective, Live Attenuated Tularemia Vaccine.”



Robert Bloch, PhD

► **Robert Bloch, PhD**, Professor, Department of Physiology, received a one-year, \$250,000 grant extension from the Jain Foundation for his current research work “Analyzing the Role of Dysferlin in Skeletal Muscle in Vitro and in Vivo.”

► **Mary Beth Bollinger, DO**, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, received a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the Quality Health Foundation for support of the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital Breathmobile program.

► **Cristiana Cairo, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, received a new, \$1,365,327, NIH R01 grant on February 1, for her work entitled “Antigen Exposure In Utero: Impacts on Newborn Immunity and Infectious Diseases.”

► **Wade Gaasch, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Medical Director, Baltimore City Fire Department, is a co-principal investigator on “Enhanced Brief Intervention for Linking Opiate-Using EMS Patients to Treatment,” a study funded by the NIH Clinical Trial Planning Grant Program (R34). The grant was awarded to the Department of Health, Behavior and Society in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with the fire department as a sub-recipient.



Erin Hager, PhD

► **Erin Hager, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was awarded a two-year grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “The Home Environment and Toddler Diet/Physical Activity: an EMA Study.” The objective of this secondary data analysis grant is to examine environmental influences on toddler diet and physical activity using Ecological Momentary Assessment data collected from low-income mothers of toddlers.

► **Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, received a four-year, \$1.66 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases in March for “Genome-Wide Studies to Identify Markers of Artemisinin-Resistant Malaria.” If successful, this project will result in the development of a rapid assay to detect candidate markers of artemisinin resistance that can be used to track and contain resistant parasites before they spread globally, as well as data to begin the functional characterization of candidate genes to better understand the mechanisms underlying resistance.

► **Myron Levine, MD, DTPH**, the Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor, Department of Medicine, and Director, Center for Vaccine Development, received a three-year, \$2.5 million Global Development Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for his project entitled “A Point-of-Care Rapid Assessment Tool to Detect Protective Levels of Vaccine-Related Antibodies in Oral (Crevicular) Fluid of Infants, Toddlers & Older Subjects.”

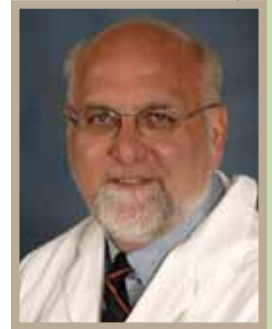
► **Robert Redfield, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine, received a one-year, \$2.5 million supplement to his CDC award entitled “Haitian Alliance for Institutional Strengthening” on February 22.

► **Hervé Tettelin, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology and Institute for Genome Sciences, is the Principal Investigator on a one-year, \$190,787 sub-project entitled “Whole Genome Sequencing of Top Priority Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria Used in Pre-Clinical Compound Testing at Colorado State University.” Dr. Tettelin’s project is part of the “Genome Sequencing Centers for Infectious Diseases” federal contract, under the overall direction of **Claire Fraser, PhD**, Professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, and Director of the Institute for Genome Sciences.

► **Michele Vitolo, PhD**, Research Associate, Department of Physiology, received a five-year, \$525,000 NCI K01 Research Scientist Development Award for “PTEN Loss Increases Efficiency of Breast Tumor Metastasis.” She will investigate the role of PTEN in maintenance of the actin cortex and how the loss of this tumor suppressor increases microtentacles, tumor cell reattachment, and metastasis. **Stuart Martin, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology, serves as the mentor of her research program.



Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD



Robert Redfield, MD

IN THE NEWS



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

- **Gregory Carey, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, was featured in the National Cancer Institute's *Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Newsletter* on March 8.
- **Matthew Frieman, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, was interviewed by the *Toronto Star* in early March about the new coronavirus that is emerging from the Middle East.
- **Robert Rogers, MD**, Associate Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Medicine, hosts a podcast called "Educational Guides" (www.medEDmasters.com), which was cited as one of "10 Clicks to Being a Savvier Clinician" by *Medscape*, part of the WebMD Health Professional Network.



Robert Rogers, MD

PATENTS & INVENTIONS



- **Paul Bigeleisen, MD**, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, is co-owner of Logical Images, which supplies decision support to physicians and mid-level providers who diagnose and treat skin, ocular and oral diseases.
- **France Carrier, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, has been awarded a US patent for her invention entitled "Prognostic Tools to Predict the Efficacy of Drug Treatment Targeting Chromatin DNA or Enzymes Acting on DNA."
- **William Regine, MD**, the Isadore and Fannie Schneider Foxman Endowed Chair in Radiation Oncology, and **Cedric Yu, DSc**, the Carl M. Mansfield, MD, Endowed Professor in Radiation Oncology, were issued a European patent for "Method and Equipment for Image-Guided Stereotactic Radio-surgery of Breast Cancer," an invention that offers an alternative, less-invasive therapy for women diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer.



William Regine, MD

Buzz Contacts

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:
Leslie Fitzpatrick

Anesthesiology: Pamela Earle-Jackson
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology:
Qun Zhou

Dermatology: Betsy Satosky

Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine: Nan Knight

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: Terry Roberts

Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences: Robin Kissinger

Ophthalmology: Chinneta Pettaway-Willis

Orthopaedics: Dori Kelly

Otorhinolaryngology: Bryan Ambro

Pathology: Carmen White

Pediatrics: Connie Ward

Pharmacology: TBD

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: Rose Cosentino

Program in Minority Health & Health Disparities: Maurice Walker

Program in Neuroscience: Tom McHugh

Program in Oncology: Stephen Long
Program in Trauma: Cynthia Rivers

Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research: Maurice Walker

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):
Jane Anderson

Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine:
Fulscia Morrison

Center for Vaccine Development:
Carey Martin

Center for Vascular & Inflammatory Diseases: Talia Bailey

Institute for Autoimmunity and Inflammation: Susie Flaherty

Institute for Genome Sciences:
Renée Nathaniel

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Attention all SOM Medical,
Allied Health and
Graduate Students!

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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