2019 Fall Membership Drive

The membership committee held a membership drive on August 23, 2019 in which 58 new members were recruited. The drive was held in conjunction with Women’s Equality Day. The committee would like to thank all of the volunteers for assisting with the successful drive. If you are interested in volunteering within GWIMS, please contact Rachel Tyrone (rtyrone@umc.edu).

GWIMS Seminars

During the Fall, the GWIMS hosted two workshops with one pertaining to women’s health and the second on conflict resolution. On October 22, 2019, Dr. Nita Maitlhe presented on, “Pioneers in Women’s Health: A Personal Narrative.” On December 17, 2019, Dr. Patrick Smith presented on, “Getting to Agreement from Conflict: A Workshop.” The seminars were well received by attendees. We would like to thank all of those who attended the seminars.

Connect, Share, Advance at a Glance

GWIMS has sponsored many successful events throughout the spring session. GWIMS would like to thank all of the speakers that donated their time to speak to our members/community. If you were unable to attend, we would like to encourage you to make plans to attend our upcoming events. The CSAs and Seminars provide opportunities to network with other professionals outside of your department as well as providing applicable topics to apply within your professional life. Speakers and topics included:

♦ September 10, 2019– Dr. Danny Burgess, “Improving Sleep Hygiene: A Talk That Will Surely Put You to Sleep.”
♦ November 12, 2019– Drs. Alexander, Reckelhoff, Wallace, and Yanes, “Panel Discussion on “Sex Differences and Women’s Health Research.”

GWIMS Sponsored Community Outreach and Co-Sponsored Events

The GWIMS hosted two community outreach events last spring and fall in order to promote awareness on women’s health. On May 17, 2019, the GWIMS hosted a Mental Health Awareness table that provided individuals with educational material around mental health. On October 28, 2019, the GWIMS hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness table that provided educational material surrounding breast cancer facts and the importance of screenings. The GWIMS co-sponsored two events in October pertaining to “Investing in Women’s Health” and “Healthcare’s Role in Sex Trafficking.” We would like to encourage you to continue supporting your GWIMS organization by stopping by and engaging with your fellow GWIMS members during our community events.

GWIMS Poster Presentation at the AAMC Conference

Dr. Erin Dehon presented her poster titled, “Women Supporting Women: A Mentorship Program in Academic Medicine” at the AAMC Conference. Dr. Dehon’s pilot program found that a large majority of senior level faculty women are willing to mentor their fellow women faculty members. The mentees were more likely to want a mentor that is outside of their primary department and they would like mentorship on promotion, tenure, and career advancement. Dr. Dehon found the mentorship program to be very useful to mentees; however, the mentors underestimated their helpfulness. The mentorship currently has 72 faculty women mentors and 16 matched mentees.
2019 AAMC GWIMS Leadership Award for an Organization

This past November, our GWIMS organization was selected to receive the ‘2019 Group on Women in Medicine and Science Leadership Award for an Organization (Emerging Leader). Since the first award in 1996, the prestigious award has recognized 24 individuals and 19 women in medicine programs. Our GWIMS organization has distinguished itself with its emerging commitment to advocating for the professional advancement of women in medicine and science, and helping women in medicine and science realize their potential.

Acknowledgements & Accomplishments

We would like to acknowledge the following UMMC GWIMS members and faculty on their many accomplishments throughout the 2019 year.

Congratulations to Dongmei Cui, PhD (Current GWIMS Awards Committee Chair) for her 20 years of service at UMMC.

The GWIMS would like to recognize Susan Buttross, MD and Deborah Konkle-Parker, PhD (GWIMS member) for their research accomplishments. At the 2019 Research Excellence Awards, Susan Buttross, MD and Deborah Konkle-Parker, PhD were awarded with a Platinum Medalion.

Congratulations to Josie Alston, M.A., CCC-SLP (GWIMS member) of the Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences for being elected VP of Healthcare with the Mississippi Speech and Hearing Association.

Congratulation to Dr. Vani Vijayakumar (Past-President of GWIMS) for receiving the Faculty Meritorious Research Service Award at the 2019 Research Excellence Awards.

GWIMS 2020 Awards Ceremony

The Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS) is seeking nominations for our 2020 Awards Program. Departmental leaders are encouraged to nominate candidates. Candidates can also self-nominate. The awards are intended to recognize distinguished women and men in our UMMC community who have exhibited remarkable support for the advancement of women faculty members’ careers in medicine and science. Please submit your nominations by February 14, 2020. For questions regarding nomination criteria or process, please contact Dongmei Cui (dcui@umc.edu). Below is a list of the possible GWIMS awards:

- LouAnn Woodward, MD Authentic Leadership Award
- UMMC GWIMS Innovation Award
- UMMC GWIMS Resident Spirit Award
- UMMC GWIMS Emerging Star Award (students/residents/fellows)
- UMMC GWIMS Rising Star Award (early career)
- UMMC GWIMS Rising Star Award (mid-career)
- Helen Barnes, MD, Diversity and Inclusion Award
- UMMC GWIMS Trailblazer Award (male)
GWIMS Mentoring Program
If you are interested in becoming a part of the GWIMS mentoring program either as a mentor or a mentee, please contact Ana Palei (apalei@umc.edu).

GWIMS 2020 Giving Campaign
We would like to invite our members to help us in a fundraising effort for 2020. We are asking each of our members to consider giving $20.20 to the GWIMS development fund in 2020. To donate, please go to www.umc.edu/GWIMS, select giving, then select support the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. You will see a series of donation options. If you would like to contribute to the $20.20 campaign, you can select the “Other” option and type in 20.20. Your support will help continue the following GWIMS programs: Seminar Series, Connect-Share-Advance Sessions, Mentoring Program, Membership Events, and Awards Program.

Help SUPPORT the UMMC GWIMS by giving $20.20 in 2020

Thank you for clicking here and typing $20.20 in the Other field.

Upcoming Events
- February 11, 2020 – CSA presented by Dr. Erin Dehon
- February 26, 2020 – A heart health presentation by Dr. Myrna Alexander.
- March 10, 2020 – CSA on a “Panel Discussion on Women as Basic Scientists.”
- April 14, 2020 – CSA presented by Toni Whitley
- May 12, 2020 – CSA on a “Strategic Career Planning” presented by Dr. Angela Sharkey

Suggestions
If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please email gwims@umc.edu.

The GWIMS would like you to encourage your colleagues to join! Membership is free! Join in person at GWIMS events or join online. If you are a member of GWIMS, but you are not receiving the GWIMS emails regarding events, please contact Rachel Tyrone (rtyrone@umc.edu).

2019-2020 GWIMS Board Members
- President - Kimberly Libb, MD, Assistant Professor in Dept of Family Medicine
- President-elect - Erin Dehon, PhD, Associate Professor in Dept of Emergency Medicine
- Past-president, Makkatheth Mulvaney, PhD, Assistant Professor in Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior (Not Pictured)
- Treasurer - Beverly Byrd, MD, Associate Professor and Program Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship in the Dept of Psychiatry and Human Behavior
- Programming Committee Chair - Deneen Graves, MD, Assistant Professor and Associate Program Director in Dept of Otolaryngology
- Membership Committee Chair - Rachel Tyrone, MS, Children’s Speech Language Pathologist
- Award Committee Chair - Despina Cia, PhD, Associate Professor in the Dept of Family Medicine
- Secretary - Hanna Brooks, PhD, Assistant Dean of Graduate Education for the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences and Assistant Professor in Dept of Cell and Molecular Biology
- Mentoring Committee Chair - Ana Palei, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Dept of Surgery
- Graduate Student Representative - Lauren Cuddy, Graduate Student
- Medical Student Representative - Elizabeth Wicks, Medical Student