STATE OF THE
WOODRUFF HEALTH
SCIENCES CENTER
SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2013-2014
Sandra B. Dunbar, RN, DSN, Charles Howard Candler professor of Cardiovascular Nursing and associate dean for Academic Advancement at Emory University’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, was inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.
The American College of Cardiology honored Nanette K. Wenger, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Emory University School of Medicine, with its inaugural 2013 Distinguished Mentor Award in recognition of her dedication to mentorship and her tremendous role in shaping the careers of current and future leaders in cardiology.
A number of Emory University's professional schools ranked among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. The School of Medicine rose in the rankings, coming in 22nd nationally among research-oriented medical schools, and 29th among primary care schools (up from 40th last year).
Vinod Thourani, MD, received the W. Proctor Harvey, MD, Young Teacher Award at the 2013 American College of Cardiology's (ACC) annual meeting. The award recognizes and honors a promising young member of the American College of Cardiology who has distinguished him or herself by dedication and skill in teaching, and to stimulate, as far as possible, continued careers in education.
Emory is one of 17 collaborating centers from 10 countries participating in an international consortium project aimed at earlier detection and prevention of heart failure. The European Commission awarded a grant of almost $16 million to the Heart OMics in AGEing (HOMAGE) project, with a goal of better identifying more specific biomarkers for heart failure. Javed Butler, MD, MPH, is Emory’s director of heart failure research.
Mohammed K. Ali, MBChB, MSc, MBA, assistant professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health and Department of Epidemiology at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health was awarded the Velji Award for Teaching Excellence in Global Health by the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. The Velji Award honors faculty who have distinguished themselves in the field of teaching global health.
Emory Johns Creek Hospital was named to the Georgia Hospital Association's (GHA) Chairman's Circle for patient safety. The Chairman's Circle is the second highest category in the GHA's Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) recognition program and places the hospital between the 80th and 90th percentile or above. The hospital is now in the top third of all 116 Georgia hospitals participating in the GHA HEN.
Paul J. Scheinberg, MD, was named chief medical officer of Saint Joseph's Hospital. Scheinberg is a founding partner of Atlanta Pulmonary Group, and has been actively engaged in the practice of pulmonology and critical care medicine at Saint Joseph's Hospital since 1979. He is a leader in the field of lung cancer and has participated in numerous research studies advancing pulmonary care.
Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, deputy director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University and one of the world's leading experts in lung and other aerodigestive cancers, was awarded the coveted Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Memorial Award from the American Association for Cancer Research in recognition of outstanding contributions and accomplishments as an investigator in lung and aerodigestive medical oncology.
Emory University Hospital (EUH) joins an elite group of only 20 national providers focused on complex stroke care with its Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification from The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. EUH is the only hospital in north Georgia to earn this designation and one of just two in the state.
Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD, ABPP, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine, was presented with the Inspiring Mentor Award at the Third Annual White Coat Grady Gala.
Emory Healthcare was named one of Atlanta’s Best and Brightest Companies to Work For™ by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR). The award recognizes organizations that excel in several key measures, including: benefits; employee engagement and retention; employee education and development; communication and shared vision; diversity and inclusion; and work-life balance.
Leon L. Haley Jr., MD, MHSA associate professor of emergency medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, was appointed the new Emory School of Medicine Executive Associate Dean of Clinical Services for Grady and Chief Medical Officer of the Emory Medical Care Foundation. Haley is responsible for executive oversight and the strategic vision and direction for Emory’s clinical, research, and teaching practices at Grady.
The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) inducted nurse educator Tami Thomas, PhD, RN, into its 2013 Fellowship class. AANP Fellowship is considered one of the highest honors for nurse practitioners. Fellows are elected through a highly selective process that recognizes nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions to health care through clinical practice, research, education and policy.
The Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University selected Ravi V. Bellamkonda, PhD, a prominent biomedical scientist and engineer, to chair their joint department of biomedical engineering. He began as chair of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University in July.
Judith Wold, PhD, RN, was inducted into the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education Fellowship. The NLN established the Academy of Nursing Education in 2007 to foster excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of nurse educators who have made sustained and significant contributions to the field.
U.S. News & World Report ranked Emory University Hospital the number one hospital in both Georgia and metro Atlanta in its 2013-2014 Best Hospitals guide for a second year in a row. Emory University Hospital Midtown moved up a slot in each category, ranking 4th in Georgia and 3rd in metro Atlanta this year. Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital ranks 12th in Georgia and 5th in metro Atlanta (up from 7th last year).
The Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, has received a five-year, $9.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to establish a Silvio O. Conte Center in Neuroscience Research to study oxytocin, a brain chemical known for forming bonds between mother and baby. Larry Young, PhD, will direct the Center.
The Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) has named Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, executive director of the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and Chair in Cancer Research. In addition to directing Georgia’s only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center, Curran is professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology in Emory University School of Medicine.
Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH, vice president for global health, received a 2013 People's Republic of China Friendship Award. The Friendship Award is China’s highest award for foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country’s economic and social progress. Koplan was actively involved for more than 30 years in the creation and development of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which nominated him for the award.
Paige Tolbert, PhD, was appointed Rollins Professor of Environmental Health at the Rollins School of Public Health. The professorship was made possible through the generous support of the Rollins Family, which led to the establishment of the O. Wayne and Grace Crum Rollins Endowment Fund. For 20 years, Tolbert has served as a member of the Rollins School of Public Health faculty. She has served the Department of Environmental Health as its chair since 2007.
The Helene Fuld Health Trust has donated $6.5 million to establish an innovative palliative care fellowship program at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and the Emory Palliative Care Center. The program aims to develop nurse leaders who can make an impact in palliative care, an area of health care that is rapidly growing as more Americans are facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses.
David S. Stephens, MD, vice president for research, was appointed chair of the Department of Medicine in Emory University School of Medicine, and chief of medicine, Emory Healthcare. Stephens has served as vice president for research in the WHSC since 2008. He also is the Stephen W. Schwarzmann Distinguished Professor of Medicine and has directed the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine since 1992.
Helen Mayberg, MD, was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Mayberg is professor of psychiatry, neurology and radiology and the Dorothy C. Fuqua Chair in Psychiatric Imaging and Therapeutics in the School of Medicine. Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers for scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.
Mahlon R. DeLong, MD, professor of neurology at Emory University School of Medicine, is one of six recipients of the 2014 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. The $3 million award recognizes excellence in research aimed at curing intractable diseases and extending human life.
Emory Healthcare’s Marilyn Margolis, RN, was awarded the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Hospital Association. Margolis, who for more than 30 years at Emory has cared for patients, taught students, and developed innovative new patient safety and nurse retention models, currently serves as chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services and operations at Emory Johns Creek Hospital.
Navigating today's healthcare landscape demands the best and brightest, and the Woodruff Health Sciences Center is making a difference through the Woodruff Leadership Academy, healthcare leadership program. The 2014 Fellows are:

Lawrence Boise
Jada Bussey-Jones
Christopher Dente
Coastas Hadjipanayis
Deb Harris
Zachary Johnson
Jonathan Kaufman
Jeanne Landry
Elizabeth Larkins
Sandra Mackey
Viraj Master
Craig McCoy
Russ Price
Justin Remais
Michael Ross
Clint Shedd
Cameron Taylor
Anne Tomolo
Ray Young

**WHSC Selected Accomplishments 2013-2014**
The American College of Physicians named Emory Healthcare's Daniel Dressler, MD, as one of its 2013 Top Hospitalists. He is associate professor and director of education for the Division of Hospital Medicine in Emory University School of Medicine. Honorees were selected based on work in the areas of patient rounding, resident education, technology, workload balance, and efficiency of care, among other criteria.
George Henry Grant, MDiv, PhD, was named executive director of the Emory Center for Pastoral Services. His work encompasses the spiritual health of patients, families and the staff of Emory Healthcare, at all of its hospitals and clinics. Since 2007, Grant has served as the director of research and innovation at the Emory Center for Pastoral Services. His research has involved the practice component of spiritual health to palliative care and end-of-life decision-making.
Professor Emeritus James Eckman, founder and medical director of the Georgia Sickle Cell Center at Grady Memorial Hospital who retired from Emory Hematology and Medical Oncology in September 2013, was honored with a Sickle Cell Scientific Symposium celebrating his career. The symposium attracted more than 100 sickle cell experts, colleagues, and friends, and included presentations on sickle cell complications, treatments, research, and clinical trials.