



**UCONN**  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Group on Women in  
Medicine and Science,  
GWIMS

*Annual Symposium  
and  
Recognition of Outstanding  
Women Faculty*

Monday, May 5, 2014

**Welcoming Remarks:**

Marja Hurley, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics  
Chair, Group on Women in Medicine and Science  
Associate Dean, Health Career Opportunity Programs

**Greetings on Behalf of UConn School of Medicine:**

Frank Torti, M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs  
and Dean of UConn School of Medicine

**Keynote Address:**

Joan McGowan, Ph.D.  
Director of the Division of Musculoskeletal Diseases  
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases  
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

**Faculty Honorees:**

Louise McCullough, M.D. Ph.D. - *Presented by Melinda Sanders, M.D.*  
Biree Andemariam, M.D. - *Presented by Pam Taxel, M.D.*  
Jennifer Wolf, M.D. - *Presented by Pam Taxel, M.D.*  
Rashmi Bansal, Ph.D. - *Presented by Biree Andemariam, M.D.*  
Laurinda Jaffe, Ph.D. - *Presented by Linda Shapiro, Ph.D.*  
Sandra Weller, Ph.D. - *Presented by Naomi Rothfield, M.D.*

**Closing Remarks:**

Marja Hurley, M.D.

## **GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty**

### ***Recipient of 2014 GWIMS Outstanding Faculty Recognition Award for Achievements in Research, Teaching and Patient Care***

**Louise McCullough, M.D. Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at the University of Connecticut Health Center. She is a clinician-scientist with a specific interest in the gender differences in stroke and vascular diseases. While spending several months a year on one of the busiest “stroke services” in New England she supervises multiple clinical projects using our well-established stroke center databases. Louise’s clinical academic interests have been the development of emergent therapies for acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke; neurology residency education in stroke care; and the creation of a regional stroke network, the largest in southern New England. Louise obtained her undergraduate and graduate training at the University of Connecticut and then came to the University of Connecticut Health Center where she obtained an MD in 1996. She completed her post-graduate training in neurology and stroke at Johns Hopkins. Dr. McCullough was recruited in 2004 by UConn to start a clinical and research program in stroke and was promoted to full professorship in 2012.

### ***Recipients of Women of Innovation Award from the Connecticut Technology Council***

**Biree Andemariam, M.D.**, an Assistant Professor of Medicine Dr. Andemariam received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University and medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine where she graduated with research honors. She joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in 2007 in the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Dr. Andemariam is an expert in the management of malignant and non-malignant hematologic disorders. In 2010, she developed the region’s only clinical and research center for adults with sickle cell disease. Her research focuses on understanding the mechanisms involved in increased susceptibility to infection in sickle cell disease. Her work is fundamentally translational in that she conducts her research in both human subjects and by utilizing a mouse model of sickle cell disease.

**Jennifer Wolf, M.D.**, is a nationally renowned hand surgeon. She completed her Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, followed by a trauma fellowship at the same institution. She then completed a fellowship in hand surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Wolf joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2003. She was awarded the John J. Fahey North American Traveling Fellowship by the American Orthopaedic Association in 2007, and is a deputy editor of the *Journal of Hand Surgery*. Dr. Wolf joined the UConn Health Center Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the New England Musculoskeletal Institute as an associate professor in 2010.

### ***Recipient of the NIH Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke***

**Rashmi Bansal, Ph.D.**, is a professor of neuroscience at the UConn School of Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, India. Her current research is focused on the role of growth factor signaling in oligodendrocyte development and axon-glia interaction leading to myelination under normal and pathological conditions. She is an author on numerous articles published in forefront journals. She is an associate editor for the *Journal of Neuroscience Research*. She serves on several committees including the NIH grants review group, the International and American Societies of Neurochemistry and the Councils of the American Society for Neurochemistry and the Asia Pacific Society for Neurochemistry.

***Recipient of an NIH Merit Award by the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council***

**Laurinda Jaffe, Ph.D.**, is Professor and Chair in the Department of Cell Biology. Research in her lab concerns the physiological mechanisms that regulate the oocyte cell cycle and fertilization. She discovered the electrically mediated mechanism that prevents polyspermy at fertilization in many species, and together with members of her lab and other collaborators, identified the G-protein-coupled receptor that maintains meiotic arrest in mammalian oocytes and elucidated how luteinizing hormone restarts meiosis. For more information, see [http://cell.uchc.edu/faculty\\_staff/jaffe\\_lab/index.html](http://cell.uchc.edu/faculty_staff/jaffe_lab/index.html) Dr. Jaffe's research has been supported since 1981 by a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development on "Signal Transduction at Fertilization"; she was selected this year as a recipient of an NIH MERIT award.

***In Recognition of Being Selected as the First Woman President of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering***

**Sandra Weller, Ph.D.**, is well known in the national and international scientific community for her expertise in Molecular Virology and is routinely asked to present her research at national and international meetings. She has participated in a wide range of professional experiences including Division Chair of the ASM, Fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program, founder or organizer of several international meetings (FASEB, Keystone and ASM) and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Morgridge Institute of Research. In 2006 she was named Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor which is the highest academic honor awarded to faculty who have achieved exceptional distinction in scholarship, teaching and service. In 2011 she was elected Vice-President/President Elect of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Technology (CASE). She will take over as President of CASE in July 2014.

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