

Department of Medicine  
April 3, 2008

## Department of Medicine faculty members appointed to new endowed chair and professorships



**Itamar B. Abrass**, professor of medicine and head of the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, has been appointed the first holder of the William E. Colson Endowed Chair in Gerontology, effective February 1, 2008. The chair was established in memory of Colson with gifts totaling \$1.5 million from anonymous donors.

Dr. Abrass is a graduate of the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, completed residency at Columbia, and was a clinical associate in the U.S. Public Health Service. He was a NIH special fellow at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine and served on the faculty there and at UCLA before coming to UW in 1984 to

head the division. He became professor of medicine in 1986. He served as acting vice-chair of the Department and acting chief of medicine at Harborview from 1998 to 2002.

His research interests include exercise and cardiovascular function in the elderly, effects of aging on beta-adrenergic receptor regulation, and other topics in geriatric endocrinology and pharmacology. He has published widely on these and other issues related to aging and is author or editor of numerous textbooks in geriatrics and gerontology. He teaches students, residents, and fellows in medicine at the Geriatric Medicine and General Medicine Services at Harborview and directs the Geriatric Medicine fellowship program.

Dr. Abrass is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American College of Physicians, the American Geriatrics Society, and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), of which he is a past president. In 2003 he received the GSA's Joseph T. Freeman Award for research in gerontology and contributions to clinical care and education. He has served on boards for four journals, as well as the ABIM, the Brookdale Foundation, and other bodies. He is currently on the National Scientific Advisory Council of the American Federation for Aging Research and is a member of the Brookdale Institute on Aging. He is chair of the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.



**Virginia C. Broudy**, professor of medicine, vice-chair of the Department of Medicine, and chief of medicine at Harborview Medical Center, has been appointed the first holder of the Scripps Endowed Professorship in Hematology, effective March 1, 2008. The professorship was founded with a \$500,000 gift from Christy and Ed Scripps in gratitude for care received at Harborview by Mrs. Scripps's mother.

Dr. Broudy, a graduate of Harvard College, received her M.D. at the University of California, San Francisco, and completed residency and a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Oregon Health Sciences University. She then came to UW as a senior hematology fellow and joined the faculty in 1987, becoming professor of medicine in 1998. She served as acting division head from 2002 to 2004.

Dr. Broudy has published widely on hematopoiesis, myeloproliferative diseases, HIV, and other topics in hematology/oncology, as well as medical education, and holds four patents related to monoclonal antibodies to stem cell factor receptors. She is the author of numerous book chapters on hematologic topics and was executive editor for three editions of *Hematology*.

She has served on a number of committees and task forces for the School of Medicine, the Department of Medicine, and Harborview and has held many leadership positions for the American Cancer Society, American Society of Hematology, Puget Sound Blood Center, and other organizations. She is currently secretary-treasurer and a councilor of the Western Association of Physicians. She is active in teaching students, residents, and fellows and attends at Harborview and the Madison Clinic. A fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Broudy is listed among the Best Doctors in America and Seattle's Top Doctors. She has received both the Paul B. Beeson Award for outstanding clinical teaching by a faculty member and the Outstanding Attending of the Year Award from the medical housestaff.



**Keith B. Elkou**, professor of medicine and head of the Division of Rheumatology, has been appointed the first holder of the Mart Mannik, M.D.-Lucile T. Henderson Endowed Professorship in Rheumatology, effective March 1, 2008. The professorship honors Dr. Mannik, former head of the division, and is supported by a \$3.2 million bequest from the estate of Lucile Evelyn Townsend Henderson of Seattle.

Following medical school at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Dr. Elkou took

postgraduate training at Johannesburg General Hospital and at Guy's Hospital and Hammersmith Hospital, London, where he received the Kiely Prize for best research. He joined the faculty at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, becoming professor of medicine in 1993. There he directed the graduate program in immunology and the rheumatology research program. He came to UW as division head in 2001 and is also an adjunct professor of immunology.

Dr. Elkon leads an active research program investigating mechanisms of autoimmune disease, notably RA and SLE, and the role of apoptosis in tolerance and autoimmunity. He currently holds funding from the NIH, the Lupus Research Institute, the Dana Foundation, and the Alliance for Lupus Research. He has published more than 170 research papers, reviews, and editorials in his field. He was a speaker at a symposium for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nobel Prizes.

Dr. Elkon teaches and mentors students, residents, and fellows in medicine, as well as graduate students in immunology, and directs the Rheumatology fellowship training program. He has served on boards and committees for the Lupus Research Institute, Alliance for Lupus Research, SLE Foundation, NIH, and others, and he consults for several international funding agencies. He directed the NIH-sponsored Specialized Center of Research in SLE from 1994 to 1998.



**Robert H. Knopp**, professor of medicine and head of the Section of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition at Harborview Medical Center, has been named the first holder of the Robert B. McMillen Professorship in Lipid Research at UW Medicine. Funds supporting the McMillen Professorship were donated by Michael D. Garvey, Frederick M. Goldberg, and Leonard H. Shapiro of Saltchuk Resources, Inc., in honor of their associate, the late Robert B. McMillen, a patient and longtime supporter of Harborview and of the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic.

Dr. Knopp, director of the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic, is a national leader in the study of diabetes, lipids, cardiovascular disease, and related issues of prevention and treatment. He is an active teacher and mentor, investigator, and clinician.

A graduate of Cornell University Medical College, Dr. Knopp trained at Harvard and Northwestern. He served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School before coming to UW in 1974 as associate professor and deputy director of the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic. He has been director of the clinic since 1978. He is the author of more than 400 research papers, chapters, textbooks, and other educational materials. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American College of Physicians, a past president of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine,

and a past board member of the National Lipid Association, among many other national and local leadership positions in his field. He has received the Lester R. Sauvage Hope Heart Award, the Distinguished Service Citation of the American Diabetes Association, the Meritorious Service Award of the American Heart Association of Washington, the Harborview Cares Award, and numerous other honors.

Dr. Knopp directs the Clinical Research Core of the Clinical Nutrition Research Unit and is PI of an R01 grant, "Diets for Dyslipidemia in the Metabolic Syndrome."

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