BCM Faculty Member Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Dr. Arthur Beaudet, the Baylor Chair of Molecular and Human Genetics was elected to the National Academy of Sciences on May 3. He was one of 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 15 countries elected to the Academy in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Dr. Beaudet, who joined the Baylor faculty in 1973, focuses his research on the role of epigenetics in human disease with a particular emphasis on genomic imprinting and diseases associated with mental retardation and autism. Along with serving as the Henry and Emma Meyer Chair in Molecular Genetics and Professor in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Beaudet also is a Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Dr. Beaudet is the fifth BCM faculty member to be named to the Academy. He joins Drs. Mary Estes, Professor of Molecular Virology and Microbiology...

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BCM Alum Named Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Dr. Mary L. Brandt, Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics, and Medical Ethics, has been named Associate Dean of Student Affairs, effective July 1. Dr. Brandt has been a medical student advocate throughout her career at Baylor as a resident and a faculty member.

Dr. Brandt is a 1983 graduate of Baylor College of Medicine. She completed her residency in general surgery at Baylor in 1988 and went on to a residency in pediatric surgery at Sainte Justine Hospital at the University of Montreal before joining the Baylor faculty in 1990.

Dr. Brandt has received numerous awards for her work in education including the Barbara and Corbin Robertson Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence, the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award for BCM, the Surgery Chief Resident’s Award to An Outstanding Faculty Member, and the John P. McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award for the Pre-Clinical Sciences. She is a member of the Baylor Academy of Distinguished Educators and also serves as Interim Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Don Donovan, who is a 1976 BCM graduate, held this position for 17 years. He has done an outstanding job and we greatly appreciate his dedication to the students. He will now focus his full attention on his role as Interim Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology.

BAYLOR
...By the Numbers

54
Number of awards given to top educators at BCM in a ceremony this week.

178
Medical students graduating from BCM in May.

85
Ph.D. students receiving doctorates from BCM.

$300,000
Amount of 2-year grant to BCM by the Avon Foundation to study how breast cancer cells spread from the breast and target the brain.

809
Number of BCM faculty and staff receiving Service Awards for 5 – 45 years of service this year.

$5 million
Gift from Trustee Wallace S. Wilson to launch the BCM Center for Globalization.
Medical Student Receives Two National Awards

Fourth-year medical student Cameron Decker recently received both the 2011 National Outstanding Medical Student Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Dr. Alexandra Greene Medical Student Award from the Emergency Medicine Residents’ Association.

The Dr. Alexandra Greene Medical Student Award is given to a student who displays a significant dedication to emergency medicine and goes out of their way for patients and colleagues. The Emergency Medicine Resident’s Association is the largest and oldest independent resident organization in the world.

For the 2011 Outstanding Medical Student Award, Cameron was selected for his humanism, professionalism, scholarly achievements and community service. The American College of Emergency Physicians is the national medical specialty organization representing emergency physicians.

Cameron received the Student Leadership in Community Service Award from BCM and has been inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He will begin his residency training at Baylor this summer in emergency medicine. He started as an emergency medical technician for a local volunteer fire department while in high school, and he continued his emergency medical services work while at Rice University. While in medical school, Cameron volunteered over 1,000 hours each year and received The Sheriff’s Award from the Harris County Sheriff’s Office.

2011 Graduation

Commencement will be held on May 24 at Jones Hall at 7 p.m. That evening we will celebrate the accomplishments of 178 students who will receive their medical degrees and 85 students who will be awarded their Ph.D. degrees. This is one of our largest graduating classes and each student is well prepared to pursue the next phase of their careers.

Dr. Peter Hotez, an internationally renowned physician-scientist specializing in tropical diseases and vaccine development, will be our commencement speaker. Dr. Hotez is the Walter G. Ross Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine at the George Washington University. He also serves as President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, which focuses on vaccine advocacy and policy and the development of vaccines for neglected tropical diseases.

Dr. Hotez received his M.D. degree from Cornell University in 1987, and trained in pediatrics at the Massachusetts General Hospital (Harvard) and in pediatric infectious diseases at Yale University. He also holds a Ph.D. degree in biochemical parasitology from Rockefeller University. He is President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Editor-in-Chief of PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. The students will be truly inspired by Dr. Hotez’s remarks.

We will also be presenting honorary degrees this year to four outstanding leaders in medicine and science:

- Dr. Joseph P. Kerwin, Captain (retired) United States Navy. Dr. Kerwan was the first U.S. physician selected for astronaut training and to fly in space.
- James M. Mansour, Chairman, Oversight Committee, Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). He was selected as a recipient for an honorary degree to acknowledge his role in the success of CPRIT.
- Dr. John Mendelsohn, President, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He will retire this year and is being honored for his superb research accomplishments and his achievements during his 15-year tenure as President, including the creation of a number of joint programs between our institutions.
- Dr. Craig Montell, Professor of Biological Chemistry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who is internationally regarded for his research discovery that provides basic insights into sensory signaling and animal behavior.

Graduation is one of the most important events at an academic organization and is an affirmation of the efforts of our faculty to educate the next generation of leaders in medicine and science. All alumni are welcome to attend commencement and support our students.

Beaudet

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and Medicine; Bert O’Malley, Chair of Molecular and Cellular Biology; Salih Wakil, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; and Huda Zoghbi (Res Alum ’85), Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics, Pediatrics, Neurology and Neuroscience at Baylor and Director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital. This is a wonderful recognition for Dr. Beaudet and his pioneering outstanding work he has done in the field of molecular genetics. Election to the Academy is a significant honor and highlights the best work in science. This is an important recognition for him, his department, and the entire research effort at Baylor College of Medicine.