



**Medical College of Georgia
General Faculty Assembly
April 17, 2008**

The spring meeting of the Medical College of Georgia General Faculty Assembly was held Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. in the School of Dentistry Auditorium. Approximately 100 faculty members, staff and members of the community were in attendance.

I. Welcome

Dr. Martha Tingen convened the meeting and welcomed faculty, staff, students and guests.

II. Academic Council Service Recognition

Dr. Tingen thanked the Academic Council and Executive Committee Officers and Chairs for their service this academic year. She presented plaques to the following officers: Dr. Rick Callan for his service as Vice-Chair Elect, Vice Chair and Past Vice Chair of the Academic Council; Dr. Pam Cook as Secretary-Treasurer; and Dr. John Blalock as Parliamentarian. Dr. Tingen also presented plaques to the following committee chairs: Dr. Dave Hill, Chair of the Scholarship & Standards Committee; Dr. Jack Yu, Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee; and Dr. Lynn Jaffe, Chair of the Strategies & Responsibilities Committee.

III. Academic Council Year-in-Review

There were many accomplishments in this academic year which included a successful *New Faculty Reception* with record attendance; two *Forums for the Future*; completion of *Faculty Evaluation of Administrators* and utilization in the annual performance reviews; *Diploma Task Force*; facilitating the development of a *Faculty Exit Survey*; a campus student service organization called *Alpha Upsilon Phi*, which promotes leadership, service and friendship, was started by Dr. Kevin Frazier under the Student Affairs Subcommittee; *Bylaws* revisions; proposed restructuring of the *Executive Committee*; elections and faculty volunteers for the faculty ballot; *Beard Award* process and selection; passing of *HB 815* by the Georgia legislature; and presentation of a *USG Faculty Council* to the Executive Committee. The Academic Council continues to encourage faculty involvement as momentum continues. It was noted that Mr. Bill Andrews will move from Vice Chair Elect to Vice Chair effective July 1, 2008 and Dr. Tingen will become the Past Vice-Chair.

IV. Outstanding Faculty Recognition

The **School of Allied Health Sciences** honored **Charlotte A. Chatto**, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy and an MCG alumna. A faculty member since 1995, she earned a master's degree from MCG and a bachelor's degree from Boston University. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in applied neuroscience from The Union Institute. As a 2002 Governor's Teaching Fellow, she participated in a teaching excellence program at the University of Georgia. She is a member of the Education and Neurology Sections of the American Physical Therapy Association and the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia.

Honored in the **School of Dentistry** was **Dr. George Schuster**, Associate Dean for Research, Ione and Arthur Merritt Professor and Chair, Department of Oral Biology, Professor, School of Graduate Studies, and Associate Professor, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, School of Medicine. Dr. Schuster, an Oral Biologist, came to MCG in 1970 after completing a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Rochester in New York. He has served as Associate Dean of Research, overseeing research funding for the School of Dentistry, since 2003.

Dr. Schuster serves as the Chair of the MCG Human Assurance Committee, which is the primary institutional review board charged with reviewing all research studies involving human subjects and is a member of the Georgia Cancer Coalition's Tumor Bank Steering Committee. He serves as Chair for the School of Dentistry's Research Advisory Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Administrative Council, Clinic Chairs Committee and Search Committee for a Director of Regenerative Medicine. He earned his dental degree and a master's degree from Northwestern University and a doctoral degree in Microbiology from the University of Rochester. Dr. Schuster also completed a National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Dental Research Post-Sophomore Research Fellowship at Northwestern.

The School of **Graduate Studies** honored **Dr. Vadivel Ganapathy**, Regent's Professor and Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Ganapathy, a biochemist, came to MCG in 1981. His research focuses on the molecular biology of membrane transporters, which move molecules throughout the body, nutrient transport in intestine, kidney, and placenta and genetic disorders of membrane transport systems.

For the last six years, Dr. Ganapathy has been honored by School of Medicine freshmen classes as *Educator of the Year*. He was the 2007 recipient of the School of Medicine's *Innovation in Teaching Award*. He is a member of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Physiological Society, the Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology and the International Federation of Placenta Associations.

Honored in the **School of Medicine** were **Dr. Gregory A. Harshfield**, Director of the Georgia Prevention Institute, for the Outstanding Research Faculty Award; and **Dr. David Scott Lind**, Chief of Surgical Oncology, for the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award. Dr. Harshfield, a Professor in the Schools of Medicine and Graduate Studies, has been at MCG since 1997. His research focuses on, impaired renal function and blood pressure in blacks and obese individuals, and genetic polymorphisms related to impaired sodium handling and the relationships of these to damage in the heart, kidneys, and vasculature. He is the Principal Investigator on a \$10.5 million Program Project grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute aimed at better understanding hypertension's causes and identifying targeted treatments.

Dr. Lind, Professor and Jarrell Distinguished Chair of Surgical Oncology, has been at MCG since 2005. He has clinical and academic interests in melanoma, breast cancer and sarcoma. He has a strong interest in medical education and a scientific approach to the study of educational problems; his educational research focus is the development and evaluation of new learning technologies in medical education.

The **School of Nursing** honored **Dr. Linda Altman**, Assistant Professor. Dr. Altman, a Nurse Practitioner, joined the School of Nursing's Athens campus in 2002. She came to MCG after serving as the family Nurse Practitioner at the Athens Ryan White AIDS clinic, where she continues to volunteer her time. She is a member of the School's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and Planning Committee and of the American and Georgia Nurses Associations, the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She earned a master's degree in 1998 from Georgia Southern University and a doctorate of nursing practice in 2005 from the University of Tennessee.

V. Spirit of MCG Award

Dr. Frank Treiber, Vice President for Research and Associate Provost, received the Academic Council's Spirit of MCG Award. The award, given only in the years when a suitable recipient is nominated, recognizes administrators who support the empowerment of faculty to achieve their potential and goals while in service at MCG. It is the highest award an MCG administrator can receive from the faculty.

In presenting the award, Dr. Tingen said "Since becoming Vice President for Research and Associate Provost, Dr. Treiber has continued to direct his efforts at transforming this campus into a clinical research powerhouse. He completely fulfills the concept and spirit of what this most prestigious award was designed for. His many years of commitment to developing faculty in this institution is unquestioned and he continues to be very effective in the work that he does."

Dr. Treiber, a clinical child psychologist, earned his doctorate from the University of Georgia and completed a postdoctoral fellow clinical training program at UGA and a psychology internship at the Medical University of South

Carolina. He joined the MCG faculty in 1984 and was named director of the Georgia Prevention Institute in 1999 and Vice Chair of Basic Research for the Department of Pediatrics in 2003.

VI. Recognition of Retirees

Retiring faculty members recognized for their years of service were:

- School of Allied Health Sciences, **Robert Stowers**, Assistant Professor in the Physician Assistant Program, 1987 – 2008.
- School of Dentistry, **Dr. Robert W. Comer**, Professor of General Dentistry and Oral Rehabilitation, 1986 - 2008, **Dr. Gregory Parr**, former Professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, 1977 – 2007 and **Dr. George S. Schuster**, Associate Dean for Research, Lone and Arthur Merritt Professor and Chair, Department of Oral Biology, Professor, School of Graduate Studies, and Associate Professor, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, School of Medicine, 1970 – 2008.
- School of Medicine, **Dr. Mason Thompson**, former Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, 1982 – 2007 and **Dr. Janis Work**, Coordinator for Special Projects, 1992 – 2008.

VII. MCG Update

Dr. Rahn talked about the mission of MCG and how it relates as a local, state and national resource. MCG's overall mission is to improve health and reduce the burden of illness. Interest in MCG programs continues to grow as the number of applicants increase. Since 2001, applicants for the fall class of 2007 were up 38 percent and up 24 percent for the fall class of 2008. This is due, in part, to MCG's innovative educational programs. Major educational endeavors are underway at MCG as we move forward with the physician education expansion project. In the School of Medicine, the goal is to increase class size from 190 to 300 by 2020 or earlier with significant expansion in Augusta. This project includes development of a medical school campus in Athens in partnership with UGA and continued partnerships to develop clinical campuses in Albany and Savannah. The Georgia legislature approved an additional \$7.2 million to support statewide expansion and \$3 million to support the design of a medical school commons facility in Augusta. In addition to Augusta, Athens, Savannah and Albany, the expansion plan includes Columbus and Rome in the future which equates to "Georgia is our Campus". Another major educational endeavor is a new facility for the School of Dentistry. The new building will increase class size from 62 to 100 by 2015 and increase residency slots by 75 percent. The Georgia legislature approved \$70 million in funding to support construction of the new facility which is home of the state's only dental school. Dr. Rahn also stated that MCG continues to focus on research, clinical and transitional science and the life sciences business development.

With a long term vision and a year to year state budget, MCG has made significant progress in all areas of its tripartite mission with strategic initiatives underway. However, there is still a significant need for resources, both physical and financial, to continue our upward trajectory. By partnering together, we become more than the sum of our individual contributions. Dr. Rahn answered questions and thanked everyone for their participation in advancing the mission of the organization as it moves forward.

VIII. Closing Remarks

Dr. Tingen provided the closing remarks. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm followed by a reception for the Retirees and Outstanding Faculty.

Submitted by,

Nancy Waks, Academic Council Recording Secretary

and

Pam Cook, DNP, RN
Academic Council, Secretary-Treasurer