

UConn HEALTH

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Group on Women in Medicine and Science, GWIMS

*Annual Symposium
and*

*Recognition of Outstanding Women
Faculty & Students*

Monday, May 2, 2016

Seminar: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Reception: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Place: Keller Auditorium & Lobby

Linda Sandell, Ph.D.

Editor in Chief, Journal of Orthopaedic Research; Mildred B. Simon Professor and Co-Director of Research, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Professor, Departments of Cell Biology and Physiology and Biomedical Engineering; Director of Musculoskeletal Research Center, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.



Dr. Linda Sandell is the Mildred B. Simon Professor and Director of the Core Centers for Musculoskeletal Biology and Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. She has been a leader in the field of orthopaedic research, pioneering the use of molecular biologic techniques, large screening technologies, microscopy, computational biology and genetics to study cell responses to cartilage cell injury, the regulation of gene expression and osteoarthritis. Dr. Sandell was President of the Orthopaedic Research Society and co-founder of the Women's Leadership Forum. She was President of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (2010-2013), the Society for Matrix Biology and the Histochemistry Society. She has chaired three Gordon Conferences and founded the Gordon Conference on Cartilage Biology and Pathology. Dr. Sandell has been awarded the Kappa Delta Award for Basic Science Research by the American Association for Orthopaedic Surgeons (1999), the Women's Leadership Forum Award (2010), the Alfred R. Shands Jr, MD Award (2015) and the Distinguished Investigator Award (2016) by the Orthopaedic Research Society.

Welcoming Remarks:

Marja Hurley, MD

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

Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

Greetings on Behalf of UConn School of Medicine:

Bruce Liang, MD, FACC

Dean, UConn School of Medicine
Director, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center
Ray Neag Distinguished Professor

Introduction of Speaker:

Marja Hurley, MD

Keynote Address:

Linda Sandell, PhD

Editor in Chief, Journal of Orthopaedic Research; Mildred B. Simon Professor and Co-Director of Research, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Professor, Departments of Cell Biology and Physiology and Biomedical Engineering; Director of Musculoskeletal Research Center

Topic of Discussion: *“Balancing Academic Success with Service to the Scientific Community: Where is Time Best Spent”*

Outstanding Faculty Recognition Awards

Basic Scientist Award:

Elizabeth Eipper, PhD – Presented by: Sun-Kyeong Lee, PhD

Clinical Faculty Award:

Christine Finck, MD – Presented by: Pamela Taxel, MD

Recognition of Honorees:

Annabelle Rodriguez-Oquendo, MD - Presented by: Linda Shapiro, PhD

Stacey Brown, PhD - Presented by: Stormy Chamberlain, PhD

Jane Grant-Kels, MD - Presented by: Melinda Sanders, MD

Sandra Weller, PhD - Presented by: Kristyn Zajac, PhD

Lauren Branche – Presented by Marja Hurley, MD

Caitlin Bette-Waner - Presented by Melinda Sanders, MD

Closing Remarks:

Marja Hurley, MD

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty

2016 Outstanding Basic Scientist Faculty Award Recipient

Dr. Elizabeth Eipper - In recognition of an impressive career full of accomplishments and her contributions to the research, education and service missions of UConn Health, Dr. Elizabeth Eipper has been selected for the Basic Scientist Outstanding Woman Faculty & Award Recognition. Her academic career started as an Assistant Professor in 1976 at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and she was promoted with tenure there only 3 years later in 1979. Dr. Eipper went to Johns Hopkins in 1983 as a full Professor of Neuroscience and moved to the University of Connecticut Health Center in 2000 as a Full Professor in Neuroscience and Molecular Biology and Biophysics. She has held the Janice and Rodney Reynolds Endowed Chair since 2002 and has earned many honors including a ten-year Merit award from the NIH and Election to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering in 2010. She has published 246 peer reviewed research articles and 48 invited chapters and review articles (a remarkable achievement). Dr. Eipper has been continuously funded by the NIH and other extramural sources since 1977. And has effectively mentored young faculty and built interdisciplinary teams to answer important biomedical problems. Dr. Eipper has been an active educator in Medical/Dental and Graduate student teaching. In 2012 she won the coveted Osborn Award for Graduate Teaching. She was also the PI of an NIH Neuroscience training grant from 2001 to 2011. Her university service has been exemplary and a partial list of service is given below. Her most impressive and valued served (in my opinion) has been as a member (since 2001) and chair (since 2006) of the Health Center Research Advisory Council. Her able leadership has created credibility and trust in this important committee that is respected by the academic leadership on both campuses. She approaches this and all tasks with an admirable intelligence, integrity and ability. Dr. Eipper has also served on numerous NIH study sections, conference organizing committees and editorial boards providing additional evidence off a stellar national and international reputation.

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty

2016 Outstanding Clinician Scientist Faculty Award Recipient

Dr. Christine Finck - In recognition of an outstanding career as a physician scientist, Dr. Christine Finck has been selected for the Clinical Outstanding Woman Faculty & Award Recognition. Dr. Finck is the chief of pediatric surgery at Connecticut Children's Medical Center as well as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Surgery at UConn Health. Her research is focused on identifying and developing new treatments to treat a variety of pediatric and neonatal diseases that affect the lungs, esophagus and brain. She has served as the associate director of academic affairs at CT Children's as well as a mentor for many new pediatric research investigators starting their labs at UConn Health. She has built a research environment that provides new investigators with many of the resources they need to be successful. This pipeline of new pediatric investigators continues to grow, which has led to increased extramural funding as well as the development of a pediatric regenerative research group that meets regularly to help support and expand upon CT Children's research endeavors. Dr. Finck and her research group have also teamed up with a bioengineering company to develop a patient-specific bioengineered esophageal scaffold that can be used to treat congenital defects and severe disease requiring surgery. Her research group continues to expand while focusing on the need for new treatments for patient's she sees regularly in the clinical setting. Dr. Finck has created a team of pediatric research investigators that are focused on identifying new therapeutic and regenerative approaches to treating a variety of diseases and congenital defects that effect children. She continues to drive research efforts that develop new innovative devices, therapies and approaches to studying and treating pediatric diseases. She mentors female investigators in the laboratory and in the clinical setting she serves as a mentor to new female residents just beginning their medical training as well as surgical fellows who are working towards their career path as attending physicians. During their training she provides these residents and fellows the opportunity to take part in her research and see for themselves the importance of advancing research that improves care for pediatric patients.

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

Research Innovation and Leadership Award Winner

Annabelle Rodriguez-Oquendo, MD, is a Professor of Cell Biology, Linda and David Roth Chair of Cardiovascular Research of UConn Health. Dr. Rodriguez-Oquendo is an internationally recognized expert in cholesterol metabolism and the genetics of the HDL receptor SCARB1. Her patents on SCARB1 diagnostics have been licensed and are in clinical use to identify men and women at risk for heart disease despite having desirable levels of the good cholesterol HDL. She is the founder of Lipid Genomics, a drug development company for people with genetic cholesterol disorders.

Academic Innovation and Leadership Honoree

Stacey Brown, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Community Based Education office of UConn School of Medicine. She collaborates with faculty and community partners to develop and implement curriculum promoting students' understanding of social, economic, political and factors impacting health. In addition, Stacey conducts health disparities research, is the chair of the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership, and is a Connecticut Health Foundation leadership fellow.

Research Innovation and Leadership Honoree

Jane Grant-Kels, MD, is the founding Chair Emeritus of the Department of Dermatology, founding Director Emeritus of the Dermatology Residency program, founding Director Emeritus of the Dermatopathology Laboratory and the founding and present Director of both the Cutaneous Oncology Center and Melanoma program as well as Professor of Dermatology, Pathology and Pediatrics at UConn Health. She has published over 245 manuscripts, 84 chapters, guest edited 19 journals, and edited or co-authored six books.

Research Innovation and Leadership Honoree

Sandra Weller, PhD, is a Professor and Chair of Molecular Biology and Biophysics at UConn Health and is internationally recognized for ground-breaking discoveries on Herpes Simplex Virus. She is a board of trustees distinguished professor, the highest faculty honor at UConn, and is the first female President of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering. As President of the Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs, she promotes STEM education, research, and public outreach.

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Medical Students

In recognition of being selected as the 2016 Regional Director of the Student National Medical Association, SNMA

Lauren Branche is an MD/ MPH dual degree Candidate at the UConn School of Medicine. She is outgoing President of the UConn chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). After receiving her Bachelor's of science degree in psychology from Tufts University she went on to receive a Master's in Biomedical Science from Tufts University School of Medicine. Lauren is honored to be serving as the Regional Director for the New England region of the SNMA this year as her passions directly align with the SNMA mission of supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians. Lauren's goals as Regional Director are to improve communication and collaboration between all SNMA chapters in the region, develop leadership skills among chapter executive members through leadership workshops, increase each chapter's direct involvement with surrounding communities and boost national and regional support of chapter initiatives. She will also assist in the implementation and publicity of the SNMA's community service protocols and community outreach efforts as a member of the national community service committee and work to ensure that the business and policy decisions of the organization reflect the best interests not only of all SNMA members down to the chapter level but of the communities we serve as well. Lauren believes her experiences will help her to use her new position as a platform for consciousness building and constructive action. In her free time she enjoys reading and drawing as well as spending time with friends and family.

In Recognition of being selected as the recipient of the UCONN Provost 2016 Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award

Caitlin Bette-Warner is a magna cum laude graduate of Colorado College where she majored in music with a minor area of concentration in biochemistry. As an undergraduate, she pursued an interest in ethnomusicology and conducted original research in an analysis of the music associated with the Apache coming of age ceremony. Since matriculating to the School of Medicine, Caitlin has produced a remarkable academic record. She graduates at the top of her class, achieving honor grades in all of the six clinical disciplines that comprise the third-year curriculum, an achievement unique to Caitlin among the members of her class. Her accomplishments outside the classroom and the exam room are too extensive to enumerate here, but it is informative to mention a few to provide insight into the level of leadership that she has provided in the promotion of primary care. In addition to being a leader here in the Urban Service Track (a curricular initiative that promotes interest in the care of underserved urban populations), Caitlin is a leader of the local chapter of Primary Care Progress, a national organization dedicated to developing a robust primary care workforce and improving the delivery of care through education and advocacy. She has worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics to provide opportunities for student members to contribute to a national policy initiative. In addition she has used her position as the student representative to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians to create clinical opportunities for other students in family medicine. Caitlin is adept at fostering synergistic relationships among the numerous organizations and activities that she engages to improve outcomes and provide opportunities for others. It should be noted that Caitlin had a great role model in her mother who is a family physician. She has remained true to her dedication to primary care and is pursuing a career in family medicine. She has already accomplished a great deal as a leader at this early stage of her professional development. We have great confidence that Caitlin is on the cusp of a wonderful career as a family physician and a future leader in the discipline.

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UConn Health, School of Medicine

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