

# UConn HEALTH

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

*Annual Symposium  
and  
Recognition of Outstanding Women  
Faculty, Graduate, Medical & Dental  
Students*

**Monday, May 6, 2019**

Reception: 4:30pm – 5:00pm, Academic Lobby

Seminar: 5:00pm – 6:00pm, Massey Auditorium

Post Reception: 6:00pm – 6:30pm, 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 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:**

#### **Nilanjana Maulik, PhD, FAHA**

Professor of Molecular Cardiology & Angiogenesis Laboratory  
Department of Surgery, UConn Health

### **Keynote Speaker:**

#### **Anne A. Knowlton, MD**

Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Pharmacology,  
University of California, Davis

### **Topic of Discussion:**

#### ***“HSP60, Inflammation and the Heart***

***How the Innate Immune System Can Adversely Contribute to Disease”***

### **Outstanding Faculty Recognition Awards**

#### **Basic Scientist Award:**

Nilanjana Maulik, PhD, FAHA - Presented by: Rashmi Bansal, PhD

#### **Clinical Faculty Award:**

Susan Tannenbaum, MD - Presented by: Pamela Taxel, MD

#### **Education Faculty Award:**

Ann Cowan, PhD - Presented by: Liisa Kuhn, PhD

### **Recognition of Honorees:**

Sarita Arteaga, DMD, MAGD - Presented by: Marja Hurley, MD

Katherine J. Coyner, MD - Presented by: Melinda Sanders, MD

Lakshmi Nair, PhD – Presented by: Liisa Kuhn, PhD

Mary Soyster – Presented by: Pamela Taxel, MD

Candice Logan – Presented by: Marja Hurley, MD

Valentina Baena – Presented by: Kristyn Zajac, PhD

Brittany Flemming – Presented by: Marja Hurley, MD

### **Closing Remarks:**

Marja Hurley, MD

## Keynote Speaker



**Anne A. Knowlton, MD** is a Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of California, Davis. She has been interested in how things work her entire life, and whether things could be done better. My first real research experience was at the Jackson Lab in Maine, which has a high school program for students interested in biomedical science. This program was revolutionary at the time, as it accepted half females and half males to spend 9 weeks in a laboratory working on a research project. My project was in the lab of Tibby Russell, who worked on inherited anemias in mice. This work was very interesting, as one type anemia was caused by a problem in the micro-environment and the other by what would now be called a stem cell problem. As an undergraduate at Harvard I did my research thesis on anemia. I had a strong interest in science, but also in medicine, and entered the MD-Ph.D. program at Yale, but it was taking 8 years or more to finish, and I decided to complete my MD, after finishing all the coursework for the Ph.D. After graduating I trained in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital followed by a Cardiology Fellowship at Boston Medical. This was followed by a post-doc at Boston Medical on myocardial ischemia, after which I was awarded a Physician Scientist grant and was subsequently appointed as a junior faculty member. It was during this time that I first began to study heat shock proteins, after reading about them in a scientific journal. I subsequently moved to Baylor College of Medicine to enhance my skills in molecular cardiology. After 10 years at Baylor, I joined the cardiology section at UC Davis, and have continued to work on the underlying mechanisms of heart failure, the role of heat shock proteins in heart disease, and aging and systemic inflammation.

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

## **2019 Outstanding Basic Scientist Faculty Award Recipient**



**Nilanjana Maulik, PhD, FAHA** is a well-established and highly reputed cardiovascular scientist. She is an expert in the field of vascularization and cardiac regeneration and develops strategies for ischemic heart disease. Her laboratory has identified two important pro-angiogenic molecules, Thioredoxin-1 and Pellino-1 (E3 ligase), which play important roles in myocardial angiogenesis using various pre-clinical models. Her research has advanced knowledge in the areas of angiogenesis and revascularization of the ischemic myocardium. Dr. Maulik received her PhD in Biochemistry in December 1990 from Calcutta University, India. After completion of her PhD, Dr. Maulik joined the Department of Surgery at University of Connecticut Health as a research fellow. She has continued her service there as a faculty member, and was promoted to tenured professor in the year of 2005 (only 15 years after earning her PhD). Dr. Maulik also serves as a faculty member in the Cell Biology graduate program at the University of Connecticut Health. She is heavily involved in NIH-funded research all her career. She also serves as an expert (cardiovascular) in the NIH study sections regularly; she frequently gives invited lectures at national and international scientific conferences. She has trained more than 100 scientists (M.Sc., MDs, PhDs), most of whom are actively engaged in professional careers all over the world. Dr. Maulik is a member of several prestigious societies including the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), American Heart Association (AHA), International Society of Heart Research (ISHR), American College of Nutrition (ACN) and International College of Angiology (ICA). Presently, she is on the Editorial boards of several major cardiovascular journals and served as Editor-In-Chief of the prestigious journal -“Molecular Biology Reports”- (Springer Press). She is a Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (Canada), ACN, and AHA. She has published more than 200 original peer- reviewed articles and almost 35 book chapters. She has also edited 3 books on epigenetics, nutrition, and cardiovascular diseases for CRC/Springer press. Lastly, Dr. Maulik has organized several international conferences, symposia and delivered more than 125 lectures all around the world.



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

## **2019 Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award Recipient**



**Susan Tannenbaum, MD** is a Division Chair of Hematology Oncology and Medical Director of Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. My Career in Medicine began at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, which gave me the tools needed for me to succeed in my Internal Medicine Residency at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx. After four years there, the final being a Chief Resident Year, I went to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for 4 years of Hematology-Oncology training. There I found life-long role models in both clinical care and research. I became proficient in endothelial cell culture and coagulation and after 3 years of bench research went to the NIH for 9 more years of the same. My roots and my desire to marry my clinical and research interests brought me to UCONN and Bob Bona and Peter Deckers, two people influential in my life, made a new home for me. I clinically began to focus more on the development of a breast program, which became the Clinical and Translational Breast Program with Kevin Claffey as my basic science partner. The program grew in many ways and what I was most proud of was my collaboration with other faculty in their clinical, translational and bench research as well as the development of a Breast Imaging Fellowship Program. I currently am the principal investigator on both investigator initiated and industry sponsored trials and the program is nationally accredited by the National Accreditation Program of Breast Centers. With the support and guidance of my Cancer Center Director, Dr. Pramod Srivastava, I grew my leadership qualities, first as the Fellowship Program Director for Hematology-Oncology. Then as Division Chair of Hematology-Oncology as well as Section Chief of the Cancer Center. In these positions, I have fostered growth and development of many clinical programs, focused on faculty development and retention, as well as being responsible for over-reaching issues of safe, efficient and fiscally responsible clinical service. Growing the UCONN Cancer Program is my ultimate career goal.

# GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding School of Medicine Women Faculty

## 2019 Outstanding Education Faculty Award Recipient



**Ann Cowan, PhD** is a Professor of Molecular Biology and Biophysics and Deputy Director of Center for Cell Analysis and Modeling. Dr. Cowan helped to develop and is co-director of the “Foundations in Biomedical Science” course. This full year intensive course is offered to all first-year grad students and is designed to provide a broad but intensive grounding in basic biomedical science. She is involved in every aspect of the course, lectures in it extensively and during the second semester she presides over a weekly 2.5 hour discussion session reviewing important papers related to that week’s lecture topics; these sessions are extremely popular with the students not only because of the lively and stimulating discussions, but also because Dr. Cowan brings donuts for the students. She has contributed to numerous other courses in our Graduate and Medical school teaching, as listed in her CV. She also participates in an extraordinarily large number of thesis committees; in this past year’s merit review form, she listed her membership in 12 thesis committees! But not apparent from her CV is how much time she dedicates to counseling students as they navigate through the difficult years of graduate research. Her door is always open to both graduate students and post-docs. Additionally, she is a mentor to our junior faculty. She has also made major contributions to external professional training by organizing multiple courses, workshops and scientific meetings. She plays a critical role in the Virtual Cell P41 grant as the leader of all the training and dissemination components for the last 21 years. All this is all the more remarkable because she has managed to do all this with an in-residence basic science appointment. She has already been recognized for her contributions with the *Mary Jane Osborn Award for Graduate Teaching*, which she received 10 years ago. Her dedication to teaching has clearly continued unabated.

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

## **Community Innovation and Leadership Award Finalist**



**Sarita Arteaga, DMD, MA, MAGD** is an Associate Dean for Students, Associate Clinical Professor of the Department of Craniofacial Sciences, University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Arteaga is a graduate from New York University's Washington Square University College with a B.A. degree in Biology. After attending the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, she received a D.M.D. degree and then completed a General Practice Residency at Bronx Municipal/Albert Einstein Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Returning to Connecticut, Sarita was an associate in private dental practice. She has been teaching and seeing patients at the UCONN Health since 1995 and has been promoted to Associate Dean for Students. In the Department of Craniofacial Sciences, she teaches in preclinical, didactic and clinical settings for dental students Years I through IV. She attained a Mastership from the Academy of General Dentistry, and is a member of numerous dental associations, including the Hispanic Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, National Dental Association, and American Dental Education Association. Sarita recently completed a M.A. degree in Counseling from Liberty University. Sarita is the Past-President for the Hispanic Dental Association (2008-2009) and currently serves as the President of the H.D.A. Foundation. She is a faculty advisor for the Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. She also serves on the Admissions Committee. Dr. Arteaga takes an active community role, performing screenings at the Head Start program in Meriden, the Special Olympics, Migrant Farmworkers Clinic and the South Park Inn Homeless Shelter in Hartford.

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

## **Inspiring STEM Equitability Award Finalist**



**Katherine J. Coyner, MD** is an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UConn Health. Dr. Coyner is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and holds an additional Subspecialty Certification in Orthopedic Sports Medicine and is part of the UConn Sports Medicine Program. She is a member of the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Orthopedic Association's Emerging Leaders Program. Dr. Coyner earned her M.D. from Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine. She completed her residency in orthopedic surgery at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich., and performed a fellowship in sports medicine at Duke University Medical Center. During her time at Duke, she served as a team physician for the men's and women's basketball teams, the football team, and the women's soccer team. As part of the UConn's Musculoskeletal Institute and Sports Medicine Program, Dr. Coyner provides advanced treatment and surgical options for patients with a wide range of sports-related injuries and conditions of the shoulder, hip, and knee. She is also a UConn team physician providing coverage at numerous collegiate sporting events. Prior to coming to UConn Health, she spent 6 years at UT Southwestern Medical Center and was the Assistant Team Orthopedic Surgeon to the NHL Dallas Stars and Head Team Physician for two local high schools, and she provided the official medical coverage for Denver Broncos Pro-Bowl cornerback Chris Harris' Underdog Football Skills Academy. Dr. Coyner was previously the Assistant Team Physician to a minor league baseball team and a semi-pro women's contact football team. Dr. Coyner's clinical interests and expertise include hip arthroscopy and treatment of femoroacetabular impingement, primary and revision ACL reconstructions, multi-ligament knee injuries, advanced cartilage restoration, complex shoulder instability, primary and revision rotator cuff surgery, pectoralis tendon ruptures, and distal bicep tears. Dr. Coyner's philosophy of care is that she listens to the patient's goals and you work together to develop a treatment plan that achieves these results.

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

### **Research Innovation and Leadership Award Finalist**



**Lakshmi Nair, M.Phil, PhD, FNAI** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at UConn Health and Department of Material Science and Engineering and Biomedical Engineering, UCONN. Dr. Nair also serves as the Associate Director of the Connecticut Convergence Institute at Uconn Health. A significant part of Dr. Nair's research is committed to developing injectable and biomimetic biomaterials and identifying bioactive molecules that could accelerate tissue regeneration and reduce musculoskeletal pain. Dr. Nair is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and serves as the Vice President of the UCONN chapter of NAI. She has more than 120 peer reviewed publications and edited several books in the area of Biomaterials and Orthopaedic regenerative engineering. She also serves as the Managing editor of the journal of "Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine" and the Principal editor of the Journal of Materials Research.



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

## **Recipient of the UCONN Provost 2019 Outstanding Medical Senior Women Academic Achievement Award**



**Mary Soyster** graduated from Amherst College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 2014. She then spent 1 year as faculty at Amherst College in the role of quantitative fellow, where she helped to form a new team-based learning curriculum in the science department. Mary matriculated into the UConn School of Medicine in August 2015 and has had a stellar 4 years at UConn Health. During her third-year clerkships she received honors in each of the seven core clinical rotations and received two additional professional honors to recognize her leadership in the community and scholarship in research. Mary also helped to found the American Medical Women's Association chapter here at UConn, is a preceptor for the first year DoCC longitudinal course and played a role in the LCME accreditation committee. During her time here, she has worked extensively on several research projects and papers with the urology department as well as internal medicine. Mary was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in the fall of her 4th year. She looks forward to starting her Urology residency training in June at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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

### **Recipient of the UCONN Provost 2019 Outstanding Dental Senior Women Academic Achievement Award**



**Candice Logan** graduated with a bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Small Business Management from The George Washington University in 2015. She then went on to attend the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and will graduate with her D.M.D. in May 2019. During her time at the University of Connecticut, she has served on the executive board for HSDA/SNDA, student admissions representative, academic tutor in the biomedical sciences curriculum and as co-leader of the Orthodontics Interest Group. Candice was recently selected as an inductee into the prestigious dental honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) and recipient of the 2019 UConn Provost Award from the School of Dental Medicine for the Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award. Her post-graduation plan is to complete her orthodontics residency at the University of Michigan, where she will receive a Masters in orthodontics. She hopes to own an orthodontic practice in the future and teach at a dental school.



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

**Collegian Innovation and Leadership Finalist**



**Valentina Baena** from Cali, Colombia, completed her undergraduate studies in Biology at Lindenwood University in Saint Charles, Missouri. She then came to UConn Health where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Science in the laboratory of Mark Terasaki in the Department of Cell Biology. Valentina is internationally recognized for her contributions to the development of novel technologies for serial section electron microscopy, which allow for high-resolution three-dimensional studies of the structures of cells and tissues. Valentina also spends part of her summers teaching in an international course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

# **GWIMS Recognition of Outstanding Women Academic Achievement**

**Award in Recognition for Academic Achievement in  
Presiding as SNMA Region VII, Regional Director to the  
Executive Committee, 2017-2018**



**Brittany Flemming** is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She graduated from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina in May of 2015 with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor's of Science in Biology. During college, she was a competitive cheerleader and spent time in Europe, studying medical practice and policy in Estonia, Sweden, and Denmark. Immediately after graduating college she commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and has since completed Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Since matriculating at UConn School of Medicine in August 2016, she has served as an Urban Service Track Scholar, coordinating various health fairs and healthy eating initiatives in the underserved populations in and surrounding Hartford, Connecticut. As past president of the UConn Chapter of the Student National Medical Association, she has been committed to promoting diversity and cultural competency in the field of medicine. She has continued pursuit of this mission as presiding Region 7 Director of the Student National Medical Association. She will pursue a career in pediatrics, (where her passion for zebras, arts and crafts is best understood) at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

# UConn HEALTH

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

#### **Acknowledgement of Funding Sources:**

UConn Health, School of Medicine

UConn Foundation, GWIMS Fund for Science

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