58th Annual
Medical Alumni Awards
University of Missouri School of Medicine
April 16, 2015
The University of Missouri School of Medicine Annual Medical Alumni Awards Ceremony is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Missouri State Medical Association. The 2014 award recipients are from left: Russell White, MD ’74, professor of medicine and professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine, received a Distinguished Service Award, Robert Phillips, MD, Res ’98, vice president for research and policy at the American Board of Family Medicine, received the Citation of Merit Award, Timothy Tafel, MD ’69, Max Novich Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of North Carolina Medical School, received a Distinguished Service Award, Thomas Cheek, MD ’89, chief medical officer of Optum Medical Network in Phoenix, University of Missouri Medical Alumni Organization president, Grace Sun, PhD, professor of biochemistry at MU and scientific director of the MU Center for Translational Neuroscience, received an Honorary Medical Alumni Award, George Thompson, MD ’03, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, received an Outstanding Young Physician Award, Adam Whaley-Connell, DO, Res ’04, associate professor of medicine at MU, received an Outstanding Young Physician Award, Dawn Davis, MD ’00, associate professor of pediatrics and dermatology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, received an Outstanding Young Physician Award, and Jerry Parker, PhD, associate dean for research and professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the MU School of Medicine, received an Honorary Medical Alumni Award.

The 58th Annual Medical Alumni Awards

6:30 P.M. RECEPTION

Appetizers
- Vegetable Spring Rolls
- Meatballs
- Smoked Salmon
- Artisan Cheese and Fruit Assortment

Music
- University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory Jazz Studies Program

7:30 P.M. DINNER AND CEREMONY

Dinner
- Baby greens mixed with radishes, beets, goat's cheese and choice of lemon vinaigrette or gorgonzola dressing
- Grilled beef tenderloin finished in a béarnaise sauce, tempura shrimp and lobster risotto, green beans
- Rolls and butter
- Buttermilk chocolate ganache cake, creme frâiche, and pine nut brittle

Welcome & Program
- Ted Groshong, MD ’67
  Senior Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs

Presentation of Awards
- Patrice (Patrick) Delafontaine
  Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean
- Thomas Cheek, MD ’89
  President, Medical Alumni Organization
Patrick Delafontaine, MD, is Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He joined the University of Missouri School of Medicine in December 2014 from Tulane University in New Orleans.

At Tulane, Dr. Delafontaine served as the Sidney and Marilyn Lassen Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine, chief of cardiology, director of the Tulane University Heart and Vascular Institute at Tulane University School of Medicine, and medical director of cardiovascular services at Tulane University Hospital and Clinic. He is board-certified in cardiovascular diseases.

A member of the Tulane University faculty from 2003 to 2014, Dr. Delafontaine also has served in clinical leadership positions at the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Geneva and Emory University in Atlanta. In 2001, he was elected by his peers for inclusion in Best Doctors in America®. His research on cardiovascular health has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 22 years.

Dr. Delafontaine has experience with basic science research, animal studies and clinical and translational research. In 2012, Dr. Delafontaine, along with researchers at Louisiana State University and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, received a five-year $20 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to create a collaborative research initiative dedicated to biomedical research, including cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Delafontaine was the first scientist to establish the critical link between the human hormone system that regulates blood pressure, known as the renin-angiotensin system, and a protein that is essential for childhood growth. His studies on this link have provided major insights into muscle-wasting diseases.

Dr. Delafontaine has written more than 145 articles about his research and is a member of the editorial boards of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology. He has served on multiple study sections for the NIH and was a charter member and past chair of the NIH Vascular Cellular and Molecular Biology Study Section and is also a member of the editorial boards of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Delafontaine received his medical degree from the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He completed a research and clinical fellowship in medicine (cardiology) at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Ted Groshong, MD ’67, is senior associate dean for alumni affairs and director of pediatric nephrology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. In 2008, he retired as chair of the Department of Child Health, Children’s Miracle Network Professor in Pediatrics and medical director of Children’s Hospital at MU.

After receiving undergraduate and medical degrees from MU, Dr. Groshong completed residency and fellowship training at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and University of Wisconsin in Madison. He returned to MU in 1975 and has since held a variety of appointments at MU’s medical school, including associate dean for medical education and associate dean for student affairs.

In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Groshong is an active clinician and educator. He has received numerous awards from students, and in 2003, they nominated him for the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Humanism in Medicine Award. He also has received the Mizzou Alumni Association Faculty Award, the MU School of Medicine Alumni Organization Distinguished Service Award, and the Boone County Medical Society’s Doctor of the Year Award. Dr. Groshong also has served as a leader for the Missouri State Medical Association and the Missouri chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2008, MU’s medical school and its alumni recognized Dr. Groshong’s service by establishing a scholarship in his name for medical students interested in pediatrics.

Thomas Cheek, MD ’89, is president of the University of Missouri Medical Alumni Organization and chief medical officer of Optum Medical Network in Phoenix.

After graduating from the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Dr. Cheek completed residency training in internal medicine at Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation in New Orleans, serving as chief medical resident. Dr. Cheek is a successful physician leader who has more than 15 years of medical management experience in health centers, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and commercial insurance. Prior to Optum Medical Network, he served as senior medical director at the University of Arizona Health Network, was a founding principal for Columbia Health Management, L.L.C., in Phoenix, and senior medical director of Schaller Anderson, an Aetna company, in Phoenix.

As senior medical director at Schaller Anderson, Dr. Cheek oversaw the development of national disease and case management programs. He also directed Medicare Part D prescription plans and Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set programs.

Dr. Cheek also served as chief medical officer of Missouri Care Health Plan in Columbia, and Mercy Health Plan in Phoenix. Prior to his roles in health management, he was an assistant professor at MU’s medical school from 1998 to 2004.
Virginia Huxley, PhD

Virginia Huxley, PhD, is J.O. Davis Professor of Cardiovascular Physiology and professor of medical pharmacology and physiology at MU’s School of Medicine, as well as director of the National Center for Gender Physiology.

Before joining the University of Missouri as a faculty member, Dr. Huxley earned her doctoral degree in biophysics from the University of Virginia. As a post doctorate, she trained at the Sloan-Kettering Institute in the Department of Endocrinology before joining the UC-Davis School of Medicine’s Department of Human Physiology.

Dr. Huxley has been a faculty member at the school of medicine for more than 30 years. Since 1993, she has served as a senior investigator with the Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center, and she also serves as director of the Pulmonary, Critical Care and Physiology Research Partnership. Dr. Huxley’s current research is centered on understanding the mechanisms controlling water, solute, and respiratory gas transfer between circulating blood and metabolizing tissue. Her research has been supported continuously as a principle investigator for the National Institutes of Health since 1980 including as recipient of a New Investigator and a NIH Merit award.

While Dr. Huxley’s career as an investigator is extensive, so is her dedication as a mentor to more than 40 high school, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and medical students throughout her career in addition to sharing her research resources and expertise with a host of basic science and medical postdoctoral fellows. She has taught dozens of courses on various cardiovascular topics to medical students and has served as a Block VII tutor for more than 10 years. She is currently a member of the University of Missouri Research board and serves on several other School of Medicine committees including the faculty search and curriculum development committees.

Dr. Huxley is a member of the integrative physiology section of Faculty of 1,000 — a global group of experts that identifies and highlights the most groundbreaking papers in biological sciences. She serves as associate editor of the Journal of Physiology, and as associate editor of Frontiers in Vascular Biology and is a past associate editor of the American Journal of Physiology. Among several other NIH study sections and panels, Dr. Huxley most recently served as a member of the NIH Hypertension and Microcirculation Study Section. Dr. Huxley is a past president of the Microcirculatory Society, having served as a member and on numerous committees for the organization for more than 25 years including as chair of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Commission to the International Union of Physiological Sciences.

Ramesh Khanna, MD

Ramesh Khanna, MD, is the Karl D. Nolph, MD, Chair in Nephrology and professor of medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Dr. Khanna also is a leader of the School of Medicine’s Division of Nephrology, which is recognized throughout the world for its contributions to dialysis, especially to peritoneal dialysis. He also is the vice chair of the Department of Medicine. He is the former medical director of the Acute Dialysis Unit at University of Missouri Health Care, and the Boonville hemodialysis unit and home dialysis units at Dialysis Clinic, Inc., in Columbia, Missouri.

Dr. Khanna has dedicated his career to the understanding of peritoneal dialysis physiology and establishing the standards of clinical practice of peritoneal dialysis. Currently, his research focuses on minimizing changes in the peritoneal membrane due to prolonged exposure to the various types and combinations of peritoneal dialysis solutions. He also maintains a database containing 35 years of peritoneal adequacy parameters to be used by faculty for research of peritoneal dialysis. In his research, he also is seeking a better understanding of the enigma of high parathyroid (PTH) levels in transplant patients with normal kidney function.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Khanna has served as the associate editor of Peritoneal Dialysis International, the official journal of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis. Since 1985, he has served as the editor of the journal Advances in Peritoneal Dialysis.

Dr. Khanna holds two U.S. patents for medical innovations in peritoneal dialysis. He is a longtime organizer of the world’s largest dialysis conference and its affiliated symposiums. The conference was founded by Dr. Khanna’s predecessor, the late Karl Nolph, MD. A member of MU’s medical faculty since 1981, Dr. Khanna has presented at more than 400 medical conferences around the world, written or edited more than 30 books and contributed chapters to many others. He has trained more than 100 nephrologists.
Sam Cullison, MD '75, is vice president for graduate medical education at Methodist Health System in Dallas. After graduating from MU’s medical school, Dr. Cullison completed a residency in family medicine at the University of Washington. Following residency, he practiced rural medicine for 17 years in a 22-bed rural hospital in Monroe, Washington. During his time there, Dr. Cullison helped lead the practice, served as state president of the Washington State Academy of Family Practice, and later president of the 2,000-member state medical association.

From rural practice, Dr. Cullison accepted a leadership position with Swedish Health System and its Cherry Hill Family Medicine Residency Program in Seattle. During his 19-year tenure, he had the opportunity to work within an urban residency program devoted to serving diverse and medically underserved, economically disadvantaged populations. While in Seattle, Dr. Cullison also served as medical director of Evergreen Treatment Service for more than 30 years and in various other advisory capacities for alcohol and drug addiction services.

In 2013, Dr. Cullison was honored by the American Academy of Family Physicians with the Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award, and he is a past recipient of the Family Medicine Educator of the Year Award from the Washington Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. He has consistently been voted among Seattle’s Top Doctors for his role in addiction medicine and family medicine.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cullison has served extensively as a medical education leader. Dr. Cullison has served as a vice chair of the Residency Review Committee for Family Medicine, a site visitor for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and as a member of the faculty for the National Institute for Program Director Development for his specialty as well as a visiting consultant for residencies in Family Medicine through the Residency Program Solutions Program. He currently serves as president of the board of directors for STFM and is a member of the ACGME Family Medicine review committee decision appeals committee. He has been married to his spouse, Beth, for 43 years, and they have two sons and one grandchild.

Bert Park, MD '73, currently serves as both neurosurgical facilitator for the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons and site director for the Neurosurgery Training Program of East, Central and South Africa at Tenwek Hospital in western Kenya.

After graduating from MU’s medical school, Dr. Park completed his neurosurgery residency at Vanderbilt University Hospital. He then entered private practice in Springfield, Missouri, during which period he undertook more than 50 neurosurgical working trips abroad to underprivileged areas in 25 countries. Subsequently moving his stateside practice to the Kansas City area in 2005, Dr. Park narrowed the focus of his volunteer work to sub-Saharan Africa. He continues to work in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda four months each year, providing equipment and technical support while performing and teaching complex spine, intracranial and pediatric procedures. For more than 10 years he also has served as a visiting professor of neurosurgery in Vietnam, Iraq and China.

Dr. Park is the author of five books and nine professional journal articles, and served on the Editorial Advisory Committee to “The Presidential Papers of Woodrow Wilson” at Princeton University. He is a past recipient of the regional and national Thomas Frist Humanitarian Award from the Hospital Corporation of America in 2009, the Missourian Award for community and public service in 2011, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Public Affairs from Missouri State University in the same year.
Tammy Hart, MD ’90, is the family medicine physician for Princeton Medical Clinic in her hometown of Princeton, Missouri.

After graduating from MU’s medical school, Dr. Hart completed family medicine residency training at Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, where she also served as chief resident in her third year. She joined Wright Memorial Hospital in Trenton, Missouri, for a short time before starting her own family practice in Princeton in 1994. Her clinic is currently affiliated with Harrison County Community Hospital Medical Group.

More than just a rural family medicine physician in her community, Dr. Hart is often the first one on the field at athletic events if a child is hurt. She provides free sports physicals to children in her community and serves as a girls’ youth basketball coach. As medical director of the Mercer County Ambulance Service for more than 20 years, she often serves as a first responder. Dr. Hart also established the clinic’s first day-and-night helicopter landing zone and has certifications in Advanced Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Dr. Hart is a member of the University of Missouri Medical Alumni Board of Governors organization and has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She has served on the Princeton R-V School Board as president and also has served on the Mercer County Health Department Board for many years.
Outstanding Young Physician

NOAH HILLMAN, MD ‘01

Noah Hillman, MD ‘01, is associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology at Saint Louis University.

After graduating from MU’s medical school, Dr. Hillman completed residency training in pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and a fellowship in neonatology as a Procter scholar with the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. Before joining Saint Louis University in his current role, he served as assistant professor of pediatrics in the Division of Pulmonary Biology and Neonatology at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Hillman has a research interest in newborn lung development and secured a National Institutes of Health K08 grant in 2009. In his NIH study, he is examining ventilation techniques and inflammatory responses in pre-term lamb models. He also serves as co-investigator on another NIH research project examining ventilation techniques for the lungs of infants that are considered pre-term.

Dr. Hillman has served frequently as an invited lecturer and has published more than 25 articles in peer-reviewed publications. He was recently appointed to the Midwest Society of Pediatric Research Council and is a member of the Society for Pediatric Research. He has received numerous honors for his work including the Neonatology Award from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and the Robert L. Jackson Award in Pediatrics from MU’s medical school.

TODD SCHWEDT, MD ‘01

Todd Schwedt, MD ‘01, is associate professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix.

After graduating from MU’s medical school, Dr. Schwedt completed a neurology residency at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and a fellowship in headache medicine at the Mayo Clinic. He received a master’s degree in clinical investigation from Washington University.

A recipient of National Institutes of Health Career Development Awards, Dr. Schwedt maintains a research interest in advanced structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging of migraine and other headache disorders. He has served as an author or co-author on a headache book, written more than 20 chapters and he has published more than 65 articles in peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Schwedt is the recipient of the 2015 Harold G. Wolff Lecture Award, an award presented annually by the American Headache Society to a researcher who made a significant contribution to the understanding of headache. He serves as associate editor for several journals including Cephalalgia, Headache, and Headache Currents, is editor of the Headache Section of Pain Medicine, and is the online editor for Headache.

Dr. Schwedt is the vice chair of the Headache and Facial Pain section of the American Academy of Neurology. He is on the Board of Directors of the American Headache Society, the Board of Directors of the American Migraine Foundation, and the medical advisory board for the Migraine Research Foundation. He is on the International Headache Society Clinical Trials Committee and he is the chair of the post-traumatic headache working group for the International Classification of Headache Disorders. He has served as a grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense and the Wellcome Trust. Dr. Schwedt is a leading member of the American Headache Society Guidelines Committee, a group that is publishing guidelines for the treatment of migraine, cluster headache and other headache disorders.

The American Headache Society has honored Dr. Schwedt with the “Above and Beyond” Distinguished Service Award. He is accomplished in patient care as well, having ranked in the top 10 percent of faculty for patient satisfaction during his tenure at Washington University.
Syed Arshad Husain, MD, a 1970 graduate of the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship program at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, is a recipient of the school’s highest honor, the Citation of Merit. A professor emeritus of psychiatry and child health at MU, Dr. Husain has helped children, families and communities throughout the world who have been traumatized by wars, natural disasters and other calamities.

Born in Delhi, India, Dr. Husain received his medical education at Dow Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan, followed by psychiatry training at the Maudsley Institute of Psychiatry in London, England, and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Since 1969 he has been at the MU Department of Psychiatry, where he served as chief of the child and adolescent division and training director of the child fellowship program. He also has served as a child mental health consultant to the World Health Organization, Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists of England and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and Founding Fellow of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists.

Dr. Husain is known worldwide for his work with traumatized children in war zones and disaster areas, as well as his research on sexually and physically abused children. He and his trauma team at MU have used a training-the-trainers program to educate thousands of teachers, therapists, physicians, nurses and others to help traumatized children. Dr. Husain has implemented the training-the-trainers program to help children in more than a dozen countries, including Bosnia, Kosovo, Russia, Palestine and Pakistan. He and his team also have helped trauma victims of the bombing in Oklahoma City, hurricane Katrina, tornado in Joplin and earthquake in India. He also helped establish several counseling centers, a charitable hospital, and a “Mothers As Teachers” project in Karachi, Pakistan. For decades, Dr. Husain led the World Federation of Mental Health Committee in its efforts to prevent child pornography and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The committee, in collaboration with other international human rights organizations, lobbied successfully in several countries for legislative changes to stop child prostitution, pornography and human trafficking.

Dr. Husain’s many other accomplishments include founding the International Center for Psychosocial Trauma at MU; International Medical and Educational Trust; first National Conference on Mental Health Needs of Returning Soldiers and Their Families; and MU course in trauma psychiatry for teachers, mental health professionals and volunteers that has attracted professionals from across the globe to MU. His many awards including the: Bruno Lima Award from the American Psychiatric Association; Irving Phillips Memorial Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for a lifetime of contributions to preventing mental illness in children and adolescents; George Taran Award from the American Psychiatric Association; first Profile of Courage award by the American Psychiatric Association; and the Pride in the Profession Award from the American Medical Association. In 2014, Dr. Husain was awarded Doc of the Year by the National Council for Behavioral Health and the Catchers in the Rye Humanitarian Award by American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in recognition of his contributions on behalf of children, adolescents and their families worldwide. For his significant role in promoting psychiatry in Bosnia, University of Tuzla awarded Dr. Husain an honorary doctorate degree.
Award recipient names are engraved in the halls of the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

Please call the MU Medical Alumni Office at 573-882-6949 for information and assistance with award nominations and events.

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