CAROL R. BRADFORD (M.D. 1982, M.S. 1988, Residency 1992), the Charles J. Krause, M.D., Collegiate Professor of Otolaryngology and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, was the inaugural speaker for the Lee Ching Wu Anderson, M.D., Women in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Leadership Lecture at Johns Hopkins Medicine in October 2012.

Two U-M Medical School faculty members have been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, one of the most prestigious honors in the field of medicine: JOHN M. CARE THERS, M.D. (Fellowship 1995), the John G. Searle Professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine; and JOHN O. DELANCEY (M.D. 1977, Residency 1981), the Norman F. Miller Professor of Gynecology. Recognized as health leaders who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service, the two join 48 past and present U-M faculty members also elected to the IOM.

STEVEN M. DONN, M.D., professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, has been appointed editor-in-chief of Seminars in Fetal & Neonatal Medicine, a bi-monthly review journal of interest to obstetricians, midwives and fetal medicine specialists, published by Elsevier. Donn will set strategic editorial goals for the journal, identify appropriate topics and authoritative guest editors, and work with guest editors and the publisher to achieve timely publication. He will also review final versions of peer-reviewed manuscripts prior to submission for publication.

GARY D. HAMMER, M.D., Ph.D., the Millie Schembechler Professor of Adrenal Cancer; professor of internal medicine, of cell and developmental biology, and of molecular and integrative physiology; and director of the Center for Organogenesis, received a 2013 Laureate Award from the Endocrine Society at its annual meeting in June in San Francisco. The award was established in 1944 to recognize the highest achievements in endocrinology, including science, leadership, teaching and service.

CELINA G. KLEER, M.D. (Residency 1999), the Harold Oberman Collegiate Professor of Pathology and director of the U-M Breast Pathology Program, is the recipient of the 2013 Ramzi Cotran Young Investigator Award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology. This award was established to recognize a body of investigative work which has contributed significantly to the diagnosis and understanding of human disease.

RALPH B. LYDIC, Ph.D., the Bert N. LaDu Professor of Anesthesiology Research, professor of anesthesiology, and of molecular and integrative physiology, was appointed to chair the External Advisory Council of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute. He is also the recipient of the American Society of Anesthesiologists 2012 Excellence in Research Award.

CHRISTINE C. NELSON, M.D., professor of ophthalmology and visual sci- (continued on p. 42)
When molecular biochemist Colin Duckett, Ph.D., was named the first program development director at the U-M North Campus Research Complex, he worried the role wouldn’t leave him time for his first love: his lab, where he’s devoted his career to untangling genetic mysteries.

“No scientist gets trained for this kind of role,” he says. “Being program director at NCRC is a different job again. I’m still trying to find the balance between this role and my research. It’s a constant challenge, but a truly rewarding one.”

But that balance seems in place as Duckett speed-walks a visitor through NCRC corridors, excitedly pointing out change in progress. It’s moving-in day for seven labs joining the Translational Oncology Program, designed to fast-track discoveries in cancer research into new treatments. Elsewhere, Duckett points to where 19 new start-up companies make their home.

During his postdoc years at the University of Chicago, Duckett co-discovered the XIAP (X-Linked Inhibitor of Apoptosis) gene, one of whose functions is to produce a protein that protects many cells, including immune cells, from apoptosis, or self-destruction.

But it was at Michigan that his work truly leapt from bench to bedside. A fellow in Duckett’s lab told him about one of her patients, a toddler who had been repeatedly hospitalized with viral infections most kids recover from easily. The fellow diagnosed him with type 2 XLP — a genetic disease that develops from a mutation in the XIAP gene. Duckett met with the little boy. “It was a real eye-opener to meet a patient who has an autoimmune disease because he has no XIAP gene,” he says. “His family is looking at me to cure their son, but it’s such a vastly complex problem. I realized I couldn’t live in my ivory tower any more.”

Born in London, England, he developed his love of discovery from his godfather, a senior surveillance investigator at Scotland Yard. “We did experiments at the kitchen table — making radios, compasses, learning about night imaging, firearms, ballistics, fingerprints, you name it. There were no real limits,” he says.

Science stuck. As an undergraduate at the University of London, he studied a group of HIV-positive patients whose virus developed resistance to the only available drug at the time, AZT. He continued research into HIV/AIDS at Michigan in Gary Nabel’s lab, an experience he recalls as “a very big break.” Duckett was working as an independent investigator at the National Cancer Institute when he was recruited to Michigan in 2002 and named a Biological Sciences Scholar.

“It was a badge of honor,” Duckett recalls, adding that the other young scientists who were part of the program that year have formed into “a tight-knit family” who often seek each other out for professional and scientific advice. Many have gone on to leadership positions at Michigan.

When he’s not working to understand the molecular mechanisms of apoptosis regulation, Duckett’s building an NCRC that thrums with curiosity, collaboration and discovery as scientists who never dreamed they’d be sharing space with each other are suddenly neighbors who can pop across the hall for coffee and a new, harebrained idea that just might cure a kid with a mutation on the XIAP gene.

“There’s a huge lot of good will here,” he says. “I’d be happy to stay here for the rest of my career.”
—Whitley Hill
In 2012, the University of Michigan led the nation with 19 scientists and engineers elected fellows of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), including 10 from the U-M Medical School, listed below. Founded in 1848, AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science.

JAMES BARDWELL, Ph.D., professor of biological chemistry; JASON GESTWICKI, Ph.D., former associate professor of pathology and of biological chemistry; DEBORAH L. GUMUCIO (Ph.D. 1986), professor of cell and developmental biology; PAUL HOLLLENBERG (Ph.D. 1969), the Maurice H. Seegers Collegiate Professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology; ORMOND MACDOUGALD, Ph.D., the John A. Faulkner Collegiate Professor of Physiology, professor of molecular and integrative physiology and of internal medicine; RICHARD MILLER, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology and research professor at the Institute of Gerontology; HARRY MOBLEY, Ph.D., the Frederick G. Novy Collegiate Professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology; JOHN MORAN, Ph.D., the Gilbert S. Omenn Collegiate Professor of Human Genetics and professor of internal medicine; JACQUES E. NOR, D.D.S, Ph.D., professor of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery; and YI SUN, M.D., Ph.D., professor of radiation oncology.

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