



Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development



Summer 2022 Newsletter



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Promotion (Congratulations!

The following faculty members were promoted and/or granted tenure effective July 1, 2022. Congratulate your colleagues when you get a chance!



Anesthesiology

Thilak Sreenivasalu

Vikram Chawa

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Edwin Antony

Dermatology

Ramona Behshad

Family and Community Medicine

Dixie Meyer

Matthew Breeden

Internal Medicine

Ezequiel Bellorin Font

Azra Blazevic

Christopher Eickhoff

Safa Farrag

Internal Medicine (cont.)

Sarah George

Taewoo Lee

John Mwangi

Setu Patolia

Keniesha Thompson

Neurology

Deepa Arun

Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health

Amy Bilyeu

Tracy Tomlinson

Orthopaedic

Surgery

Vikas Dhawan

Heidi Israel

Pediatrics

Saurabh Chiwane

Katherine Christensen

Brent Haberman

Jennifer Heithaus

Erik Madsen

Renuka Peterson

Heidi Sallee

Trevor Tredway

Psychiatry

Alicia Barnes

Brianne Newman

Radiology

Keith Pereira

Surgery

Emily Fite

Grace Montenegro

Timothy Havens

Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) Updates

WIMS strives to advance the professional and personal success of the women of Saint Louis University School of Medicine through mentoring and programming efforts.

The Women Mentoring Women program has completed its first year with 15 mentor-mentee pairs participating. The launch of the second year of the program took place on July 13, with 10 mentor-mentee participants. The program will be supported by monthly seminars, newsletters or social events to support the program.

The yearly WIMS symposium will be held on September 6, 2022. The theme for this year will be "Advancing Your Career" with Dr. Anees Chagpar, Yale University, as our guest speaker. Dean Jacobs will also give a presentation on her career progression. A detailed program will be distributed to all when it is finalized. All SOM faculty, staff and learners are encouraged to attend

WIMS is working on regular programming for the 2022-23 year. There will be regular lunchtime seminars/workshops and evening sessions. Details will be available soon.

New Faculty Orientation

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - All new faculty are required to attend orientation within the first year of hire.

Orientation consists of a morning program delivered by administration and University faculty leaders. Additionally, SLU's president hosts a reception for new faculty immediately following orientation. All new faculty are strongly encouraged to attend.

Be on the lookout for an invitation (by email) from the University's Office of Faculty Affairs.

January 2023 NIH Funding Requirement

Are you ready to SHARE your data with the NIH for ALL NIH grant applications received on/after January 25, 2023?

ALL NIH funded research must comply with the new [Data Management & Sharing \(DMS\) Policy](#) requiring researchers to submit a Data Management and Sharing Plan as part of the application process.

Saint Louis University is currently preparing information resources and training to HELP researchers. Be on the look-out! Links will be shared as they develop and evolve.

Want to find out more? Please contact the Medical Center Library (MCL) or the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR)



A special  to the following individuals with committee terms that have recently expired! (Many are still volunteering their time for another term!)

Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee

David Brink, M.D.
Andrew Butler, Ph.D.
Eddy Hsueh, M.D. (Chair)

Committee on Continuing Medical Education

Marla Berg-Weger, Ph.D.
Edward Charbek, M.D.
Jafar Kafaie, M.D., Ph.D.
Stacey Lobello, MSN
Soophia Naydenov, M.D.
Kirubahara Vaheesan, M.D.
Jeffrey Wright, M.D.

Curriculum Committee

Austin Dalrymple, D.O.
Mark Knuepfer, Ph.D.
Keniesha Thompson, M.D.

Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly

Matthew Smeds, M.D.
Ryan Teague, Ph.D.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Rajeev (Reggie) Aurora, Ph.D.
Heather Macarthur, Ph.D.

Faculty Senate

Ángel Baldán, Ph.D.
Mirjana Vustar, M.D.

Graduate Medical Education Committee

Catalina Belean, M.D.
Robert Brooker, M.D.
Nicole Burkemper, M.D.
Gabriela Espinoza, M.D.
Shannon Grabosch, M.D.
David Greenberg, M.D.
Daniela Hermelin, M.D.
Sumesh Kaswan, M.D.
Alejandro Mendez-Castillo, M.D.
Adam Merando, M.D.
Bridget McCoy, M.D.
Jennifer Palagiri, M.D.
Rebecca Petersen, M.D.
Renuka Peterson, M.D.
Lina Toledo-Franco, M.D.
Dan Weber, D.O.
Michael Williams, M.D.

Graduate Program Advisory Council

Daniel Daly, Ph.D.
Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.
Max Zubatsky, Ph.D.

Research Planning Committee

Noah Hillman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.

Research Space Review Committee

Sue Far, Ph.D.
Gonzalo, Ph.D.



Sabbatical and Academic Leave Committee

School of Medicine Faculty Elections

School of Medicine faculty members provide service to the University and their colleagues by volunteering on a variety of committees. Some committees are filled by election, while others are populated by appointment.

The 2022 Faculty Election results are below. Congratulate your colleagues when you see them!



congrats

Jennifer Cash, M.D.
Farzana Hoque, M.D.
Jason Keune, M.D.

Faculty Senate



congrats

Reggie Aurora, Ph.D.
Heather Macarthur, Ph.D.

Faculty Affairs Committee



congrats

Matthew Smeds, M.D.
Ryan Teague, Ph.D.

Executive Committee of the
Faculty Assembly

Annual Review Feedback Form

Every full-time faculty member is evaluated annually by the Department Chairperson or comparable administrator. The primary purpose of the annual review is to provide information that allows the faculty member to improve his/her teaching, student advising, research and scholarly activity, and University and community service, the evaluation should be candid, providing the person evaluated the opportunity to better understand his/her strengths as well as areas of relative weakness.

Your faculty review should be taking place this summer (if it already hasn't happened!)

Help the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Oversight improve this process by clicking on the link below and completing the short feedback form after you've completed your annual review.

This information will be used by the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development to assess impact of the annual review process. Your responses will remain anonymous.

[Link to Feedback Form](#)

SLU Zoom Backgrounds

Want to impress your colleagues, rock the Zoom meeting and show off your SLU spirit at the same time? You can do so by customizing your Zoom virtual background.

Click [HERE](#) to find thumbnails for high resolution images. Right click the larger image to download it and import into Zoom.



Faculty Development Pediatrics Summer Series

[Zoom Link](#) for all sessions.



SUMMER FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Summer 2022
Department of Pediatrics
Saint Louis University School of Medicine



ALL PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FROM 8-9AM ON WEDNESDAYS, DURING THE USUAL GRAND ROUNDS TIME.
ALL PRESENTATIONS WILL BE VIA ZOOM

CME CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDANCE PENDING COMPLETION OF THE WEEKLY CME QUIZ

Date	Program	Presenter
July		
6	The Trauma of War and Immigration	Marty Schmidt MD
13	Afghani Immigrants – Culture, Communication, Folk medicine	Fireshta Haydary - LAMP
20	Negative Feedback	Lisa Israel – Office of Professional Oversight
27	Active Shooter Training	Todd Miller – Chief SSM security
August		
3	Making Room for Grief	Veronica Shead, PhD <i>Clinical Psychologist Palliative Care - Workplace Violence Prevention Program Manager VA St. Louis Health Care System</i>
10	Competency Milestones for trainees – and now also for teaching faculty	Brooker, Gammack and Whitman
17	Ukraine Immigrants – Culture, Communication, Folk medicine	Vlada Granovska - LAMP
24	Emotional Intelligence	Aline Tanios MD

5 Tips For...Writing Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation are often well-intended, but can produce unintended consequences that work against academic goals, such as diversity. Reference letters are not always good predictors of job success and are well known for being biased against women. Regardless, in academics, we are asked to write letters for students, mentees and colleagues that need to be tailored to fit the opportunity. Before starting your letter, here are some suggestions to consider.

It's OK to decline a request: Of course, it is flattering to be asked to draft a recommendation letter. However, if you feel that you cannot write a positive letter, consider declining the invitation. No matter how much you want to help a colleague or student, recommending them when you are not enthusiastic about them will not be beneficial. Don't feel bad about saying no, but be gracious and prompt with your reply. Use "I" statements when declining, such as "I feel that I don't know you well enough" or "I don't feel I am the best person to write a recommendation for you"

Ask questions before accepting a request: The more precise you can be about the addressee, the better. Ask for a copy of CV/resume and position description. Make sure you are on the same page as far as details like work history and relevant experience. Customize your letter to be specific for the position. Before writing your letter, sit down with the candidate and discuss their plans. Let them tell you about the new role and why they are excited about it.

Remember it's not about you: Provide brief information about you and your work as context for your comments only. Explain who you are and what makes you qualified to recommend the candidate. That way, your reader will understand where you are coming from and know to take your opinion seriously. This should be a short introductory statement.

Provide Evidence: Start with enthusiasm. When discussing qualities, provide frank, concrete details to support your conclusions. Discuss previous achievements in the context of how the candidate will make similar accomplishments in future. Be specific, writing a vague, generic letter will not sway an opinion. Talk about two-three specific anecdotes to prove the candidate has the qualities you say they do.

Avoid bias: Avoid referring to women as “organized and detail oriented” while describing men as “innovative and visionary”. Consider using a bias calculator to analyze letters

Faculty Search Committee Chair Workshops



All search committee chairs are required to attend a Search Committee Chair workshop before a faculty position can be posted. See below for the workshop schedule and registration link for the 2022-2023 sessions. Please note that all of the sessions are expected to be held on campus.

Locations TBD

Fall 2022

Thursday, September 15, from 2:30pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, October 5, from 2:00pm-4:00pm
Tuesday, October 18, from 10:00am-Noon

Spring 2023

Monday, February 6, from 2:00pm-4:00pm
Tuesday, March 21, from 2:30pm-4:30pm
Wednesday, April 5, from Noon-2:00pm

[CLICK HERE](#) for Registration Form

Meet the Dean's Staff

Lauren Schwarz is an Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for the School of Medicine



I was born and raised in St. Louis and before you ask, I went to Villa for high school. I have a secret, don't tell anyone, but I did a short time in medical school. I then obtained my doctorate in clinical psychology from SLU. My intern year was at UAB and then residency in neuropsychology was at UIC.

I continue to be at my first job right out of post-doc! Believe or not out of the blue I emailed the chair of neurology and asked if he needed a neuropsychologist and the rest is history. I'm so glad it worked out because the Jesuit mission of SLU has always been very important to me. I feel very fortunate to be the

division director of psychology in the department of psychiatry with a joint appointment in neurology.

A few years ago I joined student affairs and have found a true passion for working with medical students. In my work in student affairs I focus on student resilience and flourishing. Pretty soon my dog Luna who is training to be a therapy dog will be joining us in student affairs!

In my personal life I am pretty much a nerd. I married my high school sweetheart Fred (cheesy I know). I have two kiddos Benji age 6 and Maddy age 1. We love the outdoors and camping in our RV. Lesson I learned early - primitive camping is not a child friendly activity :)

We are a big animal family. Have a crew of cats, a dog, chickens, and soon rabbits. We live in Webster and really love it there! If you ever need help starting up backyard chickens send me an email and I'll help :)



Thanks for reading about me :)



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Vicenza Cifarelli is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology.



How long have you worked at SLU?

I joined the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology in Feb. 2022.

Why did you want to become a scientist and what is your favorite part of the job?

I had a curiosity for how things work and a desire for intellectual challenge. My favorite part of the job is that science integrates experience and experiment with the realms of art and craft, neither excluding nor precluding, but exploring as an end in itself (quote from anthropologist Myrdene Anderson).

So far in your career, what do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

Becoming a faculty member at Saint Louis University School of Medicine is my greatest achievement. SLU-SOM gave me the opportunity to start my own laboratory, which is critical for establishing my research program and mentoring students.

What is the most helpful advice you've received?

I received a lot of advice in my life. My favorite ones are "Listen to learn", "Be your best at all times", "Don't try to impress everyone" and "Don't be afraid of being afraid".

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what one band or musician would help keep your sanity?

I would take advantage of the silence of a desert island instead and use the opportunity to reconcile with nature.

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be?

With no doubt, it would be with Leonardo da Vinci, perhaps the most diversely talented person to have ever lived. Leonardo was a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer. He conducted dozens of carefully thought-out experiments and created futuristic inventions that were groundbreaking for the time. He made important scientific discoveries, yet he never published his ideas.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Difficult question! As a native of Italy, I would immediately answer pasta or pizza. But sadly, I do recognize that eating just carbs would not keep me healthy for very long. So, I would probably opt out for vegetables

What book are you currently reading?

I just finished "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. The author takes an audacious approach to history, retelling the life of Jesus. When I read the premise behind this novel, I couldn't help but wonder how the author would address all of these doctrines of Christianity. I was very skeptical at the beginning, but I found the book so spiritual and well written.