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Winship Members Selected as AAAS Fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has elected nine scientists from Emory University as 2014 Fellows including four Winship Cancer Institute members. This year, a total of 401 members were elected as AAAS Fellows because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.



From top left: Haian Fu, Fadlo R. Khuri, Richard Cummings and Jeremy Boss

The following Winship members have been elected as Fellows:

Winship Deputy Director **Fadlo R. Khuri, MD** is recognized for advancing therapies for aerodigestive cancers, focusing on disease prognosis at the molecular level and developing novel treatment and prevention strategies for patients at risk.

Haian Fu, PhD, leader of Winship's Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics research program, is

recognized for distinguished contributions to the field of chemical biology, particularly targeting protein-protein interactions in cell signaling networks for translational discovery.

Jeremy M. Boss, PhD, professor and chair of microbiology and immunology, is recognized for distinguished contributions to the field of immunology, particularly in the area of gene regulation and epigenetics; and for editorial board service to the immunology community.

Richard D. Cummings, PhD, professor and chair of biochemistry, is recognized for distinguished contributions to the fields of glycobiology and glycomics, particularly for identifying the structures and functions of complex carbohydrates involved in numerous cell processes.

The other Emory scientists elected as Fellows are: Randy A. Hall, PhD, John R. Hepler, PhD, Pat Marsteller, PhD, David S. Stephens, MD, and Stephen F. Traynelis, PhD.

"The selection by AAAS of nine Emory Fellows is an unprecedented accomplishment for Emory and its faculty," says Chris Larsen, MD, DPhil, dean of Emory University School of Medicine and vice president for health center integration in Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center. "As pioneers in their fields, these faculty exemplify the highest levels of scientific achievement that have made Emory a leading research university."

New Fellows will be honored on Feb. 14, 2015 at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2015 AAAS Annual Meeting in San Jose, Calif. This year's AAAS Fellows will be formally announced in the AAAS News & Notes section of the November 28 issue of the journal *Science*.

Video Tool Improves Health Literacy in Prostate Patients

A video-based tool given to prostate cancer patients significantly improved their understanding of key terms essential to making decisions about prostate cancer treatment, according to a study initiated by Winship Cancer Institute and recently published in *Cancer*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

The study was led by three Winship principal investigators: senior author **Viraj A. Master, MD, PhD, FACS**, Winship urologist and director of clinical research in the Department of Urology at Emory University; **Ashesh B. Jani, MD**, professor of radiation oncology in the Emory School of Medicine; and **Michael G. Goodman, MD, MPH**, associate professor of epidemiology with the Rollins School of Public Health.

This breakthrough research was spurred by another Emory study by the same authors released in 2013 that showed a severe lack of comprehension of prostate health terms among prostate cancer patients treated at Grady Hospital in Atlanta.

Master, an investigator in both studies, says he and his colleagues felt compelled to respond to their earlier findings by seeking solutions to the problem. The researchers developed a software application with narrated animations depicting 26 terms that doctors and medical staff routinely use in talking with prostate cancer patients. The 56 men who completed the study achieved statistically significant improvements in comprehension for the majority of the terms.

"This shows that video tools can help patients understand these critical prostate health terms in a meaningful way. The ultimate goal is to give patients a vocabulary toolkit to further enable them to make shared and informed decisions about their treatment options," says Master.

The study was made possible by a Winship Cancer Institute multi-investigator pilot grant and the contributions of faculty and students from Winship, the Rollins School of Public Health and the Emory School of Medicine.

Atlanta VA Accreditation

The Atlanta Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in radiation oncology following a successful review by the American College of Radiology. Radiation oncology services at the Atlanta VA are carried out by Winship members **Bruce Her-shatter**, MD and **Scott Edelman**, MD from Emory's Department of Radiation Oncology. ACR accreditation, widely recognized as a measure of quality care, includes an in-depth assessment of the facility's personnel, equipment, treatment-planning and treatment records as well as patient-safety policies and quality control/quality assessment activities.

Winship 5K Final Tally

Thanks to the many people who ran, walked, cheered or supported the race from afar, the Winship Win the Fight 5K raised over \$608,000. Thanks to your efforts, research at Winship will make a difference for cancer patients now and in the future. Save the date for next year's event on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015.

winshipcancer.emory.edu



Getting the Best Treatments into Outlying Communities

By Anand Jillella, MD



By partnering with community oncologists throughout Georgia, Winship Cancer Institute offers expertise and best practices to help them successfully treat patients with types of cancer that are less common or more difficult to treat. We also bring along our clinical and population-based research.

A great example of this is a program we've developed to treat patients with acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL), an uncommon but highly aggressive disease. It is called the heart attack of leukemias because a third of the patients do not survive the first month of treatment. We have chemotherapeutic drugs that are very effective in treating APL, but because it is a rare condition, physicians who treat it in the community may not be familiar with the potential complications that patients may develop during treatment.

Yet it is a highly curable disease, and at Winship we have come up with a simple approach that is keeping these patients alive during the first, most crucial month. This method decreases mortality from an estimated 30 percent to less than five percent.

We developed a three-step process to help community oncologists treat patients quickly and effectively. As soon as we get a call from a community physician, we send instructions via smart phone. Then we talk to the physician on the phone and figure out what the patient is going through. Lastly, we give them a treatment plan to get them through the first month and follow up with emails, phone calls or text messages.

By taking swift action, they are giving APL patients the best chance of survival. It's extremely gratifying to see people in outlying parts of Georgia and South Carolina receive this treatment protocol and survive this disease.

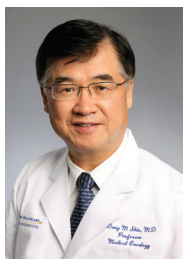
Congratulations



Mary Gullatte

Winship member **Mary Gullatte**, PhD, RN has been appointed Corporate Director of Nursing Innovation and Research for Emory Healthcare. Gullatte, an accomplished and nationally recognized leader in oncology nursing, will transition from her role as Chief Nursing Officer of Emory University Hospital Midtown effective Dec. 8.

Jerome Landry, MD, radiation oncologist and Winship member, has been invited by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to serve on the 2015 ASCO *Educational Book* expert panel. The ASCO *Educational Book*, which is published in conjunction with the ASCO Annual Meeting, publishes peer-reviewed manuscripts by meeting faculty on a variety of cancer topics, highlighting both standards of care as well as therapeutic possibilities.



Dong Moon Shin

Dong Moon Shin, MD, Winship associate director for academic development, has been selected to receive a Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) Overseas Compatriots Award in the category of science and engineering. KBS, Korea's largest media outlet, established the award in 1992 to recognize exceptional individuals of Korean heritage living overseas who have done an exemplary job of promoting the image, people and culture of Korea.

Emory surgical resident **Lauren Postlewait**, MD, who is doing a two-year research sabbatical with mentor and surgical oncologist **Shishir Maithel**, MD, has been selected to receive a 2015 Conquer Cancer Foundation of American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Merit Award for the abstract, "The Optimal Length of the Proximal Resection Margin in Patients with Proximal Gastric Adenocarcinoma: A Multi-Institutional Study of the U.S. Gastric Cancer Collaborative." The award will allow Postlewait to present the abstract at the 2015 ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium Jan. 15-17 in San Francisco.