



Photo courtesy of Guy Cali Associates, Inc.

# Faculty Forward

*The Commonwealth Medical College*  
2012-2013

**TCMC<sup>®</sup>**  
THE COMMONWEALTH  
MEDICAL COLLEGE

525 Pine Street, Scranton, PA 18509  
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*The Commonwealth Medical College is committed to non-discrimination in all employment and educational opportunities.*

## From the Regional Deans

"I can't say enough about my regional team, Dr. Mary Beth Sokach, Patty Staskiel, and Jackie Castanzo. As I tell them almost every day, they make me look good!"

~ Michael Ferraro, MD  
Associate Dean for South Regional Campus



"The accomplishment that all of us at The Commonwealth Medical College should be proudest of is the successful graduation of our first class of MD students. This is our mission, to provide excellent physicians to care for the population of the region and the state in the context of a reformed health care system. These students took a chance with us, a brand new and untested medical school, and we owe them our gratitude for their work in shaping the educational program. It will only be after they are fully trained in their residencies and actively taking care of patients that we will know how well we have succeeded. We hope that all our TCMC graduates will be identifiable by the breadth of their knowledge, the height of their aspirations, and the depth of their compassion."

~ Keith Shenberger, MD  
Associate Dean for West Regional Campus



"The measure of an institution's success is the product. The charter class' residency match was a success. The credit belongs to everyone. We did it!"

~ Gerald Tracy, MD  
Associate Dean for North Regional Campus



## Welcome



As the new academic year, my second at TCMC, begins, and having marked the historic milestone of the granting of our first MD degrees, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the remarkable progress the College has made in its short but eventful history. Our charter class has now departed, doctorates in hand, to residencies near and far, having left a lasting impact on the school. A range of measures of student success continues to yield gratifying results.

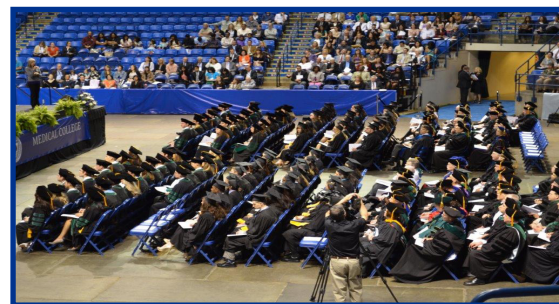
Our curriculum is receiving attention and praise for being among the most innovative anywhere.

The community is expressing growing confidence in the direction and future of TCMC.

None of this would have been possible without the stalwart efforts and steadfast commitment of our talented faculty. Like our first students, many of our faculty gambled on TCMC, forsaking other, safer, positions for the opportunity to be part of something new and to make a real difference. Through a period of uncertainty and anxiety, the faculty stuck with us, remaining committed to the College and to the students. Now, with many of our most difficult challenges behind us, the faculty will be central to our success in moving forward, continuing to innovate, growing our academic and research programs, and engaging with the students.

I am proud to have as colleagues this group of brilliant, talented, and dedicated leaders.

Steven J. Scheinman, MD  
President and Dean



**Faculty Forward** is a publication of the Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development. It is a collection of information to celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty.

Attempts were made to gather as much information as possible to include in this edition. Thank you to the faculty and support staff in the Departments of Basic Sciences, Clinical Sciences, and Family, Community and Rural Health. Also, thank you to the Marketing Communications Department for support in providing content for this publication. We look forward to publishing the accomplishments and successes of our faculty annually.

## Grateful Reflections

*"What are you most grateful for over the last year regarding faculty?"*

"As chair of the Basic Sciences Department, I am most grateful for the support the faculty have given me during my first year as chair of the department. It has not been an easy year: we lost many valuable support people and it has taken us time to recover - but recover we did! The faculty pitched in and worked cooperatively to submit grants, train students and prepare to meet the needs of our growing medical college. I have come to know that each faculty member in the Department provides TCMC with unique skills and talents. I truly appreciate how important each individual is to the success of our students, to the functioning of the department, and to TCMC!"



~ Maureen McLeod, PhD  
Chair of Basic Sciences  
Interim Associate Dean of Research

"I am very grateful for not only the faculty that are employed full- or part-time in the Department of Clinical Sciences, but also for all of the volunteer faculty in all three regions. During the past year, we did it! We graduated our first class of students. It occurred to me at graduation that we finally did the last thing 'for the first time..' that from this point on we will be improving what we are doing but we will never again have to experience completely the fear of the unknown! What an incredible amount of hard work and dedication to get to this point. I am also very grateful for the multiple collaborations between the clinicians and the basic scientists, and the collaborations that exist between the community and the medical college. Thank you all for everything you have done for TCMC!"



~ Valerie Weber, MD, MS  
Chair of Clinical Sciences  
Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs

"I am grateful for the spirit of generosity, collaboration and exploration among the faculty that has enhanced the student learning experience throughout the curriculum and to expansion of our research efforts. TCMC faculty are incredibly dedicated to realizing TCMC's vision through all that they do in teaching, research and service. As department chair, I am gratified to see the leadership department members have taken in such activities as planning a visioning retreat, building new teaching teams, and creating new partnerships across departments and in the community. All the hard work, talent, and expertise that each faculty member contributed to building TCMC's foundation led to our collective exhilaration and pride in seeing our charter medical school class graduate. Thank you for all your efforts that will lead us to a bright future!"



~ Janet Townsend, MD  
Chair of Family, Community and Rural Health

## Faculty's Proudest Moments

"I am most proud of receiving my first major grant award from the U.S. Department of Defense. This grant will support testing and refinement of a methodology developed in my lab that could lead to a diagnostic test for interstitial cystitis and also the issuing of one of my patents by the US Patent and Trademark Office."

~ Sonia Planey, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry



"I had four papers published."

Note: These publications are listed in the Publications section on pages 4-6.

~ Michael Bordonaro, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology





## Faculty's Proudest Moments

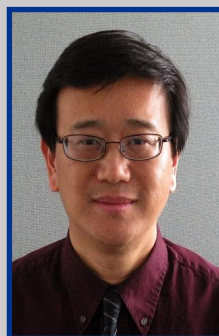
"The computational biology laboratory at TCMC developed an online, publicly accessible search tool that connects and effectively identifies proteins involved in diseases, URL <http://protein.tcmcdc.org>. Knowledge of these proteins can lead to new treatments for various diseases. Since July, I have spread the word about the tool to promote its use at scientific conferences internationally (Basel, Switzerland and Nagoya, Japan), nationally (Long Beach, San Diego and at NIH in Bethesda Maryland), and locally (four locations in NEPA)."

~ William McLaughlin, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Computational Biology



"This past year, I am most proud of being a major collaborator and contributor on a DoD research grant with Principal Investigator, Dr. Sonia Planey. Additionally, I received the TecBridge's research grant; Mirus research award; and Best Faculty award at The Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute (NPTI) regional research conference 2012. I have published five papers during this time, along with receiving a patent approved on mucosal vaccine development."

~ Jun Ling, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry  
Director of Compliance



## Publications

**Arnott JA, Planey SL.** (2012). The Influence of Lipophilicity in Drug Discovery and Design. *Expert Opin Drug Discov*, 7(10):863-875, doi 10.1517/17460441.2012.714363, ISSN:1746-045X.

**Arcsott, K.** Part III Interdisciplinary Case Studies. Chapter 15 In: McDonnell A. *Managing Geriatric Health Services*. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2013. Pages 367-397.

**Atamna H, Mackey J, Dhahbi JM.** (2012). Mitochondrial Electron Transport Complexes (ETC) Bypass: Strategies to Treat Mitochondrial Dysfunction. *Biofactors*, 38:158-166.

**Ayzenberg M, Shenberger KN.** (2013). Subcutaneous periarticular calcinosis. *J Clin Rheumatol*, 19(2):106. doi: 10.1097/RHU.0b013e31828638b6.

**Bordonaro M.** (2013). Minireview: Crosstalk between Wnt signaling and RNA processing in colorectal cancer. *J Cancer*, 4:96-103.

**Bordonaro M, Ogryzko V.** (2013). Quantum biology at the cellular level: elements of the research program. *Biosystems*, 112:11-30.

**Chiaro C, Lazarova DL, Bordonaro M.** (2012). Tcf3 and cell cycle factors contribute to butyrate resistance in colorectal cancer cells. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*, 428:121-126.

**Daniel J, Klionsky DJ, Abdalla FC, Abeliovich H, Kumar R, et al.** (2012). Guidelines for the use and interpretation of assays for monitoring autophagy. *Autophagy*, 8:445-544.

**Dhahbi JM, Atamna H, Boffelli D, Martin D, Spindler S.** (2012). mRNA-Seq reveals complex patterns of gene regulation and expression in the mouse skeletal muscle transcriptome associated with calorie restriction. *Physiol Genomics*, 44:331-344.

**Dhahbi JM, Spindler SR, Atamna H, Yamakawa A, Boffelli D, Mote P, Martin DI.** (2013). 5' tRNA halves are present as abundant complexes in serum, concentrated in blood cells, and modulated by aging and calorie restriction. *BMC Genomics*, 14:298, doi: 10.1186/1471-2164-14-298.

**Foote E, Szarek J, Arcsott K, Brady J, Clarke V, Easton D, Farrell M, Goss S, Walline V, Waters S.** (2013). A Large Scale, Collaborative Care Summit to Promote Interprofessional Learning: Ischemic Stroke. *MedEdPORTAL*, Available from: [www.mededportal.org/publication/9306](http://www.mededportal.org/publication/9306).

**Geisinger MT, Astaiza R, Butler T, Reham S, Popoff SN, Planey SL, Arnott JA.** (2012). CTGF/CCN2 is a downstream target gene of Ets-1 in osteoblasts. *J Orthop Surg and Sports Med*, 7(1):56-62.

**Geisinger MT, Astaiza R, Butler T, Popoff SN, Planey SL, Arnott JA.** (2012). Ets-1 is essential for connective tissue growth factor (CTGF/CCN2) induction by TGF-β1 in osteoblasts. *PLoS ONE*, 10.1371/journal.pone.0035258.

## Publications

**Grant JA, White MV, Li HH, Fitts D, Kalfus IN, Uknis ME, Lumry Wr.** (2012). Preprocedural administration of nanofiltered C1 esterase inhibitor to prevent hereditary angioedema attacks. *Allergy Asthma Proc*, 33(4): 348-353.

**Jaureguiberry G, de la Dure-Molla M, Parry D, Quentric M, Scheinman SJ, et al.** (2013). Nephrocalcinosis (Enamel Renal Syndrome) caused by autosomal recessive FAM20A mutations. *Nephron Physiology*, 122:1-6.

**Julfayev ES, McLaughlin RJ, Tao TP, McLaughlin WA.** (2012). KB-Rank: efficient protein structure and functional annotation identification via text query. *J Struct Funct Genomics*, 13:101-110.

**Khan SH, Farkas K, Kumar R, Ling J.** (2012). A versatile method to measure the binding to basic proteins by surface plasmon resonance. *Analytical Biochemistry*, 421(2):385-390. doi: 10.1016/j.ab.2011.12.006.

**Khan SH, Lopez-Dee Z, Kumar R, Ling J.** (2013). Activation of NFκB in breast cancer cells is a novel mechanism of pro-survival activity of glucocorticoids. *Cancer Letters*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.canlet.2013.05.020>. PMID: 23693080.

**Khan SH, Awasthi S, Guo C, Goswami D, Ling J, Griffin PR, Simons, SS, Kumar R.** (2012). Binding of the amino terminal region of coactivator TIF2 to the intrinsically disordered AF1 domain of the glucocorticoid receptor is accompanied by conformational reorganizations. *J Biol Chem*, 287(53):44546-44560. PMID: 23132854.

**Khan SH, Kumar R.** (2012). Role of intrinsically disordered conformation in AMPK-mediated phosphorylation of ULK1 and regulation of autophagy. *Mol Biosys*, 8(1):91-96. PMID: 21853163.

**Khan SH, Kumar R.** (2012). The structure and functions of the glucocorticoid receptor's intrinsically disordered activation function-1 (AF1) domain. *Endocrine Rev*, 33(03): 539.

**Kumar R.** (2012). Role of androgen receptor polyQ chain elongation in Kennedy's Disease and use of natural osmolytes as potential therapeutic targets. *IUBMB Life*, 64:879-884.

**Kumar R, McEwan IJ.** (2012). Allosteric modulators of steroid hormone receptors: structural dynamics and gene regulation. *Endocrine Reviews*, 33:271-299.

**Kumar R, Thompson EB.** (2012). Folding of the glucocorticoid receptor N-terminal activation domain: dynamics and regulation. *Mol Cell Endo*, 348:450-456.

**Lazarova DL, Bordonaro M.** (2012). Extreme fluctuations in Wnt/β-catenin signaling as an approach for colon cancer prevention and therapy. *Advanced Studies in Biology*, 4:351-362.

## Faculty's Proudest Moments

"I am most proud of being a course director in the first and second year MD curricula. I am also very proud to have been a member of the work group that proposed the CBL1 and CBL2 course renovations."

~ Will Zehring, PhD  
Associate Professor of Biochemistry



"This year I have been finalizing my NIH R15-funded project. In collaboration with Dr. Bordonaro, I published an experimental manuscript (Chiaro C, Lazarova DL, and Bordonaro, M. Tcf3 and cell cycle factors contribute to butyrate resistance in colorectal cancer cells. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*, 2012 Oct 11. pii: S0006-291X(12)01955-9. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2012.10.018.) and one review paper (Lazarova DL, and Bordonaro, M. Extreme fluctuations in Wnt/β-catenin signaling as an approach for colon cancer prevention and therapy. *Adv Studies Biol*, 4:351-362; 2012.). I also submitted for review two manuscripts that were co-authored by TCMC students. The research in my laboratory helped the New Zealand company, Manuka Health to file a patent on the use of honeybee propolis against cancer."

~ Darina Lazarova, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology



# Publications

Lazarova DL, Bordonaro M, Sartorelli AC. (2012). Transcriptional regulation of the vitamin D(3) receptor gene by ZEB. *Cell Growth Differ*, 12(6):319-326. PMID: 11432806.

Ling J, Kumar R. (2012). Crosstalk between NFκB and Glucocorticoid Signaling: a Potential Target of Breast Cancer Therapy. *Cancer Letters*, 322(2):119-126. PMID: 22433713.

Lo D, Ling J, Eckelhoefer HA. (2012). M cell targeting by a Claudin 4 targeting peptide can enhance mucosal IgA responses. *BMC Biotechnology*, 12:7. doi:10.1186/1472-6750-12-7.

Matika C, Wasilewski M, Arnott JA, Planey SL. (2012). Antiproliferative factor regulates connective tissue growth factor (CTGF/CCN2) expression in bladder carcinoma cells. *Mol Biol Cell*, (10):1976-1985. Epub 2012 March 21. PMID: 22438586.

Oshodi YO, Simoyan OM, Lesi FEA, Ibeziako PI. (2013). Health Care Professionals Need for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Training in Southwestern Nigeria. *Adolescent Psychiatry*, 1(3).

Oyelohunnu M, Campbell A, Ogbolu E, Ibeziako P, Oshodi Y, Simoyan O. (2013). An overview of emotional and behavioral disorders in children and adolescents.

Perry GML, Nehrke KW, Bushinsky DA, Reid R, Hueber P, Scheinman SJ. (2012). Sex modifies effects on residual variance in urinary calcium excretion in rat (Rattus norvegicus). *Genetics*, 191(3):1003-1013

Perry GLM, Scheinman SJ, Asplin JR. (2012). Weight, age and coefficients of variation in renal solute excretion. *Nephron Physiology*, 122:13-18.

Planey SL. Discovery of selective and potent inhibitors of protein palmitoylation. Chapter 9 In: El-Shemy HA, ed. *Drug Discovery*. Intech; p. 251-288. ISBN: 980-953-307-545-2. 2013.

Scheinman SJ. Genetically Based Renal Transport Disorders. Chapter 40 In: Gilbert SJ, Weiner DE, Gipson DS, Perazella MA, Tonelli M. *Primer on Kidney Diseases*, 6th edition (eds). Elsevier, 2012.

Schurman SJ, Singh A, Patel D, Scheinman SJ. Inherited Magnesium Disorders. In: Thakker RV, Whyte MP, Eisman JA, Igarashi T. *Genetics of Bone Biology and Skeletal Disease*. Elsevier/Academic Press, 2012.

Schwartz YB, Linder-Basso D, Kharchenko PV, Tolstorukov MY, Shanower G, et al. (2012). Nature and function of insulator protein binding sites in the Drosophila genome. *Genome Res*, 22(11):2188-2198. doi: 10.1101/gr.138156.112.

Shah DS, Kumar R. (2013). Steroid resistance in leukemia. *World J Exper Med*, 3(2):21-25.

Simoyan OM, Townsend JM. (2012). Improving the health of Northeastern Pennsylvania through medical education and community engagement. *Public Voices*, 12(2).

Smith JM, McClelland EE. (2012). Teaching immunology through microbiology. *Medical Science Educator*, 22(3):96-101.

Tsui EW, Wang G, Zahler A, Simoyan OM, White MV, McKee M. (2013). A multilingual population health management program. *J Ambul Care Manage*, 36(2):140-146.

Tuffy KM, Planey SL. (2012). Cytoskeleton-Associated Protein 4 (CKAP4/p63): Functions Beyond the Endoplasmic Reticulum in Physiology and Disease. *ISRN Cell Biology*, Article ID 142313.

Wang H, Sun X, Zhang Y, Shi L, Kumar R, et al. (2012). A chimeric vaccine prevents primary and recurrent Clostridium difficile infection. *Infect Immun*, 80:2678-2688.

Zacharias DA, Mullen M, Planey SL. (2012). Antiproliferative factor-induced changes in phosphorylation and palmitoylation of cytoskeleton associated protein-4 regulate its nuclear translocation and DNA binding. *Int J Cell Biol*, 2012:150918. Epub 2012 Mar 20. PMID:22536245.

Zeng H, Lazarova DL. (2012). Obesity-related colon cancer: Dietary factors and their mechanisms of anticancer action. *Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology*, 39:161-167.

# Faculty Updates



## Promotion

Mark White, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, was promoted to Associate Professor of Epidemiology, effective July 2013.

*Congratulations, Dr. White!*

## Welcome New Faculty!

Diana Callender, MBBS  
Professor of Pathology  
Department of Basic Sciences

John Citti, MD  
Regional Education Coordinator of Medicine, South Campus  
Department of Clinical Sciences

Stanley Dudrick, MD  
Professor of Surgery  
Department of Clinical Sciences

Uhnoh Kim, PhD  
Associate Professor of Neuroscience  
Department of Basic Sciences

Donald Nardone, MD  
Regional Education Coordinator of Medicine, West Campus  
Department of Clinical Sciences

Shubhra Shetty, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Department of Clinical Sciences

Cathy Wilcox, PhD  
Instructor of Molecular Biology  
Department of Basic Sciences

## Thank You

Thank you to the following faculty for their service and support to the College. We wish you all well on your future endeavors!

- Samir Akach, MD, Regional Education Coordinator, Medicine, South Campus
- Maurice Clifton, MD, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor of Medicine
- Edward Foote, PharmD, Visiting Professor from Wilkes University
- Robin Hampton, MD, PhD, Regional Education Coordinator, Medicine, West Campus
- Susan Perlis, EdD, Associate Dean of Curriculum, Associate Professor of Medicine
- Seth Weber, MD, JD, Regional Education Coordinator, Medicine, West Campus
- Vincent Vanston, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine

## Prestigious AAMC Award



Olapeju M. Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS, received the 2012 Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship award, which is presented annually by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) to an outstanding junior faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in the United States in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care.

The AAMC selects one candidate for this award annually amongst nominees from accredited U.S. medical schools. The recipient receives a \$15,000 grant to support his or her academic and professional activities. Dr. Simoyan was acknowledged for her contributions in developing TCMC's collaborative public health program with East Stroudsburg University and for her work in developing curricula related to oral and mental health.

## Faculty Council

Congratulations to the 2013-2014 Faculty Council Officers:

Mark White, MD, MPH, Chair

Jess Cunnick, PhD, Vice-Chair

Sonia Planey, PhD, Secretary

Thank you to last year's 2012-2013 Faculty Council Officers:

John Arnott, PhD, Chair

Mark White, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair



## Faculty's Proudest Moments

"Besides becoming faculty here at TCMC - I am proud of the following:

Speaking at the Radiological Society of North America as the Opening Session Speaker - this was in front of 6-7,000 radiologists and viewed by countless others. After my short presentation I was told by a radiologist from Holland that my presentation should be required viewing for all radiology residents - worldwide (quite a thrill). In addition I was contacted and asked if my presentation could be shown at the Radiological Society of Mexico annual conference with translation. One thing that made me really proud was that students and faculty from TCMC saw my pictures around the venue and heard about my talk even though they arrived a day or two after my presentation.

My presentation to the Friends of Cancer Research at The Brookings Institute in Washington, DC. A big thrill to speak to research gurus from around the country - again a great opportunity to spread the name of TCMC.

Finally - I have to say that I am proud that I was able to organize a medical mission to Haiti and expose TCMC to this wonderful interprofessional experience. So happy that my husband set up the blog site so that people back here at home could follow our mission."

- Karen Arscott, DO, MSc  
Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences



## TCMC Awards



### Congratulations To...

**Dr. Greg Shanower**, received the Professor of the Year Award for 2012-2013 Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.

**Dr. Ying-Ju Sung**, received the Professor of the Year Award for 2012-2013 for the Doctor of Medicine Program.

**Dr. Brian Wilcox**, received the Mark Miller Faculty Award. The Mark Miller Faculty Award is presented to a faculty member who exhibited excellence in faculty and student relations by connecting with students in and out of the classroom while being an excellent teacher.

**Dr. Brian Wilcox** also received the Outstanding North Regional Campus Faculty Mentor Award. This award is presented to a TCMC volunteer (community-based) faculty physician (MD or DO) health care provider by region who exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in the teaching and advising of medical students. One volunteer is chosen from each region.

**Dr. Keith Shenberger**, received the Outstanding West Faculty Regional Campus Mentor Award presented to a TCMC volunteer (community-based) faculty physician (MD or DO) health care provider by region who exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in the teaching and advising of medical students. One volunteer is chosen from each region.

**Dr. Richard English**, received the Outstanding South Faculty Regional Campus Mentor Award presented to a TCMC volunteer (community-based) faculty physician (MD or DO) health care provider by region who exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in the teaching and advising of medical students. One volunteer is chosen from each region.

**Dr. Janet Townsend**, received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.



## TCMC Accolades

### Researchers of TCMC Lead Study in the Treatment of Endocrine Related Cancers

Dr. Raj Kumar, Professor of Biochemistry, and Researchers of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) have discovered a new molecular process that points the way to a promising new approach for designing drugs to treat endocrine-related diseases. The result of their findings was published in the December 28, 2012 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world (online version published November 6, 2012).

Co-authors of the article include: TCMC's Shagufta H. Khan and Jun Ling; Chunhua Guo and S. Stoney Simons, Jr., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bethesda, MD; Smita Awasthi, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD; and Devrishi Goswami and Patrick R. Griffin, The Scripps Research Institute, Jupiter, FL.



### TCMC Receives 2013 National Program of Excellence Award

The Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) of TCMC was selected as a 2013 Program of Excellence Award winner from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This award recognizes students in allopathic medical schools who have an interest in Family Medicine and have met the national requirements to promote the value of family medicine and primary care and enhance student interest in family medicine.

FMIG Faculty Advisor Dr. Jennifer Joyce, FMIG student leaders Kristina Zimmerman and Steven Aussenburg, along with Morgan Rogers and Catherine Bradshaw, will be attending the AAFP national conference in August 2013 in Kansas City, Missouri, to accept the award.



## Faculty's Proudest Moments

Dr. Raj Kumar, Professor of Biochemistry received "The Best Paper Award" given by The Institute of Public Policy and Economic Development at the Sixth Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty and Student Research Symposium held on April 23rd, 2013. The purpose of this award is to recognize the writing of outstanding papers presented at the Symposium. The award consists of a plaque signifying the name of the recipient and the award.

Dr. Raj Kumar, Professor of Biochemistry, was invited as a speaker at The Endocrine Society's 95th Annual Meeting and Expo (Endo 2013) held at San Francisco, CA, from June 15-18, 2013. Dr. Kumar gave his talk entitled "The Structure and Functions of the Glucocorticoid Receptor's Activation Function-1 (AF1) Domain" in the scientific session "Steroid Function in the Development Brain." This event is the premier meeting of endocrinology, hormone research, and health science.

According to Endocrine Society's press releases, more than 9,300 registrants including both clinicians and basic researchers from around the globe attended the meeting. Founded in 1916, The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Today, The Endocrine Society's membership consists of over 16,000 scientists, physicians, educators, nurses, and students in more than 100 countries. Society members represent all basic, applied, and clinical interests of endocrinology.

- Raj Kumar, PhD  
Professor of Biochemistry



## Full and Part Time Faculty 2012-2013

Ayotunde Adeagbo, PhD  
Professor of Pharmacology  
and Physiology

Samir Akach, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

John Arnott, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Cell Biology

Karen Arscott, DO, MSc  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Hani Atamna, PhD  
Associate Professor of Neuroscience  
and Biochemistry

David Averill, PhD  
Professor of Physiology

Teresa Bianco, MD  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Michael Bordonaro, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology

Patrick Boyd, PhD  
Associate Professor of Biochemistry

Susan Branton, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Sanjay Chandragiri, MD  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Yougjin Cho, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Cell Biology

Mario Cornacchione, DO  
Associate Professor of Family  
Medicine

Patrick Coughlin, PhD  
Professor of Anatomy

Jess Cunnick, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Cell Biology

Harold Davis, MD  
Associate Professor of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology

Dennis Dawgert, MD  
Associate Professor Pediatrics

Kathleen Doane, PhD  
Associate Professor of Anatomy

Michael Ferraro, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Mark Frattali, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Meaghan Godwin, MA  
Instructor of Family Medicine

Robin Hampton, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Timothy Heilmann, MD  
Associate Professor of Family  
Medicine

Jeffrey Holt, MD  
Professor of Pathology

Jennifer Joyce, MD  
Professor of Family Medicine

Steven Kafrissen, MD  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Ralph Kaiser, MD  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Raj Kumar, PhD  
Professor of Biochemistry

Darina Lazarova, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Molecular  
Biology

Jun Ling, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

Thomas Martin, MD  
Professor of Pediatrics

William McLaughlin, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Computational  
Biology

Maureen McLeod, PhD  
Professor of Molecular Biology

Wasique Mirza, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Joseph Narins, MD  
Assistant Professor of OB/GYN

David Onofrey, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery

AC Patel, MD  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Sonia Planey, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry

Janice Schifferli, DO  
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology

Mark Schiowitz, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery

Azra Sehic, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Gregory Shanower, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology

Keith Shenberger, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Lori Shipsky, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Margrit Shoemaker, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Olapeju Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine  
and Epidemiology

Jennifer Smith, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Microbiology  
and Immunology

Mary Elizabeth Sokach, DO  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine  
and Community Health

Jon Sternburg, MD  
Associate Professor of Family Medicine

Ying-Ju Sung, PhD  
Associate Professor of Anatomy

John Szarek, PhD  
Professor of Pharmacology

Mushfiqur Tarafder, PhD, MPH, MBBS  
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

Lisa Thomas, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Kathleen Tigue, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Janet Townsend, MD  
Professor of Family Medicine

Gerald Tracy, MD  
Professor of Medicine

Mary Lawhon Triano, MSN, CRNP-C  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

Vincent Vanston, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine

Seth Weber, MD, JD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Valerie Weber, MD, MS  
Professor of Medicine

Mark White, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Epidemiology

Brian Wilcox, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology

William Zehring, PhD  
Associate Professor of Biochemistry

## In Memory

### Dr. Raymond A. Smego, Jr.

This past December brought us heartache with the loss of Dr. Raymond Smego, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Educational Development. As one of our original leaders, Dr. Smego joined The Commonwealth Medical College in 2008 and left in 2012 to pursue an incredible opportunity as the Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Dr. Smego had a distinguished career in international academic medicine spanning three decades. He was a noted expert in medical education, global health, and infectious diseases whose work and legacy stretched across the globe. Dr. Smego was the author of more than 300 publications and was the recipient of numerous academic awards and honors including 14 peer/teaching awards or nominations. Dr. Smego's contributions to the education of our students at TCMC are immeasurable. He was revered by the students as a gifted teacher and worthy role model. We were fortunate to have had him in our family.

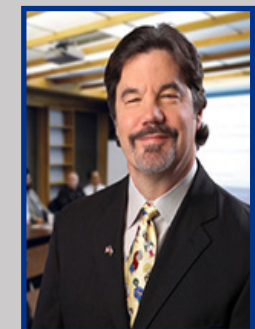
### Dr. David Axler

It is with great sadness that we note Dr. Axler has passed away. Dr. Axler joined The Commonwealth Medical College in 2009 during the charter class' first year of studies as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. He oversaw the recruitment of our first three classes and developed a strong relationship with faculty, staff and students alike.

Dr. Axler was passionate about our mission and the impact of TCMC on the clinical and research initiatives within our 16 county regions. He guided the admissions process, oversaw the Student Affairs offices, and counseled innumerable MD and MBS students. He will be remembered for his kindness and dedication to TCMC.

*“ Medicine is a noble profession. Its long history is deeply rooted in altruism and service. Its motto: to cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always. ”*

~ Dr. Raymond A. Smego, Jr.



*“ Every one of us here is dedicated to your success. You have a real opportunity to strengthen your credentials. We want each of you to achieve your goals. ”*

~ Dr. David Axler

