SAVE THE DATE

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

Department of Surgery hosts a informational brown bag lunch session to provide learning opportunities. So bring a lunch, join us and learn more!

Masato Yamamoto, M.D. Ph.D.
Professor, Division of Basic and Translational Research
presents:

“Treating Cancer with Cold Virus”

Save the Date!

- January 30, 2015
- 12-1 pm; refreshments provided
- Surgery Conference Room - 11-157 PWB
- Sponsored by Department of Surgery

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover™
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Kathleen Olakunle

Employee Recognition Award: Staff Award
Nominated for Vision and Mission – Pioneering Research, Education of Surgical Leaders
Values – Professionalism

“Kathleen has been a willing and helpful co-worker and an example of professionalism and excellence in the Department of Surgery,” says Dr. Jeffrey Chipman in recognizing Kathleen for the Employee Recognition Award. “She has been ready and willing to step out of the confines of her job and extend herself whenever necessary.”

Kathleen, as a department of surgery human resource representative, works primarily with those who are not U.S. citizens and require visas to work at the University. Dr. Chipman nominated Kathleen for the award for her invaluable assistance in helping non-U.S. faculty, fellows, residents and students complete the necessary federal paperwork required. He explains, “Her assistance has proved invaluable to those she has worked with and to the department. Without her, we would have missed opportunities to have very talented researchers and clinicians that have enhanced the reputation of the department of surgery.”

Kathleen has been a member of department since early 1990s and previously worked in liberal arts while completing her bachelor's degree. She worked for several faculty members in surgery (Drs. William Payne, David Sutherland, Arnold Leonard, Paul Gores and David Dunn) before transitioning to administrative and human resource work, where she has been ever since.

When asked why Kathleen has stayed in her current position for so long, she explains that she has many areas of personal interest – the medical field, medicine/medical technology, interaction with various cultures and the legal field (in particular immigration). Her work in the department provides her with the opportunity to continuously learn something new. She has great satisfaction in knowing that even though she does not have the skills or training in many areas of her interest, she is able assist in the hiring process of those who do possess those skills and talents for our department. She also loves the study of language and culture and is fascinated in learning how they shape our values and interactions in a multicultural workforce.

Working closely with Kathleen on a complex and time sensitive immigration issue Lisa Rogers, Administrative Research Director, also nominated Kathleen. “Kathleen clearly outlined all of the options; served as the liaison to the relevant departments and outside agencies to quickly resolve the situation and was the primary communications link between the University and the employee,” says Lisa. Her expertise, knowledge and compassion were evident as she navigated complex federal regulations and procedures. "Her ability to describe complex federal regulations and procedures is exemplary as is the professionalism and compassion that she brings to the job," says Lisa.

Outside of work, Kathleen’s interests include research. She reads extensively and purposefully, researching many subject areas: history/development/trends in, politics, medicine/medical technology, languages and culture. “If you see me walking around with red earphones, I am not listening to music. I am listening to an audiobook to learn something new,”
says Kathleen. One of her major passions is genealogy. She is an avid genealogist and has been able to do extensive research on many members of both her mother and father’s families. She has been able to unearth information that her parents, grandparents, and great grandparents themselves might not have known about. In her quest she has actually located and met several relatives from her mother’s great grandfather’s descendants that have been able to fill in quite a bit of missing information that she needed to do further research on that branch of the family.

Kathleen expresses her gratitude and considers the award a great honor. “I am extremely pleased to receive this recognition by the department of surgery. It is my pleasure to be a part of this prestigious department and I want to do whatever is in my power to do to help it be successful in its mission of being one of the best in the United States,” says Kathleen.

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**EMPLOYEE UPDATES**

Please congratulate Christine Vincent as she takes on new responsibilities and challenges in her role as Division Administrator for SICU. Christine has worked within the division for three years providing support to the faculty and staff. In her new role, she will be filling the administrative void that has occurred with Debbie Bresina’s retirement. Christine is a tremendous asset, and we are extremely happy that she has an opportunity to progress in career within our department.

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**IN THE NEWS**

BRCA2 mutation risk increases from 9 percent to 23 percent. Todd Tuttle comments. [Spy Ghana](http://www.spyghana.com)

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**RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Do you see someone working hard in your area and contributing to the department’s success by fulfilling our mission, vision and values? If so, take a moment to [nominate](http://www.surgery.umn.edu) this person for an Employee Recognition Award.

Completed nomination forms should be sent to Michelle Lunden.

The Department of Surgery Update is sent to department faculty, fellows, residents, and staff. To submit an item for publication in Update, send the information to [surgupdt@umn.edu](mailto:surgupdt@umn.edu)

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