

New Recruits

by: JEN USCHER

David Chelmow, M.D.



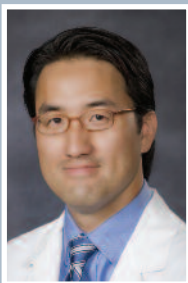
- The Leo J. Dunn Distinguished Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- M.D.: Yale School of Medicine
- Residency: University of California, San Francisco
- Most Recent Post: Tufts University, professor and vice chair for research and education in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, program director for the residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Tufts University Affiliated Hospitals, and chair of the Tufts University Health Sciences Campus Institutional Review Board

Taking the post as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was a good fit for Chelmow because of his broad interests. "I am a generalist in both my clinical practice and my research interests," he says. "VCU's department is built around a large academic generalist group who provide great care and medical student and resident education."

The department also has strong clinical sections in all of the OB/GYN subspecialties. As a generalist, he feels he can work with each of the specialty sections to further grow their clinical services and expand their academic and research activities. Another goal is collaboration with other departments, for example creating a Continence and Pelvic Floor Center in collaboration with the Division of Urology. "This would give us the opportunity to conduct research together and offer even better multidisciplinary care," he says.

His research focuses on cesarean delivery techniques, particularly wound closure and the prevention of wound complications. Studies he conducted on using prophylactic antibiotics during cesarean delivery and on incision closure have contributed to widespread changes in practice. He is also the editor-in-chief of the eMedicine OB/GYN online textbook and has authored more than 65 peer-reviewed papers and review articles.

Unsong Oh, M.D.



- Assistant Professor of Neurology
- M.D.: VCU School of Medicine
- Residency: Neurological Institute of New York at Columbia University Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Most Recent Post: Clinical and Research Fellow in the Neuroimmunology Branch of the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Oh joined the neurology department last summer after training for six years at the NIH as a clinical and research fellow. A graduate of VCU's School of Medicine, he says he is pleased to be back on the MCV Campus. "The environment in our department is very supportive for physician-scientists," he says.

Oh examines inflammatory responses involved in multiple sclerosis and participates in clinical studies of therapies that modulate these responses. He recently received a K12 Career Development Award from the NIH to pursue a new research direction. "I'll be investigating neurodegenerative mechanisms that may pertain to the secondary progressive phase of MS," he says.

In addition, Oh is developing a new center for comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis care on the MCV Campus that will give patients multidisciplinary care as well as the opportunity to enroll in trials of new therapies. He will submit the center for approval and affiliation with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society within the year.

Lindsay Sabik, Ph.D.



- Assistant Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research
- Ph.D.: Health Policy from Harvard University
- Fellowship: Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health

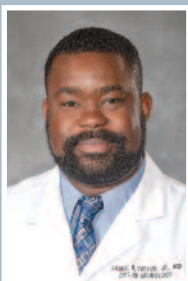
The chance to be part of a large research university and a medical center that provides care for an underserved population is part of what drew Sabik to join the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research last September.

Sabik investigates issues related to healthcare spending, the effects of a lack of insurance coverage and underserved populations. Because of those interests a home base at the VCU Medical Center, the largest safety net provider in the state, is a good fit. Her work has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals including Health Affairs and the American Journal of Public Health.

Currently, she is working on a research project with Cathy J. Bradley, Ph.D., founding chair of the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research, looking at the effects of Medicaid caseload on safety net hospitals in Virginia.

Sabik is also excited to be assisting in the development of new graduate programs in her department, including a Ph.D. in healthcare policy and research. "I look forward to teaching in the program and helping to shape it," she says.

Samuel A. Taylor, Jr., M.D.



- Assistant Professor of Neurology
- M.D.: University of Virginia School of Medicine
- Residency: Department of Neurology at the University of Virginia Health System (Co-Chief Resident, 2008-2009)
- Fellowship: Sleep Medicine in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor

Taylor arrived last September to join a growing sleep disorders program in the neurology department to study disorders that are associated with Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative conditions.

Taylor is particularly interested in REM sleep behavior disorder, a sleep abnormality in which patients physically act out their dreams and may endanger themselves and their bed partners. People who have been diagnosed with the disorder are at greater risk for developing Parkinson's or other neurodegenerative disorders.

At the medical school's new center for the research and treatment of Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders, Taylor will be participating in clinical studies and in the evaluation and treatment of sleep disorders. "We'll be working to further characterize sleep disturbances in Parkinson's Disease and other related conditions and to develop new therapies - including medications, procedures and other interventions - to improve patients' overall sleep quality," he says.