

## 2011-2012 Faculty Promotions

July 2011

August 2011

September 2011

October 2011

November 2011

December 2011

January 2012

February 2012

March 2012

April 2012

May 2012

June 2012

## Appointments

Rush appointed **Di Chen, MD, PhD**, as chairperson of the Department of Biochemistry. Prior to joining Rush in July, Chen was the dean's professor in the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

Rush appointed **Gene Ward** as director of clinical engineering services. Ward began his career with Rush in 2000 as a senior biomedical engineer. During his time at the Medical Center, he has held various positions, including supervisor, operating room technology support group, and most recently interim director of clinical engineering services.

## Kudos

**Roy E.A. Bakay, MD**, professor and vice chairperson of the Department of Neurological Surgery, received the 2011 Molly and Bernard Sanberg Memorial Award for Brain Repair at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Society of Neural Therapy and Repair in May. The annual award recognizes those who have made outstanding research contributions in the field of neural therapy and repair.

**Dennis A. Pessis, MD**, associate chairperson and professor, Department of Urology, was voted president elect of the American Urological Association (AUA) in May. Pessis will assume the role next May. The AUA was founded in 1903 and is the premier professional association for the advancement of urologic patient care, working to ensure that its more than 17,000 members are current on the latest research and practice in urology.

For the third consecutive year, **Rush** was named a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality in the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) report, an annual survey of U.S. hospitals regarding treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) patients and their families and hospital employees.

Rush was one of only 27 survey respondents in the country and one of only two in Illinois to meet all of the survey's main criteria. The survey respondents represented 375 health care facilities nationwide.

The HEI survey is administered annually by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the country's largest LGBT civil rights organization. The survey evaluated hospitals on the basis of four key policy areas: visitation policies, cultural competency training and patient and employment non-discrimination policies. Rush received a perfect score in all of the evaluation categories. The Healthcare Equality Index 2011 is available online in PDF format at [www.hrc.org/hej](http://www.hrc.org/hej).

## **Appointments**

Rush has appointed **Edie Chan, MD**, as surgical director of the liver transplantation program. In this new role, Chan will be responsible for clinical care and operational issues regarding the surgical treatment and follow-up care of liver transplant patients. She will be working with a multidisciplinary team consisting of transplant experts from many disciplines, including partners in hepatology, transplant surgery, anesthesiology, critical care, nursing, infectious diseases and others. Chan will co-chair the Multidisciplinary Liver Transplant Quality Committee, which will address all aspects of liver transplant care at Rush. Chan is an assistant professor of surgery and associate program director for the Rush general surgery residency program.

## **Kudos**

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging has chosen XinQi Dong, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine, behavioral sciences and nursing, as the 2011 recipient of the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging. This honor, given annually, recognizes instances of practice informed by research and analysis; research that directly improved policy or practice; and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice. The award presentation will take place at GSA's 64th annual scientific meeting, which will be held Nov. 18 -22 in Boston. This conference is organized to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, educators and practitioners who specialize in the study of the aging process. Visit [www.geron.org/annualmeeting](http://www.geron.org/annualmeeting) for further details.

Dong is the associate director of the Rush Institute for Health Aging. Having emigrated from China, he has had long standing interests in human rights and social justice issues in vulnerable populations. His research focuses on the epidemiological studies of elder abuse and neglect both in the U.S. and China, with particular emphasis on its adverse health outcomes across different racial and ethnic groups. He currently is an American Political Science Association congressional policy fellow/health and aging policy fellow, working with a diverse group of policy leaders at the national, state and local levels on issues relevant to elder abuse and neglect. He additionally serves as a senior policy and research advisor for the U.S. Administration on Aging and a senior policy advisor for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dong also is a recipient of the Paul B. Beeson Scholar in Aging Award, the National Physician Advocacy Merit Award and the Nobuo Maeda International Aging and Public Health Research Award.

**Maya Green, MD, MPH**, a resident in internal medicine and infectious diseases, was one of two clinicians awarded this year's Minority Clinical Fellowship Awards by the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA). This award hopes to address the growing shortage of medical providers with the knowledge and expertise to care for HIV/AIDS patients, particularly those in hard-hit minority groups. Green received funding in July to support a year of dedicated HIV clinical training, mentoring and clinical support from an experienced medical professional in a clinic that serves large minority populations. HIVMA is the professional home for more than 4,600 physicians, scientists and other health care professionals dedicated to the field of HIV/AIDS.

**Kalipada Pahan, PhD**, The Floyd A Davis, MD, Endowed Chair of Neurology and professor, departments of neurological sciences, biochemistry and pharmacology, began serving a six-year term in July as a member of a National Institutes of Health grant reviewing committee for the Clinical Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumors Study Section, Center for Scientific Review. Members are selected based on demonstration of their competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by their research, published work and other significant achievements, honors and awards.

The **Rush University Cancer Center** was selected to be included in Healthcare Design Magazine's "Architectural Showcase" issue out in September. To learn more about this special issue, please visit [www.healthcaredesignmagazine.com/section/architectural-showcase](http://www.healthcaredesignmagazine.com/section/architectural-showcase).

## Appointments

Rush has appointed **Jaishankar Raman, MD, PhD**, as Chief of the Section of Adult Cardiac Surgery and Surgical Director, Heart Transplant Program and professor of surgery. A renowned clinician and researcher, Raman comes to Rush from the University of Chicago Medical Center, where he was since 2002, the past three years as professor of surgery and cardiothoracic surgery and director of adult cardiac surgery. He previously held faculty positions at the University of Melbourne (Australia) and was a consulting surgeon at numerous hospitals in Melbourne.

An internationally recognized leader in cardiac surgery, Raman has pioneered numerous new surgical procedures, focusing primarily on the treatment of heart failure and heart transplantation. These innovations include the use of techniques to stop the heart from enlarging in heart failure patients; a method of restoring the shape and size of scarred heart chambers; the development of new surgical instruments used to perform minimally invasive procedures to remove tissue that causes abnormal heart rhythm; and new techniques for repairing the heart's mitral and tricuspid valves. He has the largest experience with minimally invasive cardiac surgery in the Chicago region for aortic surgery, valves, arrhythmia and coronary artery bypass

Rush University appointed **Gayle B. Ward, JD**, as associate provost for student affairs. In this senior management role, Ward will oversee the daily operations and policies of the University Student Services Office, including admissions, financial aid, counseling, student affairs, registrar, international services and disability. Communicating continually with the deans, provost and vice provost, he will provide creative and strategic leadership focused on supporting student success and enhancing the student experience. Prior to joining the University in September, Ward was the dean of student services at Richard J. Daley College.

## Kudos

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging has chosen **XinQi Dong, MD, MPH**, associate professor of medicine, behavioral sciences and nursing, as the 2011 recipient of the Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging. This honor, given annually, recognizes instances of practice informed by research and analysis; research that directly improved policy or practice; and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice. The award presentation will take place at GSA's 64th annual scientific meeting, which will be held Nov. 18 -22 in Boston. This conference is organized to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, educators and practitioners who specialize in the study of the aging process. Visit [www.geron.org/annualmeeting](http://www.geron.org/annualmeeting) for further details.

The American Society of Quality (ASQ) selected **Jason Kane, MD**, pediatric critical care, as one of its New Voices of Quality for 2011. He was one of 40 individuals selected from a national pool of peer-nominated candidates. With more than 80,000 individual and organizational members in 150 countries, ASQ is a global community of experts and the leading authority on quality in all fields, organizations and industries.

**Andres Kanner, MD**, Rush Epilepsy Center, received the Ambassador for Epilepsy Award on Aug. 28 during the 29<sup>th</sup> International Epilepsy Congress in Rome. Kanner received this award for his outstanding achievement in the international struggle against epilepsy. On Nov. 1, Kanner also received the Medical Service Award by the Epilepsy Foundation

**Shaheja Sitafalwalla, MPH**, a third-year medical student, is a board member of Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), an independent organization founded in 1986 that uses the integrity of medicine and science to stop mass atrocities and severe human rights violations. She began working with PHR in 2008 as a student program intern and went on to serve as the Midwest Training and Education coordinator and as a member of the National Student Advisory Board.

## Appointments

[Konstantinos Arfanakis, MD](#), has been appointed associate professor in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology & Nuclear Medicine.

[Harel Deutsch, MD](#), has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Neurosurgery.

Deborah Gardiner, BSN, MS, operations and service line administrator for Women's and Children's Hospital, is the interim assistant vice president for Hospital Operations and director of Rush Children's Hospital. She will serve in this interim position while the Medical Center searches for a replacement for Lynne Thomas Gordon, who is leaving Rush to join the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) as its chief executive officer.

[Krishnan Kousik, MD](#), has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

[John O'Toole, MD](#), has been promoted to Associate Professor in the department of Neurosurgery.

[Shyam Prabhakaran, MD](#), has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience.

[Nikhil Verma, MD](#), has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Orthopedics.

[Annabelle Volgman, MD, FAC](#), has been promoted to professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Rush appointed **Steve Wightkin** as assistant vice president, corporate core business, research and education systems. Wightkin has been with Rush since 2002 and is one of the principal forces behind the Medical Center's successful Epic implementation. He also serves as co-course director and instructor for our Health Systems Management program.

Rush has appointed **Chunxiang (Kevin) Zhang, MD, PhD**, as chairperson of the Department of Pharmacology in Rush Medical College of Rush University. Zhang comes to Rush from the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he is professor and vice chairman of research in the Department of Anesthesiology. He will take over the department in early December, a department that has been ably led by Paul Carvey, PhD, The Deborah R. and Edgar D. Janotta Presidential Professor, professor and dean, Rush Graduate College, associate dean, basic sciences, Rush Medical College, who will be retiring early in 2012.

## Kudos

**Carol J. Farran, DNSc, RN**, PhD program director alumni associate chairperson, College of Nursing Faculty, and **Robyn Golden, MA, LCSW**, director of Rush's older adult programs,

have received the 2011 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award for the Rush University Medical Center Community Caregiving Outcomes Alliance. The award recognizes leadership in implementing innovative partnerships between community agencies and caregiving researchers that bridge the gap between science and practice.

**Robyn Golden, MA, LCSW**, director of Rush's older adult programs, received New York Institute of Technology's (NYIT) Riland Public Service Award for Patient Advocacy in September. NYIT's highest award, the Riland Public Service Award recognizes health care professionals who exemplify excellence in their respective fields and serve as role models for what can be accomplished through commitment, determination, and a focus on the public good. The award is named after W. Kenneth Riland, DO, who helped establish the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and the School of Health Professions.

**David M. Rothenberg, MD**, Max S. Sadove Professor of Anesthesiology, recently received the William O. McQuiston, MD, Award from the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists. The award honors an outstanding clinical anesthesiologist who has made and communicated significant contributions to the practice of anesthesiology.

## Appointments

The Medical Center has appointed **Stephanie Guzik** as director of research compliance for the Office of Corporate Compliance. Guzik will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive research compliance program. She has been in the health care industry for 20 years with the majority of that time spent in research administration at Rush University Medical Center. Most recently, Guzik was the interim director for the Rush cancer center, where she facilitated a transition to new leadership, provided clinical research education and training to faculty and staff and directed the preparation of standard operating procedures.

Rush Medical College has appointed **Robert Leven, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, as assistant dean for basic science education. Leven replaced Ada Cole, PhD, assistant dean for pre-clinical programs.

Rush has appointed **Anne M. Murphy, JD**, as senior vice president of legal affairs and general counsel, effective Jan. 1, 2012. In this position, Murphy will oversee all of the legal services provided for Rush, directing the in-house counsel in the Rush Office of Legal Affairs and engaging and managing outside attorneys. Along with the legal affairs staff, Murphy will play a major role in ensuring patient safety by collaborating with the office of the chief medical officer on ways to reduce and eliminate medical risk. She and her team also will be responsible for protecting the rights of employees, faculty and medical trainees by ensuring that Rush is in compliance with all labor laws and regulations. In addition, Murphy will provide the Board of Trustees, senior staff, faculty and other Rush staff with legal advice on a wide variety of matters. She comes to Rush from the Chicago law firm of Holland & Knight, where she is a partner and chair of the firm's Chicago health care and life sciences team.

## Kudos

The March of Dimes honored **Jacques S. Abramowicz, MD**, during its 14<sup>th</sup> Jonas Salk Health Leadership Award luncheon in Chicago on Sept. 27. Abramowicz received the Physician Leadership Award for his significant contributions to the scientific progress of medical diagnostic ultrasound. He is the Frances T. and Lester B. Knight Professor and director of ultrasound in the Rush Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and co-director of the Rush Fetal and Neonatal Medicine Center.

Chicago's Swedish American Museum honored **Gunnar B. J. Andersson, MD, PhD**, chairperson, orthopedic surgery administration, during its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary Disco Ball at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette on Oct. 22. Long a supporter of Chicago's Swedish-American community and co-chair of the museum's board of trustees, he was recognized for four-decade career in the studies of lumbar disc biology, biomechanics and epidemiology. Andersson holds the Ronald W. DeWald Chair in spinal deformities in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

**Shelia Dugan, MD**, associate professor, Department of [Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation](#), was the lead author of a manuscript that was chosen as the winner of the 2011 Susan B. Anthony Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health by the American Public Health Association (APHA). The manuscript reported on the effectiveness of using a pelvic floor fitness program to treat overactive bladder. Dugan received the award on Oct. 31 during the Aging and Public Health Section Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.



The Greater Illinois Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation honored **John Lloyd-Still, MD**, in October with the "Breath of Life" award in recognition of the many ways he has enriched the cystic fibrosis community. Recently retired, Lloyd-Still was a professor of pediatrics at Rush Medical College, co-director of the Cystic Fibrosis Center, and associate director of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. He has earned an international reputation over the past 25 years as a pioneer in cystic fibrosis care. He edited the first textbook on cystic fibrosis and is credited with more than 100 articles on the gastroenterological and nutritional aspects of cystic fibrosis.

**Anne Marie Murphy, PhD**, adjunct faculty, Department of Health Systems Management and executive director of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, was one of 15 individuals selected as a White House "Champion of Change." As part of President Barack Obama's Winning the Future Initiative, Murphy was honored at the White House on Sept. 27 as a champion of change in the fight against breast cancer. Created in 2007, the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force's mission is to eliminate the disparity in survival from breast cancer that is seen among different racial populations in Chicago today.

**T. Celeste Napier, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmacology, was a featured expert during a community forum entitled "Heroin Crisis in Our Suburbs" at Midwestern University in Downers Grove on Oct. 18.

Rush's Department of Preventive Medicine received a record number of participants for its Interdisciplinary Teams in PACE course, which it cosponsors with the National PACE Association. A record number 87 participants from 12 PACE programs enrolled in the summer session. PACE, which stands for Programs for All Inclusive Care of the Elderly, is a geriatric care model program that provides a continuum of supportive and coordinated medical and social services to older adults whose health status and other conditions qualifies them for nursing home placement. The services they receive from PACE can enable them to remain at home as long as safely possible. Rush faculty involved in course development include **Steven Rothschild, MD**, associate professor of family medicine and vice chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine; **Stan Lapidus, MS**, project manager, Department of Preventive Medicine; **Lois Halstead, PhD, RN**, vice provost of Rush University; **Susan Breakwell, RN, DNP**, formerly an associate professor in the Rush University College of Nursing and now with Marquette University School of Nursing; **Cathy Catrambone, DNSc, RN**, associate professor, College of Nursing; **Kathy Keim, PhD, RD, LDN**, associate professor in the Department of Clinical Nutrition; and **Robyn Golden, MA, LCSW**, director of Rush's older adult programs.

## **Appointments**

The College of Nursing has chosen **Chandice Covington, PhD, RN, FAAN**, as its chairperson of the Department of Women, Children and Family Nursing. Covington has conducted extensive research in women's health, reflected in more than 70 publications in scientific and clinical journals. She also brings a history of National Institutes of Health funding from the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute for Nursing Research as well as support from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Indian Health Service and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to Rush, Covington was at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center where she served as professor and Florence Thelma Hall Endowed Chair for Nursing Excellence in Women's Health and the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health.

## **Kudos**

In September, the Scoliosis Research Society presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Ronald L. DeWald, MD**, emeritus professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the society and to spinal deformity research and care.

**Nikhil Verma, MD**, sports medicine specialist, associate professor, Department of Orthopedics, was recently elected as a member of the American Shoulder and Elbow (ASES) Association. ASES membership is by invitation only and consists of 347 members nationally.

**Craig J. Della Valle, MD**, hip and knee reconstruction and replacement specialist, associate professor, Department of Orthopedics, won two of three competitive awards from the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) during the group's annual meeting in Dallas in November. As part of a team effort, with other physicians from around the country, he received the AAHKS Clinical Research Award for the paper, "Diagnosing Periprosthetic Infection with C-Reactive Protein in Joint Fluid." He also received the James R. Rand Young Investigator Award for "Leukocyte Esterase Reagent Strips for the Rapid Diagnosis of Periprosthetic Joint Infection."

StudentAdvisor.com named **Rush University** a top 100 social media college designation in October. The ranking compares more than 6,000 colleges and universities and post-secondary schools in the country in terms of their mastery of public social media methods, tools and websites. Rush University was noted for its virtual campus tour that lets prospective students apply directly with the school while online. To learn more, visit <http://www.studentadvisor.com/top-100-social-media-colleges>.

## Appointments

[Demetrius Lopes, MD](#) has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Neurology.

[Neeraj Jolly, MBBS, MD, DM, FACC, FSCAI, FAHA](#), has been appointed as professor in the Department of Medicine.

[Anne-Marie Malfait, MD, PhD](#), has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Internal Medicine, Section of Rheumatology.

**Eddie J. Phillips, Jr.**, will join Rush as the University registrar effective Jan. 16. Phillips will have oversight of all operations in the Office of the Registrar. Along with the registrar's staff, he will play an integral role in providing vision and directing the daily operational services such as class registration, creating course schedules, publishing the annual university catalog, commencement and ensuring that the University is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Phillips brings a great depth of knowledge to the Division of Student Services and the registrar position. He has served in multiple capacities at his former institution, Malcolm X College. Phillips began first as a college advisor, then had a stint as the assistant director of financial aid, and ultimately spent the last several years as the registrar. Having served in various roles within student services positioned him to better understand the multi-dimensional needs of students.

Rush has appointed **John Pontarelli** to assistant vice president, public relations. This well-deserved promotion recognizes the increasingly important value of public relations to Rush as we move into the new hospital building and continue to deal with a challenging external environment. Pontarelli has made many contributions in directing and executing an effective public relations program, including internal communications, media relations and crises and issues management.

Rush's Department of Medical/Surgical Nursing appointed **Stephanie D. Yohannan, MS, MBA, RN**, as unit director of 9 North Atrium. Prior to Rush, Yohannan was the clinical coordinator for a comprehensive cardiac care unit at North Shore University – Evanston. She began her nursing career at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston in the surgical intensive care unit.

## Kudos

The American Journal of Nursing named "Therapeutic Activities for Children and Teens Coping with Health Issues" the book of the year in its maternal-child nursing category. The book was coauthored by **Robyn Hart, MEd**, director, Child Life Services, and Judy Rollins.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has appointed three new members, including Rush alumnus, **Courtney H. Lyder, ND**, to the National Advisory Council from

Nursing Research (NACNR). The NACNR is the principal advisory board for National Institute of Nursing Research. Council members are drawn from the scientific and lay communities, representing a diverse perspective from the field of nursing, public and health policy, law and economics.

**Kimberly Smith, MD, MPH**, associate professor of medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases, received the 2011 HIV Clinical Educator Award from the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) for her achievement in the area of HIV clinical care and provider education. Smith created a monthly forum in Chicago to update community-based medical providers on the latest advanced in HIV treatment.

## Appointments

Rush has appointed **Janis Anfossi, JD, MPH, RN**, to associate vice president for corporate compliance. Anfossi serves as HIPAA Privacy and Security Officer and director of the corporate compliance program at Rush University Medical Center. With a recent re-organization, her leadership role has further expanded to include responsibility for assuring that effective corporate compliance programs are implemented, maintained and monitored at Rush Oak Park Hospital, Circle Imaging and Rush SurgiCenter and Research.

Rush has appointed **Marisa E. Hill, MD**, as a medical oncologist in the Section of Medical Oncology and as an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. Hill received her medical degree at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and then completed her residency in internal medicine at the Ohio State University in Columbus. She recently completed a three-year fellowship in hematology and oncology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Rush has appointed **Jamie Hinton** as director of quality improvement. Hinton has been at Rush since April, 2010 as a performance improvement consultant. In addition to leading process improvement projects, she has been instrumental in the development of the transplant quality infrastructure to help meet various regulatory standards. Hinton also has been strategically involved in the design and deployment of performance improvement training sessions at Rush. Before coming to Rush, Hinton worked at a regional level at Sisters of Saint Francis Health Services across five hospitals in advancing performance improvement in both clinical and operational arenas.

Rush has appointed **Ahmad Jajeh, MD, MPH**, as a hematologist and hospitalist in the Section of Hematology in the Division of Hematology, Oncology and Cell Therapy and as an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. He is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology and is a member of the American Society of Hematology.

Rush has appointed **Joseph M. Maurice, MD, FACOG**, as director of the Section of Gynecology and director of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery. Maurice has been an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Minimally Invasive Surgery since 2008, and also served as director of minimally invasive and robotic gynecologic surgery with Swedish Covenant Medical Associates from 2010 to 2011.

Rush has appointed **Sandra McFolling, MS, RN**, as hospital system director for case management, effective Feb. 20. This position is an expansion of McFolling's current leadership responsibilities for case management at Rush University Medical Center to include Rush Oak Park Hospital. She's spent nearly all of her 35-year career at Rush. In her current position, which she's held since 2007, McFolling oversees case management, clinical/financial outcome management, quality performance and clinical documentation improvement and transitions for the Medical Center. Her appointment marks another

important step toward the alignment and integration of the Rush Oak Park Hospital and Rush University Medical Center systems.

Rush has appointed **Roham Moftakhar, MD**, as a neuroendovascular, cerebrovascular and skull base surgeon and as an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery. With his dual training, Moftakhar specializes in treating vascular diseases of the brain with either endovascular techniques or open surgery, depending on which route is better for the patient. He's also an expert in the treatment of complex brain tumors and other cranial pathologies.

Rush has appointed **Srikumar Pillai, MD**, as director of the Section of Pediatric Surgery, a pediatric surgeon and as an associate professor in the Department of General Surgery. Before joining Rush, Pillai was the chief of pediatric surgery at Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital in Concord, N.C. and chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. His clinical focus is liver and biliary tract diseases in infants and children.

Rush has appointed **Thomas R. Weber, MD**, as a pediatric surgeon in the Section of Pediatrics and as a professor in the Department of General Surgery. Before coming to Rush, Weber was a professor and chief of pediatric surgery at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis for 20 years and pediatric surgeon-in-chief at Albany Medical College in New York. He has clinical expertise in neonatal surgery and pediatric oncologic surgery and a research interest in pediatric surgery outcomes.

## **Kudos**

**Gary Alder, DDS**, Section of Dentistry, was the keynote speaker at the opening session of the Fox River Valley Dental Association meeting on Nov. 15, 2011. He spoke on the management of the new patient experience and innovations in modern dentistry.

The National Sleep Foundation will honor **Charmane Eastman, PhD**, director, Biological Rhythms Research Lab and professor, behavioral sciences department, during its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 2. She's receiving the "Excellence in Applied Circadian Rhythm Research Award."

**Sivadasan Kanangat, PhD**, director of the HLA Laboratory in the Molecular Diagnostics Section of the Department of Pathology, passed a major certification exam for histocompatibility directors last fall. He is now a Diplomate of the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. There are less than 200 directors with this

certification in the country.

**Dianne Meyer, PhD**, chairperson, communications disorders and sciences, had her article, "Speech-Language Pathology in China: Challenges and Opportunities" published last November in *The ASHA Leader*, the newspaper for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The Solid Organ Transplant Service Line has a new leadership structure. **David Ansell, MD, MPH**, chief medical officer, and **Brian Smith**, vice president, Medical Affairs, now co-chair the newly formed Transplant Council. Ansell provides medical directorship of the service line, and Smith is the business partner. **Janice Burkart** has assumed the position of administrator, Solid Organ Transplant Service Line.

In her role as a presidential appointee to the Federal Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health, **Susan Swider, PhD, APHN-BC**, professor, College of Nursing, participated in the first regional meeting with U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, MD, to begin work to implement the national prevention strategy at the regional level. Swider and fellow advisory group members met with the Surgeon General in Chicago in December to collaborate and discuss the national prevention strategy. This strategy, with input from the advisory group, was designed as a comprehensive plan that will help increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life, and recognizes that good health comes not just from receiving quality medical care but from stopping disease before it starts. Five Rush University students were able to attend the meeting introducing the national prevention strategy in Chicago. They were: Robert Trevino and Vanessa Archil (medicine); Katie Tomarelli and DeShuna Dickens (nursing); and Anne Hazard (HSM).

Recently, the results from four groups of researchers at Rush each have been published in either *Science* or *Nature* scientific journal. This accomplishment is unprecedented at Rush and promises to increase Rush's reputation for research excellence worldwide. The authors of the four studies and their findings are as follows:

- **Thomas DeCoursey, PhD**, professor, Department of Molecular Biophysics and Physiology, and colleagues in the department presented new insights into the mechanism of how the channel functions within cells. The study identified a specific amino acid, called aspartate 112 that is critical to the exceptional selectivity of what is known as the human voltage-gated proton channel, which regulates a number of basic biological processes. *Nature* published the study online in October.
- **Jeff Kordower, PhD**, the Jean Schweppe Armour Professor of Neurological Sciences and director of the Rush Research Center for Brain Repair, in collaboration with researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, reported a significant advancement in a potential form of stem cell therapy. The study focused on human

pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), a promising source of cells for use in regenerative medicine. Kordower and his colleagues reported their success in grafting PSC neurons in the brains of several animal models, indicating promise for their use in developing therapies in Parkinson's disease. *Nature* published the study online in November.

- **Joshua Jacobs, MD**, the William A. Hark, MD/Susanne G. Swift Professor and chairman, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, and Markus Wimmer, MD, associate professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, along with researchers from Northwestern University and the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, presented findings about the human body's response to friction in metal on metal implants used in hip replacement surgery. The study found that a lubricating material that the human body produces consists of a graphitic, carbon-based material, opening the possibility that future implants could use the material to improve their durability. The study was published in the Dec. 23 issue of *Science*.
- **David Bennett, MD**, the Robert C. Borwell Professor of Neurological Sciences and director of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, and Denis Evans, MD, section director, Section of Epidemiology, Alla V. and Solomon Jesmer Professor of Medicine, were part of a team that examined the toxicity of a peptide known to be an important contributor to Alzheimer's disease. They collaborated with investigators at the Eli and Edythe L. Broad Institute in Cambridge, Mass., which is affiliated with Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Modeling the peptide in yeast, the team identified factors and processes connected to the disease that previously were unknown. The results were published in *Science* in October.

TopSharepoint.com, named Rush's new hospital site, **transforming.rush.edu**, as the best site for the month of January. TopSharepoint.com features some of the world's best designed SharePoint-based websites. Sites are selected based on usability, design, creativity and the ability to incorporate modern techniques. For more information, visit <http://www.topsharepoint.com/rush-university-medical-center>.



## Appointments

Rush has appointed **Julian Archie, MD**, as a gynecologist with Rush Associates in Women's Health and assistant professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. His areas of clinical expertise are gynecologic procedures, infertility, tubal ligation, tubal ligation reversal, uterine fibroids and general gynecology.

**Ambika Babu, MD, MS** has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Robert Cohen, MD** has been promoted to Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine

Rush has appointed **Raj Malyala, MD**, as a cardiovascular surgeon and assistant professor in the Department of Cardiovascular/Thoracic Surgery. Malyala will work closely with the heart transplant, heart failure and mechanical circulatory support teams. He will be responsible for oversight of the mechanical circulatory support program as well as introduction of new circulatory support initiatives and quality assurance in the cardiothoracic surgical intensive care unit and department. Malyala is board certified in cardiothoracic surgery and general surgery.

**Aloka Patel, MD** has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Sanda Predescu, PhD** has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology.

**Chunxiang (Kevin) Zhang, MD, PhD**, has been appointed as chairperson of the Department of Pharmacology. A highly regarded researcher, Zhang comes to Rush from the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, where he was vice chairperson of research in the Department of Anesthesiology. With his primary research interests in the area of cardiovascular diseases, Zhang has published more than 75 original articles and has been principle investigator or co-investigator of eight NIH grants. He's also been appointed as professor in pharmacology.

## Kudos

**Donna Bergen, MD**, assistant chairperson, Department of Neurological Sciences, recently was named a member of the World Health Organization's Neurology Task Force Advisory Group for the revision of the ICD-10. She is one of 18 neurologists on the task force, which is responsible for revising the International Classification of Diseases which is used all over the world, including Rush, to code each patient encounter. The codes are used globally by health ministries to report mortality and morbidity statistics, among many other uses. Bergen is also chairperson of the Applied Research Committee of the World Federation of

Neurology (WFN), as well as a trustee. The WFN fosters neurological health globally through education and advocacy.

The 2012 Administrators of Volunteer Resources (AVR) State Leadership Board elected **Terence Maynard**, director, hospital guest relations, as its program chair. The AVR is an affiliate society of the Illinois Hospital Association whose members represent more than 50 years of experience in volunteer service.

**Jennifer Ryan, PT, MS, DPT, CCS**, physical therapist, acute care physical therapy, recently received the Mary Sinnott Award for Clinical Excellence in Acute Care Criteria. Ryan received this award in February from the American Physical Therapy Association for her work in acute care physical therapy.

Rush University Medical Center's **surgical intensive care unit** recently received a silver Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes caregivers in stellar units whose consistent and systematic approach to evidence-based care optimizes patient outcomes. Units that receive this national recognition serve as role models to others on their journey to excellent patient- and family-centered care. The Beacon Award for Excellence was established in 2003, offering a course to help guide exceptional care through improved outcomes and greater overall patient satisfaction. To learn more about the award, visit [www.aacn.org/beacon](http://www.aacn.org/beacon).

In February, a team of Rush University students in the Health Systems Management (HSM) graduate program won the 2012 Health Administration Case Competition hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The team included **Dana Stelmokas, Mollie Pillman** and **Sveinn Sigurdsson**. They competed against 31 of the best graduate health care administration programs in the country.

## Appointments

Rush University has appointed **David Ansell, MD, MPH**, chief medical officer, as the Michael E. Kelly, MD, Presidential Chair. Ansell is the inaugural holder of this chair, which was established in 2006 to recognize the philanthropy of Life Trustee Robert Pritzker. Pritzker, in turn, wanted to honor and recognize the role of Kelly, a young surgery resident, who played a role in Pritzker's care at Rush. The Kelly Chair supports medical student financial aid at Rush University.

Rush has appointed **Melissa Coverdale** as its new vice president of finance. She comes to Rush from Loyola University Medical Center where she was the vice president of finance for the last two years. Prior to that she worked for Edward Health Services Corporation located in Naperville for 10 years and held increasingly responsible positions in finance, which included corporate controller. As the vice president of finance, Coverdale will oversee the activities of the Corporate Finance Department. These duties include, but are not limited to accounting, reimbursement, payroll, accounts payable, external audits, external financial reporting for the obligated group and tax returns and reporting.

Rush has appointed **Ruta Rao, MD**, Division of Hematology/Oncology, as associate professor of medicine.

Rush University has appointed **Kevin Zhang, MD, PhD**, chairperson of the Department of Pharmacology, as the Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Presidential Chair. Previously held by Paul Carvey, PhD, RD, FADA, this chair was established in 1997 and recognizes the Jannottas for their tradition of stewardship, generosity of spirit and exceptional personal philanthropy to Rush.

## Kudos

The Web Marketing Association honored Rush for its Find-a-Doctor videos during its 2012 Internet Advertising Competition. The award was for best health care provider online video. **Cari Kornblit**, Web editor, the Department of Marketing & Communications, has been working with others in her department and around the Medical Center on this video project for more than a year. There are approximately 300 videos completed and online. To read more about this project, read Kornblit's blog post at [Videos Help Patients Choose the Right Doctor](#).

**Grisel Rodriguez-Morales, MSW, LCSW**, clinical social worker, Rush Health and Aging, is a recent graduate of the New Ventures in Leadership. This program was created by the American Society on Aging, which is designed to promote the leadership potential of professionals of color and their involvement in the national aging arena. Her special project is the Patient-Centered Medical Home Program for Minority Elders, which she is implementing here at Rush.

**Rush University Medical Center** received an outstanding achievement award from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. The Rush University Cancer Center is one of 106 currently accredited and newly accredited cancer programs across the country. This is the third consecutive time that Rush has received this honor. Established in 2004, this award is granted to facilities that demonstrate a commendation level of compliance with seven standards, representing six areas of cancer program activity, including cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical management, research, community outreach and quality improvement.

**Rush University** received a 2012 silver award from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Advertising Awards for its "Introducing Rush University Students" video in the graduate school video viewbook category. Sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report, the Educational Advertising Awards program is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, more than 2,900 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all fifty states and several foreign countries. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report. To see the winning video, visit [YouTube](#).

## Appointments

Rush University has appointed **Cynthia E. Boyd, MD, MBA**, as assistant dean for Admissions and Recruitment of Rush Medical College. Boyd is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, vice president and chief compliance officer for Rush and has served as director of Medical Staff Operations for 15 years. She is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and currently the chair of the Rush Medical College Committee on Admissions.

**Mary Davis, PhD(c), CENP**, has joined the Rush University Cancer Center as administrator of the center and as the administrator of the oncology service line at Rush. Davis comes to Rush from BE Smith, Interim Leadership and Consulting based in Lenexa, Kan., where she provided senior leadership and consulting expertise to various health care organizations with a focus on organizational assessment, implementation of new policies and procedures and structural reorganization. Prior to that, she was at Prince William Hospital in Manassas, Va., where she served as the vice president nursing/chief nursing officer.

The following appointments, which were approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, assure that Rush has a structure best suited to execute its vision to become the medical center of choice in Chicago and among the best in the nation. We expect this structure to enable more efficient, effective and transparent decision making. Rush has appointed **J. Robert Clapp, MHSA, FACHE**, to executive vice president. He will retain his current role as executive director, Rush University Hospitals.

**Thomas A. Deutsch, MD's**, title of provost of Rush University, is now equivalent to Clapp's title and reflects their status as institutional peers. Deutsch also will continue as dean of Rush Medical College. He will lead the academic components of Rush's mission, and Clapp will be the primary leader of clinical operations, including hospital and ambulatory services.

Rush has also appointed **David A. Ansell, MD**, to senior vice president for clinical affairs. He also will retain his role as chief medical officer and associate dean, clinical affairs in Rush Medical College. Ansell's expanded role will include oversight for all inpatient and outpatient clinical activities. He will report jointly to Deutsch and Clapp.

Rush University has selected **Mark Foreman, PhD, RN**, chairperson, Department of Adult Health and Gerontology, to serve as executive associate dean (acting) as it reviews the essential components of the administration of academic affairs while exploring a possible reorganization of the college. In the meantime, Foreman will continue to be the chair of Adult Health and Gerontology. **Elizabeth Carlson, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, College of Nursing faculty, will assist him with department leadership during this interim period.

Rush has appointed **Ajay Nehra, MD**, as vice chairperson and professor and director of Men's Health in the Department of Urology. Nehra comes to Rush from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where he served as professor of urology. He's a leading proponent of a

comprehensive approach to men's health where specialists in urology, cardiology and endocrinology, among others, consult with patients to address health issues that are frequently linked but often not recognized. Nehra is currently the president-elect of the International Society of Men's Health. He is the editor of the *Journal of Men's Health* and is a member of editorial boards of the *Journal of Urology*, the *Journal of Andrology* and the *International Journal of Impotence Research*.

Rush University has appointed **David L. Vines, MHS, RRT**, as chairperson of the Department of Respiratory Care in the College of Health Sciences. Over the last three years, Vines has served as acting chair of the department, developing and implementing the new respiratory care program in the College of Health Sciences. The academic program at Rush is one of only four programs in the nation offering a Master of Science degree in respiratory care. Prior to his appointment at Rush, Vines served as associate professor and interim chair and program director for the Department of Respiratory Care at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) at San Antonio, Texas, where he also helped create and direct a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility. In recognition of his teaching excellence at UTHSC, Vines received numerous accolades, including five teaching excellence awards as selected by various graduating classes. He also received the President's Council Spectrum Award in Allied Health Sciences for recognition of his academic achievements.

## **Kudos**

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Board of Directors has appointed **Cynthia Barginere, RN, DNP(c), FACHE**, vice president, chief nursing officer, to the Commission on Magnet Recognition Program. She's filling the position of the American Organization of Nurse Executive representative on the commission, a term that runs from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016. The ANCC Magnet Recognition Program provides staff support to the commission and has the overall responsibility for the administration of the program.

The American College of Physicians (ACP) has elected **Marie T. Brown, MD, FACP**, as governor of its Illinois Northern chapter. Brown is a private practice solo practitioner in Oak Park and an assistant professor at Rush. The ACP is the second largest physician group in the country with more than 120,000 members. The group is divided into chapters and regions, with Illinois divided into two regions. Brown is the first female governor for the northern region, which is made up of more than 4,600 members.

The Society of Chest Pain Centers recently elected **Gary Schaer, MD**, director, Cardiology Research and Strategic Development at Rush and professor of medicine, to its board of trustees. In related news, the American Heart Association elected Schaer to serve on its Chicago board of directors.

**Jason Ong, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, received the 2012 Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine's (SBSM) Early Career Distinguished Achievement Award. This award recognizes scientists who've made significant contributions to behavioral sleep medicine.

The **Rush Public Relations Department** received a Silver Trumpet Award from the Publicity Club of Chicago for its media relations and communications campaign around the opening of the Tower.

**Rush University's** "Introducing Rush University Students," video received a 2012 Bronze Telly Award in the "internet/online commercial-low budget" category. The Telly Awards honor the finest video and film productions from around the world and this year received nearly 11,000 entries. Entries were judged by a council of industry professionals as well as YouTube viewers. The Telly award is in addition to the 2012 silver award the University received from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Advertising Awards.

The video was produced and created by university staff and the Media Services and Rush Photo Group departments with creative direction and editing support from an outside consultant. To see the winning video, visit [YouTube](#).

The 29th annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation was held on April 11 and 12. This event is hosted by Rush University, the Rush University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and the affiliated hospitals of the Rush System for Health. The research forum showcases student, faculty and clinician research activities to cultivate awareness of research at Rush and its associated institutions.

This year's winners include the following students:

- Fellows/Residents: **Stephanie Olson** – "What are the True Risks of Sickle Trait? An Ethical Dilemma"; **Lihua Chen** – "Excitability of Pyramidal Neurons in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex Is Reduced in Rats Trained to Self-Administer Methamphetamine"; and **Daniel Rinewalt** – "Expression of Serum Biomarkers Related to Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Recurrence"
- College of Health Sciences: **Ashley Andrews** – "Comparison of Recycling Outcomes in Three Types of Recycling Collection Units"; **Erica Fenton** – "Building Language Complexity: Results of a Single Subject Treatment Study" and **Joshua Wilson** – "Assessment of Inadvertent Oversuctioning in Adult Intensive Care Units"
- College of Nursing: **Katie Klink** - "Exploration of Self-Identity and Lifestyle in Caregivers Caring for Spouses/Partners with Young Onset Alzheimer's Disease"
- Graduate College: **Monal Patel** – "Cleavage Of The Pro-Survival Protein Intersectin-1s By Granzyme B Induces Endothelial Cell Proliferation Via P38 MAPK And Elk-1 Transcription Factor Activation"; **Stephen Wood** – "Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Exotoxin T Reveals a Component of Apoptotic Compensatory Signaling"; and **Ryan Sowell** – "Control of Mucosal CD8 T Cell Immunity by Rapamycin"
- Medical College: **Alyssa Kuschel** – "Trafficking of Mouse Hematopoietic Progenitors to the Periphery Following IFN Gamma Injection in the Absence of Changes in Number of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in the Bone Marrow"; **Monica Majumdar** – "Effects of Insulin Therapy on Growth and Lung Function in Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes Patients"; and **Kristine Henslin** – "Noise Levels Associated with Urban Mass Transit: Hazardous to Hearing?"
- John E Ware Award: **Cristina N. Piazza** – "The Diet, Activity and Lifestyle (DiAL) Study: Risk Perception and Physical Activity Behaviors of Breast Cancer Survivors"
- GSC awards: **Khushbu Modi** – "Protection of Memory by Cinnamon in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease" and **Richard Jacobson** – "Molecular Mechanisms of Hypercoagulability in Diabetes Mellitus"

## Appointments

**Aron Buchman, MD**, has been promoted to professor in the Department of Neuroscience.

**Catherine Catrambone, PhD, RN**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing.

**Ed Conway** has been promoted to vice president, clinical affairs for administration and finance. Conway will continue his financial leadership and strategic partnership to the Hospital Affairs division in the administration of his current role, including budgeting, capital planning, decision support, labor and resource planning and business unit establishment. His responsibilities continue to include his relationship to and coordination with the corporate finance function. In his expanded role, he will assume line management responsibilities for some system departments that operate across hospitals, including medical records. He will also serve as a key interface on behalf of clinical affairs with administrative departments such as legal affairs, IT and physician recruitment, as well as the management of some joint venture relationships.

**Christopher Coogan, MD**, has been promoted to professor in the Department of Urology.

**Paula Dillon, MS, RN, NEA-BC**, has been promoted to associate vice president, clinical nursing operations. Dillon will partner with medical, oncology and cardiology service lines to provide strategic and operational nursing service leadership across the continuum of patient care. Dillon began her career at Rush as a graduate nurse in the Department of Medical Nursing and has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout her career, as she has taken on increasing levels of responsibility, resulting in her promotion to director of nursing in 1997 and her interim appointment to chief nursing officer in 2011. While Dillon has officially announced her intention to retire from Rush in the next fiscal year, we are very fortunate that she has agreed to assist Rush with an extended transition, as we look to identify and onboard her replacement, as well as lead some key projects for Rush before she officially retires.

**Audrey French, MD**, has been promoted to professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Diane Gallagher, MS, RN, NEA-BC**, has been promoted to associate vice president, clinical nursing operations for women's and children's nursing. Gallagher will continue to provide strategic and operational leadership for nursing services in the women's and children's service lines. She joined Rush in 1986 as a unit leader in pediatrics and has continued to demonstrate her leadership strength and capabilities throughout her Rush career, resulting in her promotion to her current role as director, women's and children's nursing in 1998.

Rush appointed **Alicia I. Growney, MD**, as assistant professor in the Department of General Surgery.

**Deborah Hall, MD, PhD**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Neuroscience.



**S. Ann Hartlage, PhD**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry.

**Sarah Hoehn, MD, MBe**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

**Phillip Jacobson, MD**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

**Michael Kremer, PhD, CRNA, FAAN**, has been promoted to professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing.

**Clark McKown, PhD**, has been promoted to professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

**Marsha Mulbarger, MS, RN, CNML**, has been promoted to associate vice president, clinical nursing operations. Mulbarger will work across the surgical, neurosciences, musculoskeletal and rehabilitation service lines as a strategic partner to these services and operational leader for nursing across these patient populations. She joined Rush in 2004 as a nursing unit director after serving as the director of inpatient services at Rush-Copley Medical Center. In 2006, Mulbarger was promoted to the director of adult critical care nursing.

**Patty Nedved, MSN, CENP**, has been promoted to associate vice president, professional nursing practice. Nedved will continue to oversee the programming that supports staff competence and continuous learning, as well as facilitate the development, implementation and improvement of a research- and evidence-based practice model for the division of nursing that aligns with our commitment to quality patient outcomes.

**Janice Phillips, PhD, RN, FAAN**, has been appointed as an associate professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing.

**Dina Pilipczuk, MBA**, has been promoted to assistant vice president, financial and resource management. In this role, Pilipczuk will continue to oversee the strategic planning, budgeting, financial analysis and decision support for the Division of Nursing, as well as step into an operations role leading patient placement, the Transfer Center and resource management.

**Yanina Purim-Shem-Tov, MD,MS, FACEP**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

**Samuel Saltzberg, MD**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Raj Shah, MD**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine.

**Scott Sporer, MD, MS**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Orthopedics.

**Beth Staffileno, PhD, RN**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing.

**Mary Welch, DNP, APRN, BC, CIP**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Community Systems and Mental Health Nursing.

**Marilyn Wideman, DNP, RN-BC**, has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Community Systems and Mental Health Nursing.

**Guozhi Xiao, MD, PhD**, has been appointed as associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

### **Kudos**

The American Urological Association (AUA) recently named **Dennis Pessis, MD**, associate chairperson, Department of Urology, as the president of its board of directors. A member of AUA since 1982, Pessis' term lasts a year until next May.

**Rush University Medical Center** and **Rush Oak Park Hospital** received top grades for patient safety in a nationwide evaluation of hospitals. The study was conducted by the Leapfrog Group, a national not-for-profit organization that promotes health care safety and quality improvement. Both hospitals received an A grade, which represents the hospitals' overall performance in keeping our patients safe from medical and medication errors, infections and injuries. Rush is among 729 hospitals nationwide and nine in the Chicago area to receive an A ranking, while 30 Illinois hospitals received C grades and seven received failing grades. This is the first time Leapfrog has evaluated hospitals for patient safety using a letter grade.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Rush University Medical Center** has been named a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality in the Healthcare Equality Index report, an annual survey of U.S. hospitals regarding treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) patients and their families and hospital employees. Rush is one of only five hospitals in the nation that the survey has ranked as a leader for four or more consecutive years, and one of only three in Illinois that met all of the survey's main criterion this year. The survey's 122 respondents represented 407 health care facilities nationwide. To read more about this honor, [visit this page](#).

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) has awarded **Rush University Medical Center** full accreditation for the next three years. Rush is one of the first academic medical centers in Illinois to receive this accreditation. AAHRPP accredits organizations that conduct human research that can demonstrate that their protections exceed the safeguards required by the U.S. government. To date, only 172 institutions have earned AAHRPP's accreditation, which is widely regarded as the gold standard worldwide, over the past 10 years. AAHRPP certification reaffirms that Rush is fully compliant with best research practices and demonstrates our strong commitment to protecting research participants and promoting high-quality research. To read more about the AAHRPP accreditation, [visit this page](#).

The Rush Transformation Microsite, **transforming.rush.edu**, was recognized as a "June

Pick" in the June 2012 *eHealthcare Strategy & Trends* online publication for its high visual quality and "the way it works to communicate, with little hype, how each aspect of the new hospital is intended to improve quality of care and patient satisfaction, as well as benefit to the community."