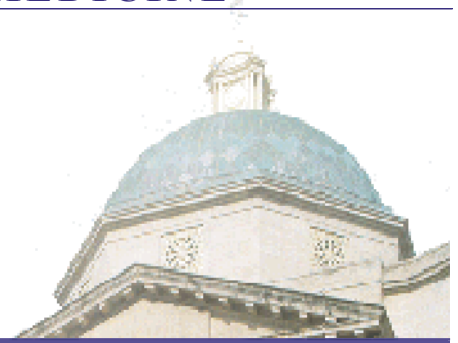


THE DEPARTMENT OF
**INTERNAL
MEDICINE**



Newsletter of the Department of Internal Medicine

Volume 2 • Number 14

2006 Faculty Achievement Awards

The Department established Faculty Achievement Awards in the areas of Research Clinical Care and Education in 2004. Our goal is to provide a mechanism whereby our Departmental Faculty recognize outstanding achievement by their peers in the three core areas of our Departmental mission. Here are nominating quotes and the winners for 2006:

“His work is devoted to further exploration of the molecular mechanisms of gamma-delta T cell function... ..clearly demonstrates that he is emerging as a scientific leader in understanding tumor immunology...truly an independent thinker and investigator with the talent to generate novel hypotheses and observations....single-handedly begun to set up a joint immunology-training program between Yale and Wuhan University”

The recipient of the 2006 Faculty Achievement Award for **Research:**
Zhinan Yin, M.D., Ph.D.

“...quickly established himself as a leading clinician on our faculty...his clinical output is between the 75th and 90th percentile for private practices...patient satisfaction scores from 95.4 to 100...patients recommending him as a provider- 99.1 (YMG mean 90.5)...highly sought after by members of the faculty for their personal healthcare”

The recipient of the 2006 Faculty Achievement Award for **Clinical Care:**
Matthew S. Ellman, M.D.

“since the time of his promotion in 2001, his mean overall evaluation scores were an astounding 4.95 out of 5.0!..He has won the Rastegar teaching award from the medical house staff in 1995, 2002, and 2003....he loves to teach, is great with patients, and attentive to house staff needs. National recognition as a leading educator in the area of dermatologic diseases in primary care”

The recipient of the 2006 Faculty Achievement Award for **Education:**
Daniel G. Federman, M.D.

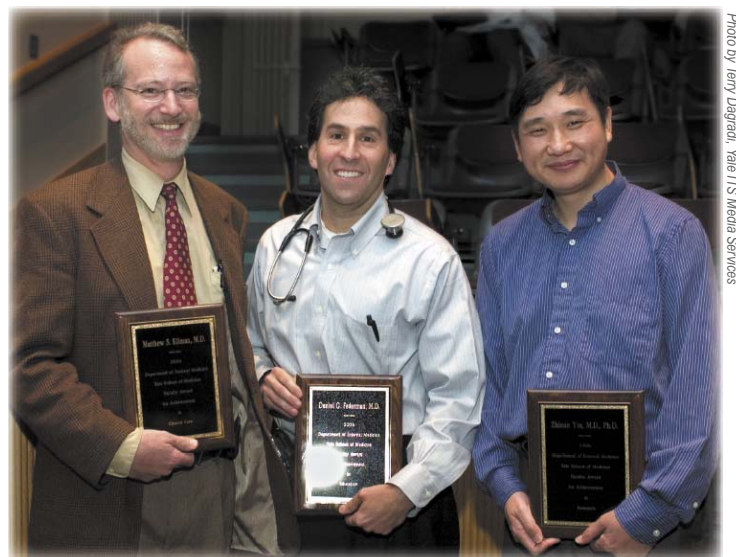


Photo by Terry Dagnard, Yale ITS Media Services

Matthew S. Ellman, M.D., Daniel G. Federman, M.D., and Zhinan Yin, M.D., Ph.D.

Jonathan Bogan, M.D. named 2006 Keck Distinguished Young Scholar in Medical Research

JONATHAN BOGAN, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Section of Endocrinology, has received an award from the W. M. Keck Foundation Distinguished Young Scholars in Medical Research Program. The W. M. Keck Foundation established this program to give the nation's most promising young scientists the resources they need to pursue potentially breakthrough research projects in biomedicine. Since



1999, the program has awarded grants of up to \$1 million to support the research of each of five junior faculty investigators at leading research universities and institutions annually. Originally conceived as a five-year project, the program has been extended through

2008. Nominations from institutions are accepted on an invitation-only basis. Previous Yale awardees are Kevin White, Ph.D. in Genetics (2003) and Mark Gerstein, Ph.D. in MB&B (1999). Dr. Bogan is studying how extracellular stimuli regulate protein trafficking and ubiquitin-like modification, particularly how insulin regulates glucose transporter trafficking and glucose uptake in fat and muscle. His work has both fundamental significance and more direct relevance for type 2 diabetes.

About the W. M. Keck Foundation:

Based in Los Angeles, the W. M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 by the late W. M. Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Company. The Foundation's grant making is focused primarily on pioneering efforts in the areas of medical research, science and engineering. The Foundation also maintains a Southern California grant program that provides support in the areas of civic and community services with a special emphasis on children and youth.

Kudos

FRED GORELICK, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Section of Digestive Diseases is the recipient of the Alvan R. Feinstein Award, which is given to a faculty member chosen as the outstanding clinical skills teacher of the year by a committee of chairs of the clinical departments, associate chairs and students. The award was presented at the Medical School commencement exercises on May 22nd, 2006.





MARK PERAZELLA, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Nephrology, has been appointed as editor for the Renal Toxicology/Pharmacology Section of the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (CJASN) which is the premier clinical journal in the nephrology subspecialty. Dr. Perazella has been appointed Section Editor for Renal Pharmacology and Toxicology in that journal. Any a manuscript submitted to the journal in that category will be initially reviewed by him and then if he deems them worthy, will be sent out for peer review. He then reviews the peer review comments and makes a decision on publication. He will also be involved in helping direct the future direction and focus of the journal. This editorship is in addition to the editorial positions he holds on other prominent journals including: American Journal of Kidney Disease, Seminars in Dialysis, American Journal of Medicine, and American Journal of Medical Sciences. The web site is: <http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/>

CHIRAG PARIKH, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Section of Nephrology, has received the Donaghue Foundation Clinical and Community Health Award for his project titled: "Novel Biomarkers to Detect Delayed Graft Function". The project involves a prospective, multi-center, observational, cohort study of 100 patients receiving deceased donor kidney transplants with three months follow-up. This project will evaluate the diagnostic performance characteristics of urine interleukin 18 (IL-18) and neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin (NGAL) as biomarkers for early detection of DGF. Our preliminary studies showed their levels were elevated in DGF. This project will determine: 1) the optimal time for their measurement; 2) the most discriminating threshold values; 3) the diagnostic efficacy of using the two biomarkers together; and 4) their ability to predict graft function at 3 months. The availability of early biomarkers will encourage clinical trials of promising therapies for ischemia-reperfusion injury in both transplant and non-transplant patients. Collaborators on the project are: Charles Edelstein, Prasad Devarajan, Amit Garg and investigators of DONOR consortium.



MARK MAMULA, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Section of Rheumatology, has received a new NIH award to examine peptide-based immunization strategies for the treatment of breast cancer. The NIH award entitled "Modified Her-2 Tumor Antigens for Vaccination in Cancer" will be performed in collaboration with Drs. Ray Koski and Nathalie Bonafe of L2 Diagnostics at Yale University and is intended to provide resources leading to the initiation of clinical trials of this new therapeutic. The award is a continuation of phase I feasibility studies from the Mamula laboratory that has demonstrated the ability of Her-2 peptides to elicit anti-tumor immunity in murine models of breast cancer. The immunization strategy leads to antibody responses that resemble the biologic activity of Herceptin, a Her-2 specific monoclonal antibody already utilized in the treatment of human disease.

FENGWEI BAI, Ph.D., Associate Research Scientist, Section of Rheumatology, received an award from Northeastern Biodefense Center entitled “Lentivirus mediated delivery of West Nile virus siRNA therapeutics.” The overall goal of this project is to develop lentivirus vectored RNA interference (RNAi) therapy to treat life threatening West Nile (WN) virus infection. West Nile virus has caused significant morbidity and mortality in North America since its first appearance in New York City in 1999. Effective drugs or vaccines to prevent West Nile virus infection for use in humans are still lacking. In our previous studies, synthetic small interfering RNA (siRNA) protects mice from death after West Nile virus infection. However, transfection of synthetic siRNA fragments only transiently inhibits virus replication. The development of viral vectors such as lentivirus to deliver a siRNA-expressing cassette can provide a more sustained inhibition. In this project, we will develop a lentivirus siRNA expressing system for long-term inhibition of West Nile virus infection in mice. This project will collaborate with professor Erol Fikrig, MD, in Section of Rheumatology.



MEI-LING YANG, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Associate in the Section of Rheumatology, collaborated with Mark Mamula, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Insoo Kang, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, received an award from the Arthritis Foundation for her project titled: “Protein Modifications in Lupus Autoimmunity.” Posttranslational protein modifications influence a number of immunologic responses ranging from intracellular signaling to protein processing and presentation and are associated with autoimmune disease. They found that isoaspartyl containing self-protein is immunogenic and contribute to T cell hyperproliferation, a feature in both systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and in lupus murine model. Moreover, the isoaspartyl modification is accumulated over age systemically from lupus-prone mice including erythrocytes, T cells, brain and kidney. In this project, they will examine the

effects of isoaspartyl modification on the physiological roles on T cell growth, expansion, differentiation and the communications between T and B cells in lupus susceptible background. Mei-Ling and her collaborators also will ask if isoaspartyl modification has any role in patients with SLE. The results of these studies will be helpful in understanding the pathogenesis of isoaspartyl-mediated T cell proliferation in SLE and potentially provides a basis for therapeutic strategies to treat lupus-like autoimmune syndromes.

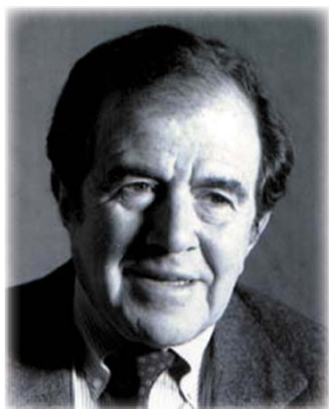
DAVID A. FIELLIN, M.D., Associate Professor, was awarded the Nyswander-Dole Award at The American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence’s (AATOD) 2006 National Conference, in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Fiellin was honored for his pioneering work in the field of office-based treatment of opioid dependence buprenorphine and methadone. AATOD was founded in 1984 to enhance the quality of treatment for opioid dependence throughout the United States. The Nyswander-Dole Award was first presented in 1983 to recognize extraordinary work and service in the opioid treatment field.





JEANETTE TETRAULT, M.D., VA Ambulatory Care Fellow, was the recipient of the “Best Research Abstract in Women’s Health” at the most recent Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine which was held in Los Angeles California. Dr. Tetrault, who is a former resident and chief resident in the Yale Primary Care Residency Program presented a paper entitled “Risk factors associated with the abuse of prescription opioids in women: Results of a national survey” identified distinctive features of women who abuse opioids which may have important treatment implications. **Lynn Sullivan, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of General Internal medicine is the senior author on this project.

PATRICK O’CONNOR, M.D., Professor and Chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine was the recipient of the annual “Excellence in Mentorship Award” at the recent 29th Annual Meeting of the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA) national meeting held in Bethesda Maryland. Dr. O’Connor was recognized for his “pioneering work in establishing substance abuse as an academic discipline within Internal Medicine” and his accomplishments as a mentor of junior faculty at Yale and at academic institutions throughout the United States. Several faculty and fellows at Yale have pursued research careers in substance abuse and the Yale group has highly successful research programs in the areas of office-based treatment of alcohol dependence and opioid dependence as well as in the area of the interface of HIV disease and substance abuse.



ROBERT LEVINE, M.D. was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Research Ethics by PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research). PRIM&R is the World’s leading continuing education organization in the field of protection of human and animal research subjects.

Brief Kudos

Frederick Altice, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Infectious Diseases received an award from the NIDA for his project “Improving Health Outcomes for Released HIV+ Prisoners.”

Dr. Bohdan Harvey, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Section of Rheumatology, received an Arthritis Foundation grant entitled “Trafficking of antigen between APCs in the genesis of autoimmunity.”

Chun Geun Lee, M.D., PhD, Assistant Professor, Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care received an R01 grant from the NIH.

David Geller, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Section of Nephrology received a Junior Faculty Support Grant from the Amgen Nephrology Institute for his project titled” “Molecular Mechanisms of Hypertension in the Metabolic Syndrome.”

Herbert Chase, M.D., Deputy Dean for Education, received the Bohmfalk Prize for preclinical teaching.

Andre Sofair, M.D., Assistant Professor in the Section of General Medicine, received the Bohmfalk Prize for clinical teaching.

Nancy Angoff, M.D., Associate Dean of YSM Student Affairs & Assistant Professor in the Section of General Medicine, received the Leah Lowenstein Award.

Mark Siegel, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care, received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

Medical Grand Rounds

- August 3, 2006 *“Biomarkers for Acute Kidney Injury: Can We Replace Serum Creatinine?”*
Chirag R. Parikh, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Section of Nephrology
Yale University School of Medicine
- August 10, 2006 *“Clinical Applications of Biomarkers in Breast Cancer”*
Gina G. Chung, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Section of Medical Oncology
Yale University School of Medicine
- August 17, 2006 *“Life Threatening or **Sort of** Life Threatening? An Approach to Management of Submassive Pulmonary Embolism”*
Mark Siegel, M.D.
Associate Professor, Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care
Yale University School of Medicine
- August 24, 2006 *“Pulmonary Hypertension: A Rose By Any Other Name?”*
Terence Trow, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Section of Pulmonary & Critical Care
Yale University School of Medicine
- August 31, 2006 *“A 58 Year Old Woman with Resistant Hypertension”*
John P. Hayslett, M.D., Professor, Section of Nephrology
John F. Setaro, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Cardiology
John T. Fahey, M.D., Associate Professor, Section of Pediatric Cardiology
Yale University School of Medicine

Grand Rounds begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Fitkin Amphitheatre.

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Yale University School of Medicine

<http://info.med.yale.edu/intmed/newsletter/>

Editor: Claire Winston
Designed by: Sarah Walls

For questions, comments, and submissions,
Please contact:

Claire Winston
Assistant to Dr. David Coleman
333 Cedar Street, 1072 LMP (P.O. Box 208056)
(203) 785-4119 Tel. (203) 785-6954 Fax