

UConn HEALTH

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

*Annual Symposium
and
Recognition of Outstanding Women
Faculty & Students*

Monday, May 1, 2017

Seminar: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Place: Massey Auditorium

Reception: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Place: Academic Lobby

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:

Jill Morris, PhD

Program Director at the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
(NINDS)

Topic of Discussion: *"Women in Biomedical Careers"*

Outstanding Faculty Recognition Awards

Basic Scientist Award:

Nancy Petry, PhD – Presented by: Sun-Kyeong Lee, PhD

Clinical Faculty Award:

Jeanine Suchecki, MD – Presented by: Pamela Taxel, MD

Recognition of Honorees:

Nancy Petry, PhD - Presented by: Kristyn Zajac, PhD
Deborah Dorceus - Presented by Liisa Kuhn, PhD
Kristin Russomanno - Presented by Melinda Sanders, MD

Closing Remarks:

Marja Hurley, MD

Keynote Speaker:

Jill Morris, PhD



Jill Morris, PhD is a Program Director at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Her disease research portfolio consists of multiple neurological disorders comprising of the leukodystrophies and lysosomal storage disorders; inborn errors of metabolism; peroxisomal disorders; neural tube defects (spina bifida); hydrocephalus; neurofibromatosis 1 and 2; schwannomatosis; Sturge-Weber syndrome; and other rare genetic disorders. Her basic grant portfolio includes glia biology, neural crest as well as lipid biology research. She is also responsible for methodology grants regarding gene therapy/delivery/RNAi technology. Prior to coming to the NIH, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University and Children's Memorial Research Center. Her laboratory studied in depth and published multiple papers on the function of DISC1, a schizophrenia susceptibility gene. Previously, she was Senior Research Biologist in the Department of Neuroscience at Merck Research Laboratories where she directed research projects relating to bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Prior to Merck, she was a Senior Staff Fellow in the Unit of Molecular Neurogenetics at the National Institutes of Health where her research led to the identification and characterization of the gene responsible for the autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disorder called Niemann-Pick type C disease.

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty

2017 Outstanding Basic Scientist Faculty Award Recipient

Nancy Petry, PhD - In recognition of an impressive career full of accomplishments and her contributions to the research, education and service missions of UConn Health, Dr. Nancy Petry has been selected for the Basic Scientist Outstanding Woman Faculty & Award Recognition. Dr. Petry received her PhD in Psychology from Harvard University in 1994, and she joined the faculty of UConn Health in 1996. She is a Professor of Medicine at UConn Health and conducts NIH funded research related to treating addictive disorders and improving health outcomes. Her work has been funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as private foundations. Dr. Petry serves as a consultant and advisor for the National Institute of Health, she is on the editorial boards of seven academic journals, and she is a member of the American Psychiatric Association's Workgroup on Substance Use Disorders for the DSM-V. Dr. Petry conducts research on behavioral treatments of addictive disorders, ranging from substance use disorders to pathological gambling. She also has research interests related to impulsivity. Much of her research on contingency management treatments for substance use disorders is conducted at community-based treatment centers throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. Dr. Petry has mentored postdoctoral trainees, MPH and graduate students, and students in summer undergraduate and medical school research programs at UConn, who have collectively published over 40 papers in the past five years.

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty

2017 Outstanding Clinician Scientist Faculty Award Recipient

Jeanine Suchecki, MD - In recognition of an outstanding career as a physician scientist, Dr. Jeanine Suchecki has been selected for the Clinical Outstanding Woman Faculty & Award Recognition. Dr. Suchecki is currently an Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Ophthalmology, Department of Surgery at UConn Health. She has a secondary appointment in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She joined the faculty as a Clinical Instructor in 1996 and became Division Chief in July 2000. Dr. Suchecki's educational endeavors have been exemplary since arriving at UConn. She has developed, precepted and coordinated the medical student curriculum for Ophthalmology. This includes PCM I, MAX III, electives for the first through fourth year students, the third year clinical Ophthalmology rotation, SCP, LEAP Ophthalmology and as content expert for CoRE Team Based Learning modules. She also initiated the Ophthalmology Student Interest Group. With the progressive development of student education, precepting and mentoring, student interest in ophthalmology has continually increased and students are now graduating from UConn and entering the field of ophthalmology. She has had three students this year presenting posters at ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) and one (of one) who matched in an Ophthalmology Residency Program. Dr. Suchecki developed nationally and internationally available educational material for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This material is the basis for study and content for maintenance of certification in Ophthalmology and, specifically, Cornea and Anterior Segment Surgery. At the postgraduate level, Dr. Suchecki developed, precepted and coordinated the mandatory emergency medicine resident (and pediatric ED fellowship) rotation in Ophthalmology. For this she received a teaching award from the ED Residency Program and a secondary faculty appointment. She also precepts the Internal Medicine resident rotation, and created a video lecture for the Geriatrics Fellows on the Aging Eye.

Recipient of Women of Innovation Award from the Connecticut Technology Council

Research Innovation and Leadership Award Winner

Nancy Petry, PhD is a Professor of Medicine at UConn Health and conducts NIH funded research related to treating addictive disorders and improving health outcomes. Her work has been funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as well as private foundations. Dr. Petry serves as a consultant and advisor for the National Institute of Health, she is on the editorial boards of seven academic journals, and she is a member of the American Psychiatric Association's Workgroup on Substance Use Disorders for the DSM-V.

Research Innovation and Leadership Honoree

Deborah Dorcemus graduated from the University of Connecticut Storrs with a Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Engineering in 2012. Following her graduation she chose to pursue a doctoral degree in Biomedical Engineering at UConn, performing research in the UConn Health's Institute for Regenerative Engineering (IRE). Her thesis work, performed under the advisement of Dr. Syam Nukavarapu, focuses on the regeneration of osteochondral tissue, specifically the osteochondral interface, through the fabrication of a uniquely graded polymer matrix. As a STEM advocate, Deborah volunteers with UConn's Engineering Diversity and Outreach Center in programs such as BRIDGE, which prepares incoming minority freshmen for UConn's rigorous engineering curriculum, and Multiply Your Options, an immersive experience that introduces STEM to 8th grade girls.

GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Medical Students

In Recognition of being selected as the recipient of the UCONN Provost 2017 Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award

Kristin Russomanno graduated from Cornell University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and society in 2012 and matriculated in August in the UConn School of Medicine. During her third year clerkships she received honors in each of the six core clinical rotations, an achievement that sets her apart from all of her classmates. She also received two professional honors in recognition of her leadership and service to the community. She has represented her classmates in student government for four years and represented her peers on several significant School of Medicine committees as well as mentoring the UConn Undergraduate Premedical Society and volunteering at the South Park Clinic, a student run clinic serving homeless patients in Hartford. She will begin her residency training in Dermatology in June at Washington Hospital in Washington D.C.

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UConn Health, School of Medicine

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