Sheryl Gabram-Mendola (WLA 2008) was appointed Deputy Director, Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady.

Jaffar Khan (WLA 2009) received the inaugural Students Association Award for Excellence in Teaching, presented by the School of Medicine Class of 2011. This award recognizes talent in teaching, creativity and innovation, and excellence in administration of a module during the Foundations phase. It represents an opportunity for the class to thank their instructor for a memorable and well-crafted module that inspired their intellectual curiosity in neurology.

Class of 2011 representatives stated, “Our class simply can't imagine a better teacher with whom to inaugurate these awards!”

Additionally, Dr. Khan was the recipient of the Outstanding Neurology Employee (ONE) Award for the 4th quarter July – September 2009. The announcement for this award notes, “The department is fortunate to have such a tireless promoter of neurology education amongst its ranks and his exemplary accomplishments both reflect the core values promoted by the ONE award and merit formal recognition.”
Tammie Quest (WLA 2008) has been named Fellowship Program Director for the new Emory University School of Medicine Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program, which received accreditation for 3 years.

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Monica Farley, MD (WLA 2009) was appointed by Governor Purdue to the State of Georgia Public Health Advisory Council for a term running from August 2009 through July 2011.

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Additionally, Dr. Van Meir was the recipient of the following grants:

Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation Van Meir (PI) 12/31/2009-12/31/2010 “Therapeutic modulation of the methyl CpG binding domain protein 2 (MBD2) in glioma”: $75,000 for 1yr

Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative Van Meir (PI) 12/01/2009-11/30/2010 “Development of protein arrays for the detection of biomarkers in the CSF of brain tumor patients”: $100,000 for 1yr

NIH-NCI 29XS193 Saltz J (PI) 08/24/2009-08/24/2011 “In silico Brain Tumor Center of Excellence” Role: co-investigator with Dan Brat (WLA 2010): $2,210,000 over 3yrs

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Vicki White, MSN, RN (WLA 2008), has been appointed as the Nursing Specialty Director for EHC Radiology. As the first EHC Nursing Specialty Director for Radiology, Vicki will oversee the nursing quality and patient safety, scope of practice, competencies, training, and standards of nursing care as they pertain to radiology nursing practice. In collaboration with Radiology Administrative and Physician leadership and EHC nursing leadership, Vicki will facilitate the development of policies that support a standardized approach to nursing care across radiology nursing for EHC. She will also play an integral role in leading EHC Radiology in its Magnet journey.

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David Guidot, M.D. (WLA 2007) was recently appointed Division Director of Pulmonary, Allergy, & Critical Care Medicine. In announcing this appointment, Dr. Wayne Alexander said, “Dr. Guidot brings a wealth of experience in all three missions of the Department of Medicine and possesses the exceptional abilities needed to move the Division Pulmonary, Allergy, & Critical Care Medicine forward.”

Two WLA alumni, Kathy Griendling (WLA 2008) and Andy Smith (WLA 2009) were among only 19 faculty members recently inducted into the Emory University MilliPub Club. The club recognizes faculty who have published individual papers at Emory that have at least 1,000 citations. A citation count is important because a researcher's impact is judged by the number of times the paper is cited by other researchers. "A paper that is cited more than 1,000 times is equivalent to a pharmaceutical blockbuster," says Ray Dingledine, Executive Associate Dean for Research and Chair of Pharmacology.

Roxann Arnold (WLA 2007) was elected to serve as secretary of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) and will be sworn in at the May, 2010 meeting.

Kimberly Applegate (WLA 2010) co-edited a new book titled, Evidence-Based Imaging in Pediatrics: Optimizing Imaging in Pediatric Patient Care. By offering a clear understanding of the science behind the evidence, the book fills a void for pediatricians, radiologists, clinicians, surgeons, residents and others with an interest in medical imaging and a desire to implement an evidence-based approach to optimize pediatric patient care.

Lynn Cunningham (WLA 2006) was invited to speak at the November 2009 meeting of Contemporary Forums to present Predictive Health as a new model of health care and the implications for current practice. More info is available at the following link: http://www.contemporaryforums.com/en/Live-CE-Conferences/Case-Management-Along-the-Continuum/
Grace Pavlath (WLA 2008) and Anita Corbett (WLA 2007) received an NIH Challenge Grant (~$1,000,000 over two years) for their collaborative study entitled: New Frontiers in OPMD: Stem Cell Theory of Oculopharyngeal Muscular Dystrophy. Check out the following link for more info and a great photo: http://quest.mda.org/series/focus-oculopharyngeal-muscular-dystrophy-opmd/opmd-stopping-long-protein-shortening-life

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Andy Smith (WLA 2009) is the President-elect of the Georgia Transplant Foundation.

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In November 2009, Marilane Bond, EdD, MBA (WLA 2006) was named Chair elect of the AAMC- Group on Resident Affairs (GRA) and she will become Chair of the group this year.

The GRA represents the institutional leaders of graduate medical education (GME) who oversee GME quality, accreditation, administration and financing in their AAMC member medical schools and teaching hospitals. The GRA's leadership course and educational programs serve as a resource to improve the quality of resident education and strengthen institutional responsibility for GME.

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Lisa Bernstein (WLA 2010) was the 2009 recipient of the School of Medicine's Evangeline Papageorge Distinguished Teaching Award.

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Jean Khoury (WLA 2008) was promoted to Professor in September 2009.

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Fellows in the News...

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | Doctor Is In: Keeping kids safe during radiation procedures
November 2, 2009
Kimberly Applegate, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.R. (WLA 2010), Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta radiologist and Vice Chair of Quality and Safety, Department of Radiology, Emory University School of Medicine discusses radiation safety for children.

Itemlive.com Scripps Howard News Service | Studies show heart attacks similar in men, women
November 2, 2009
Dr. Viola Vaccarino (WLA 2010), of Emory University School of Medicine, said most of the change seems to be because women with heart attack symptoms now have a lower risk status than men when they are admitted to a hospital.

ABC News | Group teen violence shocks as minors charged with rape, murder, assault
November 10, 2009
"I don't think this is new. To some extent this is an extreme version of bullying," Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004), chief psychologist for the Department of Psychiatry and Sciences at Emory University, told ABCNews.com.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | ‘It’s a horrible disease’
November 13, 2009
“It’s a horrible disease,” said Dr. Jonathan Glass (WLA 2008), a professor of neurology and pathology at Emory University and director of the Emory ALS Center. “This is one of those diseases that we see a lot of, we know a lot about, but we don’t know what causes it,” he said. “That makes it very difficult to develop a cure.”

American Medical News | More middle-age women having heart attacks, but survival rates increasing
November 16, 2009
"The finding that mortality rates are declining in women, even more than in men -- that's real good news," said Viola Vaccarino, MD, PhD (WLA 2010), professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and author of the mortality study.

Health News Digest | Investigating muscle repair, scientists follow their noses
November 16, 2009
“Normally MOR23 is not turned on when the tissue is at rest, so we wouldn’t have picked it up without looking specifically at muscle injury,” says Grace Pavlath, PhD (WLA 2008), professor of pharmacology at Emory University School of Medicine. “There is no way we would have guessed this.”
Ruth O'Regan, MD (WLA 2009), Winship Cancer Institute and Grady medical oncologist, says the new guidelines proposed by the USPSTF are confusing to women. Sheryl Gabram, MD (WLA 2008), Winship and Grady surgical oncologist says the new guidelines proposed by the USPSTF could result in more late stage cancer diagnoses.

"With its new recommendations, the [task force] is essentially telling women that mammography at age 40 to 49 saves lives; just not enough of them," Dr. Otis Brawley (WLA 2004), chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society and professor of hematology, oncology and medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and professor of epidemiology at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.

Winship Cancer Institute medical oncologist Dr. Ruth O'Regan (WLA 2009) said women should continue doing breast self exams and follow established American Cancer Society guidelines and get mammograms each year beginning at 40.

This week’s Voice of the Expert, psychologist Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004) advises against succumbing to the stress related to feelings of inadequacy. Kaslow is an Emory University professor and chief psychologist at Grady Health System. I spoke to her this week about avoiding depression during the holidays.

The Conference on U.S.-Cuban Cooperation in Defending Against Hurricanes at the River City Complex in New Orleans' East Bank and sponsored by The Center for International Policy will include Dr. Alex Isakov (WLA 2010), founding director of the Emory University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response.

Two doctors answered your questions about the study, and explained why "reasonable experts" can look at the same data and draw different conclusions... Dr. Otis Brawley (WLA 2004) is the chief medical officer at the American Cancer Society and a professor of oncology at Emory University.
The high-profile clinical trial will accelerate Emory’s translational research, said Dr. Jonathan Glass (WLA 2008), principal investigator for the trial and director of the Emory ALS Center. “It’s going to make us the center of attention for anybody who wants to do stem cell injections into the spinal cord for other diseases,” Glass said. “They’re going to come to us ... and say, ‘How do you do it?’ ‘What’s the best way to do it?’ and ‘Teach us how to do it.’”

"For anyone with a low [testosterone] count -- and 78 is very low -- it can be very debilitating," said Emory University urologist Dr. Chad Ritenour (WLA 2005), who has lectured more than a dozen times this year on testosterone treatments and prescribes it to patients. "The difference it makes for someone's quality of life is really huge. I've had some men come in and give me a hug because they felt so much better on it than off it."

Neuralstem, Inc. announced that its Phase I trial to treat Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) with its spinal cord stem cells has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emory University. The trial, which was approved by the FDA in September, will take place at the Emory ALS Center, under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Glass MD (WLA 2008), Director of the Emory ALS Center, who will serve as the site Principal Investigator (PI).

“There is a growing concern about the epidemic of premature morbidity and mortality among persons with serious mental illnesses,” says lead study author Benjamin Druss, MD, MPH (WLA 2006), professor of health policy and management and the Rosalynn Carter Chair in Mental Health at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health. In addition to Druss, study authors were:... Silke Von Esenwein, PhD, director of research projects, Kimberly Rask, MD, PhD (WLA 2004), associate professor of health policy and management, and Liping Zhao, MSPH, senior biostatistician, of the Rollins School of Public Health; and Michael Compton, MD, MPH, assistant professor of psychiatry and Ruth Parker, MD, professor of medicine, of the Emory School of Medicine.

Dr. Amy Chen (WLA 2010) of Emory University School of Medicine discusses the increasing rates of thyroid cancer in women.
CNN | 10 ways to get motivated for change in 2010
December 29, 2009
3. Look at the pros and cons
If you're on the fence about whether you should make a change this year, make a list of the benefits and costs, said Dr. Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004), professor of psychiatry at Emory University. Pay attention to what's driving you, she said. Sometimes it's pain that motivates people to change, or a new phase of life, or new information, or a possible promotion. "It helps to get clear about what you want to change and why you want to change it," she said.

WIBW

New York Times | Home contracts fall, thwarting optimism
January 6, 2010
"With two growing boys, we are busting out of our small house," said Stephen Sencer (WLA 2005), deputy general counsel at Emory University in Atlanta. "But I'm still waiting for sellers to capitulate."

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta commits $75 million to research centers
January 12, 2010
The investment allows Children's Healthcare to step into "the big leagues," of pediatric health care research, said Dr. Paul Spearman (WLA 2006), chief research officer, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Nahmias-Schinazi Research professor and vice chairman of research of pediatrics at Emory University..."Everyone on the Emory side is very excited about the possibility and where this takes pediatric research -- not only on a local stage but a national stage," said Dr. David S. Stephens, vice president for research in the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center at Emory.

11Alive.com | Find compatible donors across the country
January 12, 2010
"He had antibodies against about ninety nine percent of the population" explained Dr. Chris Larsen (WLA 2003), director of Emory University Transplant Center. "So we were looking at a really difficult situation to find him a donor."

Science Daily | New class of brain-protecting drugs emerging
January 25, 2010
Investigators at Emory University School of Medicine, led by Keqiang Ye, PhD, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, were searching for a way to mimic a protein found in the brain called brain-derived neurotrophic factor. Manuel Yepes, MD, assistant professor of neurology, Emory University School of Medicine, and his colleagues performed the stroke model experiments. Gary Miller, PhD (WLA 2005), associate professor, Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, and his colleagues performed the Parkinson's-simulating toxin experiments.
Off-pump bypass surgery benefits reinforced in landmark study
January 27, 2010
Findings for a study on off-pump surgery benefits were presented by lead investigator, John Puskas, MD (WLA 2004), professor of surgery and associate chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine, at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons’ 46th Annual Meeting.

Alcohol-based cleanser found superior to iodine formula in battling surgical infections
January 27, 2010
Research comparing two strategies was reported in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study was co-authored by Alexandra Webb, MD, assistant professor of surgery, Emory School of Medicine, and chief of general surgery at the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center. “This is a very important study on skin preparation to prevent surgical site infection on many levels and should be evaluated for consideration of change of practice in surgical protocol,” says Christian Larsen, MD (WLA 2003), chair of the Department of Surgery, Emory School of Medicine.

Happy Trails...

Julia Yeager (WLA 2005) accepted a facility planning and business development position at Flad Architects (www.flad.com), a firm that focuses on healthcare, science and higher education clients. She will be staying in Atlanta, working out of their new Midtown office. Julia said, “It was a tough decision to leave after 10 years at EHC, but I’m excited to continue working in healthcare facility planning – an interest that grew during the WHSC Program and Facility Planning project.” Her last day at Emory was December 11, 2009.