Director’s Message  Alan Dow

In this issue, we celebrate the accomplishments of students, faculty, and alumni. While we single out individuals for these accolades, it is important to recognize the colleagues, mentors, and inspiration behind these achievements. Many of these people have been motivated by experience with patients or community members and then supported and bettered in their work by a network of collaborators.

In a sense, the same can be said for our healthcare providers. While certain members of the healthcare team usually get the credit for care – often the doctors – it is a collaborative effort of people directly or indirectly interacting with a patient that leads to a desirable outcome. We should celebrate these people, too, especially the teachers, mentors, and unseen collaborators who make our healthcare system as great as it can be. Kudos to them!

Alan Dow, MD, MSHA, a Macy Faculty Scholar, is the Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care, and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the VCU School of Medicine.

Fourth Annual Emswiller Interprofessional Symposium To Take Place on February 6, 2016

The Fourth Annual Emswiller Interprofessional Symposium has been set for Saturday, February 6, 2016 in Richmond, VA. Save-the-date, poster and abstract submissions details, and sponsorship opportunities will be forthcoming at go.vcu.edu/ipeconference. We are looking forward to seeing you there!
Arts-Health Fellows Program Creates Innovations with Impact

In April, the inaugural class of Arts-Health Fellows presented the outcomes of their projects to an audience of faculty, staff, and community members. As part of the competitive program, which was funded by a grant from the VCU Presidential Research Quest Fund, the fellows submitted a proposal in the spring of 2014. Their proposals outlined a research project that applied expertise from the Arts to a health-related problem. Four fellows comprised the inaugural class.

Laura Chessin (Department of Graphic Design) worked with Centering Pregnancy program at VCU Health System to develop a course. In the course, students met with underserved pregnant women and their families to learn about the barriers faced by individuals to healthy pregnancy and childbirth. The students then developed logos and other brandmarks for the program. The community members selected their favorite which is now being incorporated by the program.

Faculty member Cindy Donnell (Voice) collaborated with faculty from otolaryngology to study the effects of vocal fatigue on undergraduate voice students. Using advanced imaging techniques and voice recordings, Donnell and her colleagues demonstrated the high rate of vocal fatigue in these students and some risk factors for this condition. She hopes to use these results in future grant applications.

Young alumna Robin Enriquez (Fashion) tackled the problem of teenagers not carrying rescue medication for severe allergic reactions. She noted that the medications make youths feel awkward and self-conscious. Robin worked with some teenagers to develop carriers for the medications that fit more with the lifestyles and tastes of teens.

Young alumna Morgan Yacoe (Sculpture) expanded her work training surgeons through techniques from sculpture. Working with faculty and residents from plastic surgery, she taught the learners how to think about the human body from a new perspective and apply those insights to their work of creating a more cosmetically appealing outcome for patients.

A theme across all projects was the growth of a collaborative professional identity among the participants. The program inspired them to approach their work in new ways and broaden their perspective on how the arts and health can interact. This kind of innovative thinking is needed to create the solutions to the challenges facing the health of our communities.
McGrath Awards  Sallie Mayer
Between 2001 and 2014, more than 550 VCU School of Pharmacy faculty, students and residents, as well as health care professional collaborators participated in more than 20,000 patient care encounters as part of the Pharmacist Collaborative Care and Outreach in the Community program (PCOC). Patient outcomes were improved, lives were touched and students learned how to become better pharmacists, working on teams that included many other healthcare disciplines such as Allied Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, and Social Work. Based on the PCOC program’s depth and breadth, it was selected by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities to receive the 2014 C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award.
The School of Pharmacy shared the award with its seven community partners: CrossOver Healthcare Ministry, the Daily Planet, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, Imperial Plaza, Richmond Area Compassionate Care Pharmacy, Richmond Center for High Blood Pressure and the Richmond Health and Wellness Program at Dominion Place, as well as our health care professional school collaborators. Cross-discipline collaboration is one of the primary ways PCOC benefits the patient as well as the health care professional or student. The School of Pharmacy recently hosted a breakfast reception in honor of its community partners. Also on hand to celebrate and say a few words were Joseph DiPiro, VCU School of Pharmacy dean; Alan Dow, assistant vice president of health sciences for interprofessional education and collaborative care; Catherine Howard, vice provost for the Division of Community Engagement; and VCU President Michael Rao.
Perhaps one of the most meaningful aspects of the breakfast came when partners were asked to provide comments about their work with PCOC. Partner after partner noted the improved patient outcomes and care models that they were able to implement with PCOC’s dedicated, interprofessional approach with one partner noting “Patients are gaining hope they didn’t have before, lives are being changed.”
Sallie Mayer, Pharm.D., M.B.A., BCPS is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science in the VCU School of Pharmacy.

CLARION Awards
On a Saturday morning in early March, five interdisciplinary teams of health professions students attempted to persuade a mock hospital board of directors that they had the best solutions for reducing stroke incidence in Kentucky. This year’s CLARION Case Competition focused on a rural Kentucky population located in the stroke belt. Each team was charged with identifying the underlying causes of high stroke incidence and developing a cost-effective plan to reduce stroke rate in the community.

“In the community I learned the most by working together with medical, pharmacy, and interpreter students for one-on-one collaboration to combine strengths, learn from each other, and give the patient the best possible care”.
Pharmacy Student at CrossOver Health Care Ministry, a PCOC site.
We were looking for that interdisciplinary solution,” said Jonathan DeShazo, Ph.D., director of the Master of Health Administration program in the School of Allied Health Professions and co-chair for the competition. “This event gives students who would otherwise be siloed away from each other a chance to see the perspectives of their colleagues in other health disciplines.”

A team of four first-year students: Lily Jia (P1), Kenneth Qiu (M1), Nicholas Rebold (P1), and Sarah Rozycki (M1) won the local competition and traveled to Minnesota to compete nationally against 14 other teams, which included students from other health professional programs such as masters of health administration, PA programs, public health programs, etc. Under the guidance of faculty mentor, Dr. KC Ogbonna, and several other professors, the team placed fourth in the national competition. The team’s solutions included a fleet of mobile health care buses that provided risk assessments, counseling, and referrals to primary care physicians as well as electronic medical record integration and workforce development program that allowed the area’s students to complete service learning under preceptor supervision. Their solution also included metrics of success and a detailed cost-benefit analysis of the recommendations. The team had a great experience as first-year students and are very grateful for their mentors who guided them along this journey!

Spotlight on Bruce Rybarczyk

Dr. Bruce Rybarczyk is a tenured professor of clinical psychology in the Department of Psychology, College of Humanities and Sciences. After completing his doctoral training at VCU in psychology, Dr. Rybarczyk established a distinguished career as an educator, researcher, and clinician with a focus on integrating behavioral health and medical care. He is especially interested in the effect of chronic medical illness and disability on psychology and has previously worked with individuals afflicted by stroke and amputation. Most recently, he has led the behavioral health component of a series of federally-funded grants examining the impact of incorporating psychologists into primary care settings. Through this work, Dr. Rybarczyk has increased the evidence base supporting this model of care while also training a cadre of graduate students in this expertise. His goal is to develop and disseminate a new model for collaborative care that better meets the needs of a population.

Interprofessional Recognition Award

On May 7, 2015, nine students were recognized as the first recipients of the Student Interprofessional Recognition Award at a reception held at the School of Nursing. Students received certificates and pins as tokens of their accomplishments. The award was initiated to honor graduating students who have demonstrated significant involvement in interprofessional activities during their tenure as students at VCU. Students completed a web-based application that included a summary of their interprofessional achievements and a letter of support from a faculty member who was familiar with the student’s involvement in interprofessional activities. Inaugural recipients were:

Sarah Barden, Pharmacy
Hallel Basso, Nursing
Sarah Braun, Psychology
Stacy Chen, Pharmacy
Nellie Jafari, Pharmacy
Samson, Lee, Pharmacy
Catherine Mansdorfer, Dentistry
Emily Pratt, Social Work
Meghan Thompson, Pharmacy

All are promising leaders in interprofessional care who we anticipate will continue to be leaders in healthcare in their careers.

Victor Yanchick, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. is professor, and senior director of interprofessional education.

“We were looking for that interdisciplinary solution,” said Jonathan DeShazo, Ph.D., director of the Master of Health Administration program in the School of Allied Health Professions and co-chair for the competition. “This event gives students who would otherwise be siloed away from each other a chance to see the perspectives of their colleagues in other health disciplines.”