Co-Chair Greetings

Rebecca Lundquist is completing her second year as the clinical co-chair this June. She was joined by Sybil Crawford in October 2012 as the non-clinical co-chair, after several very productive years of service by Elaine Martin.

On March 7, the WFC, the Professional Women's Committee, the Women’s Leadership Work Group and the Diversity & Equal Opportunity Office co-hosted a talk, "Leadership in the Era of Healthcare Reform" by Dr. Debra Schwinn, Dean of the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and Professor of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, & Biochemistry at the University of Iowa. Keeping with the STEM theme (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), Dr. Schwinn spoke about lessons learned from her science and medicine career path and recommended effective leadership skills. Her talk was well attended and generated discussion and questions from the audience.

The Committee has received a very strong set of nominations for the annual WFC awards in Science, Community Service, Education, Mentoring, Clinical Service, and the new Early Career award.

The WFC Women’s Health event will take place on June 14. We are excited to try a new format this year, with a panel of four speakers from UMass, covering skin cancer in women from “bench to bedside.” We look forward to hearing from speakers, Drs. Corrie Painter (Molecular Medicine), Laura Lambert (General Surgery), April Deng (Anatomic Pathology), and Mary Maloney (Dermatology).

Recent committee meetings have seen active discussions on a number of important topics, including issues in career paths and promotions, leadership training, and work-life balance.

Nominations will be accepted for the new clinical co-chair at our May meeting and via e-mail, with the election of a new co-chair by June.

There will be a break over the summer, with no meetings from June through August. Thanks to all WFC members for a productive year so far!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lundquist and Sybil Crawford
American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) Officers Represent UMass Chapter

By Carolyn Buckley and Chelsea Harris

This has been an active year for the UMass student branch of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA). Nationally, AMWA seeks to promote the advancement of women in medicine. On campus, the UMass branch has been working to enhance female mentoring relationships between students and faculty and has hosted several workshops for students focused on professional and personal growth.

Co-Presidents Chelsea Harris and Carolyn Buckley are both second year UMMS medical students. Chelsea is a graduate of Northeastern University where she earned a BA in Political Science and International Affairs. Before beginning medical school, she spent time doing public policy work for the Boston City Council, Senator Ted Kennedy, and the UK Parliament. Carolyn graduated with honors from Harvard University where she earned a BA in Biochemistry. Before medical school, she co-authored two papers while doing research in the Division of Immunology at Brigham & Women’s Hospital.

This past year, Chelsea and Carolyn organized three different workshops with participation from over 70 students. In October, Harris and Buckley, along with three other students, represented UMass at the AMWA Region I Brunch held at Boston University’s School of Medicine. The annual brunch allows medical students from New England to meet with other student and physician leaders from the region, discuss chapter activities, and hear career advice from distinguished faculty. UMass’s own, Dr. Luanne Thorndyke and Dr. Sarah Cutrona gave the keynote addresses. Harris and Buckley were thrilled to recruit both Dr. Thorndyke and Dr. Cutrona as Faculty Co-advisors for the UMass AMWA branch. Planning for future AMWA events is currently underway. A mentoring brunch in collaboration with the Women’s Faculty Committee is scheduled for the fall of 2013. Be on the lookout for more AMWA news and events in the months ahead
**Women’s Health News**

By Shirin Haddady

**National Women’s Health Week:** National Women’s Health Week is a weeklong health observance coordinated by the US Department of Health and Human Services. It brings together communities, businesses, government, health organizations and other groups in an effort to promote women’s health and its importance. It encourages women to make their health a priority and take the following steps: visit a health care professional to receive regular checkups and preventive screenings, get active, eat healthy, pay attention to mental health and avoid unhealthy behaviors. Link: [http://womenshealth.gov/nwhw/](http://womenshealth.gov/nwhw/)

**National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day:** March 10 is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This effort is coordinated by the office of Women’s Health in US Department of Health and Human Services to promote greater awareness of HIV/AIDS among female population. Diagnosis of AIDS among females has been rising over time, with females accounting for 7% of AIDS diagnosis among adults and adolescents in 1985 and 25% of AIDS diagnoses among adults and adolescents in 2010. Females were accounted for 10% of deaths due to HIV in 1987 and 28% in 2009. Link: [http://www.womenshealth.gov/](http://www.womenshealth.gov/)

**Vitamin D and calcium for women:** Many clinicians are confused about the benefits and risks of vitamin D and calcium supplementation for midlife and older women. We offer guidance on the appropriate use of these supplements. In conclusion, the authors suggestion is to maintain bone health, current recommendations for daily vitamin D intake call for 600 IU for women aged ≤70 and 800 IU for those aged >70, and recommendations for daily calcium intake are 1000 mg for women aged ≤50 and 1200 mg for those aged >50. The benefit–risk balance of long-term supplementation with doses of vitamin D and/or calcium that exceed the RDA (required daily allowance) is the subject of ongoing research. Most women should endeavor to eat a diet rich in these nutrients and consider supplements only if necessary to meet the RDA. Link: [http://womens-health.jwatch.org/cgi/content/full/2013/228/1](http://womens-health.jwatch.org/cgi/content/full/2013/228/1)

**HIV prevention:** VOICE (Vaginal and Oral Interventions to Control the Epidemic) study was sponsored and largely funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) and was designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of 3 HIV preventing strategies (vaginal gel containing tenofovir, a pill form of tenofovir and a pill containing combinations of tenofovir and emtricitabine) compared to placebo. In this trial, the 3 strategies were tested among 5,029 sexually active women 18 to 45 years of age at 15 sites in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Study results were presented on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Atlanta and indicated that these 3 strategies did not prove effective because most VOICE participants did not adhere to the daily use schedule of the assigned intervention and that was mostly seen in women 25 years or younger. Link: [http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2013/niaid-04a.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2013/niaid-04a.htm)

**Binge drinking in women** has been defined as consuming 4 or more alcohol drinks on one occasion. Binge drinking is a dangerous behavior but is not widely recognized as a women’s health problem, but it can result in about 23,000 deaths in women and girls each year. About 1 in 8 women aged 18 years and older and 1 in 5 high school girls binge drink. Women who binge drink do so frequently, about 3 times a month. Link: [http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/bingedrinkingfemale/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/bingedrinkingfemale/index.html)
Women Faculty Spotlight
Leslie Shaw, Ph.D, Cancer Biology

Interviewer: Janaki Moni

The WFC newsletter would like to highlight the research achievements and goals of our Women Faculty. Our selection for this newsletter is Leslie Shaw, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Cancer Biology at UMass. Dr. Shaw’s main interest is in the biology of breast cancer progression. She coordinates the monthly Breast Cancer Research meeting that provides a forum for clinicians involved in the treatment of breast cancer to interact with the basic science researchers involved in breast cancer research. This enables a free flow of ideas and helps promote translational research, taking concepts from the laboratory and applying them to patients. Dr. Shaw has provided a brief description of her research:

The overall research interest of the Shaw lab is to understand the malignant progression of breast cancer from primary tumor to metastatic disease. We are interested in how individual molecules or signaling pathways are co-opted by tumor cells to overcome normal controls and checkpoints to facilitate metastasis. This in turn will identify targets that drive metastasis so that novel approaches to treat metastatic disease can be developed. To this end, we are studying the contribution of Insulin Receptor Substrate (IRS)-dependent signaling pathways to breast cancer progression. Our work indicates that the IRS proteins play distinct roles in metastasis: IRS-1 plays a suppressive role for metastasis (i.e. its inactivation enhances tumor progression) and IRS-2 promotes metastasis by regulating signaling pathways that facilitate tumor progression. Signaling pathways controlled by either or both of these proteins can be exploited for therapeutic intervention of breast cancer. Currently research in our laboratory is aimed at understanding how stimuli in the tumor microenvironment and oncogenic signals influence IRS-1 and IRS-2 localization and signaling and the importance of differential feedback regulation of IRS function for metastasis.

Upcoming Events

Annual Women’s Faculty Awards Luncheon
May 20, 2013, 12:00-1:30 pm (lunch @11:30 am), Faculty Conference Room, University Campus

WFC Women’s Health series: Skin cancer in women from “bench to bedside.”
June 14, 2013, 12:00-1:00 pm (lunch @11:30 am), Faculty Conference Room, University Campus
Women's Faculty Committee Newsletter

Women's Faculty Promotions, Tenures and Awards

Promotions

- Beeler, Angela, MD, Pediatrics, Clinical Associate Professor
- Castiel, Matilde, MD, Medicine, Clinical Associate Professor
- Comeau, Ann Marie, PhD, Pediatrics, Professor
- Cosar, Elifce, MD, Anesthesiology, Clinical Associate Professor
- Fitzgerald, Katherine A, PhD, Medicine, Professor
- Garcia, Maria, MD, Medicine, Associate Professor
- Gussak, Lisa, MD, FMCH, Clinical Assoc Professor
- Hartwell, Stephanie, PhD, Psychiatry, Adjunct Professor
- Josephs, Anne, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
- Kasenge, Rebecca, DO, MPH, Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Korpi-Steiner, Nichole, PhD, DABCC, Pathology, Assistant Professor
- Kumar, Jayanthi, MD, Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Lochrie, Jane, MD, Medicine, Clinical Professor
- Lubelczyk, Rebeca, MD, CCHP, FSCP, FMCH, Clinical Associate Professor
- Manno, Mariann, MD, Pediatrics, Professor
- Martin, Elaine, DA, FMCH, Associate Professor
- Moore Simas, Tiffany, MD, OB/GYN, Associate Professor
- O'Dell, Katharine, PhD, WHNP, CNM, OB/GYN, Associate Professor
- Olson, Mary, PhD, Psychiatry, Assistant Professor
- Pockwinse, Shirwin, BA, Cell Biology, Research Assistant Professor
- Potts, Stacy, E, MD, Med, FAAFP, FMCH, Associate Professor
- Powell, Anne, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
- Qin, Lan, MD, PhD, Neurology, Clinical Associate Professor
- Riordan, Catherine, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
- Rosal, Milagros, PhD, Medicine, Professor
- Salmoiraghi-Blotcher, Elena, PhD, MD, Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Shields, Sara, MD, MS, FMCH, Clinical Professor
- Socolovsky, Merav, MD, PhD, Cancer Biology, Associate Professor
- Sundar, Banu, MD, Neurology, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Tjia, Jennifer, MD, Medicine, Associate Professor
- Walsh, Barbara, MD, Pediatrics, Clinical Associate Professor
- Walsh, Kathleen, MD, Pediatrics, Associate Professor
- Wang, Jennifer, MD, Medicine, Associate Professor
- Ward, Jeanine, MD, PhD, Emergency Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Weibrecht, Kathryn, MD, Emergency Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Wessolosky, Mireya, MD, MPH, Medicine, Associate Professor
- Woodward, Monica S, MD, Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Yu, Hongbo, MD, PhD, Pathology, Associate Professor

Tenure

- Rothstein, Ann, PhD, Medicine, Professor
- Rosen, Allison, MD, MPH, SCD, QHS, Associate Professor
- Gravallese, Ellen, MD, Medicine, Professor
- Shaw, Leslie, PhD, Cancer Biology, Associate Professor
- Munson, Maryann, PhD, BMP, Associate Professor

Awards

Faculty Scholar Award

- Dvir, Yael, MD, Psychiatry, Assistant Professor
- Hayes, Rashelle, PhD, Medicine, Assistant Professor
- Long-Belil, Linda, JD, MA, Health Policy & Research, Assistant Professor
- Adhami, Seema, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
- Socolovsky, Merav, MD, PhD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Mid-career

- Kedian, Tracey, MD, FMCH, Assistant Professor
Women's Faculty Committee Newsletter

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Early-career
Dvir, Yael, MD, Psychiatry, Assistant Professor
Salerno, Ann, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
Candela, Ninfa, MD, Pediatrics, Assistant Professor
Larson, Kimberly, PhD, JD, Psychiatry, Assistant Professor

Faculty Diversity Scholars Program (FDSP)
Rodrigues, Stephanie, PhD, Psychiatry, Assistant Professor

Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM)
King, Jean, PhD, Psychiatry, Professor

News from WFC Members
Women in Science and Math Conference
Northborough, MA

By Sarah Cutrona

In early March the Northborough Junior Women’s Club hosted a day-long conference for more than 100 girls in 5th through 8th grade from Northborough and surrounding towns, with the goal of encouraging girls to consider careers in math and science. UMass Medical School and the Graduate School of Nursing sent women faculty and students from a variety of fields including environmental health and safety engineering, sustainability, nursing, medicine and biomedical research. UMass participants included presenters Cheryl Killoran, Ann Zinovyeva, Katie McJunkin, Danielle Connolly, Charlene Sotolongo, Joann Ranslow, Suzanne Edmonds, as well as volunteers, Paulette Goeden, Jean O’Connor and Sarah Cutrona.

The conference, free and open to all girls who applied, was organized by local volunteer leaders including Diane Mehlman and Martha Michalewich. The girls and their parents loved it and many girls described being exposed to fields they hadn’t known about previously. Thank you UMass for your continued investment in our community and look out for opportunities to participate in next year!

Postscript

This is the first issue by our new team. We hope that this newsletter will be an active forum facilitating communication among members and nonmembers. The plan is to publish this newsletter quarterly. Please email any comments, suggestions and news to the editor (Yumi.Uetake@umassmed.edu).