

MedEd DULUTH CAMPUS November 2007

December 10: Matt Andrews to Receive Distinguished Research Award

Matt Andrews, Professor and Head of the Department of Biology, is the recipient of the 2007-2008 Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Research. Faculty members who receive this award are honored for their excellence in research, scholarly contributions to their field and for their dedication to student research in education.

Dr. Andrews will receive his award during a ceremony to be held Monday, December 10th, 2007 at 3:15 PM in Chem 150. Following the award ceremony, Professor Andrews will present a seminar of his current research entitled "What We Have Learned from Hibernating Mammals." A reception will be held in the Griggs Center following the presentation and seminar. All are welcome to attend these events.

While Professor Andrews' primary appointment is in the UMD Department of Biology, he has a continuous appointment in our Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMBB). He also holds a graduate faculty appointment in the BMBB graduate program. Dr. Andrews and Professor Lester R. Drewes, Ph.D. have had several projects funded jointly. They also have advised graduate students jointly with some of the work being done in the Medical School and some in the Biology facilities.

Watch Doctors on Call, Thursdays, 7:00 PM on WDSE, Channel 8.

[Full schedule.](#)

This weekly, live, call-in television program for the general public addresses the most popular health issues of the day. Each week, Drs. Ray Christensen, Alan Johns or Ruth Westra from the University of Minnesota Medical School – Duluth Campus host the program accompanied by specialists in specific health topics. Upcoming topics:

November 29 Obesity
December 13 Mental Health Problems
December 20 Orthopedic Problems and Sports Injuries

Upcoming Seminars in Medicine [Full schedule](#)

December 11, 2007

Barbara Elliott, Ph.D. Department of Family Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School

"Changes in Quality of life of homeless girls with access to health care"

All seminars are at 3:00 p.m. in classroom 165 at the Medical School Duluth unless noted otherwise.

Longitudinal Mentoring in Duluth

First-year medical students on the Duluth campus are working with a new educational tool and advisory system in what will become part of their total medical school learning experience. Each

student is placing specific learning experiences and reflections on learning in their e-portfolio and sharing selections of that portfolio with their master tutor and with a peer (their big brother or sister) in the second-year class. Master tutors or mentors are six clinical faculty members from the Duluth Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Duluth. For example, videos showing nine minute clips of their first mock patient interview and their physical diagnosis exam for Applied Anatomy are uploaded onto their individual e-portfolios. When they meet with their master tutors, they receive formative feedback regarding their strengths and weaknesses and guidance on ways to improve. Second year students also provide feedback after observing the content. The combination provides a longitudinal mentoring experience that will follow the students through medical school.

Mollison Awarded Annette Boman Women's Fellowship

On November 7th in Duluth, Jenna M. Mollison was awarded the Annette Boman Women's Fellowship for Cancer Research. Chosen from several nominees, Mollison is a second year Integrated Biosciences graduate student conducting cancer-research related to stem cell characteristics. She is advised by Edward Perkins, Ph.D., and Jon Holy, Ph.D. The Fellowship is awarded to a woman candidate involved with cancer research and honors the memory of Annette Boman, a gifted medical researcher at the University of Minnesota Medical School – Duluth Campus who died as a result of complications from cancer in 2003.

Mollison received the award at an event that included these speakers: Kenneth Dornfeld, M.D. from St. Mary's Duluth Clinic; Anya Gybina, Ph.D. candidate and past fellowship recipient, Teresa Rose-Hellekant, D.V.M., Ph.D. and Robert Cormier Ph.D.

Fitzakerley to head National Brain Awareness SubCommittee

Janet Fitzakerley, Ph.D., associate professor in the Physiology and Pharmacology department at the University of Minnesota Medical School has been asked to lead a national subcommittee in charge of promoting National Brain Awareness Week, scheduled for March 10-16, 2008. Launched in 1996, Brain Awareness Week united the Society for Neuroscience with the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and a coalition of over 1,600 science, advocacy, and health organizations that share an interest in elevating public awareness of brain and nervous system research. The role of the committee Fitzakerley will lead is to increase participation among scientific organizations that will host and promote public education initiatives in brain awareness.

Fitzakerley is among the scientists at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth who are leaders in brain research. She organizes the Duluth Brain Awareness Week educational activities and matches the medical students and professors with local schools that have requested presentations. Last year they reached a record 5800 students throughout Minnesota. The University of Minnesota Duluth and Twin Cities campuses both participate in Brain Awareness Week.

“Educating kids about the brain is critical because they need to understand how important it is to protect their brain cells” commented Fitzakerley. But there's another reason that Brain Awareness is important, she added: “Neuroscientists need to talk to the public about the critical nature of brain research. One in three Americans will experience a neurological disorder at some point in their lives, and someone suffers a stroke about every 45 seconds, for example. Research, supported by the National Institutes of Health, funded by Congress and performed here in Duluth, will help solve some of the mysteries of brain function and help us find better ways to treat nervous system diseases.”

