



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY  
**MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF GEORGIA**



## MCG Faculty Awards Ceremony

MCG Faculty Senate

April 25, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Natalie and Lansing B. Lee Jr. Auditorium





Dear Colleagues:

The MCG Faculty Senate Faculty Awards Ceremony recognizes exceptional achievement by faculty and residents in the areas of teaching, research, clinical care and service.

Today's honorees have contributed their significant skills and passion to attaining excellence and to setting a high standard for us all. We gather today to thank them for their contributions to our medical school and to the dynamic present and future of medicine.

We thank as well the members of the MCG Faculty Senate Faculty Recognition Committee for their diligent efforts to make this celebration possible.

Thank you for all you do.

Most respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Hess'.

David C. Hess, MD  
*Dean, Medical College of Georgia  
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs  
and Integration, Augusta University  
Presidential Distinguished Chair*



Renuka Mehta, MBBS  
*President, MCG Faculty Senate  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics*

# ***Program***

Music.....Four Chambers Quartet

Welcome..... Renuka Mehta, MBBS  
President, MCG Faculty Senate  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Remarks..... David C. Hess, MD  
Dean, Medical College of Georgia  
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Integration, Augusta University  
Presidential Distinguished Chair

Educator of the Year Awards.....Class Presidents

Outstanding Teaching Awards..... Class Presidents

Resident of the Year Award.....Walter J. Moore, MD  
Senior Associate Dean for GME and VA Affairs  
Interim Chair, Department of Medicine

Mentoring Excellence Award.....Lara Stepleman, PhD  
Director, MCG Office for Faculty Success  
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

Distinguished Faculty Awards.....Julie Dahl-Smith, DO  
Chair, Faculty Recognition Committee  
Professor, Department of Family Medicine  
Clive A. Slaughter, PhD  
Chair, Student Promotion Committee  
Professor of Biochemistry, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Institutional Service.....Dr. Dahl-Smith

Outstanding Faculty Award.....Dr. Slaughter

Lifetime Achievement Award.....Dr. Dahl-Smith

Retiree Recognition..... Dr. Hess

Recognition of Faculty Senate Executive Committee..... Dr. Hess

Recognition of Faculty Senate President.....Dr. Hess

Closing Remarks.....Dr. Mehta

*Reception Immediately Following*

## ***Honorees:***

### **Educators of the Year**

**Thaddeus Y. Carson, MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020, on behalf of Babatunde Fariyike, President, Class of 2019

**Michele A. Monteil, MBBS, PhD**

Professor of Immunology, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020 on behalf of Daniel Steinberg, President, Class of 2019, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

**Lisa Leggio, MD**

Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020

**Alan R. Morgan, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020 on behalf of Benjamin Daniel, President, Class of 2020, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

**John Fisher, MD**

Professor, Department of Medicine

Presented By:

Susan Brands, President, Class of 2021

**Ellen House, MD**

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020 on behalf of Andrew Block , President, Class of 2021, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

**William Pearson, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy

Presented By:

Christian Cullen, President, Class of 2022

**Brett Szymik, PhD**

Associate Professor of Anatomy, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020 on behalf of Taylor Tabb , President, Class of 2022, AU/UGA Medical Partnership

## **Outstanding Clinical Science Teaching Award**

**Department of Medicine**

**Walter J. Moore, MD**

Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Medicine

Senior Associate Dean for GME and VA Affairs

Presented By:

Miller Singleton, President, Class of 2020, on behalf of Babatunde Fariyike, President, Class of 2019

## **Outstanding Basic Science Teaching Award**

**Department of Pathology**

**Amy M. Rojiani MD, PhD, CPE**

E.R. Pund Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology

Presented By:

Susan Brands, President, Class of 2021

## Mentoring Excellence Award



**Rabii Madi, MD**

Dr. Madi is a professor in the Department of Surgery and director of the Center for Advanced Robotic Surgery. He earned his medical degree from KURSK State Medical University in Russia and completed a urology residency at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon and a clinical fellowship in urologic oncology and laparoscopy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He came to the Medical College of Georgia in 2012 from Case Western Reserve University where he served as the director of robotic surgery and the program director for the Urologic Oncology Fellowship Program. He is an expert in urologic oncology and robotic surgery and has pioneered some of the field's most innovative techniques. He strongly believes in a multidisciplinary approach to urological cancer and integration of clinical and translational research into clinical practice.

## Distinguished Faculty Awards

### *Basic Science Teaching*



**Paul O'Connor, PhD**

Dr. O'Connor is an associate professor in the Department of Physiology. He earned his PhD in physiology from Monash University (Australia) in 2005 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He joined the MCG faculty in 2011. Dr. O'Connor's research focuses on physiological pathways involved in the regulation of kidney function and how disruptions in these pathways can lead to disease and is funded by the National Institutes of Health. He has been nationally recognized for his work with honors such as the 2012 Kidney Council New Investigator Award from the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research, the 2014 New Investigator Awardee for the Water and Electrolyte Homeostasis Section of the American Physiological Society and the 2015 Arthur Guyton Award for Excellence in Integrative Physiology. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology*, *American Journal of Physiology*, *Frontiers in Physiology* and *Physiological Reports*.

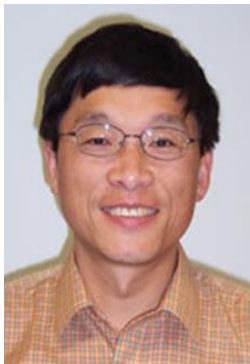
## ***Clinical Science Teaching***



**Brian Miller, MD, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Miller is an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior. He completed a combined MD/MPH degree at Ohio State University, and a PhD in psychiatric epidemiology at the University of Oulu (Finland). He completed his general psychiatry residency and fellowship in psychotic disorders at the Medical College of Georgia and AU Health, also serving as chief resident, before joining the MCG faculty in 2010. Dr. Miller's research interests include schizophrenia and other nonaffective psychoses, psychoneuroimmunology, cognition, paternal age and mortality. His current research focuses on inflammation/cytokines as a potential clinical state and relapse predictive marker in schizophrenia. He has been recognized with several young investigator awards, including the Laughlin Fellowship from the American College of Psychiatrists, the 2010 MCG Resident of the Year and an Exemplary Psychiatrist Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

## ***Basic Science Research***



**Kebin Liu, PhD**

Dr. Liu is a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a member of the Cancer Immunology, Inflammation and Tolerance Program in the Georgia Cancer Center. He completed a PhD in plant physiology from Zhejiang University before earning a PhD in microbiology from the University of Oklahoma in 1996. He completed postdoctoral fellowships in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oklahoma, in the Laboratory of Immunology at the National Institute on Aging, and in the Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology at the National Cancer Institute before joining the Medical College of Georgia faculty in 2005. Dr. Liu's research focuses on the dynamic interactions between tumor cells and immune cells in the microenvironment, with the goal of developing molecular target-based therapy to enhance the efficiency of T cell cancer immunotherapy.



## ***Clinical Science Research***



**Ryan Harris, PhD, CEP, FACSM**

Dr. Harris is an associate professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences and director of the Laboratory of Integrative Vascular and Exercise Physiology in the Georgia Prevention Institute. He earned his PhD from Indiana University in 2007 and completed his postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Diego. Dr Harris' research utilizes exercise and/or physical activity as a tool in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease and associated comorbidities. Using acute physiological stress perturbations in human clinical populations, his research aims to understand the interaction among inflammation, oxidative stress and vascular endothelial function. Dr Harris is recognized both nationally and internationally as a leader in the field of vascular endothelial function and exercise physiology and has published his works in some of the top rated clinical and physiological journals. Dr Harris is currently funded by the NIH, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and industry to study the interaction between lung function, muscle function and vascular endothelial function in various cohorts and patient populations.

## ***Patient Care***



**Alyce Oliver, MD, PhD**

Dr. Oliver is a professor and the Joseph P. Bailey, MD Distinguished Chair in Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine. She is director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program and associate director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. She earned both her medical degree and PhD in microbiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She completed internal medicine residency training at the University of Cincinnati and a rheumatology fellowship at Duke University. She joined the Medical College of Georgia faculty in 2007. Dr. Oliver is past president of the Georgia Society of Rheumatology, serves on the Medical Advisory Board for the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation and is a member of the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee. She is a fellow of the American College of Rheumatology.

### ***Outstanding Young Clinical Science Faculty Award***



**Zachary Klaassen, MD**

Dr. Klaassen is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery. He earned his medical degree at St. George University in Grenada. He completed his urology residency and served as chief resident at the Medical College of Georgia where he was recognized as MCG Resident of the Year in 2016. Following residency training, he completed a urologic oncology fellowship at the University of Toronto and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre before returning to join the faculty at MCG in 2018. His research interests include clinical epidemiologic aspects of urologic malignancies and biomarkers for early detection of cancer and predictors of response to treatment.

### ***Outstanding Young Basic Science Faculty Award***



**Ashok Kumar Sharma, PhD**

Dr. Sharma is an assistant professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences and director of the Genomic Medicine Graduate Program in the Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine. He earned his PhD from the Medical College of Georgia in 2011 and joined the faculty in 2012. His research focuses on the development of biologically meaningful algorithms for comprehensive analysis and the visualization of high-throughput data by incorporating biological knowledge and rigorous computational methods. Dr. Sharma has more than 35 publications and serves in editorial roles for a number of journals, to include associate editor for *Frontiers in Genetics* and *Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences* and review editor for *Frontiers in Genetics*, *Frontiers in Plant Science*, *Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology* and *Frontiers in Physiology*.

## Institutional Service Award



**Thad Wilkins, MD**

Dr. Wilkins is a professor and director of academic development in the Department of Family Medicine. He earned his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1995. He completed family medicine residency training at Eglin Regional Hospital, United States Air Force, and a fellowship for Faculty Development in Family Practice at the University of North Carolina. Since joining the faculty at the Medical College of Georgia in 2002, Dr. Wilkins has served in numerous leadership roles across the enterprise to include vice president of the MCG Faculty Senate, chief of staff for AU Medical Center, and on the Board of Directors for AU Medical Associates. He is a member of national professional societies such as the American Academy of Family Physicians and the North American Primary Care Research Group and serves as a reviewer for the *Annals of Family Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*.

## Outstanding Faculty Award



**Aryn Rojiani, MD, PhD**

Dr. Rojiani is a professor, the Edgar R. Pund, MD Distinguished Chair of Pathology and chair of the Department of Pathology. He earned his medical degree at Sind Medical College at the University of Karachi in Pakistan, completed a PhD in experimental neuropathology at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and an anatomic pathology residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He then completed an adult and pediatric neuropathology fellowship at Vancouver General Hospital and B.C. Children's Hospital at the University of British Columbia. His previous appointments include director of Neuropathology and autopsy at Moffitt Cancer Center and professor of oncologic sciences, pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of South Florida. His research is directed toward understanding the role of vasculature and host microenvironment in central nervous system NS metastasis.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



**Joseph Hobbs, MD, FAACP**

Dr. Hobbs is a professor, GAFP Tollison Distinguished University Chair and chair of the Department of Family Medicine. He also serves as senior associate dean for faculty diversity and primary care. Dr. Hobbs completed his medical degree in 1974 and a family medicine residency in 1977, both at the Medical College of Georgia. He joined the Department of Family Medicine faculty after his residency where he has served as residency program director, predoctoral education director, inpatient service director and vice chair of academic affairs. He was MCG's first associate dean for primary care. As director of student education, he led the development of MCG's first fully distributed clerkship utilizing a network of private practices and most of Georgia's family medicine residency programs. Dr. Hobbs has served in numerous leadership roles for prominent professional organizations, including as president of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine and on the board of the Pisacano Leadership Foundation, the philanthropic foundation of the American Board of Family Medicine. He is currently president of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians Educational Foundation Board of Directors and project director of several Health Resources and Services Administration/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grants to train and educate students and family medicine residents and to develop family medicine faculty.

## **Retiree Recognition**

Chantrapa Bunyapen, MD  
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatology

David R. Haburchak, MD  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases

Michael L. Hawkins, MD  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, Section of Trauma/Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery

William D. Hill, PhD  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy

Charles G. Howell Jr., MD  
Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Surgery

Rita S. Jerath, MBChB  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy-Immunology and Rheumatology

Michael P. Madaio, MD  
Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Medicine

Anna T. Mammen, MD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Dan C. Martin, MD  
Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

Paul McNeil, PhD  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy

Ramon O. Parrish Jr., MD  
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Allen L. Pelletier, MD  
Professor, Department of Family Medicine

# **MCG Faculty Senate Executive Committee 2018 – 2019**

Renuka Mehta, MBBS, President  
Vincent Robinson, MD, MBBS, President-Elect  
Thad Wilkins, MD, Vice President  
Julie Dahl-Smith, DO, Secretary  
Wendy Bollag, PhD, Past President

## **Senators-at-Large**

Vishal Arora, MD  
Yanbin Dong, MD, PhD  
Ryan Harris, PhD  
Ravindra Kolhe, MD, PhD  
David Kriegel, MD  
Eric Lewkowiez, MD  
Amy Lowery-Allison, PhD  
Rabii Madi, MD  
Michele Montiel, MBBS, PhD, AU/UGA Medical Partnership  
Laura Mulloy, DO

## **Ex-officio**

David Hess, MD, Dean  
Terry McBride, MCG Faculty Senate Liaison

# **MCG Faculty Senate Faculty Recognition Committee**

Julie Dahl-Smith, DO, Chair  
Balakrishna (Bal) Lokeshwar, PhD  
Renuka Mehta, MBBS  
Thad Wilkins, MD  
Yisang Yoon, PhD

# **Special Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to the Medical College of Georgia Student Musicians who are with us tonight:

## The Four Chambers Quartet

James Dickey, Class of 2021, cello  
Maya Gibson, Class of 2021, violin  
Brandon Hou, Class of 2021, violin  
John Latremouille, Class of 2021, violin

