

# The M. D. Anderson Connection

Published by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association

## Details confirmed for new community seminar series

After several months of fine-tuning, the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association, along with the Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs, has chosen Saturday, May 20, to launch "Current Topics in Cancer Medicine and Research: A Community Outreach Series." The event will take place at the Cancer Prevention Building, 1155 Pressler.

"The community of local physicians, referring physicians in particular, are important to our institution, as they play a vital role in promoting clinical trials and advancing medical science," says Naoto Ueno, M. D., Alumni and Faculty Association chair. "We believe it is equally important to preserve and even nurture the professional association with this constituency, so that they will agree it is one that is mutually beneficial."

Ueno says the series has been designed to provide the opportunity for community colleagues to meet faculty members at M. D. Anderson and to understand the medical issues and needs related to oncology in the community.

The event is free, however, registration is required. To register, please call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194, send an e-mail to [spepper@mdanderson.org](mailto:spepper@mdanderson.org), or visit [www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc).



Naoto Ueno,  
M.D.



Lyle Green



Alan Powell



Richard L.  
Theriault, D.O.



Thomas Buch-  
holz, M.D.



Kelly K. Hunt,  
M.D.

The day's events are scheduled as follows:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8 a.m.     | Registration   |
| 8:45 a.m.  | Welcome by <b>Naoto Ueno, M.D.</b> , chair M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association   |
| 9 a.m.     | <b>Online Patient Information for Referring Physicians</b><br>Demonstration of <i>myMDAnderson</i> for Physicians<br><b>Lyle Green</b> , associate vice president for Physician Relations<br><b>Alan Powell</b> , director of Internet Services                        |
| 9:45 a.m.  | <b>Applying Telehealth and Electronic Records for Disease Management</b><br><b>Kim Dunn, M.D., Ph.D.</b><br>Associate dean for Academic Affairs<br>The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston<br>School of Health Information Sciences                   |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break  |
| 10:45 a.m. | <b>Breast Cancer Open Q&amp;A Session</b><br><b>Richard L. Theriault, D.O.</b> , session chair<br>Professor, Breast Medical Oncology<br><b>Thomas A. Buchholz, M.D.</b><br>Professor, Radiation Oncology<br><b>Kelly K. Hunt, M.D.</b><br>Professor, Surgical Oncology |
| 12:05 p.m. | Closing remarks  |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch  |
| 1:30 p.m.  | Tour of facilities, including new Ambulatory Clinical Building and Cancer Prevention Building  |

### The M. D. Anderson Connection

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association information is available on the Internet:  
[www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc)

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Published by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association with assistance from Publications and Creative Services

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**MD ANDERSON**  
**CANCER CENTER**  
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# Connection 101: The basics about the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association

## What is the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association?

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association is comprised of physicians and scientists who have worked or trained at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. M. D. Anderson is one of the country's original three comprehensive cancer centers.

Since its inception, the institution's faculty has trained new generations of oncologists and other health care professionals to advance the fight against cancer through research, patient care, education and prevention. Specialization is a high priority, with more than 1,800 fellows and doctors-in-training annually gaining experience in disciplines ranging from medical oncology and surgical oncology to radiation therapy and pathology.

## What is the association's purpose?

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association was organized in 1983 to:

- Maintain communication and foster fellowship among current and former trainees and faculty members.

- Promote excellence in patient care, research and prevention through educational opportunities.
- Provide a catalyst for rapport among trainees.
- Assist the Physicians Referral Service in identifying outstanding alumni for consideration for annual awards.

## Who can be a member?

Individuals eligible for membership include:

- Current and former members of M. D. Anderson's clinical or basic science faculty.
- Fellows, residents, graduate students and undergraduate students, who have completed or are currently involved in an organized program at M. D. Anderson (for at least six months).
- Members of the administrative staff who are elected to membership by the Association's steering committee.

## What are some of the association's annual programs and events?

- Current Topics in Cancer Medicine and Research: A Community Outreach Series

- Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner
- Mike Hogg Award and Lecture
- Receptions held in conjunction with medical and scientific society meetings
- Trainee Excellence Awards
- Trainee Recognition Day and Research Exposition
- Trainee Seminar Series

The Education Fund — founded with a gift of \$20,000 and perpetuated by the continued generosity of members — provides support for the association's programs, events and awards.

Gifts to the fund reflect the long-standing commitment of the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association members to education. All private contributions are tax deductible. Call (713) 794-1955 for details on how to give to the Education Fund. Contributions may also be made from our Web site: [www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc).

For membership information, call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194, or send an e-mail to [spepper@mdanderson.org](mailto:spepper@mdanderson.org).

## Mentor spotlight: Varsha V. Gandhi

Varsha V. Gandhi, Ph.D., director of education and faculty development for the Department of Experimental Therapeutics, was recently honored as the 2006 recipient of the Robert M. Chamberlain Distinguished Mentor Award. Selected from among the outstanding faculty at M. D. Anderson, Gandhi is recognized as an exemplary mentor to postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in her laboratory and throughout the institution.

"She fosters a research environment that is both mutually respectful and intellectually stimulating by showing concern for the personal and

professional development of each individual with whom she interacts," says Lisa S. Chen, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in Experimental Therapeutics.

"Dr. Gandhi sets goals with her trainees and then supports them as they work to achieve those goals," Chen adds. "She serves as a role model by continually educating herself and by welcoming collaborations with other scientists. Perhaps most importantly, she promotes an atmosphere of trust among her trainees, showing her faith in their abilities as scientists."

Gandhi has a strong history of commitment to mentoring junior

scientists at M. D. Anderson, as evidenced by the extensive list of graduate students, medical fellows and postdoctoral fellows who have trained with her. She has been described as a coach, a cheerleader and a role model; a mentor both inside and outside the laboratory; an inspirational teacher who guides her students while promoting their independence.



Varsha V. Gandhi, Ph.D.,

## New monograph published, members save 30 percent

The treatment of gynecologic cancers at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center has a long history of multidisciplinary cooperation. Gynecologic Cancer, the fifth volume in the M. D. Anderson Cancer Care Series, details M. D. Anderson's approach to the care of women with gynecologic cancers.

Written for physicians, the book emphasizes the day-to-day aspects of practice, minimizing extensive literature review and approaches not yet incorporated into routine practice.

In 17 comprehensive yet concise chapters, M. D. Anderson faculty describe their approaches to the treatment of endometrial, ovarian and cervical cancers, as well as preinvasive gynecologic diseases, vaginal and vulvar cancers, uterine sarcomas and rare ovarian malignancies.

Each chapter includes a list of suggested readings and key practice points that highlight the most important principles presented.

This thorough, practical volume, which includes photographs and line drawings, is an essential clinical guide for oncologists, surgeons and all physicians involved in the care of patients with gynecologic cancers.

Members of the Alumni and Faculty Association may purchase copies of Gynecologic Cancer for 30 percent off the \$59.95 list price. Call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194 or send an e-mail to [spepper@mdanderson.org](mailto:spepper@mdanderson.org) for ordering information.

## Trainee Excellence Awards

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association recently selected four trainees, who made presentations during medical or scientific meetings of professional societies between Aug. 1, 2005 and Feb. 28, 2006, to each receive a \$500 Trainee Excellence Award:

- **Cara Benjamin, Ph.D.**, Immunology; **Honnava Ananthaswamy, Ph.D.**, mentor

- **E. Ramsay Camp, M.D.**, Surgical Oncology; **Lee M. Ellis, M.D.**, mentor
- **Amber Johnson, B.S.**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, **Michelle Barton, M.D.**, mentor
- **Maiying Kong, Ph.D.**, Biostatistics and Applied Mathematics, **J. Jack Lee, Ph.D.**, mentor

Eight additional \$500 awards will be presented later this year. The awards are made possible by the Alumni and Faculty Association's Education Fund, which is comprised of private donations from association members.

All private contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194 for details on how to donate to the Education Fund.

## Trainee Recognition Day May 26

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 26, when M. D. Anderson will recognize and exhibit the excellent research of its trainees during the annual Trainee Recognition Day and Research Exposition.

Sponsored by the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association, the competition will feature platform presentations and selections from nearly 200 poster entries followed by a reception. For the second year in a row, a separate category of awards will be presented to graduate students. Although they won't compete, undergraduate students from the M. D. Anderson School of Health Sciences will participate in a special exhibition of their work as well.

Cash awards will be presented in basic science research and translational research for graduate research assistants, and in basic science research, clinical/translational research and patient-oriented research for fellows.

Activities will take place from noon to 2:30 p.m. in Hickey Auditorium and foyer on Floor 11 of the Main Building. For more information, call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194. ■

## Upcoming Events

The following presentations and events may be of interest to M. D. Anderson faculty and alumni. For additional information, check online at [www.mdanderson.org/conferences](http://www.mdanderson.org/conferences).

- **May 4 — Mike Hogg Lecture and Reception**  
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson
- **May 5 and 6 — Pathology of the 21st Century**  
First Floor Conference Center, South Campus Research Building, M. D. Anderson
- **May 20 — Current Topics in Cancer Medicine and Research: A Community Outreach Series**  
Cancer Prevention Building, M. D. Anderson
- **May 26 — Trainee Recognition Day and Research Exposition**  
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson
- **June 7-9 — Second Annual M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Sister Institution Conference**  
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson
- **June 23 — M. D. Anderson Endocrine Surgery Update: Abdominal Endocrine Neoplasms**  
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston
- **June 24-30 — Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice**  
Hickey Auditorium, Main Building, M. D. Anderson
- **June 26-29 — Physicians Network Second Annual Symposium**  
Princeville Resort, Kauai, Hawaii
- **June 30 — Research Symposium: "Basic, Translational and Clinical Research: Uniting Exploration and Application"**  
Onstead Auditorium, Mitchell Basic Sciences Research Building, M. D. Anderson

# Milestones

**Stephen Tomasovic, Ph.D.**, has been appointed senior vice president for academic affairs.



Stephen Tomasovic,  
Ph.D.,

During the past two years, Tomasovic's scope of responsibilities has significantly increased. Through his leadership in guiding application efforts, M. D. Anderson

recently received accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which allows the institution to offer degree-granting programs.

In addition, Tomasovic is leading the Department of Extramural Programs. The focus of Extramural Programs is to explore, facilitate and evaluate formal affiliations and collaborations between M. D. Anderson and other academic and health care entities that share our vision of enhancing patient care, research, education and prevention.

Tomasovic continues to be responsible for all academic educational activities including the School of Health Sciences, our partnership with UT Health Science Center at Houston in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and our summer research programs for high school and medical students and undergraduates.

Other responsibilities include oversight of all educational programs and the Office of Faculty Academic Affairs, which is responsible for faculty records and policies, appointments, promotions and tenure, retirement and terminations. In addition, Tomasovic is responsible for institutional academic resources, which include:

- Faculty Development
- Research Medical Library
- Medical Graphics and Photography
- TV Production
- Scientific Publications
- CME/Conference Services
- Telehealth Services
- Trainee and Alumni Affairs

- Special Medical Education
- Institutional Research

Tomasovic represents M. D. Anderson to outside agencies such as the SACS Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education for our academic program accreditations, and in Austin to the Texas Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He also represents the institution at UT System for all faculty-related human resources programs.

**Lewis Foxhall, M.D.**, vice president for health policy, was installed as the 2006 president of the Houston Academy of Medicine, the scientific and charitable organization of Harris County Medical Society physicians. Foxhall also is an associate professor in Clinical Cancer Prevention. His medical career has included experience in private practice and academic medicine, health policy development, cancer control initiatives, teaching, and other educational endeavors.



Lewis Foxhall, M.D.

**Kathleen Szama, M.D., J.D.**, professor in Laboratory Medicine, has been appointed to the board of directors for the Institute for Quality in Laboratory Medicine. The institute is a new organization formed to engage the health care community in improving the use of laboratory tests and services. It's the only organization bringing together clinicians, laboratory professionals, patients, manufacturers, government and accrediting bodies to work on advancing substantial improvements in quality, effectiveness, safety and appropriateness for the broad universe of



Kathleen Szama,  
M.D., J.D.

laboratory testing.

**Luis Delclos, M.D.**, professor emeritus in Radiation Oncology, recently was awarded the Marie Curie Medal for significant contributions to the management of cervical cancer. The medal is presented every four years to a brachytherapist or physicist who has made a major contribution to the development of brachytherapy. Delclos was a professor in Radiation Oncology at M. D. Anderson from 1973 to 1996, and has since served as professor emeritus.

Alumnus **Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D.**, was recently nominated by President George W. Bush to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He has served as the acting head of the agency since September 2005, while also serving as director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), an appointment to which he was named in January 2002. Dr. von Eschenbach is a nationally recognized urologic surgeon, medical educator, and cancer advocate. He also is a cancer survivor.

Prior to his appointment as director of NCI, von Eschenbach spent 25 years at M. D. Anderson, ultimately serving as executive vice president and chief academic officer. In that position, he led a faculty of nearly 1,000 cancer researchers and clinicians.

## Send us your milestones

Your achievements are important to us.

Please send recent news we can share with your fellow alumni to:

M. D. Anderson Alumni and  
Faculty Association  
Department of Trainee and  
Alumni Affairs – Unit 165  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77030

E-mail items to [alumni@mdanderson.org](mailto:alumni@mdanderson.org) or call Sharon Pepper at (713) 563-9194.

Along with details about your news item, please include your name, degree(s), years when you were at M. D. Anderson, current title and affiliation, city, state, country, and a telephone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we need additional information.

**Please contact us with your change of address.**