2021
FACULTY AWARDS
FOR
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING,
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO RESEARCH
AND
EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE
OF CLINICAL SERVICE

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
THE AWARDS

These awards recognize excellence in teaching, clinical service, and research.

They are given by the faculty to the faculty.

It is the recognition of extraordinary contribution by peers that makes these awards unique and most valued. The annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Extraordinary Performance of Clinical Service, and Outstanding Contributions to Research are proud Vanderbilt traditions.

The pages that follow contain biographical sketches of the 2021 award recipients. More significantly, the sketches describe the accomplishments and achievements that led the faculty first to nominate and then select each recipient. The individual awards for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Medicine are named in honor of faculty who exemplify the specifics of each award. The Clinical Service Awards are named in honor of past faculty physicians who were innovators in clinical care. The awards for Outstanding Contributions to Research are named in honor of current and past Vanderbilt faculty who were recognized during their careers by election to the National Academy of Sciences.

All of these awards are testimony to the exceptional and extraordinary achievements of our School of Medicine Faculty. Excellence in Teaching and Outstanding Contributions to Research have been recognized in the School of Medicine since 2000. Extraordinary Clinical Service has been recognized in the School of Medicine since 2016.
FRANK H. BOEHM AWARD

Frank H. Boehm, M.D.

Dr. Boehm received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. After a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut and a fellowship in Surgery and Oncology at the City of Hope in Duarte, California, he joined the faculty of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1972 as Assistant Professor and Director of the Fetal Intensive Care Unit. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1978 and to Professor in 1981. He became the first director of maternal fetal medicine in 1978, serving in that capacity for 26 years. Dr. Boehm also served as vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2008 to 2016, and was named professor emeritus in 2019. Dr. Boehm is recognized worldwide for his work in the field of fetal monitoring, and he has been listed frequently in The Best Doctors in America.

Dr. Boehm has long been recognized for his contributions to the educational mission of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and he has received recognition from both medical students and residents. In 1992, the medical students selected him to receive the Outstanding Educator Award from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. In 1998, the residents selected him for the national Teaching Award of the Council for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2000, he was the recipient of the first Vanderbilt University Medical Center Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching Medical Students, Residents and/or Fellows in the Clinical Setting. In 2004, he was honored by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with the establishment of the annual Frank H. Boehm Award for Excellence and Compassion in Perinatal Care. Dr. Boehm was a pioneer in the continuing medical education program at Vanderbilt. In 2004, he was the recipient of the first Frank H. Boehm Award in recognition of his special contributions to continuing medical education at Vanderbilt. December 2014 marked the 40th anniversary of the continuous annual offering of the High-Risk Obstetrics Seminar, the first Frank H. Boehm Award in recognition of his special contributions to continuing medical education at Vanderbilt.

Dr. Boehm has influenced the ethical climate at Vanderbilt through his extended leadership of the Ethics Committee of the Vanderbilt Medical Group from 1990 to 2004. His insights into the human condition and medicine have been influential and have earned him recognition for his work in the area of medicine and ethics. In 2014, Dr. Boehm received the Community Nashville Human Relations Award in recognition of his contributions as a teacher, physician, author and community activist.

FRANK H. BOEHM AWARD

Recipient of the FRANK H. BOEHM AWARD

Contributions to Continuing Medical Education

Arie L. Nettles, Ph.D.

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Nettles earned her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. After earning her PhD in Clinical and School Psychology from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in 1987, she joined the UT-Knoxville faculty as assistant professor in the Department of Education and Counseling Psychology. She also held assistant professorships in the Schools of Education and Medicine at the University of Michigan and other faculty appointments at Tennessee State University and Fisk University. In 2004 Dr. Nettles was named assistant professor of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), and served as a certified psychologist in the Center for Child Development. She was promoted to professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics last year.

In 2010 Dr. Nettles founded the Office of Inclusion and Health Equity (OIHIE) at VUMC and has continued to serve as its director. Initially established as a unique effort between the Department of Pediatrics and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt to educate and train the workforce on cultural awareness, in 2015 the OIHIE expanded medical center-wide in partnership with VUMC Human Resources and the Office for Diversity Affairs. Dr. Nettles leads a team of 30 certified facilitators who offer a robust in-person and online curriculum centered on bias and workplace civility. Since 2018 she has conceptualized and delivered more than 100 workshops, lectures and presentations on bias and inclusion, including more than 80 virtual presentations throughout VUMC during the past year. More than 7,000 VUMC employees have participated in OIHIE-facilitated educational opportunities.

Dr. Nettles is a nationally certified school psychologist and nationally registered health service psychologist whose work in psychological and educational assessment includes two books, several book chapters and other publications, and numerous national and international presentations and named lectures. She has served on Institute of Medicine committees on childhood obesity and children with disabilities and chaired the Statewide Planning and Policy Council for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She is an American Psychological Association Minority Fellow, a member of the VUMC Academy for Excellence in Education, a Salzburg Global Seminar Fellow and a founder of the Pediatric Health Equity Collaborative. Dr. Nettles has served as a mentor for the Hazinski Society and Geoffrey Fleming Society at VUMC, and as faculty mentor and faculty supervisor at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, UT-Knoxville and the University of Michigan. Her honors include the Tennessee Hospital Association Diversity Champion Award, the CABLE Individual Inclusion Award and, most recently, the VUMC Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

In recognition of her dedication and prolific contributions to the continuing education of health care professionals in the areas of childhood development, psychological and educational assessment, cultural awareness, bias and inclusion, Dr. Nettles is the 2020 recipient of the Frank H. Boehm Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Gerald S. Gotterer, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Gotterer received his M.D. from the University of Chicago. After an internship in Medicine at the Yale-New Haven Medical Center in Connecticut, he completed his Ph.D. in Physiological Chemistry and then joined the faculty as a member of the Department of Physiological Chemistry at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1970, he was named Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Johns Hopkins. He was Associate Dean for Predoctoral Programs at Johns Hopkins in 1978, when he left to become Associate Dean for Medical Student Programs at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois. While there he initiated the school’s problem-based learning track.

Dr. Gotterer came to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1986 as Associate Dean and Professor of Medical Administration. He was appointed Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Administrative Affairs in 1999 and Director of the Division of Continuing Medical Education from 1992 until 2000. Currently he is Professor of Medical Education and Administration, Emeritus. Dr. Gotterer has served as Chair of the Council of Illinois Associate Deans, as a member of the Steering Committee of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges, as Chair of the Steering Committee of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs from 1999 to 2001, and as a member of the National Steering Committee of the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education.

At Vanderbilt, Dr. Gotterer has had a key role in several administrative and educational initiatives, including transition to the new university tenure system that no longer recognizes teaching and service without research as suitable grounds for tenure, the formulation of medical school policies and procedures dealing with conflicts of interest, establishing the student promotion committee system at Vanderbilt, formulating a mechanism for funding graduate education that facilitated the expansion of the Medical Scientist Training Program, and the formation of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program.

Dr. Gotterer has been a strong supporter of diversity in medical education at Vanderbilt. He established the initial Office of Minority Student Affairs. He initiated and managed the summer Minority Medical Education Program for undergraduate minority students, a joint initiative with Fisk University, and began the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Office of Minority Student Affairs. He initiated and managed the summer Minority Medical Education Program for undergraduate minority students, a joint initiative with Fisk University, and began the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture.

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Recipients of the Gerald S. Gotterer Award

Innovation in Educational Programming That Has Proven To Be Effective

Zachary E. Warren, Ph.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Special Education and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Warren received his bachelor’s degree from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and his master’s degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. In 2005 he earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Miami, specializing in children and families. In 2006, following postdoctoral fellowship training in Clinical Psychology in the Division of Genetics and Developmental Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, Dr. Warren joined the Vanderbilt University faculty as assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He also directed the Parent Support and Education Program in the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Center Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD). Currently he is Executive Director of TRIAD and Director of Autism Research for the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC).

Dr. Warren is a well-recognized national and international leader in ASD screening and diagnosis, clinical services and treatment, and training for families and professionals. His research focuses on early detection and intervention for ASD as well as in the development of technological applications for enhanced identification and service. He is the Vanderbilt site director for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, which is charged with calculating the prevalence of ASD and Intellectual Disabilities in Tennessee.

A leader in efforts to improve services in community settings, Dr. Warren is principal investigator of the Tennessee Cares for ASD Navigation Network, a grant funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to create a novel system for supporting primary care identification and treatment across low-resource and underserved communities in Tennessee. He led VUMC’s involvement in a recently completed Autism Center of Excellence (ACE) Network Trial funded by the National Institutes of Health to evaluate the effects of intensive treatment for toddlers with autism, and currently is leading VUMC’s involvement in a U.S. Department of Defense study evaluating the effects of early intensive intervention in military families.

Dr. Warren also oversees large professional development structures that are part of TRIAD and which provide evidence-based training for ASD service and professional capacity building through the Tennessee Departments of Education and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, the Tennessee Early Intervention System and affiliated pediatric care settings. As program director and lead trainer of STAT-MD, he has implemented a successful training program for experienced pediatricians in assessing and diagnosing ASD in young children. At Vanderbilt Dr. Warren has played a key role in the multi-disciplinary training of students, fellows and junior faculty across the Departments of Pediatrics, Psychology and Special Education, as well as the School of Engineering.

In recognition of his innovative approaches to educational programming for health care professionals and families that have greatly benefited children with ASD, Dr. Warren is the recipient of the Gerald S. Gotterer Award for Excellence in Teaching.
F. Peter Guengerich, Ph.D.

Dr. Guengerich received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University under the mentorship of Professor Harry P. Broquist. After a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Professor Minor J. Caen at the University of Michigan, he joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1975 as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, rising to full Professor in 1983. Dr. Guengerich directed the Center in Molecular Toxicology from 1981 to 2011, and served as interim chair of the Department of Biochemistry from 2010 to 2012. Since 2013 he has held the Tadashi Inagami, Ph.D. Chair in Biochemistry.

Dr. Guengerich and his colleagues were responsible for the first purification and characterization of cytochrome P450, the major enzyme that metabolizes drugs and cancer-causing chemicals in the liver. They have studied how carcinogens interact with DNA to form adducts and how these adducts produce genetic mutations. With more than 600 peer-reviewed original research publications, Dr. Guengerich is one of the most highly cited researchers worldwide in the areas of biochemistry and pharmacology. He has also trained more than 125 postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have assumed key positions throughout the world of academia, in the pharmaceutical industry, or in public service in the areas of toxicology and drug metabolism.

Dr. Guengerich serves as deputy editor of The Journal of Biological Chemistry, and as associate editor of Chemical Research in Toxicology, a journal published by the American Chemical Society (ACS), which inducted him into its first class of fellows in 2009. He was instrumental in establishing the ACS Division of Chemical Toxicology, and in 2011 received the division’s Founders’ Award in recognition of his outstanding research accomplishments and his numerous contributions to the field of chemical toxicology.

He served for five years as a Burroughs Wellcome Scholar in Toxicology, and has been recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology, the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, the International Life Sciences Institute, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Toxicology Forum and the International Life Sciences Institute. In 2010 he received the R.T. Williams Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award from the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics, and in 2013, the Society of Toxicology Merit Award. Vanderbilt honors include the Earl Sutherland Prize for Achievement in Research, and the Sidney P. Colowick Award for Research in Toxicology.

Recipient of the F. Peter Guengerich Award

Mentoring Postdoctoral Fellows or Residents in the Research Setting

Dan M. Roden, M.D.C.M.

Sam L. Clark, M.D., Ph.D. Endowed Chair and Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology, and Biomedical Informatics

Dan M. Roden, M.D.C.M.

A native of Montreal, Canada, Dr. Roden earned his MDCM from McGill University in Montreal in 1974. After completing his internship and residency in Medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, in 1979 he came to Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) as a research fellow in Clinical Pharmacology. He was appointed assistant professor of Clinical Pharmacology in 1981. From 1992 to 2004 Dr. Roden directed the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine, and last year he was appointed interim director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. Currently he directs the John Oates Institute for Experimental Therapeutics and serves as Senior Vice President for Personalized Medicine at VUMC.

Dr. Roden is a clinician-scientist who studies mechanisms underlying variable drug responses and susceptibility to cardiac arrhythmias. His laboratory currently focuses on establishing the functional consequences of genetic variation in humans, using a range contemporary tools such as induced pluripotent stem cells, gene editing, deep mutational scanning, high-throughput automated electrophysiology, and probing the relationship between genetic variants and phenotypes in electronic health records (EHRs) and biobanks. Dr. Roden has served as principal investigator/co-PI of the Vanderbilt site for the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) Network since its inception in 2007, for the Pharmacogenomics Research Network from 2001 to 2020, and for the Data and Research Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) All of Us initiative. As Senior Vice President for Personalized Medicine, he coordinates and advances a nationally recognized agenda at VUMC that involves exploiting electronic health records for discovery and clinical implementation in genomics medicine. This agenda includes BioVU, which links DNA samples to their de-identified electronic health records, and the PREDICT program, which empowers physicians and patients with the genetic information needed to anticipate and prevent adverse drug reactions.

Dr. Roden served (or is serving) as primary mentor for 57 MD and/or PhD graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Of the 52 who have completed training, 33 hold appointments in academic departments in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Japan, Australia, and Taiwan. Five currently serve as deans, department chairs or division directors. He also serves as co-principal investigator of the NIH-funded Vanderbilt Genomic Medicine (Postdoctoral) Training Program, which has a major focus on pharmacogenomics, precision phenotyping, medical informatics and disease-based genomics. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received numerous honors including, last year, the Oscar B. Hunter Career Award in Therapeutics from the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

For his mentorship of medical and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in their own right, Dr. Roden is the recipient of the F. Peter Guengerich Award for Excellence in Teaching.
THOMAS A. HAZINSKI AWARD

Thomas A. Hazinski, M.D.

Dr. Hazinski received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1971 and his medical degree at St. Louis University in 1973. After completing postgraduate training in pediatrics and pulmonary medicine at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, he joined the faculty of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1984. At the time of his death in 2006, Dr. Hazinski was professor of Pediatrics and of Medical Education and Administration, director of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine and associate dean of Faculty Affairs in the School of Medicine.

Dr. Hazinski was a skilled clinician who was equally dedicated to medical education and encouraging the development of physician-scientists. He built the Division of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine from scratch, served as associate chair of the Department of Pediatrics and directed the Cystic Fibrosis Center at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, now known as the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. Dr. Hazinski belonged to several professional organizations including The Society of Pediatric Research, of which he was past president, the American Pediatric Society, American Physiological Society and the Perinatal Research Society.

With Nancy Brown, M.D., Dr. Hazinski helped develop and co-directed the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) program, which was launched in the summer of 2000. The two-year-long program incorporates didactic instruction and mentored clinical research to train investigators in patient-oriented research. The program is open to physicians enrolled in fellowship programs, faculty members, postdoctoral Ph.D. scientists and Ph.D. candidates in the school of nursing. In the past 16 years MSCI trainees have published more than 3,400 research articles and garnered more than $140 million in grants and awards. Nearly 90 percent have pursued careers in academic medicine. The efforts of Drs. Brown and Hazinski were recognized in 2005 when they shared a Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching for Innovation and Educational Programming that has proven to be effective.

In 2004 Dr. Hazinski assumed a newly-created position as associate dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Medicine. His responsibilities included faculty promotion and tenure, conflict of interest and ensuring that faculty members understood faculty guidelines. Toward that end he helped develop the Faculty Orientation and Training Office. Dr. Hazinski was particularly adept at helping to identify and eliminate obstacles to faculty productivity and otherwise supporting his colleagues through mentoring, personal counseling and professional development programs.

In 2006 the Society for Pediatric Research renamed its Distinguished Service Award in Dr. Hazinski’s honor. Five years later the Department of Pediatrics established the Hazinski Society for Junior Faculty Development to help junior faculty members navigate the complexities of academic medicine. The annual Faculty Development Workshop is named for Dr. Hazinski, as is an annual scholarship that supports participants in the MSCI program. This year his legacy continues with the presentation of the inaugural Thomas A. Hazinski Award for Excellence in Teaching.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ~ 2021 FACULTY AWARDS

Recipient of the THOMAS A. HAZINSKI AWARD

Effectiveness in Monitoring Professional Development of Faculty

Katherine E. Hartmann, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and of Medicine; Lucius E. Burch Professor of Reproductive Physiology and Family Planning

Dr. Hartmann is an executive leader and epidemiologist known for her contributions to collaborative research and education, academic infrastructure and career development. At Johns Hopkins University, she earned a master’s degree in Science Writing, followed in 1992 by an M.D. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she completing her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and, in 1993, earned a Ph.D. in Epidemiology. She then joined the faculty at UNC, rising to associate professor and vice chair for Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and founding director of the Center for Women’s Health Research. In 2006 Dr. Hartmann moved to Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) as associate professor and vice chair for Research in Obstetrics and Gynecology, as deputy director of the Institute for Medicine and Public Health, and as founding director of Women’s Health Research. She currently directs the Vanderbilt Evidence-based Practice Center and serves as Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Scientist Development and as Vice President for Research Integration.

Her research focuses on common women’s health conditions including miscarriage, uterine fibroids and incontinence. She chairs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pelvic Floor Disorders Network, a clinical trials and translational science collaborative, and has served for more than 17 years on the Data Safety Monitoring Board for NIH-funded clinical trials of contraceptives.

Her service to investigators has included resources such as internal career development awards, seminar series, workshops, peer mentoring groups, and assistance to recipients of NIH career development grants and mid-career investigator awards in patient-oriented research. She leads three NIH training grants and is principal investigator of the Training, Education and Career Development Core of the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, VUMC’s Clinical and Translational Science Award. Her office tracks resources and measures outcomes in programs serving more than 475 trainees. She also is the site lead for two randomized controlled trials of mentoring supports. Nationally, Dr. Hartmann leads www.edgeforscholars.org, an integrated career development social media platform with a global reach.

Throughout her career Dr. Hartmann has mentored more than 100 undergraduate and graduate trainees in MD, PhD and MPH (Master’s of Public Health) programs, many of whom have gone on to attain research positions at prestigious institutions including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke, Harvard, the Henry Ford Health System, the NIH, UNC, Northwestern, the University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh, Sloan Kettering and Vanderbilt. Among her trainees there is a strong record of recruitment and retention of women (78%) and mentees from historically underrepresented groups (28%) in academic biomedical research careers.

For her dedication to faculty mentoring and all levels of career development with special emphasis on women and members of historically underrepresented groups, Dr. Hartmann is the recipient of the Thomas A. Hazinski Award for Excellence in Teaching.
John S. Sergent Award

John S. Sergent, M.D.

Dr. Sergent received B.A. and M.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. After serving as an Intern and Assistant Resident on the Osler Medical Service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and as Clinical Associate in the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health, he returned to Vanderbilt to complete his residency. He served as Chief Resident in 1971 and 1972. After a fellowship in rheumatic diseases at the Hospital for Special Surgery of Cornell University Medical College, he accepted his first faculty appointment as Assistant Professor at Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Sergent joined the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine as Assistant Professor in 1975 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1977. In 1979, he went into private practice in Nashville, but retained his association with the medical school as Associate Clinical Professor and then Clinical Professor of Medicine. He rejoined the full-time faculty as Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Saint Thomas Hospital. He subsequently served as Chief Medical Officer of the Vanderbilt Medical Group, and was Vice Chair for Education and Director of the Residency Program for the Department of Medicine from 2003-2013.

Dr. Sergent has been active in a number of national professional organizations. He served as President of the American College of Rheumatology in 1992 and 1993. He has had leadership roles in the American Board of Internal Medicine, the International League of Associations for Rheumatology, the American College of Physicians, the American Clinical and Climatological Society, and the Nashville Clinical Ethics Guild. He has been Editor-in-Chief and on the editorial boards of various journals and textbooks, primarily relating to his field of rheumatology. Dr. Sergent has been listed on multiple occasions by Best Doctors in America. His OpEd column in The Tennessean, which he has written since 1992, engages the Nashville community with his insight into the many facets of medicine.

Dr. Sergent has had a long and distinguished career as an educator and teacher in small groups. In 1972, while he was Chief Resident in the Department of Medicine, he was a recipient of the Hillman Award for Outstanding House Staff Teaching. He is a four-time winner of the Brittingham Award for Excellence in Student Teaching (1990, 1991, 1992, and 1994). In 2004, he was named the recipient of the Hugh Jackson Morgan Teaching Award in the Department of Medicine. In working with small groups of students and residents, Dr. Sergent demonstrates the caring attitude of a compassionate physician and teaches them how to bridge cultural barriers, how to address difficult social issues and about the importance of a positive attitude.

Recipient of the JOHN S. SERGENT AWARD Teaching Medical or Graduate Students in the Small Group Setting

John A. McPherson, M.D.

Drs. Sol and Marvin Rosenblum Professor of Medicine

A native of Pomona, California, Dr. McPherson received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Princeton University and his M.D. in 1993 from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians and the American Heart Association. He moved to Nashville in 2000 after completing his residency in Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and fellowships in Cardiovascular Medicine and Interventional Cardiology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. During the next few years, he served as a staff physician at Saint Thomas Hospital, vice chair of Cardiology at Centennial Medical Center, a specialty physician at Marshall Medical Center in Lewisburg and Crockett Hospital in Lawrenceburg, cardiologist in the Heart Group and director of interventional research at the Tennessee Cardiovascular Research Institute, both in Nashville. In 2006, Dr. McPherson joined the Vanderbilt faculty as assistant professor of Medicine and was named medical director of the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). He currently is professor of Medicine, Vice Chair for Education, and director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program in the Department of Medicine at VUMC.

Dr. McPherson’s academic interests have focused on critical care cardiology, emerging interventional cardiovascular therapies, and medical education. He is an author or coauthor on more than 80 peer-reviewed publications as well as book chapters, review articles, letters and editorials. He has directed several undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education courses at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine including, most recently, the Telehealth Advanced Clinical Elective for medical students and the postgraduate core curriculum in Cardiovascular Intensive Care. Many of the undergraduate medical education courses admit four to six students per year for four-week rotations.

Dr. McPherson also has served as clinical instructor and preceptor for the Physician Assistant Training Program at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville and for the Nurse Practitioner Program in the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, and is course director of the Vanderbilt Advanced Cardiac Life Support program. At the national level, he has served on the Educational Oversight Committee for the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Education Committee of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. He is currently a member of the ACC Curriculum Design Committee and Associate Editor of the ACC’s Self-Assessment Program.

In 2011, Dr. McPherson was elected to the Vanderbilt University Academy for Excellence in Teaching. He has also received Inpatient and Outpatient Teaching Awards from the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, the Curriculum Innovation Award from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and four Patient Experience 5-Star awards sponsored by Professional Research Consultants (PRC), VUMC’s patient satisfaction surveyor.

For his distinguished commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education, Dr. McPherson is the recipient of the John S. Sergent Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Dr. Richard M. Caprioli, M.D.

Dr. Caprioli received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1965 from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1969, also from Columbia, with Professor David Rittenberg. After a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Purdue University with Professor John H. Beynon, he joined the faculty at Purdue University in 1970 and then moved to the University of Texas Medical School in Houston in 1975. In 1998 Dr. Caprioli came to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where he is the Stanford Moore Professor of Biochemistry, professor of Medicine, Pharmacology and Chemistry, and director of the Mass Spectrometry Research Center.

Dr. Caprioli is internationally known for his pioneering innovations in the field of mass spectrometry. His contributions include development of a patented micro-electrospray technology that enables techniques such as multi-dimensional liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC/MS) and which is now used worldwide for protein identification. He developed ultra-high sensitivity methods for analysis of neuropeptides, and pioneered molecular analysis in living animals. In the late 1990s, Dr. Caprioli's lab developed a technology called imaging mass spectrometry (IMS) using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI). Essentially a "molecular microscope," this technology measures the distribution, spatial rearrangement and alteration in expression levels of proteins, lipids and other biological molecules in cells and tissues. It has particular relevance to cancer and has informed the study of human glioblastomas as well as tumors of the skin, breast, colon, prostate and lung. More recently, the Caprioli team reported the first "image fusion" of mass spectrometry and microscopy, providing a multiplex image that allows scientists to see the molecular make-up of tissues in high resolution.

Over the years, Dr. Caprioli has collaborated with colleagues at Vanderbilt to identify proteomic patterns that can predict the natural history of lung nodules and cancers, and pharmacogenetic factors affecting response to drugs used to treat hypertension. In 2014 Vanderbilt was awarded a five-year, $16.5 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and Army Research Office to develop ultrafast mass spectrometry methods for quickly determining how potentially toxic agents, including drugs, affect human cells. That was followed in 2016 with a five-year, $10.5-million renewal grant from the National Institutes of Health for the Imaging Mass Spectrometry National Resource at Vanderbilt. Dr. Caprioli is principal investigator of both awards.

Dr. Caprioli has written more than 380 scientific papers and holds 12 U.S. patents. A former president of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry, he is currently editor-in-chief of the Journal of Mass Spectrometry and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Honors include the Thomson Medal Award from the International Mass Spectrometry Society, the Frank H. Field and Joe L. Franklin Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mass Spectrometry from the American Chemical Society, the Human Proteome Organization (HUPO) Distinguished Achievement in Proteomic Sciences Award, the 2014 Award for a Distinguished Contribution to Mass Spectrometry from the American Society for Mass Spectrometry and two Vanderbilt faculty awards for Outstanding Contributions to Research. The Richard M. Caprioli Award has now been established to recognize excellence in developing, implementing and creating new technologies that have elevated the science and research of multiple investigators.
SIDNEY P. COLOWICK AWARD

Dr. Sidney P. Colowick came to Vanderbilt University in 1959 as the American Cancer Society Charles Hayden Foundation Professor of Microbiology. He earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Washington University. There, during his early years immediately before World War II in the Carl and Gertrude Cori Laboratory, he distinguished himself as one of the most promising young researchers in the emerging field of biochemistry. At the age of 22, he was the sole author of a paper in the Journal of Biological Chemistry on the synthesis of mannose-1-phosphate and galactose-1-phosphate. Subsequently, he and Herman Kalckar discovered myokinase, now known as adenylyl kinase. At Vanderbilt, Dr. Colowick worked on hexokinase and made a number of important contributions toward solving the problem of hexose transport in animal cells. Dr. Colowick received many honors during his distinguished career, including election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1969 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1972. In 1978, he was named the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor for distinguished accomplishment in furthering the aims of Vanderbilt University. At his retirement, then-Chancellor Alexander Heard acknowledged Dr. Colowick with remarks stating that he [Dr. Colowick] helped create Vanderbilt by doing most what a university is created to do. His contributions relate not only to his own pioneering scientific discoveries, but also to his education of the larger scientific community. With his colleague, Nathan O. Kaplan, he founded and edited throughout his career the book series, Analytical Biochemistry. In recognition of Dr. Colowick and his work, Vanderbilt University medical center instituted the Sidney P. Colowick Award for research that serves as a platform for discovery in diverse areas.

SIDNEY P. COLOWICK

Recipient of the SIDNEY P. COLOWICK AWARD For Research that Serves as a Platform for Discovery in Diverse Areas

William J. Blot, Ph.D.
Ingram Professor of Cancer Research and Research Professor of Medicine

Dr. William J. Blot earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Florida and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Florida State University in 1970. Prior to joining Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) in 2000, he directed research into the causes of cancer for 20 years at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and in 1994 co-founded the International Epidemiology Institute, a private research organization for which he serves as Chief Executive Officer. Currently Dr. Blot is Ingram Professor of Cancer Research at VUMC, and associate director for Population-based Research at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He has authored or co-authored over 775 articles published in peer-reviewed publications. He is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and of the American Statistical Association, and a member of the American Epidemiological Society. At VUMC Dr. Blot has been instrumental in developing what has become one of the most outstanding epidemiology programs in the United States. His development of a strong population-based program of cancer research helped the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center attain recognition as an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2001. Dr. Blot is founding principal investigator and designer of the ongoing Southern Community Cohort Study (SCCS), a landmark investigation undertaken to assess the causes of cancer and other chronic diseases and determinants of health disparities in 86,000 adults in the southeastern United States, two-thirds of whom are African American. Funded by the NCI since 2001, the SCCS has documented multiple demographic, lifestyle and biologic factors that may contribute to racial differences in risk and outcomes from cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and other diseases. The SCCS has provided an exceptional platform for population-based research for multiple researchers, including young investigators, at VUMC, Meharry and collaborating institutions. SCCS study findings have yielded key information regarding the distribution, determinants and means of preventing human cancers, expanding upon etiologic leads generated from Dr. Blot’s earlier research where he was among the first to map the distribution of, and demonstrate diversity in, cancer mortality across the United States. Dr. Blot also directed large-scale intervention trials showing that supplementation with certain vitamins reduced cancer risk in parts of China with the world’s highest rates of esophageal cancer and that eradicating chronic infection by the bacterium H. pylori lowered the risk of gastric cancer. In the area of heart disease, he and colleagues at VUMC developed a randomized trial finding that administration of a polypill containing three low-dose antihypertensive medications and a statin was of significant benefit in reducing blood pressure and cholesterol, indicating that the polypill was a feasible approach for preventing cardiovascular disease in low-income settings. For his contributions to population-based studies that have yielded tangible benefits for preventing disease and improving health, Dr. Blot is the recipient of the Sidney P. Colowick Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research.
Dr. Darby received B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Arkansas in his native state. Early in his career, his collaborative research with Dr. Paul L. Day concerning nutritional cataracts led to the discovery of vitamin M, the anti-anemia factor, subsequently renamed folic acid.

In 1941, Dr. Darby completed a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Michigan, followed by fellowships at Columbia, Vanderbilt, and Duke Universities, where his research training afforded him further experience in the biochemical, clinical, and public health aspects of nutrition. In 1944, Dr. Darby joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University, where he served as chairman of the Department of Biochemistry until 1971. As director of the Division of Nutrition, Dr. Darby, with his colleagues, first demonstrated the effectiveness of folic acid in the treatment of sprue and were pioneers in describing the role of zinc in human growth and the syndrome of zinc deficiencies in adolescence. Throughout his career, he focused on experimental and clinical nutrition, including essential nutrients and human requirements, linking his laboratory studies to nutritional anemias and other hematopoietic diseases, nutritionally-induced cataracts, and xerophthalmias.

From 1972 to 1982, Dr. Darby was President of the Nutrition Foundation, while serving on many national and international advisory committees related to nutrition and environmental health. Dr. Darby’s advisory activities concerning nutrition have related both to the research and application of the research knowledge to nutritional standards.

The impact of the application of his work has influenced all of the major national and international agencies that have responsibilities in the area of nutrition. He was a zealous advocate for enhanced teaching of nutrition in medical centers and for relying on scientific bases for developing applied programs. In 1969, Dr. Darby received the Thomas Jefferson Award for distinguished service to Vanderbilt through extraordinary contributions as a member of the faculty in the councils and government of the university. In 1972, Dr. Darby was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In recognition of his career-long contributions to research and application of the research knowledge to nutritional and public health aspects of nutrition, he was a member of the Sigma Xi, the American Society for Biochemistry and Biophysics, and the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, as well as an elected member of the Councils of the Association of American Physicians and the Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Darby was a member of the editorial boards of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, JAMA, Gastroenterology, and the Journal of Nutrition. He served on the Board of Directors of the Nutrition Foundation and the American College of Nutrition. He was a director of the Nutrition Research Foundation of the National Academy of Sciences and a member of the Board of Governors of the Biochemical Society of Great Britain. He was also a member of the National Institutes of Health advisory board of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, a member of the Nutrition Advisory Panel of the National Research Council, and a member of the Advisory Board of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition. He also served on the Advisory Board of the University of Chicago Press and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Darby received the William J. Darby Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research and Public Health in 2021. The award is given to a faculty member who has made significant contributions to the field of nutrition.

Dr. Darby is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Physicians of America. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Thomas Jefferson Award for distinguished service to Vanderbilt through extraordinary contributions as a member of the faculty in the councils and government of the university. In 1972, Dr. Darby was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In recognition of his career-long contributions to research and application of the research knowledge to nutritional and public health aspects of nutrition, he was a member of the Sigma Xi, the American Society for Biochemistry and Biophysics, and the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, as well as an elected member of the Councils of the Association of American Physicians and the Academy of Medicine.

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**Outstanding Contributions to Research**

**Ernest W. Goodpasture Award**

**Ernest W. Goodpasture, M.D.**

Dr. Goodpasture was born in 1886 near Clarksville, Tennessee. He received a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1907 and an M.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1912. He remained at Johns Hopkins for his residency in pathology before moving to Harvard University, first as Instructor and then as Assistant Professor. Dr. Goodpasture came to Vanderbilt as the Chairman of Pathology in 1925 and served in that position for 30 years, declining chairs at Harvard and Johns Hopkins in 1941 and 1942. Indeed, his departure would have seriously weakened Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. From 1943 to 1950, Dr. Goodpasture served as Associate Dean and then as Dean of the School of Medicine.

Dr. Goodpasture's research formed the foundation for much of modern virology. In 1919, for example, on the basis of autopsy studies, he predicted that viruses were the cause of influenza. Other accomplishments included demonstration of neural transmission of viruses, proof that elementary bodies contained infectious viruses, and identification of a virus as the cause of mumps. His discoveries also included the use of the chick embryo for studies on the pathogenesis of several viral and bacterial diseases and as a host for multiplication of viruses for use in vaccines.

Dr. Goodpasture's contributions to science have been widely acknowledged. In 1937, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and, in 1943, to the American Philosophical Society, which bestowed upon him the Kober Medal. Other awards include The John Phillips Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians, The Jesse Stevenson Kovalenko Medal from the National Academy of Sciences, and the Gold-Headed Cane Award from the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists. He was awarded honorary D.Sc. degrees from the University of Chicago and Washington University. Dr. Goodpasture was also nominated for a Nobel Prize eight times prior to 1950. From 1956 to 1960, he was a member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.

Dr. Goodpasture's research contributed significantly to the stellar reputation of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and his tenure as Dean provided stability during the difficult times following World War II. In addition to leadership gifts that he shared with great loyalty to Vanderbilt, Dr. Goodpasture's broad-based and rigorous research gave society significant new insights into viral disease processes and the transmission of viral infections. Because his research spanned so many areas of investigation across the molecular and clinical continuum, the Ernest W. Goodpasture Award was established to recognize groundbreaking research on the pathogenesis of infectious diseases or on important biological problems in immunity.

**Ernest W. Goodpasture Award**

Recipient of the Ernest W. Goodpasture Award

**Raymond C. Harris, Jr., M.D.**

Dr. Harris is a graduate of Yale College and Emory University School of Medicine. He undertook his residency training at the University of California, San Francisco, and completed a fellowship in Nephrology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He has been a member of the Vanderbilt faculty since 1986. From 2000 to 2018 he served as chief of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension in the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). Dr. Harris currently is the Ann and Roscoe R. Robinson Professor of Nephrology, Professor of Medicine and of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, associate chief of the Director of Nephrology and director of the Vanderbilt Center for Kidney Disease and the Vanderbilt O'Brien Kidney Center, which promotes interactions between basic scientists and clinical researchers to advance the prevention and treatment of acute and chronic kidney disease.

Dr. Harris is a leader in understanding mechanisms of kidney growth and repair in response to acute and chronic injury. Currently he is the principal investigator of four research grants from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health. He has co-authored more than 240 articles published in peer-reviewed publications. A major emphasis has been the role of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and other proteins in diabetic nephropathy, characterized by loss of kidney function in patients with diabetes.

Dr. Harris is also a leader in forging research partnerships. He played a key role in a five-year strategic alliance launched in 2017 between VUMC and the multinational pharmaceutical and life science company Bayer to evaluate new drug candidates for treating kidney disease. He is current co-chair of the Kidney Health Initiative, a public-private partnership between the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to speed development of new therapies for kidney diseases. Dozens of academic centers, patient organizations, dialysis providers, and drug and device manufacturers from around the world have signed on to the effort.

Dr. Harris is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the American Association of Physicians, a fellow and past president of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is former deputy editor of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology. He has served on numerous grant review committees for the VA and NIDDK and currently serves on the NIDDK Board of Scientific Counselors. He has mentored and fostered the careers of numerous physician-scientists, educators and research scientists.

For his research that has elucidated the basic mechanisms of kidney disease and its complications down to the molecular level, and for his ability to forge alliances that can accelerate the pace of progress, Dr. Harris is the recipient of the Ernest W. Goodpasture Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research.
O U T S T A N D I N G  C O N T R A B U T I O N S  T O  R E S E A R C H  ❄  2 0 2 1  F A C U L T Y  A W A R D S

John A. Oates, M.D.

Dr. Oates received his Bachelor of Science and his medical degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After completing his residency in internal medicine and cardiology at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, he was a clinical associate and senior investigator at the National Heart Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His discovery in 1959 that methylenebacterio lowered blood pressure helped lead to the development of the first effective treatment for severe hypertension. In 1963 Dr. Oates came to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine as assistant professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and as the first director of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, a position he held until 1988. Dr. Oates became a full professor in 1969 and is currently Thomas F. Frist Sr. Professor of Medicine and Professor of Pharmacology. He served as chair of the Department of Medicine from 1983 to 1997.

Dr. Oates' interest in hypertension and in the vasoactive compounds that affect blood pressure drew him into the area of the prostaglandins, potent molecules that are generated by the cyclooxygenase (COX) enzymes. Over the years, he and his colleagues have uncovered associations between various prostaglandin metabolites and cancer, asthma, and release of the blood-pressure regulating enzyme renin by the kidney. Their study of a potential anti-arhythmic drug provided the first solid evidence of what has become known as "first-pass metabolism" – how clearance of an orally-delivered drug through the liver and intestines affects its availability in the circulation. Their discovery that acetoaminophen inhibited lipid peroxidation catalyzed by hemeprotein radicals formed the basis for its use to prevent renal failure in severe malaria.

Dr. Oates has authored or contributed to nearly 400 peer-reviewed publications. His investigations helped uncover the association between smoking and coronary artery disease. More recently his lab has investigated a link between Alzheimer's disease and highly reactive molecular compounds called levuglandins. His highly collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to science has helped shape clinical pharmacology, drug discovery and development. Dr. Oates is a frequent scientific advisor to the pharmaceutical industry. At Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), he has served as principal investigator of the NIH-supported Research Center for Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Toxicology and the Specialized Center in Clinically Oriented Research (SCCOR) in Hemostatic and Thrombotic Diseases. In 2004, the John A. Oates Institute for Experimental Therapeutics was established at VUMC to extend research in human therapeutics.

Dr. Oates is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a former president of the Association of American Physicians and former chairman of the American Heart Association Subcommittee on Smoking. He has been recognized by numerous organizations including the NIH and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and in 2010 he received the Earl Sutherland Prize for Achievement in Research from Vanderbilt University. The John A. Oates Award has now been created to honor faculty members like Dr. Oates who work collaboratively or in a multidisciplinary manner to address important biological processes.

John A. Oates Award

Recipients of the JOHN A. OATES AWARD

For Two or More Faculty Working Collaboratively or in a Multidisciplinary Manner to Address Important Biological Processes and/or Diseases

James R. Goldenring, MD, PhD, Sari A. Acra, M.D., M.P.H. and Hernan Correa, M.D., and other Vanderbilt colleagues are collaborating to decipher the pathophysiology of congenital diarrheas caused by single gene mutations. The Vanderbilt group, along with investigators from UCLA, The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Boston Children's Hospital, received a $9.4 million grant, awarded in 2019 by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, to establish PediCODE, the Pediatric Congenital Diarrhea and Enteropathy Consortium and Repository. The goal of the consortium is to identify the mechanisms behind both known and unknown genetic mutations and develop new ways to treat these diseases beyond supportive care and intestinal transplantation.

Vanderbilt University. Following fellowship training in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Vanderbilt, in 1996 he joined the faculty at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson where, working in the lab of famed pediatric gastroenterologist Fayez Ghishan, M.D., he was the first to describe the function of the human sodium-hydrogen exchanger in the intestine. In 2001, Dr. Acra returned to Vanderbilt, where he is now chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Sari A. Acra, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor of Pediatrics

A native of Lebanon, Dr. Acra received his Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University, his M.D. from the American University of Beirut, and his M.P.H. from Vanderbilt University. Following fellowship training in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Vanderbilt, in 1996 he joined the faculty at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tucson where, working in the lab of famed pediatric gastroenterologist Fayez Ghishan, M.D., he was the first to describe the function of the human sodium-hydrogen exchanger in the intestine. In 2001, Dr. Acra returned to Vanderbilt, where he is now chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Hernán Correa, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology

A native of Colombia, Dr. Correa earned his M.D. from the Universidad del Valle in Colombia. He completed postdoctoral fellowships in Hemato-pathology at Louisiana State University in New Orleans and Pediatric Pathology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He was a Pediatric Pathologist at Children's Hospital of New Orleans, before joining the Vanderbilt faculty in 2006. He established and served as chief of the Pediatric Pathology Service at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, and currently is program director of the Pediatric Pathology Fellowship, which he founded in 2013. His research interests include pediatric neoplasia and pediatric gastrointestinal disorders.

In recognition of their multidisciplinary collaboration to solve a difficult biological challenge, Drs. Goldenring, Correa and Acra are the recipients of the John A. Oates Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research.

James R. Goldenring, PhD, M.D.

Paul W. Sanger Professor of Experimental Surgery, Professor of Surgery and of Cell and Developmental Biology, Co-Director, Epithelial Biology Center

Dr. Goldenring earned his Ph.D. and M.D. from Yale University. He has been a leader in the field of epithelial biology for 20 years. His studies have led to insights into how vescle trafficking regulates the establishment of apical membranes specializations and establishes epithelial polarity. His work has led to elucidation of mechanisms underlying pediatric diarrheal disease caused by mutations in Mssyn Vb (Microvillus inclusion disease) and DGATI. Dr. Goldenring is also a leader in the study of pre-neoplastic changes related to gastric cancer and the roles of mucosal stem cells in giving rise to metaplasia and cancer.

James R. Goldenring, PhD, M.D.
2021
EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE
OF CLINICAL SERVICE
GOTTLIEB C. (BUD) FRIESINGER II AWARD

Dr. Friesinger graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Muskingum College in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1951. He earned his medical degree in 1955 from Johns Hopkins University, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha, and remained in Baltimore to complete his residency training, including a year as the Osler Chief Resident. In 1957 he used a closed-chest cardiac defibrillator developed by William Kouwenhoven to save the life of a man who was having a heart attack. It was the world’s first emergency defibrillation for cardiac arrest. Dr. Friesinger served as regimental surgeon for the 5th Marines for two years, and then returned to Hopkins as a fellow and faculty member. He was founding director of the Cardiology Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In 1971 Dr. Friesinger was recruited to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine to be the first director of what is now the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. He held that position until 1990. During that time, Dr. Friesinger expanded the division from four to more than 20 faculty members and helped develop programs to foster recruitment of minority faculty and women into academic medicine. In 2000, former trainees formed the Friesinger Society to promote medical education and encourage interchange between current and former fellows and faculty. Society members endowed a chair in his name in 2005. Dr. Friesinger remained an active member of the faculty until 2002, and continued to mentor faculty and fellows as an emeritus faculty member until a few weeks before his death in 2012. Dr. Friesinger was active in cardiovascular research as well as patient care and teaching. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 1974. His research included studies of coronary arteriography, the hemodynamics of myocardial infarction and the development of nuclear medicine techniques to assess ventricular function. Later in his career he became interested in the effect of aging of the heart. He wrote more than 100 original publications in peer-reviewed journals and more than 25 textbook chapters, and served as consultant to the National Institutes of Health, the Rand Corporation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, where he helped develop programs to foster minority faculty in academic medicine.

Dr. Friesinger was a master in both the American College of Physicians and the American College of Cardiology, and a Distinguished Fellow of the ACC. He served for 21 years on the Board of Trustees at Johns Hopkins University, where he was a Presidential Counselor. He was a visiting professor and lecturer at academic medical centers throughout the United States and Western Europe. He created and offered several courses at the Osler Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt. Dr. Friesinger’s commitment to nurturing the careers of fellows and young faculty members is honored with the creation of an award in his name that recognizes outstanding early career clinicians.

Recipient of the GOTTLIEB C. (BUD) FRIESINGER, II AWARD

For an Outstanding Early Career Clinician

Erin Boyd, M.D., M.S.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Dr. Boyd earned her bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience from Vanderbilt University and her Master of Science degree in Public Health and MD from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, where she was an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate. She received residency training in Pediatrics at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston and fellowship training in Adolescent Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. While in Houston, she provided health care to children and their guardians living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis through the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative of Texas Children’s Hospital. She also developed policy briefs to inform city and state representatives of the childhood obesity epidemic in Houston and to promote the passage of bills that addressed nutrition and physical education requirements in schools. A bill based on a policy brief for developing community gardens was passed by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

In 2018 Dr. Boyd joined the Vanderbilt faculty as an assistant professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent and Young Health. Her focus is addressing health disparities in adolescents and young adults, and her clinical and research interests include reaching marginalized youth through advances in health education, primary care, reproductive and sexual health, reduction of risk-taking behaviors, and administration of a vaccine to prevent the spread of the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV).

Dr. Boyd also is committed to resident education and the pursuit of innovative methods for training in adolescent health. In 2019 she was selected as a Katherine Dodd Faculty Scholar at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. The highly competitive, two-year program is designed to enhance the skills of clinician-educators in Pediatrics. As a Dodd Scholar, Dr. Boyd conducted a project focused on the development and implementation of a curriculum designed to train pediatric residents about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention in adolescents. The curriculum is in the evaluation phase with plans to offer the program nationally.

In addition to her work advancing health care for vulnerable adolescents, Dr. Boyd is committed to addressing disparities in the medical workforce. She serves as a mentor to pediatric interns from underrepresented minority backgrounds. As a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee of the Department of Pediatrics, she helps lead departmental initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion. She is eager to ensure that the institution’s health care providers mirror the population they serve. Earlier this year she was named a Macy Faculty Scholar at Harvard University. The program provides scholars with salary support over two years to implement an educational change project in their institution. They also receive mentoring and participate in career development activities.

In recognition of outstanding contributions to clinical care, research and training early in her career, particularly as they address adolescent health and workforce disparities, Dr. Boyd is the recipient of the Gottlieb C. Friesinger Award for Outstanding Performance of Clinical Service.
NOEL B. TULIPAN AWARD

Dr. Tulipan earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Biology in 1977 and his medical degree in 1980 from The Johns Hopkins University. He interned in Surgery and completed his residency in Neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1986, the year he joined the medical staff at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and the faculty of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine as an assistant professor of Neurological Surgery. He was named full professor in 1999. A long-time director of Pediatric Neurosurgery who died in 2015, Dr. Tulipan was best known for his role in the groundbreaking development of fetal surgery to repair spina bifida (myelomeningocele), the most common birth defect of the central nervous system.

In spina bifida, the layers of tissue and bone that normally cover and protect the spinal cord fail to close during development, leaving delicate nerves exposed to the intrauterine environment. Children are often left with severe disabilities, including paralysis below the waist and lifelong bladder and bowel problems. Nearly 90 percent of children with this disorder develop hydrocephalus, a fluid buildup within the brain, which requires surgical placement of a shunt to drain fluid. A shunt, while necessary to save a child’s life, can impact intellectual development.

In 1997, Dr. Tulipan teamed with Joseph Bruner, M.D., to perform the first in utero repair of myelomeningocele at Vanderbilt. Two years later a comprehensive follow-up of 29 babies born after undergoing fetal surgery at VUMC showed a significant reduction in the need for shunts to relieve hydrocephalus. In 2003 VUMC joined a national randomized, controlled trial of in utero repair of spina bifida supported by the National Institutes of Health. Seven years later in 2011, results of the Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS) showed that fetal surgery reduced the need for a shunt by almost 30 percent and significantly improved the child’s chances of being able to walk.

Dr. Tulipan’s clinical interests focused on all aspects of pediatric neurosurgery, with a special emphasis on congenital defects of the nervous system, hydrocephalus, craniofacial reconstruction and surgery for spasticity. He helped treat more than 5,000 adults and children for hydrocephalus. He also pioneered placing shunts in older patients with normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH)-induced dementia, an often-irreversible condition, and sought to identify a biomarker to determine which patients benefited most from the procedure.

Dr. Tulipan was a gifted surgeon who earned international recognition for his work. But he never sought the spotlight. He was a humble man who mentored future neurosurgeons and provided care for adult and pediatric patients across the life spectrum. It is for all of these reasons that in 2015 the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine established an award in his name to recognize clinical excellence in a surgical or procedural discipline.

Frank A. Fish, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine

Dr. Fish received his bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and his MD in 1983 from Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. He received residency training in Pediatric Cardiology at Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis, and fellowship training in Pediatric Cardiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). He completed an additional fellowship in Clinical Pediatric Electrophysiology at Northwestern University Children’s Memorial Hospital under the mentorship of D. Woodrow Benson, M.D., one of the nation’s first pediatric electrophysiologists.

In 1990, Dr. Fish joined the Vanderbilt faculty as an assistant professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and later as assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology. He initially divided his efforts between cellular research and simultaneously developing a clinical cardiac arrhythmia program for children and adults with congenital heart disease (CHD). A fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Fish has particular expertise in interventional therapy of complex arrhythmias in adults with CHD. He helped perform the first catheter ablation at VUMC in 1992 and has since performed nearly 4,000 catheter-based ablations of abnormal rhythms in children and adults.

Dr. Fish helped introduce a number of other clinical innovations in children and adults at VUMC including implantation of pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators in the electrophysiology laboratory; ablation of atrial fibrillation, laser lead extraction and epicardial ablation. In 2014 he was the first in Tennessee to implant a new subcutaneous implantable defibrillator in a child at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. The device is used to treat patients at risk for sudden cardiac arrest. VUMC is now considered a national leader in interventional therapies of complex arrhythmias in children and adult CHD patients. Dr. Fish’s contributions helped lead to the Vanderbilt Adult Congenital Heart Program being named the first Adult CHD Accredited Comprehensive Care Center in Tennessee by the Adult Congenital Heart Association earlier this year.

In addition, Dr. Fish has established and directs a highly regarded Fellowship in Pediatric Electrophysiology, and he has trained 14 electrophysiologists, many of whom are now directors of electrophysiology programs throughout the country. He directed the Adult CHD Fellowship in the Department of Medicine from 2017 to 2021, and was the first director of the Pediatric Cardiology inpatient unit at Children’s Hospital. Reflecting his strong interest in sports cardiology, Dr. Fish also directs the cardiac pre-participating screening program and provides cardiology consultation to the Vanderbilt University Athletic Program. He has published and spoken widely about advances on ablation and interventional electrophysiology in the treatment of pediatric arrhythmias and CHD.

In recognition of his expertise in interventional therapy of complex arrhythmias and for other clinical innovations that have helped make VUMC a national leader in the treatment of CHD, Dr. Fish is the recipient of the Noel B. Tulipan Award for Extraordinary Performance of Clinical Service.
Thomas P. Graham, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Tom Graham was recruited to Vanderbilt University to develop the program in Pediatric Cardiology in 1971, just two years after completing his fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology at Duke University. Over the next 33 years, he built the Division of Pediatric Cardiology that is now named in his honor. Under his leadership, the Division kept pace with the many advances in the field including cardiac echocardiography, MRI, interventional cardiac catheterization, electrophysiology, and cardiac transplantation. With the increasing complexity of clinical pediatric cardiology, Dr. Graham has promoted quality research in basic science and in the clinic, looking for ways to improve the care of children with heart disease.

Early in his career, he worked at the NIH in the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Physiology under the direction of Stanley Sarnoff. Here he was the contemporary of several leaders in the field, including Edmund Sonnenblick and Eugene Braunwald. Dr. Graham’s research was focused on ventricular function of the systemic right ventricle. His work in patients with congenitally corrected transposition of the great arteries is well known and often referenced. As his young patients reached adulthood, Dr. Graham became one of the leaders in the field in the care and study of adults with congenital heart disease. Altogether he has authored over 250 papers and chapters and is a co-editor of a book on congenital heart defects.

As a national and international leader in pediatric cardiology, Dr. Graham has served as Chair of the Sub-Board of Pediatric Cardiology for the American Board of Pediatrics, President of the International Society for Adult Congenital Heart Disease, Chair of the AHA Cardiovascular Diseases in the Young Council (CDY), and Chair of two Council sub-committees, the Program Committee and the Congenital Cardiac Defects Committee. In 2002, he was asked to give the prestigious Alexander Nadas Lecture at the AHA Scientific Sessions.

As a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Graham has participated in several Bethesda Conferences covering topics including athletic participation for patients with heart disease, adult congenital heart disease, and ethics and manpower issues. In March of 2006, Dr. Graham became the second Pediatric Cardiologists ever to be presented with the Gifted Teacher award from the American College of Cardiology, one of the highest honors bestowed by this organization. In November 2008, he was awarded the Founder’s Award by the American Academy of Pediatrics section of Pediatric Cardiology. In March 2012, history repeats itself, with Dr. Graham receiving the Founder’s Service Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Graham’s national impact has been extensive, yet it is his impact here at Vanderbilt that we particularly honor with this celebration. In addition to serving as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology for over 30 years, he has served as Interim Chairman of Pediatrics, Associate Chair for Clinical Affairs in Pediatrics, Chairman of the Vanderbilt Medical Board, and Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee for the Department of Pediatrics. He has been a mentor and role model for dozens of trainees and faculty members in Pediatric Cardiology. All who have worked with him are impacted and guided by his sense of honesty, compassion, fairness, perseverance and kindness. Dr. Graham set an example by his strong commitment to family along with his passion for medicine. This lectureship, funded in part by a generous donation from his family, was established to honor his foundational contributions to the academic community of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Mohana Karlekar, M.D.

A graduate of Cornell University, Dr. Karlekar earned her MD from the State University of New York Health Science Center at Stony Brook in 1995. She completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. During her residency she worked with renowned palliative care leader R. Sean Morrison, M.D., and acquired her passion for palliative care and geriatric medicine.

Dr. Karlekar served as a palliative care consultant and later chaired the Palliative Care Consultation Service at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn, part of New York City Health + Hospitals. She also served as program director for the medical center’s Internal Medicine Residency program. In 2006 Dr. Karlekar came to Vanderbilt as assistant professor of Medicine. She currently is section chief of the Palliative Care Program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), associate program director of the Palliative Care Fellowship and medical director of VUMC’s Palliative Care Unit. Dr. Karlekar’s areas of interest and expertise include palliative care education and the intersection of palliative care, trauma and cystic fibrosis. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on these topics. She was a member of the study group for the COMPASS trial (Creation of Models for Palliative Assesments to Support Severe Illness), which in 2019 found that patients with advanced liver disease who received palliative care services spent more days alive outside of the hospital than similar patients who did not receive palliative care.

In 2018 Dr. Karlekar was appointed to the newly established Tennessee Palliative Care and Quality of Life Task Force, which was created in 2018 by the state legislature to create a state Advisory Council charged with educating health professionals and the public about palliative care and developing best practices standards for reducing geographical and socioeconomic disparities in accessing palliative care. She has chaired the Advisory Council since 2019.

At VUMC, Dr. Karlekar helped implement an innovative program called Vanderbilt Vigil Volunteers, which brings volunteers into the rooms of patients whose families and friends cannot be with them as they near the end of their lives. Last year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, she was among a group of palliative care physicians, social workers and chaplains who made personal phone calls to console families who had lost a loved one to the disease.

An honoree of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Dr. Karlekar is a recipient of VUMC’s Hugh Jackson Morgan Teaching Award and the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, presented by graduating medical students to a faculty member “who exemplifies compassion, empathy and respect for patients and for excellence in the art of medicine.” For her efforts to bring palliative care into the mainstream of medical practice, and for her generosity toward patients, families, students and colleagues, Dr. Karlekar is the recipient of the Thomas P. Graham, Jr. Award for Extraordinary Performance of Clinical Service.
TO BE AWARDED IN 2022

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
ROBERT D. COLLINS, M.D., AWARD
For Teaching Medical or Graduate Students or Practicing Physicians in the Lecture Setting
JACEK HAWIGER, M.D., PH.D., AWARD
For Teaching Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows in the Classroom, Lecture, or Small Group Setting
DENIS M. O’DAY, M.D., AWARD
For Team-Implemented Curriculum Reform
R. MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ, M.D., AWARD
For Teaching Medical Students, Residents, and/or Fellows in the Clinical Setting
ELAINE SANDERS-BUSH, PH.D., AWARD
For Mentoring Graduate and/or Medical Students in the Research Setting

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH
STANLEY COHEN AWARD
For Research Bridging Diverse Disciplines, such as Chemistry or Physics, to Solve Biology’s Most Important Fundamental Questions
JOHN H. EXTON AWARD
For Research Leading to Innovative Biological Concepts
GRANT W. LIDDLE AWARD
For Outstanding Contributions in Clinical Research
CHARLES R. PARK AWARD
For Basic Research Revealing Insights into Physiology and Pathophysiology

EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE OF CLINICAL SERVICE
W. ANDERSON SPICKARD, JR., M.D., AWARD
For Clinical Excellence in a Cognitive Discipline
MILDRED T. STAHLMAN, M.D., AWARD
For Innovation in Clinical Care
JOHN L. TARPLEY, M.D., AWARD
For Commitment to Care of Underserved Communities

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