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Phenomenal Faculty

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Nadine Lerret, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, was awarded a \$5,000 grant for her proposal titled “The Role of Hyperglycemia in T-Cell Priming by Dendritic Cells” by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Education and Research Fund, whose review committee “considered her proposal to possess exceptional merit.” Lerret is an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science and an ASCLS member.



Nicholas Moore, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, assistant director of clinical microbiology, was recognized as one of the 12 ASCLS Voices Under 40. The Voices Under 40 Spotlight was developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession and their professional community at a young age. Moore was chosen by his peers for his accomplishments and enthusiastic commitment to the growth of the profession.



David L. Vines, MHS, RRT, FAARC, chair of the Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences, was recently accepted as a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians. Vines was also selected as a 2016 Specialty Practitioner of the Year for his educational contributions to respiratory care by the American Association for Respiratory Care.



Jessica Vlaming, MS, PA-C, physician assistant studies instructor, and physician assistant students Vic Speedwell and Juli Dziuban, received an IMPACT grant from the PA Foundation for their Incarceration Medicine Initiative, which provides health education to Cook County Jail inmates.

Keep us posted on your news and updates at chs_admissions@rush.edu.

Kudos

Audiology All-Stars



Ashley Gander, a third-year audiology student, received the Student Research Travel Award, Audiology/Hearing Science Research Travel Award and the Meritorious Poster Award at the 2016 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, or ASHA, Convention.



Third-year audiology student Allison Coligado received the Audiology/Hearing Science Research Travel Award at the 2016 ASHA Convention. She also received the 2016 Conference Travel Scholarship from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology.

CHS Seed Grant Awardees

The College of Health Sciences Faculty Research Development Committee recently granted two awards. Nadine Lerret, PhD, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}, received seed monies for her project entitled, “The Effect of Hyperglycemia on Human Dendritic Cells and the Subsequent T-Cells They Encounter.” Her project represents a collaboration between the Departments of Medical Laboratory Sciences and Immunology. Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH, an assistant professor in the Department of Health Systems Management, also received seed monies for his grant application titled “Trajectories of behavioral risk factors and their associations with cognitive functioning among older African Americans.” Li is collaborating with Lisa Barnes, PhD, from the Department of Neurological Sciences.

Last year the CHS seed grant recipients were Valeriy Shafiro, PhD, associate professor in audiology, and Lisa LaGorio, PhD, MPH, assistant professor in speech-language pathology, both of whom have submitted progress reports. The impact of these seed monies is already clear, as both faculty members are in the midst of abstract, grant or manuscript submissions.

Welcoming Back Some Alumni



Katie Sullivan Wyman, Amy McGuire Schaenzer and Nicole Boze Blazejowski (pictured left to right), who are communication disorders and sciences alumni, returned to campus recently for a 20th class year mini-reunion with CDS faculty, who hosted a welcome reception. The alumni enjoyed seeing how the campus and program have grown in the past 20 years, including the Speech and Hearing Clinic in OAB, the CDS Student Clinical Lab and the RUMC Tower.

They also watched a video highlighting the many student and faculty achievements throughout the past two decades. The alumni hope to return for a reunion in the future and to spread the word to their fellow grads about the exciting growth that CDS has experienced.

Perfusion Student Takes the Prize



Several second-year perfusion technology students recently participated in the 21st Annual Illinois State Perfusion Society, or ISPS, Meeting in Oak Brook earlier this year. A highlight of the meeting included student Clifton Marschel (pictured right) winning the ISPS scholarship for best presentation. His presentation topic was “Lactate and Cardiopulmonary Bypass.”

Student John Englert presented on the topic of “Mechanical Ventilation During Cardiopulmonary Bypass,” and student Eric Russell (pictured left) presented “Determining Infection Rate Changes on Postoperative Surgical Chest and Leg Incision Sites With Use of Platelet Gel: A Prospective Study.”

The topic of “Emergency Removal of Foreign Body From Aorta Using DHCA” was presented by student Tenzin Dawa. Students Ryan Garcia and Dejan Vasiljevic debated on the topic of “Cardioplegia (Tepid vs. Cold).”

CDS Alumna Named CEO at George Washington University Hospital, Receives First SLP Award for Distinguished Alumni Achievement



Kimberly Russo, MS, MBA, a 1995 graduate of the speech-language pathology, or SLP program at Rush, was named chief executive officer at George Washington University Hospital earlier this year. To celebrate this important accomplishment, she was invited to present a distinguished lecture titled “A Journey Reimagined: Unleashing Leadership Talents” to more than 150 communication disorders and sciences students and faculty. She spoke of her own experiences and the “seven demands of leadership” with regard to student leadership and readiness. The lecture ended on a high note when Russo was surprised with the presentation of the first Rush University Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Award.

“It was very meaningful and impactful to me personally,” she said. “I truly am grateful for the experience and leadership lessons learned at Rush, which have had a huge part in shaping me into the leader that I am today. I am forever indebted and honored to be a product of Rush!” Prior to her talk, she met with Larry Goodman, MD, GME, CEO of Rush University Medical Center and president of Rush University received a guided tour of the campus that she had not seen since her graduation and met with SLP faculty.

Russo began her career at George Washington University Hospital in 1997 as a speech-language pathologist. In 2006, she was named associate administrator at the 385-bed hospital before being promoted to chief operating officer in 2009. In 2010, she was recognized among the “Up and Comers” by *Modern Healthcare* and *Becker's Hospital Review* and was honored by the *Washington Business Journal* among their “Women Who Mean Business.” With her direction, GWU Hospital attained verification by the American College of Surgeons as a Level 1 Trauma Center; established a quaternary regional call center; initiated a kidney transplant program; and succeeded in the approval of various certificate of need applications that helped expand programs and service lines. According to GWU, “her background as a speech-language pathologist gives her first-hand experience providing bedside care to patients and her focus will be to continually enhance the patient experience.”

Russo received a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology from Illinois State University and, in addition to her master's degree from Rush, holds a master's degree in business administration with a focus on executive leadership from the University of Nebraska.

Rush Respiratory Care Goes Global



Jie Li, MS, RRT-NPS-ACCS, and Constance Mussa, PhD, RRT-NPS, both assistant professors in the Department of Cardiopulmonary Sciences, recently traveled to China to share some new concepts in respiratory care and observe how it is practiced in that country.

Li and Mussa visited Chinese hospitals and presented at the 2016 Annual Congress of the Chinese Thoracic Society, which had 8,233 attendees this year, and lectured at continuing education conferences at several universities. They were invited by the Chinese Society of Respiratory Diseases, West China Medical Center of Sichuan University, Chengdu University and the Second Yixing Hospital.

“I was absolutely amazed at the level of efficiency of the hospitals we visited in China, especially given the limited resources available,” said Mussa. “At every health care facility we visited, the clinicians were eager to hear about best practices in the United States relevant to various aspects of respiratory care.”

Respiratory care as a profession has been established in the U.S. for more than 60 years. However, it is still in an embryonic stage of development in many countries in Europe, the Middle East and East Asia. Li and Mussa found physicians and nurses welcoming of their suggestions when they were invited to consult on respiratory care management for a patient at Second Yixing Hospital.

They also visited West China Medical Center of Sichuan University, one of the top three medical universities in China and the first to establish a respiratory care program. The university is the only one to offer master’s and doctoral degrees in respiratory care in China. Li and Mussa engaged with faculty, staff and students in a discussion of the current state and future of respiratory care in the U.S.

“At the end of our stay, our Chinese colleagues commented that our presentations at regional and national conferences in China provided valuable information that will help improve their practice,” said Mussa. “Based on my experience and the feedback from our Chinese colleagues, I would encourage the replication of this model of collaboration in other countries in conjunction with virtual collaboration to promote knowledge sharing and enhance respiratory care practitioners’ skills globally.”