Greetings from your Co-Chairs!

It has been a year of growth and transition for the Women’s Faculty Committee (WFC). We have finalized our new bylaws and membership structure. We are optimistic that these changes will allow us to be even more collaborative and productive in achieving the goals of the WFC. We have already seen some fantastic progress and great ideas from our new subcommittee membership this year.

The Women’s Faculty Committee Awards Luncheon in May was a wonderful celebration of the accomplishments of our women faculty. We are very proud of the seven awardees listed on page 5. Dr. Luanne Thorndyke gave an enlightening talk at the ceremony titled “Functional Mentoring.” She provided very practical and helpful advice to apply to all our mentoring relationships.

As part of our focus on career development, Dr. Cynthia Fuhrmann presented her on-line individual career development plan called “myIDP” at our June meeting. You can find this very useful tool at http://myidp.sciencecareers.org. The Faculty Development subcommittee plans to focus on individual career planning next year.

In June, in conjunction with the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, WFC co-hosted an outstanding Women’s Health Event Luncheon. Dr. Julia Johnson from Ob/Gyn, and Dr. Kristen MacGregor from Psychiatry presented “The Science and Psychology of Infertility.” They raised much needed awareness of this very common disease and its tremendous psychological impact on women.

Sybil Crawford’s term as non-clinical Co-Chair ends this summer. We are thankful for all her hard work over the last two years. We are accepting nominations for this position at this time. An election via survey monkey will be emailed to you this summer. Please make sure to vote for our new non-clinical Co-Chair!

We are very excited to start working next year on all the great subcommittee projects and advancing the WFC mission together!

Hope you all have a safe and happy summer!
To round out our events for the 2013-2014 school year, UMass Medical AMWA celebrated Women’s Health Week in May by implementing a week of breast cancer screening at the Worcester Free Clinics. The event received high praise by physicians and patients alike and we look forward to holding another screening week next year. Looking forward, AMWA is excited to welcome the Class of 2018 at the Interest Group Reception during the first week of school in August. Our goals for the 2014-2015 school year include increasing involvement of AMWA members in UMass Chapter decisions through online voting, increasing our community service presence through partnership with a community organization, providing opportunities for learning about women in medicine through hosting Dinner with Doctors and the Women in Medicine Mentoring Reception, and promoting mind-body health through motivational speakers. We are excited that the Women's Faculty Committee will partner with us again this year to host the Women in Medicine Mentoring Reception – stay tuned for details on date and time for this fall 2014 event!

Ideally, your technology would seamlessly send information to your practitioner’s EHR securely and simply. The heart failure patient whose daily weight goes to the provider and a discussion about furosemide dosage ensues, the diabetic patient with a pump question who sends their data to the endocrine clinic and gets an answer in minutes-no visit to the clinic or the ER just good actionable health data/information in real time!! This is the ultimate goal for the “connected” medical information system.

Considering our current state of technological connectedness at UMass Memorial, why am I even mentioning this? Our patients are going to start asking us about devices and recommendations!! While we struggle to get our various systems to communicate with each other (and we are by no means alone in this area) other systems are actively pursuing integrated technology! With the rumored Apple iWatch, the myriad of devices and apps already out there and the recently announced iOS8 app called Health (http://www.apple.com/ios/ios8/health/) we need to think about this issue and how to advise our patients and ourselves on how to use this area of technology for the improvement of our own and our patients health and the implications for clinical trials and population health research!
Hormone replacement therapy may improve bone density in young women with premature ovarian failure. A study published on line in the Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism and sponsored by NIH concluded that hormone replacement therapy in the form of estrogen transdermal patch and oral progesterone improves bone density and might even restore it to normal in young women with premature ovarian failure. This is a condition that affects one in 100 women younger than 40. [http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2014/nichd-09.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jun2014/nichd-09.htm)

Department of Human and Health Services launches a website for employers to support nursing mother
The Affordable Care Act requires employers of hourly workers to provide private space that is not a bathroom and adequate time to allow nursing women to express their milk while they are on the job. The resource “Supporting Nursing Moms at Work: Employer Solutions” can be found at [http://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/employer-solutions/index.php](http://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/employer-solutions/index.php) [http://www.womenshealth.gov/news/highlights/breastfeeding-at-work/index.html](http://www.womenshealth.gov/news/highlights/breastfeeding-at-work/index.html)

Micro-RNA may have a role in treatment of osteoporosis.
The UT Southwestern cancer researchers have identified a promising molecule that blocks bone destruction and, therefore, could provide a potential therapeutic target for osteoporosis and bone metastases of cancer. In the study published on-line in Nature, injection of miR-34a into a mouse model of post-menopausal osteoporosis decreased bone loss. [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140625151538.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140625151538.htm)

Androgen receptors might be important for treatment of breast cancer.
Results of a new study funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, which was presented in June at the joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society in Chicago, point to a previously unrecognized role of the androgen receptor in breast cancer. Androgen receptors are expressed in most breast cancers. This study concluded that estrogen receptor alpha -- a main driver of estrogen-fueled breast cancer -- may rely on the androgen receptor for its function. Participating women in this study were 4.4 times more likely to have a cancer recurrence during tamoxifen treatment when their main tumor had a high ratio (2:1 or greater) of androgen receptor-positive cells to estrogen receptor-positive cells. [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140623092048.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140623092048.htm)

Women in Science Articles

- Getting nowhere fast: The lack of gender equity in the physiology community. [http://jgp.rupress.org/content/144/1/1](http://jgp.rupress.org/content/144/1/1)
Early Woman Scientist
“Alice Evans”

Anuja Mathew

We would like to feature an early woman scientist and/or clinician in upcoming issues of the Women’s Faculty Newsletter. We hope that by reading about their scientific and personal lives it will enrich and influence the way we think about our careers.

Alice Evans (1881-1975)

Alice Catherine Evans was born in 1881 on a farm in Pennsylvania to William Heath and Anne Evans. She wished to go to college but, unable to afford tuition, took a post as a grade school teacher. After teaching for four years, she took free classes offered to rural teachers at Cornell University and also took a basic course in the Agricultural College, which started her interest in bacteriology. She received a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and received the first scholarship offered to a woman from the University of Wisconsin, where she obtained her Masters of Science degree.

In 1910, Evans became one of the first women scientists to hold a permanent position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She focused some of her research efforts on bacteria found in raw cow’s milk and identified a bacterial infection (later known as Brucellosis) carried by cows that could cause undulating fevers in humans. She presented her findings to the Society of American Bacteriologists in 1917 and they were skeptical of her claim because they did not think that a woman, particularly one without a doctorate degree, could have made such an important discovery. She published her findings in the Journal of Infectious Diseases in 1918 but had to battle criticism from the scientific community for many years. Other scientists came to the same conclusion eventually and in the 1930s the government started to enact milk pasteurization laws. Her discovery prevented countless people from suffering from fevers and even death. She became the first woman president of the American Society of Bacteriologists in 1927.

National Photo Society, Library of Congress
Between 1910 and 1920

After retiring in 1945, Evans lectured widely to women about career development and encouraged women to pursue scientific careers. Evans filed suit against the U.S. government in 1966 because she was unwilling to sign an oath disavowing communist loyalty, as required on her Medicare application. Evans found it unconstitutional and violating her right of free speech. The suit was eventually dismissed and Evans was awarded benefits without ever signing the oath.

Evans was never married and lived in a retirement home from 1969 until her death in Alexandria, Virginia on September 5, 1975, following a stroke. She was 94 years old.

References:
www.nwhm.org/.../alice-evans/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Catherine_Evans
http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Alice_Evans.aspx#1

Join our Facebook Group!
Please join the Women’s Faculty Committee's Group on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/469190009868083/
Take advantage of this opportunity to interact with committee members and other interested community members - a great way to share news and articles, build a sense of community and foster discussion. (Rachel M. Gerstein)
Promotions:
Cara Marshall, MD, FMCH, Assistant Professor
Joyeeta Mukherjee, PhD, Radiology, Assistant Professor
Hua Fang, PhD, QHS, Associate Professor
Mira Torres, MD, Endocrinology, Associate Professor
Ali Amini, MD, Gastroenterology, Associate Professor
Eustathia Giannaris, PhD, Cell & Development Biology, Assistant Professor
Jinglian Yan, PhD, Surgery, Assistant Professor
Rothsovann Yong, MD, Emergency Medicine, Assistant Professor
Rubin Zhao-She, MD, Psychiatry, Research Assistant Professor
Shubjeet Kaur, MD, MSc, HCM, Anesthesiology, Professor
Jill Zitewitz, PhD, BMP, Associate Professor
Rachel Wollacott, PhD, Medicine, Assistant Professor

Tenure:
Merav Socolovsky, PhD, Cancer Biology

Awards:
Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women at the Drexel University College of Medicine Fellow
Mary M. Lee, MD, Pediatrics
Vivian Budnik, PhD, Neurobiology

Eli Lilly and Company-Elanco Research Award and BD Investigator Award
Katherine Fitzgerald, PhD, Medicine

Faculty Scholar Award
Heather Forkey, MD, Pediatrics

Women's Faculty Committee Awards:
Outstanding Community Service Award
Sara Shields, MD, MPH, FMCH

Sarah Stone Excellence in Education Award
Sonia Chimienti, MD, Medicine

Early Career Achievement in Science and Health Award
Amy Wachholtz, PhD, Psychiatry

Women in Science and Health Achievement Award
Sherry Pagoto, PhD, Medicine

Excellence in Clinical Services Award
Ruthann Rizzi, MD, Medicine

Outstanding Mentor Award
Linda Weinreb MD, FMCH

Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine
Tiffany A. Moore Simas, MD, MPH, MEd, FACOG, Ob/Gyn

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