

Medical school faculty, staff honored with prestigious awards

2008 Faculty Awards for Excellence

On Tuesday, September 16, during the university convocation ceremony in the Student Union Apollo Room, two medical school professors received **2008 Faculty Awards for Excellence** from University President David R. Hopkins, P.E.D.

Michael Leffak, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, was named the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research. Leffak was selected for the prestigious honor based on his award-winning research in DNA sequences and proteins, dozens of articles in peer-reviewed journals, consistent grant support throughout 28 years with the university, and exceptional teaching, including work with graduate students in the laboratory.

Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., associate dean for research affairs and professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, received the University Professor Award for Excellence for his contributions to biological and biomedical research. A faculty member since 1992, Fyffe and his laboratory have focused on neurobiology of the spinal cord, generating numerous peer-reviewed publications and earning extensive funding from the National Institutes of Health. Fyffe also helped to create the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center, which expands his efforts to encourage research collaboration within and outside the university.

2008 President's Awards for Excellence

On Monday, September 22, President Hopkins presented the **2008 President's Awards for Excellence** to honor university staff members and units at a special public ceremony, also held in the Student Union Apollo Room.

Carla Lachecki, M.A., program coordinator for the medical school's Center for Healthy Communities, was honored with the President's Award for Excellence in Leadership. Lachecki was selected for exemplary performance in her leadership

role within the center, her service as a role model and mentor, and her essential contributions to support and strengthen the center, the medical school, and the university as a whole.

Faculty Teaching Awards

On Thursday, September 18, the medical school recognized several distinguished faculty during the **Faculty Teaching Awards** ceremony held as part of the annual faculty development day.

The **Faculty Mentor Awards** recognize two faculty (one in basic sciences and one in a clinical area) nominated by junior faculty for serving as role models, promoting professional development, and creating a supportive work environment.

- **Glenn Hamilton, M.D., M.S.M.**, chair and professor of emergency medicine and board chair of the H.E.L.P. Center
- **Lawrence Prochaska, Ph.D.**, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology/ COSM

The **Volunteer Faculty Awards** honor faculty who volunteer their time and effort to further the mission of the medical school and who exhibit a strong commitment to teaching while serving as role models to students.

- **Esam Alkhawaga, M.D.**, TCN Behavioral Health Services
- **South Dayton Family Physicians**
 - Steven Robbe, M.D.
 - Eric McHenry, M.D.
 - Brad Snider, M.D.
 - Thomas Dixon, M.D.
- **Patricia McDowell, M.D., Ph.D.**, Kettering Medical Center, Pathology Laboratory

The **Excellence in Medical Education Award** honors faculty for excellence in teaching and engagement with the curriculum to significantly improve students' educational experience.

- **Brenda Roman, M.D.**, professor of psychiatry, and director of medical student education

