

# UConn HEALTH

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Group on Women in Medicine and Science, GWIMS

*Annual Symposium  
and*

*Recognition of Outstanding  
Women Faculty & Students*

**Monday, May 4, 2015**

**Seminar: 4:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Reception: 5:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Place: Keller Auditorium & Lobby**

## **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 Health, School of Medicine:**

Bruce Liang, M.D., F.A.C.C.  
Interim Dean, UConn School of Medicine  
and Director of Cardiology and Chief of the Division of Cardiology

## **Introduction of Speaker:**

Gloria Gronowicz, Ph.D.  
Professor of Surgery

## **Keynote Address:**

Julie Glowacki, Ph.D.  
Professor of Orthopedic Surgery  
Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Topic of Discussion: *"Translational Skeletal Research Opportunities"*

## **Honorees:**

Linda Shapiro, Ph.D. - *Presented by Rashmi Bansal, Ph.D.*  
Stormy Chamberlain, Ph.D. - *Presented by Marja Hurley, M.D.*  
Deborah Hall - *Presented by Melinda Sanders, M.D.*  
Fludiona Naka - *Presented by Sun-Kyeong Lee, Ph.D.*  
Melina Benson - *Presented by Pamela Taxel, M.D.*

## **Closing Remarks:**

Marja Hurley, M.D.

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

#### ***Recipient of 2015 GWIMS Outstanding Faculty Recognition Award for Achievements in Research, Teaching and Patient Care***

**Linda Shapiro, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor of cell biology and director of the Center for Vascular Biology at UConn Health. Dr. Shapiro obtained her undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She was a faculty member at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital prior to joining the UConn Center for Vascular Biology in 2001 and was selected as director in 2010. Dr. Shapiro is former director of the cell biology area of concentration and has mentored numerous postdoctoral fellows, graduate and dual degree students. Her laboratory's research focuses on the function of cell surface peptidases in inflammation and angiogenesis with particular emphasis on cancer and cardiovascular disease. She has published numerous research articles and her work has been funded since 1995 by grants from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Connecticut Stem Cell Initiative, Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Komen Foundation. She is a former member of the Atherosclerosis and Inflammation in the Cardiovascular System NIH study section and is currently a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

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

**Stormy Chamberlain, Ph.D.**, is the Raymond and Beverly Sackler assistant professor of genetics and developmental biology at UConn Health and a member of the UConn Stem Cell Institute. Her lab studies chromosome 15q11-q13 imprinting disorders, and has been focusing on induced pluripotent stem cell models of these diseases. Dr. Chamberlain received a B.A. degree in molecular biology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in medical sciences-genetics from the University of Florida, where she studied mouse models of Prader-Willi syndrome. She was a postdoc with Terry Magnuson, Ph.D., at the University of North Carolina studying the role of Polycomb Repressive Complex 2 in the epigenetic regulation of stem cell pluripotency before completing a second short postdoc with Marc Lalande, Ph.D., at UConn Health.

### **GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Medical Students**

#### ***In recognition of being selected as the 2015 President of the American Medical Student Association, AMSA***

**Deborah Hall** is a member of the class of 2015 at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society and an Urban Health Scholar. Deb completed her undergraduate studies at Wesleyan University, with a major in Neuroscience and Behavior. She has held numerous student leadership roles within and outside of the UConn community and is honored to be taking the next year to serve as National President for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). Her goals for the year will include continuing to advance AMSA's work on healthcare access, systems reform, and medical school curriculum. Before returning to school full time Deb was an advocate for families of children with neurological disabilities. As an advocate, she helped families to navigate service systems and work for policy reform. In her spare time, Deb enjoys spending time with her son, cooking, reading, and practicing yoga.

**GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Medical Students**

***In recognition of being selected as the 2015 Secretary of the American Medical Student Association, AMSA***

**Fludiona Naka** is a second year MD/MPH student at UConn School of Medicine. Fludi completed her undergraduate degree at Wesleyan University where she double majored in Neuroscience and Biology. After Wesleyan, she served two years with AmeriCorps as a Community HealthCorp Navigator and Youth Health Service Corps Coordinator. This past summer Fludi coordinated the UConn Migrant Farmworker Clinics, taught high school students at the AETNA HCOP program while concurrently working on her research, for which she received the Medical Dean's Research Award. Fludiona is involved in numerous leadership and extracurricular activities at UConn. She leads the Nutrition Detectives Program as an Urban Health Scholar, helps coordinate the SNMA mentorship program and tutors first year medical students, among other things. Additionally, Fludiona is the Northeast Regional Director of the American Medical Student Association and was recently elected as the AMSA National Secretary. After completing her medical education, Fludi hopes to work in underserved urban areas.

***In Recognition of being selected as the recipient of the UCONN Provost 2015 Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award***

**Melina Benson** is a fourth year Medical Student at UConn School of Medicine. She is a native of Willington, CT and the youngest of five children. Melina studied Biology with a Chemistry minor at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA and studied abroad in Thailand. She graduated one semester early and spent 4 months volunteering for the homeless in Harrisburg, PA. The gap year included Immunology research at NYU. Melina matched in Radiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and is doing a Surgery Internship at Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA. Her Medical School major activities include, Coast to Coast for a Cure (biked across country to raise money for Leukemia research), American Medical Student Association Chapter President, National Wellness Coordinator and Urban Service Track Scholar and her Medical School major academic activities include, research into percutaneous cholecystostomy tubes in patients at Hartford Hospital, Honored in all but one of the core rotations. Voted member of Gold Humanism Honor Society.

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