TWO BAYLOR LEADERS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Dr. Dora E. Angelaki, Professor and Wilhelmina Robertson Chair in Neuroscience, and Dr. Martin M. Matzuk, Director of the Center for Drug Discovery and Vice Chair of Pathology & Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine, have both been elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

The two are among 84 new members from 15 countries recognized for their distinguished and continuing achievements in research.

They are true leaders in their fields and both highly deserving of this honor. Baylor’s stronghold in science is well documented and the election of these two scientists to the National Academy adds to our prominence.

Angelaki, who holds a joint appointment with Rice University, joined Baylor in 2011 to lead the Department of Neuroscience. Her research focuses on understanding how multisensory information is processed, integrated and transformed into either commands for movement or perceptual decisions.

THANK YOU FROM DR. KLOTMAN

As the Partnership for Baylor College of Medicine wraps up its year, I want to thank Doe Florsheim for her two years of service as President of Baylor’s largest volunteer organization.

During her tenure, the Partnership conducted two successful membership drives, hosted two series of fascinating luncheon lectures, increased the number of corporate sponsorships for lunches and tours, and presented the Bad to the Bone Gala, which raised an amazing $5.4 million for Dr. Brendan Lee’s skeletal medicine initiatives.

I particularly appreciate Doe’s counsel as a community leader and a great advocate for the College. She has brought her perspective to discussions on Baylor’s branding and growth and helped me take the pulse of Houston.

I am also grateful for the support of the 2013-2014 Partnership Board. Thank you to those of you who have completed your board service. I look forward to working with incoming President Rachel Regan and the 2014-2015 board in the fall.

2013-2014 Partnership Board

Doe Florsheim - President; Donatella Benckenstein - Co-Vice President, Community Relations; Laura Blinten - Co-Vice President, Community Relations; Peggy Carrington - Board Secretary, Co-Vice President, Special Events; Meg Christensen - Co-Vice President, Educational Programs; Julie Comiskey - Co-Vice President, Special Events; Mary Sapp Fischer - Treasurer; Ora Gibson - Co-Vice President, Communications; Pepper Lieberman - Co-Vice President, Fundraising; Jim Pearson - Social Media Coordinator; Penny Pressler - Immediate Past President; Rachel Regan - President Elect, Co-Vice President, Membership; Karan Robinson - Co-Vice President, Fundraising; Martha Rocks - Co-Vice President, Educational Programs; Ty Whitcomb - Past Presidents’ Representative; Robyn Barnes; Jennifer Bosch; Georgene Brandon; Cindy K. Brown; Jan Carson; Valerie Dieterich; Nancy Dinerstein; Susan Falgout; Diane Gendel; Barbara Gretzer; Connie Haddox; Sharlene Hawkew; Megan Hotze; Betty Hrncri; Sholeh Huber; Sheri Khatami; Lloyd Kirchner; Deborah Leighton; Kathleen Leonard, Ed.D.; Keli Luce; Cora Sue Mach; David McKeithan; Mary Ann McKeithan; Marilyn Miles; Bain Pearson Pitts; Chantell Preston; Kathi Rovere; Shawn Stephens; Sylvia P. Sullivan; Susan Todd; Nicole McZeal Walters

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NEWS FROM THE PARTNERSHIP

Whitmore Presidential Lecture
May 28

You are invited to attend the Whitmore Presidential Lecture on Wednesday, May 28, at noon in Cullen Auditorium. The event will feature a talk by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and a global leader in economic development and the fight against poverty.
It was announced in January that Dr. Hardeep Singh was one of the recipients of the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He has now traveled to Washington, D.C. for the award presentation and a meeting with President Obama at the White House, an experience he described as humbling and inspirational.

“It was a great honor to be invited to the White House and to receive such a prestigious award,” said Singh, Associate Professor of Medicine at Baylor and Chief of the Health Policy, Quality and Informatics Program at the Houston VA Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety.

The award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their careers. Singh received the award for his groundbreaking multidisciplinary research on missed and delayed

Dr. Martin Matzuk and Dr. Dora E. Angelaki

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Matzuk, who holds the Stuart A. Wallace Chair in the Department of Pathology & Immunology, joined the faculty in 1993 after completing his postdoctoral work at Baylor. Matzuk’s research focuses on discovering the critical proteins and mechanisms involved in both normal and abnormal reproductive development. He is also a Professor with the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics and Co-Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at Baylor. Matzuk is also a member of the NCI-designated Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor.

There are now nine Baylor faculty members named to the Academy. Angelaki and Matzuk join Drs. Wah Chiu, Arthur Beaudet, Thomas Caskey, Mary Estes, Bert O’Malley, Salih Wakil, and Huda Zoghbi.
The 2014 Rising Star Clinician Award recipients are:

David Aguilar, M.D., MSc, FAHA, Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; Joseph Y. Allen, M.D., FAAP, Department of Pediatrics; Peter Tae-Jin Chang, M.D., Department of Ophthalmology, Cullen Eye Institute, Alkek Eye Center; Christina M. Davidson, M.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Shweta U. Dhari, M.D., M.S., FACMG, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics; Hani Jneid, M.D., FACC, FAHA, FSCAI, Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; Charlie Lan, D.O., Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; C. LaToya Mason, M.D., Department of Anesthesiology; Benjamin Musher, M.D., Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; Elizabeth A. Nelson, M.D., Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; Susan L. Samson, M.D., Ph.D., FRCPC, FACE, Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine; Emily Sedgwick, M.D., Department of Radiology; and Shahriar Tavakoli Tabasi, M.D., Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Department of Medicine.

Faculty members also were recently recognized for their leadership and commitment to education at the annual Education Awards Ceremony. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge the great teachers and educators at our institution and grateful to Corby and Barbara Robertson for their longtime support of Baylor College of Medicine, including the establishment of the Presidential Award in 1999.

The Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education is the college’s most prestigious award for educators. It recognizes faculty members who have made stellar and enduring contributions to the educational mission of the college.

The 2014 Presidential Award recipients are Dr. Biykem Bozkurt, the Mary and Gordon Cain Chair and Professor of Medicine and Chief of the cardiology section at the DeBakey VA, and Dr. Lorraine Potocki, Professor of Molecular and Human Genetics and Director of Undergraduate Medical Education in genetics.

Other educator awards presented were the McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award, the Fulbright and Jaworski Faculty Excellence Award, and the Graduating Class Outstanding Faculty Award. See the full list of award recipients and photos online.

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Singh traveled to the nation’s capital for the award events with his two daughters, ages 12 and 14. They first attended the award presentation ceremony on the morning of April 14. Held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the awards were presented by John Holdren, Chief Science and Technology Officer at the White House, along with a representative from the government agency who nominated the awardee. For Singh, that was Dr. Robert Jesse, who is Deputy Undersecretary for Health in the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Following is Singh’s reflection on the rest of the day:

“The afternoon of April 14th was something really special. That’s when we got to meet the President. We were invited to the White House and were welcomed by one of the ushers, who told us many stories about Presidential events at the White House. After a brief tour, we waited for the President in the East Room. This is the place where there are a lot of official dinners and banquets. It was cool to see Secret Service agents around. Some of us were afraid of taking pictures (cameras are not allowed) but others ventured and took their phones out. Nobody got in trouble, at least not that we saw! I managed to get myself photographed too.”

“And then came the President—he got a big round of applause from all of us. He was a bit late, but quickly made a joke about why (Hint: something about another powerful world leader who was keeping him very busy of late). We were lined up for a group picture according to our height before he arrived, and it just so happened that I was positioned quite close to the President. He spoke to us for about 10 minutes on the importance of science, technology and innovation for our country and beyond. He emphasized the importance of nurturing scientists in all disciplines as well as having diversity among scientists. He was quite inspirational in terms of promoting science and encouraged us to remain on the frontiers of science and to keep pushing the boundaries of innovation and technology.”

“Afterward, he shook hands with each of us individually. That was really the highlight of the day. It was a very humbling experience.”

See a video of the event at the White House. Fast forward to the 1:55 mark for the Presidential Early Career Award portion of the video, and also to the short segment at the end of the video.

Singh's work has received a lot of attention recently. His latest study on misdiagnosis was recently published and has been featured widely in the news, including on NBC Nightly News. See the press release on his recent study.

“Getting the recognition through the Presidential Award and in the media has been great for our work. This type of research has been difficult to do and remained underemphasized until now, even though it’s important to do for improving patient care, clinical practice and health policy. I’m glad to see it in the public eye.”