November 22, 2010

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to take the opportunity to recognize 10 remarkable individuals who exemplify the highest principles of service to our patients, our community and our Miller School of Medicine. These people have given selflessly of their time, talent and energy to help fulfill our goals in clinical care, research, education and community service.

In recognition of their service, these individuals have been selected as the inaugural winners of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Faculty Citizenship Awards. These awards, established by the Miller School, recognize faculty members who exemplify the highest standard of service to the Miller School and display good citizenship, integrity and positive attitudes that inspire those around them to contribute to our collective success. The awards will be given yearly in honor of those who go above and beyond.

Out of the approximately 1,500 Miller School faculty members, housed in 26 departments, the following 10 faculty members were selected as role models who embody the highest standards among their peers: David Andrews, Elizabeth Crocco, Joseph Henry, Eugene Hershorin, Erin Kobetz, Richard Lee, Joshua Lenchus, Paola Lichtenberger, Carl Schulman and Richard Weisman.

Please join me in congratulating these individuals for all they have given to our school and the communities we serve. I invite you to read about their individual accomplishments below.

David Andrews, M.D., Department of Pathology

Dr. Andrews, an advocate for the advancement of coagulation services and transfusion medicine, implemented his skills to help save lives during the humanitarian crisis following the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. Andrews played a crucial role, serving as the only laboratory services resource in Haiti for the first several weeks after the earthquake. His continued dedication to the people of Haiti is further demonstrated by his ongoing work in the community. He has returned to Haiti many times since the earthquake to continue advancing care in the region. In addition to clinical excellence, Andrews’ dedication as a teacher and role model also is exemplary. He has taken personal responsibility for resident conferences and journal clubs, and is highly respected by his colleagues and trainees for his dedication to high-quality science and the promotion of lifelong learning.

Elizabeth Crocco, M.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Crocco shows enthusiasm for the compassionate care of psychiatric patients in both the in-patient and ambulatory service sectors. Crocco’s leadership roles in geriatric psychiatry as chief of the Geriatric Medicine-Psychiatry In-patient Unit and as co-director of the UM Memory Disorders Clinic have elevated psychiatric care to the Miller School’s patient populations. Crocco is beloved by her trainees as an educator and has won the Geriatric Psychiatry Teacher of the Year Award on numerous occasions. This year, Crocco was awarded the Nancy C.A. Roeske Teaching Award from the American Psychiatric Association for excellence in medical student teaching. Crocco also has served on the Faculty Council and the medical
school’s admissions committee. In addition to clinical, scholarly and teaching excellence, Crocco’s leadership as the force behind the National Depression Screening Day was highlighted as an invaluable contribution for our UM community.

**Joseph Henry, M.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**

Dr. Henry is congratulated for his longstanding and legendary commitment to the acute care of psychiatric patients in Jackson Memorial Hospital’s in-patient unit, serving 67,000 patients in his 18-year career with the Miller School. In addition to excellence in clinical care, Henry has contributed to a multitude of committees over his years of service, including the Executive Committee in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, the UMMG Finance and Budget Committee and the Jackson Formulary Committee. These groups provide functions that are invaluable to the smooth operation of the Miller School. Henry also is a passionate educator who is highly celebrated for his talent as a clinical teacher. He is a seven-time winner of the Senior Resident Teaching Award as well as numerous other resident and medical student awards.

**Eugene Hershorin, M.D., Department of Pediatrics**

Dr. Hershorin is an exemplary academic leader in all realms. Hershorin offers commendable service in clinical care, education, research and administrative roles. He was one of the original organizers of the Masters of Pediatrics Conference, a conference recognized nationally as one of the premier academic pediatric conferences in the United States. Hershorin has been a leader and champion for multidisciplinary care and created the first multidisciplinary behavioral pediatrics training clinic in the country, which meets the mental health care needs of the pediatric community and serves as a key training site for the pediatrics programs. As an educator, Hershorin has provided a substantial portion of the continuity training for residents in the pediatrics training program. Hershorin also has served as a significant leader with the Miller School Faculty Senate, including work on the Senate’s Budget and Compensation and General Welfare Committees, and the UMMG Leadership Council. His leadership has further been highlighted by his recent role as chief of the Division of General Pediatrics and associate chair of pediatrics for community provider relations. In addition to local work, Hershorin has served as Florida coordinator for the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Pediatric Research in Office Settings and its executive committee of the Section on Administration and Practice Management.

**Erin Kobetz, Ph.D., M.P.H., Department of Epidemiology and Public Health**

Dr. Kobetz is a passionate advocate for disadvantaged communities and has made considerable advancements toward understanding and effectively intervening to reduce health disparities in Little Haiti, while engaging the community and empowering its members. Kobetz formed Partners in Action (*Patne en Aksyon* in Creole), a University of Miami/Little Haiti collaborative research initiative aimed at improving breast and cervical cancer outcomes among Haitian women living in Miami. The goal of the partnership is to address cancer health disparities and significantly impact the adverse conditions that perpetuate such disparities through community participation, education and research. Kobetz’s leadership has improved access to care and cancer screening among women in the Little Haiti community. In partnership with community health workers, Kobetz helped educate women on administering their own Pap smear screening at home through a self-sampling device. Because of her efforts, hundreds of women now have access to screening, diagnosis and treatment. Kobetz’s leadership in the community has inspired new partnerships and collaborations that will greatly expand the Miller School’s impact on the community. In recognition of her leadership, she was named a Scholar for the Jay Weiss Center for Social Medicine and Health Equity. In this role, Kobetz is responsible for training all social medicine residents in community-based participatory research. Her commitment to health equity and social change are a continuous inspiration to those around her.

**Richard Lee, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology**

Dr. Lee is a notable advocate for the prevention of blindness in the United States. He also had an immediate
leadership role in the Haiti earthquake relief efforts, providing emergent surgical care and setting up a makeshift eye clinic. Lee’s continued dedication to the Haitian people has been demonstrated by his ongoing efforts to organize donations of supplies, equipment, eye glasses and ophthalmic medical books. Lee continues to oversee teams from Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, who are sent to Haiti to work with, train and support local ophthalmologists and deliver medications and other eye-care supplies. Lee also has a long-term commitment to combat glaucoma as one of the leading causes of irreversible but preventable blindness in the United States and works in local communities to provide vision screenings thorough Bascom Palmer’s Vision Van.

Joshua Lenchus, D.O., Department of Medicine

Dr. Lenchus has always been passionate about advancing the Miller School’s educational mission. Since his residency, Lenchus has advocated for graduate medical education and served as the resident representative on the Graduate Medical Education Committee. Lenchus continued his advocacy when he joined the committee as a faculty member. During his tenure, the Miller School received a favorable review and a four-year accreditation cycle. Lenchus and the committee worked tirelessly with the 60+ training programs to ensure that the educational curricula and evaluation systems were consistent with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education criteria. In the Department of Medicine, Lenchus has been the force behind the development and implementation of an innovative curriculum to teach invasive bedside procedures, and is now the medical director of the campus-wide procedure service. Lenchus also has proven his leadership in the realm of patient safety, has served as chair of Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Committee, and led the UHealth Safety and Quality Governing Council’s Prevention of Central Venous Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infection Task Force. In addition to excellence in clinical care, mentoring and teaching, Lenchus’ leadership is recognized beyond the medical campus for his work with the American College of Physicians and the Miami-Dade County Osteopathic Medical Association.

Paola Lichtenberger, M.D., Department of Medicine

Described as an unsung hero among her peers, Dr. Lichtenberger offers help whenever it is needed. She is an advocate for world health and provided her expertise during the H1N1 epidemic and after the earthquake in Haiti. Within the first days after the earthquake, Lichtenberger set up systems to allocate and share supplies among international groups and established mechanisms for triaging patients with the highest risk of infection. After returning from Haiti, Lichtenberger continued to support the mission by encouraging others to volunteer and offering to cover clinical duties to facilitate efforts. Lichtenberger also has a longstanding record of service to impoverished populations in Colombia, her native country. For many years, she has contributed through a collection of resources and educational efforts and provided primary medical care to Colombians in the rural areas of Giradot, close to guerilla conflict zones. She serves as a Spanish language expert to keep the community informed about infectious disease issues and works with the local school systems to organize infection prevention programs.

Carl Schulman, M.D., M.P.H., Department of Surgery

Dr. Schulman is a leader in all realms of academic medicine. He has a thriving clinical, academic and teaching portfolio and an impressive record of service to the Miller School. Schulman is a dedicated member of the trauma surgical team and is a clinical educator at the William Lehman Injury Research Center. Schulman was among the first responders after the earthquake in Haiti and served on the International Medical Institute’s Surgical Response Team. Schulman also is a faculty mentor in the Schweitzer Academic Society and is consistently rated by his students as a top educator at the Miller School. Schulman has served as a member of the Faculty Council since 2005 and for the past two years has been vice speaker. Schulman is a dedicated member of the Executive Faculty Curriculum Steering Committee, spending countless hours working to advance the medical school curriculum, a task that he takes on as a labor of love. Beyond our local community, Schulman works at the state level with the Department of Health Office of
Trauma and the Florida Committee on Trauma.

Richard Weisman, Pharm.D., Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Weisman is a leader in the development and growth of the UM/Jackson Poison Control Center, where thousands of community members receive support when exposed to potentially toxic substances or express concerns about potential exposures. Weisman also has been an effective national leader, advocating for legislation on poison control centers, and has helped secure funding to stabilize resources for poison control nationwide. Weisman has been an active member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ National Disaster Medical System. He also is deputy commander of the South Florida Regional Disaster Medical Assistance Team, a highly specialized disaster response unit that is deployed in emergency situations. Weisman’s unit has been deployed five times in the past several years to assist in hurricane disasters. In 2006, Weisman was awarded the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Executive Vice President’s Award for Courageous Service for his work during Hurricane Katrina. Closer to home, he has substantially contributed to the Miller School through progressive leadership on the medical school’s admissions committee. Weisman first served as a member, and then as chair for three years. He has most recently been named associate dean for medical admissions.

Sincerely,

Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.
Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
Chief Executive Officer, University of Miami Health System

To view current and past messages from the Dean, visit the archive.