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## Vaupel to Speak in Rotunda

On October 27, 2005, Dr. James Vaupel will give a lecture titled "How Long Will We Live and How Well Will We Live?" at 3:30 p.m. in the Dome Room of the Rotunda. A reception will follow in the Lower West Oval Room. Dr. Vaupel is the founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, and the world's foremost demographer of longevity. His research spans the study of humans, including centenarians and twins, nematodes, and Mediterranean fruit flies to further understanding of the determinants of and limits to human life expectancy. He is a leader in the new areas of biodemography and paleodemography. In this talk, Dr. Vaupel will present a balanced assessment of the prospects for longer, healthier lives.

## Dresser to Speak at UVa in October

On October 11, 2005, Professor Rebecca Dresser will give a lecture titled "Autonomy Is Not the Answer: Rewriting the Law on Life-Sustaining Treatment for Dementia Patients" at 4:30 p.m. in Caplin Pavilion at the University of Virginia School of Law. Ms. Dresser is the Daniel Noyes Kirby Professor of Law and Professor of Ethics in Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. Since 1983, she has taught both medical and law students about legal and ethical issues in end-of-life care, biomedical research, genetics, assisted reproduction, and related topics. Professor Dresser is also a member of the President's Council on Bioethics. Previously, Ms. Dresser taught at Baylor College of Medicine and Case Western Reserve University.

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## Exercise Conference Held in April

On April 26, 2005, the Institute on Aging and the Curry School of Education presented "Research on Exercise and Healthy Aging," (co-sponsored by the UVa School of Medicine Office of Continuing Medical Education) a half-day symposium offering continuing medical education credit in Jordan Hall Auditorium in the UVa Medical Complex. Featured speakers included Dr. Steven Blair of The Cooper Institute, Dr. William Evans of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Dr. Edward McAuley of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and the University of Illinois. Dr. Blair spoke on the importance of physical activity and cardiorespiratory fitness in aging, Dr. Evans covered the topic of sarcopenia, and Dr. McAuley discussed physical activity and aging in terms of adherence, function, and quality of life. The symposium drew an audience of 200 that included physicians, physical therapists, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the local community.

## Spring and Summer Aging 101

The Institute on Aging completed another successful Aging 101 community lecture series this spring. All lectures were held at the Holiday Inn at 1901 Emmet Street and each was well-attended. On March 8, Drs. Arthur Weltman and Glenn Gaesser discussed cardiovascular and muscular fitness exercise options and interventions for older persons. On March 22, Drs. Majd Alwan and John Lach described the passive monitoring technologies they have developed to assist the elderly, the results of their research, and prospects for mass adaptation of these technologies. On April 5, Professors Thomas Hafemeister and Thomas White addressed the nature, prevalence, indicators, and cause of elder abuse, and discussed society's response. Due to the overwhelming popularity of this series, an encore presentation of the talk given by Drs. Weltman and Gaesser was held on July 7, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the ACAC location in Albemarle Square Shopping Center. The two lectures and group question and answer session were followed by a catered reception provided by Whole Foods Market during which speakers answered the individual questions of audience members. The Institute on Aging will sponsor its third Aging 101 series beginning November 2 at the Charlottesville Senior Center. For more information, see page 3, or visit <http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/news.html>.

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### Kandel Fills Old Cabell

On Friday, January 28, Nobel Laureate Dr. Eric Kandel, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work mapping the neural circuitry of aplysia, a giant marine snail, gave a stimulating lecture discussing the molecular biology of memory and age-related memory disorders. The lecture drew an enthusiastic crowd of 1000, filling Old Cabell Hall to capacity. Overflow was sent to a large auditorium in nearby Wilson Hall. Dr. Kandel is University Professor at the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and his lab is currently studying implicit and explicit memory storage. This lecture, part of the Nobel Laureate Lecture Series, was sponsored by the Institute on Aging and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

### Deary Visit Well-Received

Dr. Ian Deary, professor of psychology at the University of Edinburgh, spoke to an audience of 65 in the Old Medical School Auditorium at UVa on March 18, 2005. Dr. Deary discussed the predictive value of childhood IQs on functioning late in life. His current research takes advantage of the fact that every Scottish schoolchild born in 1921 who attended school on the 1st of June, 1932, took The Moray House Test, a test of mental ability. 87,498 children participated in this intelligence testing, called the 'Scottish Mental Survey' (SMS) of 1932. Dr. Deary summarized the results of the testing and included photographs of individuals participating in the testing process in his presentation. For the first time, researchers were able to collect information about mental abilities in both early and late life. Factors that are being considered in Dr. Deary's research on cognitive aging include health, employment, level of education and genetic factors. This lecture was part of the Distinguished Speaker Series sponsored by the Institute on Aging.

## Fall Aging 101 Series Set for November

The Institute on Aging will hold its fall Aging 101 series on two dates in November at the Charlottesville Senior Center. On November 2, Dr. Scott Bender, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatric Medicine, and Dr. Dan Cox, Professor of Psychiatric Medicine and Professor of Internal Medicine, both experts on driving assessment, will summarize information on changes in driving ability related to aging. On November 16, Dr. David Geldmacher, Associate Professor of Neurology, and Dr. Carol Manning, Associate Professor of Neurology, will discuss factors associated with the prevalence of and recent progress in treatments for Alzheimer's Dementia.

Aging 101 is a community lecture series for the general public describing University of Virginia research related to aging. These lectures will be held at the Senior Center from 7 until 8:30 p.m., and will be followed by a reception where the speakers will gladly answer individual questions. There is no admission fee, but you must **RSVP** by e-mail at [uvaging@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaging@virginia.edu) or by phone at 243-5695 to reserve your space. Free parking is available at the Charlottesville Senior Center at 1180 Pepsi Place.

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## Call for Pilot Research Project Applications

One of the primary goals of the University of Virginia Institute on Aging is to stimulate research related to issues of aging, and to encourage the formation of collaborative teams to pursue innovative approaches to topics relevant to later life. In support of this goal, funds will be available beginning January 2006 for pilot projects that have a reasonable likelihood of generating data that will result in successful applications for external funding. The pilot projects will be awarded for one year with a budget of up to \$25,000. The pilot program is open to investigators from all disciplines at the University of Virginia. Collaborative teams bridging two or more disciplines are particularly encouraged.

Applications should be submitted electronically to [uvaging@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaging@virginia.edu) by **November 18, 2005**, and should consist of no more than 6 pages, plus a biographical sketch (or CV) for each principal investigator, and a budget justification. Decisions will be announced in December 2005, and funding can begin January 2006. Please visit our website at <http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute> for complete details about the pilot project program and its application process.

## Call for Community-Based Research Project Applications

The University of Virginia Institute on Aging and the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) are pleased to announce the availability of funding for student assistance with collaborative, community-based research in the field of aging. Student stipends in amounts up to \$5,000 will be awarded for the calendar year ending December 31, 2006. This initiative promotes one prong of the Institute's mission to enrich the lives of elders by acting as a catalyst and coordinator for aging-related research. Additionally, the community-based research program serves in part as a pathway for implementation of the JABA 2020 Community Plan on Aging (see <http://www.jabacares.org/plansummary.pdf>).

All University of Virginia faculty are eligible to apply for the research assistance grant. Students may serve as co-investigators on proposed research projects, but the principal investigator must be a faculty member. The stipend awards may be used for either undergraduate or graduate students. One copy of the proposal must be submitted electronically to [uvaging@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaging@virginia.edu) by **January 6, 2006**. Complete information about this funding program is available at [www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/research.html](http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/research.html) or by contacting Lora Hamp, Assistant Director at [lhamp@virginia.edu](mailto:lhamp@virginia.edu) or (434) 882-1612.

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## Funding Available for Aging Course Development

The Institute on Aging announces the availability of funding for the development of a course related to aging at the University of Virginia. One of the Institute's goals is to serve as an information resource about aging issues, and to contribute to providing comprehensive education in gerontology and innovative practice in geriatrics. This funding opportunity is in support of that goal.

Funding is available to investigators from all disciplines at the University of Virginia. A sum of \$20,000 will be provided over a period of 12 months to be used for items such as faculty summer support, a teaching assistant, and purchase of materials. The course should be planned to be taught for at least three semesters and can be on virtually any topic related to aging. Examples might include: Age and Aging in Literature, Adult and Elderly Nutrition, Public Policy and the Elderly, Older Consumers and their Behavior, Aging and Art, and the Perception of Aging throughout History.

Applications should be electronically submitted to [uvaging@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaging@virginia.edu) by **December 20, 2005** and should consist of a biographical sketch (or CV) for the instructor, a description of the course, a course syllabus, and a budget justification. Decisions will be announced in January 2006 and funding can begin May 2006. Please contact the Institute on Aging at [uvaging@virginia.edu](mailto:uvaging@virginia.edu) or (434) 243-5695 with any questions.

## Pilot Project Program Update

Thus far, the Institute on Aging has awarded ten pilot project awards to investigators at the University of Virginia. We are pleased to announce that the project awarded to Professor Barry Condron, "In vivo monitoring of tauopathy in fruit flies" was in part responsible for funding received July 1, 2005 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study the role of regulating the cocaine-sensitive serotonin transporter. The pilot project funding that Professor Condron received provided critical preliminary data for this grant. For more information on Institute on Aging pilot projects, please visit: <http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/research.html>.

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## Research Opportunities Currently Available

### Applications Invited for Medical Student Summer Research Training in Aging Program (Deadline: February 7, 2006)

Administered by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the 2006 Medical Student Summer Research Training in Aging Program will provide medical students, early in their training, with an enriching experience in aging-related research and geriatrics, under the mentorship of top experts in the field.

Students participate in an eight- to twelve-week structured research, clinical, and didactic program in geriatrics, appropriate to their level of training and interests. Monthly stipends will be provided and in addition, students will receive a travel stipend to present a poster at the May 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in Seattle, Washington, and participate in a roundtable luncheon discussion with research mentors, developed for participants in this program. Full details available at: [www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/research.html](http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/research.html).

### Learn More about Opportunities for Research Funding through the Alzheimer's Association

Monday, October 24, 2005  
2:00 PM until 4:00 PM

In the conference room of the Virginia Department for the Aging  
1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100  
Richmond, VA 23229

William Thies, Ph.D., Vice President of Medical and Scientific Affairs for the national Alzheimer's Association will be in Richmond on October 24th to talk with researchers and others about opportunities for research funding through the Alzheimer's Association. Dr. Thies oversees the largest private Alzheimer's research grant program in the world. He will discuss the application and funding process.

Please RSVP by Friday October 14th by contacting Cecily Slasor at the Virginia Department for the Aging.

(804) 662-9338

[cecily.slasor@vda.virginia.gov](mailto:cecily.slasor@vda.virginia.gov)

## Aging Funding Received

Three University of Virginia researchers recently received grants from the National Institute on Aging for their research. Dr. Russell Swerdlow's project will investigate the role of mitochondrial DNA in age-related neurodegenerative disease. Dr. Timothy Salthouse's project will investigate short-term longitudinal change in a broad variety of cognitive variables in normal adults. Dr. Michelle King's research will investigate tau pathology which is implicated in Alzheimer's disease.

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## Aging-Related Information Requested

At the Institute on Aging, we are trying to gather information about all faculty members researching and teaching on topics related aging at the University of Virginia. If you or someone you know at UVA is involved with issues related to aging, please let us know. Additionally, if someone within your department has recent accomplishments related to aging (funding, awards, etc.), please let us know so that we can recognize that person in a future newsletter.

## Community Based Research Program

The Institute on Aging encourages UVA faculty members to consider collaborating with community partners in aging-related research. As part of its mission to promote research in the field of aging, the Institute works to link community organizations and faculty researchers to promote the development of community based research concepts by (1) providing funding for student research stipends and (2) by coordinating discussion work groups. For more information about the funding opportunities, see page 4.

Below is a list of aging-related research needs recently identified by community organizations in Planning District 10:

- Evaluation of effects of balance training on quality of life for seniors;
- Evaluation of models of culture change in long term care facilities;
- Evaluation of impact of negotiated risk agreements in long term care facilities;
- Community assessment of health coordination needs, challenges, and resources.

If you are interested in learning more about these community research concepts, or if you would like more general information about collaborative community based research, please contact Lora Hamp, Community Research Liaison, at [lhamp@virginia.edu](mailto:lhamp@virginia.edu).

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## Forum Planned for December

The Institute on Aging will sponsor a half-day community research forum on December 8, 2005. As details become available, more information will be posted on our website: [www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/news.html](http://www.virginia.edu/aginginstitute/news.html).