On August 5, 2014, John Mulvihill, MD, was honored at a reception at the OU Children’s Hospital for his lifelong commitment to mentorship and the contributions he has made to colleagues and mentees since his arrival at OUHSC in 1998.

Many of his former and current mentees gathered to pay tribute to him and each attendee was asked to provide six descriptive words that characterized Dr. Mulvihill. Words such as “mentor”, “dedicated”, “innovative”, and “nurturing” were submitted among many others. One of his mentees, Ashley Weedn, MD, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, gathered all of the word submissions and presented them in a helix-shaped “word cloud,” on behalf of all of the mentees and colleagues whose lives he personally impacted. “Dr. Mulvihill is an extraordinary mentor. His influence has shaped so many of our careers and personal lives. The reception was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate him and share our gratitude for all he has done for us. We wish him all the best as he continues to change the world. His legacy lives on in each of us,” said Weedn.

As evidence of his dedication to children’s health in Oklahoma and to genetics research, Mulvihill and his wife Dr. Charlotte Mulvihill recently established the Mulvihill-Altshuler Endowed Research Program Fund in Genetics through a generous gift of $100,000 to Children’s Hospital Foundation (CHF). Funds from the program will be used to support lectures, visiting professors, and special projects in genetics. The program fund bears the Altshuler name in reference to one of Mulvihill’s mentors and close friend, the late Geoffrey Altshuler, MD, who co-founded CHF (formerly Children’s Medical Research Institute).

Mulvihill was also the featured Pediatrics Grand Rounds speaker on August 6, 2014. During his presenta-
The CGC will provide diagnostic evaluation, risk-assessment, testing, education, and counseling to candidates who are predisposed to a hereditary risk for cancer. Our clinical geneticists and genetic counselor will assist individuals and families in understanding the diagnosis, treatment and management of a genetic disorder. Importantly, they will educate candidates on their risk for cancer by reviewing family and personal history as well as discussing screening and risk-reduction strategies for prevention and early detection.

“The goal of the genetics clinic is cancer prevention or, should cancer occur, early detection. Our role and duties are to provide nationally recommended screening testing and surveillance strategies for the people of Oklahoma who have an increased risk of developing cancer,” said Dr. Kesserwan.

Individuals who make the best candidates for clinical genetic services and genetic counseling include those with cancer onset at an early age, cancers occurring in multiple generations of the same family, and clustering of the same type of cancer in close relatives.

Cancer Genetics Clinic hours: Wednesdays, 8am-5pm
Stephenson Cancer Center, 2nd Floor in Supportive Care.
To refer a patient, call Supportive Care at (405) 271-4385

For more information about the Genetics Section visit: www.oumedicine.com/genetics
tion, along with giving a history of his time at OUHSC; Mulvihill delved into genetics research updates, Big Data, healthcare industry changes, and his new role within the NIH. The NIH Human Genome Research Institute requested him to help lead their new Undiagnosed and Rare Disease Program in Bethesda, Maryland. Excited about furthering genetics research “and seizing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he accepted.

Following the Grand Rounds presentation, CHF presented him with a plaque in appreciation for establishing the research fund and had this to say: “We have learned that genetics touches the very heart of almost every human disease,” said Kathy McCracken, CHF Executive Director. “The expertise that John has brought to Oklahoma, along with the support of our board and many others, has made a significant impact on improving the health of Oklahoma’s children.”

Dr. Mulvihill served as Section Chief and professor of Pediatric Genetics since 1998 when he was awarded the Kimberly V. Talley Endowed Chair in Genetics. He recently passed on the leadership baton to Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, in 2012. “It is gratifying and humbling to be entrusted with the position of Section Chief by Dr. Mulvihill—as he has been a long-term mentor of mine,” said Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD.

John and Charlotte Mulvihill were also honored at a reception hosted by the Altshuler family to thank the Mulvihills for their gracious gifts in memory of Geoffrey Altschuler, who passed away on July 16, 2014.

In an eventful week filled with recognition and appreciation coming from all over, it is easy to see the impact Dr. Mulvihill has made in genetics, at OUHSC, and in the hearts of Oklahoma colleagues, patients, and families.
Another successful Gene Team summer concludes! The 2014 Summer Gene Team had three sponsored trainees: Michael Michalopulos from the OSCTR Summer Scholarship Program; Tamara Hughes from the American College of Medical Genetics Summer Fellowship Program; and Aniruddha Parikh (an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University), from the Summer Undergrad Research Experience (SURE) program. All three trainees gained research experience and made valuable contributions while working in the Bidichandani lab.

The Genetics and Biochem Genetics Labs received re-accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The US Federal Government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program as being equal-to or more-stringent-than the government’s own inspection program. CAP inspectors examined the lab staff records, quality control procedures, staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program, and overall management. Both Genetic labs were congratulated by CAP for their excellence in services provided.

Awards

Yogesh Chutake, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Bidichandani lab won the Young Investigator award to present “Epigenetic promoter silencing in Friedreich Ataxia” at the 7th Annual Friedreich Ataxia Symposium in Philadelphia, PA.

Aniruddha Parikh (SURE student in Bidichandani Lab) received the “Outstanding Poster Presentation” award at the OUHSC Summer Research Program competition.

Publications


Jia-Chi Wang¹, Leslie Ross¹, Loretta W Mahon¹, R. Owen¹, Morteza Hemmat¹, Boris T Wang¹, Mohammed El Naggar¹, Kimberly A Kopita¹, Linda M Randolph², John M Chase³, Maria J Aguilera⁴, Juan Lo’pez Siles⁴, Joseph A Church⁵, Natalie Hauser⁶, Joseph J Shen⁶, Marilyn C Jones⁷, Klaas J Wierenga⁸, et al., Regions of homozygosity identified by oligonucleotide SNP arrays: evaluating the incidence and clinical utility. European Journal of Human Genetics advance online publication, 13 August 2014; doi:10.1038/ejhg.2014.153
Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, CMRI Claire Gordon Duncan Chair and Genetics Section Chief, presented a seminar entitled “Development of Targeted Therapies for Genetic Diseases” at the First Hospital of Jilin University, Changchun, China.

John Mulvihill, MD, CMRI Kimberly V. Talley Chair and Professor:
- Presented "Evidence in Humans for the Transmission of Adverse Health Effects Through the Female Germ Line," at the meeting of the Environmental Mutagen and Genomics Society, Orlando, FL, on September 14, 2014.
- Led group discussion in Philadelphia on September 29, 2014, on "Patient Care After DNA Sequencing Testing," at part two of the Future of Clinical Genetics Think Tank, co-sponsored by Toronto Sick Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Carrie Guy, MS, LCGC, Clinical Assistant Professor, and Alix Darden, PhD, “The Student Voice: Learner-Centered Changes in a Molecular Genetics Laboratory Rotation to Increase Student Satisfaction and Knowledge Integration,” presented as a Poster at the National Society of Genetic Counselors, 33rd Annual Education Conference in New Orleans, LA, September 19, 2014 and presented as a poster at the First Annual Academy of Teaching Scholars Education Day, September 24, 2014.


Carrie Guy, MS, LCGC, Clinical Assistant Professor, “Moving Beyond Likert Scales: Competency-Based Milestones and Implications for Genetic Counseling Education,” presented as a Concurrent Paper at the National Society of Genetic Counselors, 33rd Annual Education Conference in New Orleans, LA, September 2014
Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, chaired a scientific session on the “Latest developments in treatment approaches for Friedreich ataxia” at the health symposium for patients and families hosted by the University of South Florida, Department of Neurology (Tampa, FL; 9/4/2014).

Carrie Guy, MS, LCGC, was accepted into the inaugural Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resources (OSCTR) Translating Practice into Research (TPIR) Program.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, was appointed Honorary Guest Professor at the First Hospital of Jilin University, Changchun, China.

John J. Mulvihill, MD, attended the inaugural meeting of the NIH’s expanded Undiagnosed Diseases Program in Washington DC, with representatives from the seven clinical sites, two sequencing centers, and the coordinating center on July 21-22.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, served on the selection committee to identify new inductees into the Academy of Teaching Scholars of the OU College of Medicine.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, served as an expert reviewer for Presbyterian Health Foundation seed grants and Medical Research Council (MRC) U.K. —Research Grant Review.

John J. Mulvihill, MD, was featured in the City Sentinel on August 21 for the celebration of his work as a geneticist and the establishment of the Mulvihill-Altshuler Endowed Research Program in Genetics.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD, was a featured guest of honor at the FARA Energy Ball – a gala event attended by 800 people where $1.8 million was raised for Friedreich ataxia research (Tampa, FL, Sept. 6, 2014).

Farewell Aimee Babarsky!
Former Research Project Coordinator and Gene Scene writer will be missed in Genetics!

Genetics gathers for the MSGC Welcome potluck!

OUHSC MSGC student and alumni reunion at the National Society of Genetic Counselors Meeting in New Orleans, LA, September 2014.