Jeffrey Houpt, M.D.
The Tough Stuff: Conflict, Difficult Conversations, and Negotiation

Susan Girdler, Ph.D.
Depression and Cardiovascular Disease in Mid-Life Women: Biopsychosocial Mechanisms of Risk and Protection

Kris C. Wood, Ph.D.
The Transition from Scholar to Independence

Robert J. Lefkowitz, M.D.
Tales of a Serendipitous Scientist

Speakers

Robert J. Lefkowitz received his M.D. degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1966 and served as Clinical and Research Associate at the National Institutes of Health from 1968 to 1970.

After his medical residency and research and clinical training, he moved to Duke University where he is currently James B. Duke Professor of Medicine and Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

In 1988, he was inducted into both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 1994, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Lefkowitz has received numerous awards for his work on cellular receptors, including the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2012. In his nearly 40 years at Duke, he has mentored 220 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows – four generations of scientists. His legacy, he said, is both the people and the science. “They're inextricable.”

Jeffrey Houpt, M.D. is currently Dean Emeritus of the UNC School of Medicine and former Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and CEO of the UNC Health Care System. He previously held the position of Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs at UNC from 1997 to 2004. His research, teaching, and clinical interests examine the interface between psychiatry and medicine, particularly the role of human behavior and psychiatric disorders in the expression of medical disorders.

Susan Girdler, Ph.D., is a Professor in the UNC Department of Psychiatry and Director for the UNC Psychiatry Stress and Health Research Program. Her research interest is in the adrenergic and neuroendocrine basis of reproductive mood disorders, including premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) and perimenopausal depression. Dr. Girdler is also committed to minority health research, and her published studies on ethnic differences in endogenous pain regulation have implications for ethnic disparities in clinical pain. Her current research involves the integration of ethically-relevant psychosocial measures with stress-responsive pain regulatory factors in order to develop a more culturally and ethnically relevant biobehavioral model for understanding clinical pain in African Americans.

Kris C. Wood, Ph.D., a BIRCWH alumnus, is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology and Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University. His research interest is anticancer therapeutic strategies, many based on functional genomics. Examples of projects include: a miniaturized screening platform, tools to systematically map the signaling pathways controlling anticancer drug responses, high-throughput computational methods to discover anticancer drug combinations, design of therapeutic strategies to reverse or prevent drug resistance, and systematic credentialing of mutations uncovered through cancer genome sequencing projects.
Thanks to the staff of UNC Center for Women’s Health Research and the Duke Department of Ob/Gyn for their assistance with this program.

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