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In Memoriam
From the Dean

As this is written, I am completing eight months in this interim position. To say that it has been an extraordinarily stimulating experience for both Jean and me would be an understatement. As most of you know, it was neither expected nor sought, but a request I could not refuse.

This interim period has been one of challenges and opportunities that I shared in large part with the Dean’s Alumni Council at the spring meeting in Hilton Head. One of the first challenges was realizing that the dean is the steward of a large college budget and chairman of the board of UTMG, the COM clinical practice group.

It is important to note that Chris Fleming, who serves as chair of the UTMG Finance Committee, is leading the Manhattan Project Program, which is a work-in-progress examining all aspects of the UTMG including governance, financial management, compensation and, importantly, the academic and clinical balance of our faculty time. Needless to say, the outcome of this project will be very important to the college, especially the clinical faculty.

It will come as no surprise to you that this state is financially challenged, which means that our COM is underfunded and, therefore, challenged. We have proposed another tuition increase of 3 percent for incoming medical students. The MED, which is our largest partner in education and patient care, is likewise underfunded by the county, and the mix of patients there only adds to the financial reimbursement challenge. We will soon be in contract negotiations and are optimistic that our position there will improve. Bottom line, the MED is an educational and financial necessity.

The most exciting experience for me has been dealing with our emerging relationship with Methodist University Hospital. After Baptist Hospital left the medical center, the MUH has become our most-valued partner in the academic medical center. One example of this relationship has been our recent successful joint recruitment of Dr. James Eason, COM ‘87, as head of the Transplant Institute. James is a third-generation UTHSC COM alum and a great guy......please read about him in the “new faces” section. There will be more announcements about our exciting joint faculty recruitments in the fall issue of this magazine.

Also noted in this issue are announcements of interim chairs in the college. By this July, there will be six interim or acting chairs, including one in the newly added department of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging, which joined us in June and was formerly the College of Health Science Engineering. An additional vacancy will occur beginning next year in radiology. I am very grateful to these department leaders who have agreed to serve as interim chairs with me. They have been extraordinarily supportive and are receiving the solid support of their own faculty until permanent chairs are found. Although a challenge at the moment, this is a wonderful opportunity for this faculty to take stock of their departments’ current situations and to begin creating their vision for the future as the permanent leadership in the college is established.

The newest face in the magazine is Dr. Steve Schwab, who will join us this summer from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) as the first executive dean of the UTHSC COM. As noted, he will assume overall responsibility for the COM campuses in Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Dr. Schwab will be located here along with the permanent dean for the Memphis campus. He is a distinguished clinical scientist who will bring great enthusiasm and aggressive leadership to our statewide COM. I look forward to working with him in the short term and introducing him to our college family as the search begins for the permanent dean for this campus. Steve’s wife, Carol, is a lawyer and a member of the faculty at MCG.

Other very special colleagues are also featured in this issue. Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, an outstanding scientist who received his training in Hungary, was recently named the Van Vleet Professor in Oncology Research. He is a highly valued member of our faculty in physiology and will continue to be important to our research enterprise.

Bob Kaplan, COM ’73, who also received his training in dermatology here, has made an extraordinarily generous gift to create a state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Center for our students. No doubt there are few alums who are as committed to UT as Bob, and we are enormously grateful to this valued member of our alumni family.

You must read the story of Jim Dale’s, COM ’77, pursuit of the streptococcal vaccine, which is our feature story. A member of our college family who graduated from UTK, then medical school and post-graduate training in internal medicine and infectious diseases here, was recently appointed the Gene H. Stollerman, MD, Endowed Professor in Internal Medi-
From the President

The transition to new leadership at the UT Health Science Center continues. Dr. Bill Owen was named Chancellor of UTHSC in early 2005 and is well on his way to recruiting a new compliment of vice chancellors and other key leaders at the UT Health Science Center. One of the notable changes in the administrative culture at the Health Science Center is the creation of a new position - the first Executive Dean of Medicine - who will have responsibility for UTHSC College of Medicine campuses in Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga. This individual will serve as the College of Medicine’s leader of statewide initiatives and will work closely with the executive leadership of the UTHSC’s affiliated teaching hospitals. (See page 7 for details on the appointment of Dr. Schwab.)

As reported in the last issue, with the retirement of Dr. Hank Herrod as dean of the college, we have been fortunate to have fellow alumnus, Dr. Hershel “Pat” Wall, ’60, take the reins of the college on an interim basis. Dr. Wall is doing an outstanding job and deserves our gratitude and accolades for taking on a challenging role. In March he met with the Alumni Council and shared the significant physical changes occurring in the Memphis medical center – new buildings under way or planned for – the UT Cancer Research Center, UT-Baptist Research Park and a 12-story building at Le Bonheur. The master plan calls for a more than $1 billion investment in capital projects in the downtown medical center.

An interim dean does not serve without challenges. Under Dr. Wall’s leadership, the college has been engaged in searches for six vacant chairs. The review and restructuring of UT Medical Group also takes a good deal of the dean’s time and attention. National and regional issues related to graduate medical education and “right sizing” of residency programs are also on the dean’s busy agenda.

With the college’s next accreditation visit scheduled for November 2006, please join me in lending full support to Dr. Wall during his tenure as interim dean. There is no one better qualified to lead our college during this important transformational period.

Just a brief reminder that our Medicine Alumni Council serves in an advisory capacity to the dean. I invite you to let me know if you have an interest in serving on the Alumni Council. It is a great group of docs who are interested in and committed to a bright future for our college.

Your support of the UT College of Medicine is much appreciated and critically important in this time of transition.

James Christian Fleming, MD, COM ’74
President
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council
utalumni@utmem.edu
Cooper Young Historic District Offers Great Entertainment Options in the Heart of Midtown

The Cooper Young Historic District, located around the intersection of Cooper Street and Young Avenue, is a hip midtown neighborhood offering a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options to Memphians and tourists.

Once mealtime is over, many of the restaurants morph into trendy bars as the night progresses. Young Avenue Deli offers classic pub grub and pizzas to go along with their extensive selection of draft beers. The venue is also one of the hottest places in town to catch local and touring musicians or just to play a game of pool. Next door, Café Ole serves up delicious Mexican food on one of the best patios in Memphis. Great outdoor dining is also available down the street at Celtic Crossing. This is a perfect place to people watch while enjoying affordable and delicious food. Blue Fish offers excellent seafood dishes in a chic retro décor. The Beauty Shop takes ambiance to another level providing an eclectic blend of foods that is almost as unusual as the furnishings. The hand-blown glass light fixtures, sweeping hand-carved bar and beauty-parlor style sinks make this an unmistakably bohemian haunt.

For those who may have eaten too much at lunch and need a little exercise, there’s plenty of shopping within walking distance. On Central Avenue, antique stores and decorating options abound, such as Ivy’s Antiques and Interiors, Market Central, Midtown Galleries and Auction and, Palladio. If all that shopping works up another appetite, Palladio also offers a café. For those who have been inspired by the music at Young Avenue Deli to take up the drums, Memphis Drum Shop offers one of the best selections of percussion instruments in the city. Shops like Bella Notte, Chapman and Co. and Inz & Outz feature a wide array of collectibles.

One of the most anticipated events in Memphis during the fall is certainly the Cooper Young Festival. This year’s event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16. The festival is expected to draw more than 500,000 guests to Memphis’ largest historic district to enjoy a myriad of entertainment. Live bands will play throughout the day as festival-goers browse the wares of more than 300 vendors. The booths will feature artisans from around the country offering art, music, crafts and more. Hosted by the Cooper Young Business Association, details about bands, vendors, and other activities for this year’s festival will be available at www.cooperyoungfestival.com.

**In the Neighborhood**

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First Executive Dean to Lead UTHSC Medical College Campuses Across State

A nationwide search culminated in the appointment of Steve J. Schwab, MD, as the first executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine campuses. Reporting directly to the chancellor, Dr. Schwab will assume his role at UTHSC in late July and be located in Memphis. He will have overall administrative responsibility for the UTHSC College of Medicine campus locations in Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Deans located on each of these campuses will report to Dr. Schwab.

Serving as the most senior administrative leader for College of Medicine statewide initiatives, such as the UT Cancer Institute and the UT Biodefense Network, Dr. Schwab will also work closely with the executive leadership of UTHSC’s affiliated teaching hospitals.

“Dr. Schwab is joining Tennessee’s flagship academic health center at a pivotal point in our history,” said William F. Owen, Jr., MD, UTHSC chancellor. “We are challenged to meet inequities in access to healthcare, disparities in healthcare interventions and outcomes, not to mention escalating costs of healthcare endemic to our nation. With all of these opportunities as a backdrop, our mandate is to serve the entire state of Tennessee. Dr. Schwab brings extensive leadership experience that will enable us to achieve our mission of excellence in education, research, patient care and community service throughout the state.”

Prior to joining UTHSC, Dr. Schwab served as interim dean and chief clinical officer of the Medical College of Georgia where he was also a Regents Professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine. Before that, from 1985 to 2003, he was at Duke University where he rose to become professor and vice chairman of medicine. He has held board positions in both the private and public sectors and currently serves on the Medical Advisory Board of the National Kidney Foundation of Singapore and the National Renal Alliance.

Internationally recognized in the field of renal disease with more than 150 refereed publications and five books to his credit, he has presented his research nationally and across Europe and Asia. Dr. Schwab regularly reviews research for professional journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Journal of Medicine and the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. Currently, he is on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, Kidney International and Clinical Nephrology. Additionally, he has a substantial record of NIH funding in both single-center and multi-center clinical trials.

Attesting to his commitment to patient care is the fact that Dr. Schwab was selected for inclusion in Best Doctors in America and America’s Top Doctors for the past 12 years. Certified in internal medicine and nephrology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), Dr. Schwab served as a board member from 1996 to 2002. The ABIM sets the standards for and certifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes of physicians who practice internal medicine in the United States. He has been honored by the National Kidney Foundation, the American Heart Association and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Schwab’s teaching expertise is evidenced by his winning the Duke University Eugene Stead Teaching Award.

A native of Cape Girardeau, Mo., he graduated from the University of Missouri School of Medicine, completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Kansas Hospitals and Clinics, and a fellowship in nephrology at the Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Mo.
UTHSC Alum Eason to Lead Transplant Unit

James Eason, MD, FACS, COM ’87, has joined the UT/Methodist partnership as a faculty member in UTHSC’s Department of Surgery and as program director of the Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute. He is also coming on board as a member of the UT Medical Group, Inc. Dr. Eason comes from Ochsner Clinic and Ochsner Foundation Hospital in New Orleans, where he was section head of Abdominal Organ Transplantation. Dr. Eason began his new position in March.

A native Memphian, Dr. Eason received his medical degree in 1987 from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine and his undergraduate degree from David Lipscomb University in Nashville. He is a member of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and the International Liver Transplantation Society. He was formerly director of liver transplantation for the New Orleans Children’s Hospital. Dr. Eason served as a Clinical Fellow in surgery at Harvard Medical School and as a Clinical and Research Fellow in transplant surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“It’s a great experience to be able to come full circle and serve the people of my home state,” he said. “I think the UT/Methodist program has the potential to be one of the top programs in the nation. It was one of the first programs to perform a liver transplant in the country, and I’m looking forward to working with the physicians and the entire transplant team.”

Dr. Eason’s primary areas of interest and expertise are liver and kidney transplantation, and he performs laparoscopic donor kidney removal. He is interested in clinical research and has most recently been involved in research surrounding steroid-free liver transplantation.

Waters to Serve as Interim Chair of Physiology

As a professor in the Department of Physiology, Christopher M. Waters, PhD, has been asked to step into the role of interim chair to lead the department.

Dr. Waters began his tenure at the UT Health Science Center in 1999 as an associate professor of physiology in the College of Medicine. In 2001, he also became an associate professor of biomedical engineering, a position he continues to hold. Dr. Waters has more than a decade of continuous academic and research experience since earning his PhD in biomedical engineering at Vanderbilt University in 1991. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt in 1992, Dr. Waters served as an assistant professor at Northwestern University in both Chicago and Evanston, Ill.

To date, Dr. Waters has authored 45 peer-reviewed publications and is participating in three NIH-funded research studies, two for which he serves as the principal investigator. He also serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology: Lung Molecular and Cellular Physiology. Throughout his career, Dr. Waters has received numerous honors and awards, including the Giles Filley Memorial Award from the American Physiological Society in 1998 recognizing excellence in research in respiratory physiology and medicine. Dr. Waters also is a member of the Lung Injury, Repair, and Remodeling Study Section for the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Waters, who also has a master’s degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Miami and a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from UT Chattanooga, took on this new role when the former chairman, Leonard Johnson, PhD, assumed the position of vice chancellor for research at UTHSC.
Smith Takes Interim Position in Internal Medicine

Lacey Smith, MD, has been named interim chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at UTHSC. His specialty is gastroenterology.

Dr. Smith previously served as chief of medical services for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Memphis, where he served in a variety of leadership roles.

He was also a staff physician at William F. Bowld Hospital before it was closed, as well as a professor in the Department of Medicine at UTHSC.

A native Texan, Dr. Smith attended the University of Texas at Austin and received a BS in physics with high honors before attending Baylor University Medical School, where he also did his residency in internal medicine. Dr. Smith was also honored by being named Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Smith is a fellow of both the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology. In addition, he is a member of: American Gastroenterology Association, American Motility Society, American Statistical Society and Memphis Society of Biomedical Engineering.

Dr. Smith serves as a reviewer for: American Journal of Gastroenterology, Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, New England Journal of Medicine, and other publications. He is the author or coauthor of one book and more than 60 journal articles.

Dr. Smith has served on the Faculty Senate of UTHSC, as well as the Research Committee and the Committee on FDA Related Affairs for the American College of Gastroenterology.

Greene to Lead Psychiatry on Interim Basis

James Greene, MD, COM ‘63, professor in the Department of Psychiatry, has taken the role of interim chair of the department. His specialty is geriatric psychiatry.

Dr. Greene is a 1963 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine. He did his internship at UT Memorial Research Center and Hospital in Knoxville and his residency at the North Carolina Department of Mental Health at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh.

In addition to his current roles at UT, Dr. Greene also serves as president of Geriatric Partners, Inc., senior medical consultant for Psychiatric Medical Care, LLC, and is medical director of the Lake Haven Program at Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tenn.

Prior to joining the UTHSC faculty, Dr. Greene served as a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at East Tennessee State University, medical director of Turning Point PHP in Prestonburg, Ky., and interim medical director at New Beginnings PHP in Colquitt, Ga., among many other positions.

Dr. Greene has been named a fellow of the following professional organizations: Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, American College of Psychiatrists, American Geriatrics Society, American Psychiatric Association, and Southern Psychiatric Association. He is also a past president of the Tennessee Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Greene has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association, the Faculty Development Award in Geriatric Mental Health from the National Institute of Mental Health, and the AGS/Marion Clinician of the Year Award from the American Geriatrics Society. He has been named to Who’s Who in the South and Southwest, The Best Doctors in America, and Who’s Who in Medicine and Healthcare.

Dr. Greene has authored or co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and served as the editor of the Manual of Nursing Home Practice for Psychiatrists.
Johnson to Take Over as Vice Chancellor of Research

No stranger to the workings of research or the Health Science Center, Leonard “Rusty” Johnson, PhD, was named as the new vice chancellor for research in April.

Dr. Johnson came to UTHSC in 1989 to chair the Department of Physiology and serve as the Thomas A. Gerwin Professor in that department. Prior to these positions, Dr. Johnson began his illustrious academic career as an instructor at the University of California, Los Angeles, after he earned a doctorate in physiology from the University of Michigan.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Johnson has garnered numerous honors and awards. He is a two-time winner of the National Institutes of Health Merit Award. Most recently Dr. Johnson was honored as the John H. Walsh Memorial Lecturer at the UCLA College of Medicine. With over 225 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Johnson continues to produce groundbreaking research. He currently is the principal investigator of two NIH-funded projects and is a co-investigator for two additional NIH research studies.

Dr. Johnson led the UTHSC Department of Physiology for 16 years until he assumed the role of interim vice chancellor for research last fall. Since this time, Dr. Johnson has instituted new programs and pursued exciting initiatives to fulfill UTHSC’s research mission.

Jones Appointed Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs

Following an in-depth search, La Don Jones, PhD, was recommended as and has accepted the position of vice chancellor for community affairs.

In this newly established role, Dr. Jones will be responsible for identifying, prioritizing and coordinating systemwide opportunities that will enhance engagements with community partners.

Dr. Jones comes to the UT Health Science Center with extensive experience in healthcare delivery and administration, as well as higher education. For the last three years, he has served as vice president of technology and instructional resources at Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis.

Since earning his doctorate in health services administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dr. Jones has held increasingly responsible leadership positions. Prior to his most recent position, Dr. Jones worked as the vice president of clinical integration for two years at Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and as the director of student services for two years at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences.

Before earning his PhD in administration, Dr. Jones received his master’s of science degree in health administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and his bachelor’s degree in professional studies from the University of Memphis.

Mays Appointed First Vice Chancellor-Public Relations

In a move that underscores the importance of communication to the future of UTHSC, Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD, recently announced the appointment of Sandra Hall Mays as vice chancellor for public relations. For the first time in its history, the statewide academic health institution has elevated the communications leadership position to the vice chancellor level with a direct report to the chancellor.

Mays will be responsible for providing strategic communications leadership and planning for the campus in Memphis, as well as major educational sites in Knoxville and Chattanooga. She will serve as the lead public relations counsel to the Health Science Center leadership, faculty, staff, students and alumni organizations.

Prior to joining UTHSC, Mays was director of communications, marketing and public relations for the Memphis Housing Authority, and Housing and Community Development. The recipient of numerous sales and marketing awards, Mays is listed in Who’s Who Among Black Americans and was selected for the Price Waterhouse Up and Comers Award. A graduate of Howard University, Washington, D.C., Mays holds a master’s degree from Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich.
Cancer Researcher Tigyi Named Van Vleet Chair

Earlier this year, Gabor J. Tigyi, MD, PhD, UTHSC professor of physiology, was named the Harriet S. Van Vleet Professor in Oncology Research.

Michael R. Caudle, MD, interim executive dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine noted that, “Dr. Tigyi’s groundbreaking research in lipid mediators has established the UT Health Science Center as a global leader in this field. His continuing work has changed and broadened our ways of thinking about cell growth regulation and has profound implications for the future direction of cancer research. Furthermore, Dr. Tigyi has been a primary leader in launching UT’s statewide cancer institute initiative. This chair acknowledges Dr. Tigyi’s academic success. He has clearly earned this great honor.”

Hershel P. Wall, MD, interim dean of the College of Medicine, Memphis, commented that, “Dr. Tigyi, an extraordinarily valued member of our UT College of Medicine family, certainly meets the criteria for this Distinguished Professorship. Recognized as an ‘eminent scientist’ and ‘translational’ researcher, he was recently selected to the prestigious Hungarian Academy of Science in his native Hungary. I am personally pleased that he has been recognized additionally by selection for this chair.”

Dr. Tigyi’s 1986 discovery of lipid molecules that regulate cell growth launched an entirely new field of research that today is populated by fellow investigators around the world. As Dr. Tigyi explained, “I built my career on something unexpected. I was going down one path which proved to be wrong and quite by chance discovered a new type of lipid mediators in the process.” Dr. Tigyi’s initial work was in isolating growth regulatory lipids and identifying their structure.

As history and science have since proven, growth regulatory lipid mediators are important to a whole host of biological responses, including cell survival, degenerative diseases, cancer invasion and metastasis. They also play a major role in organ transplant rejection and are critical to the development of gyri (folds in the brain). Major pharmaceutical companies such as Novartis and Merck have succeeded in producing mimics of these lipid mediators that treat multiple sclerosis and regulate immunity, which leads to organ rejection.

Dr. Tigyi is currently working on three National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants to explore different applications of lipids to cancer research. Collaborators on his various projects include Abby Parrill, PhD, professor of chemistry at the University of Memphis; Duane Miller, PhD, professor, UTHSC College of Pharmacy; and Leonard Johnson, PhD, professor of physiology, UTHSC College of Medicine. “By using computer models to create atomic resolution maps, we will be able to design cancer therapy drug candidates that very few pharmaceutical companies are currently able to do,” noted Dr. Tigyi.

In his role as associate director for basic sciences at the UT Cancer Institute (UTCI), Dr. Tigyi is currently part of a task force that is drafting an entirely new model for cancer care for the state of Tennessee. He commented that, “Nationally, nothing like our model exists. We are working closely with federal and state legislatures to develop a comprehensive and unique program for Tennessee. UTCI is undergoing a transformation from a university, Memphis-based initiative to a statewide system that will offer cancer education, prevention and treatment through multiple centers, hospitals, and practice groups.”

Recognized internationally and widely published, Dr. Tigyi enjoys an ongoing Visiting Professorship at Hokkaido University, Japan. He received his medical degree from the University Medical School of Pecs, Hungary, and holds a PhD in cellular and molecular biology. His extensive post-graduate work was conducted in biochemistry at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and the Max-Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Gottingen, Germany, and at the University of California, Irvine, in molecular biology.
Byrne Awarded NIH Vaccine Grant

Gerald Byrne, PhD, professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine, has been awarded a nearly $2 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grant. The five-year grant is a renewal of a research project to study the damaging effects of chlamydial infection on the genital tract and eye tissue. The ultimate goal is to develop vaccines that will prevent these infections and the long-term damage they cause, especially in women.

Dr. Byrne is currently principal investigator on three additional NIH-sponsored research grants that focus on Chlamydia trachomatis and Chlamydia pneumoniae, and is project director on a NIH contract to study respiratory pathogen vaccine development.

Serving on the UTHSC faculty since 2002, Dr. Byrne is also chairman of the Department of Molecular Sciences, director of the Centers for Disease Control-approved BSL-3 (biosafety level-3) laboratory and the principal investigator on the $18 million NIH-sponsored Regional Biocontainment Laboratory construction grant. Concurrently, he is director of the Microbial Pathogenesis Center of Excellence in Memphis.

Internationally recognized in his field, Dr. Byrne is active as a permanent member of several NIH review panels, has published more than 130 research papers, and has presented more than 120 seminars and invited symposia.

Gerling Wins Grant for Diabetes Research

Ivan C. Gerling, PhD, associate professor at the UTHSC College of Medicine (COM) and research biologist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Memphis, has been awarded a nearly $1.3 million 5-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The ultimate goal of his research is to prevent Type 1 diabetes.

Currently, medical researchers do not understand why some individuals’ immune systems malfunction and destroy all of their insulin-producing cells. “Thanks to UTHSC’s recently acquired mass spectrometry instruments, we can now create a comprehensive map of molecular abnormalities associated with initiation of this immune system malfunction,” said Dr. Gerling. “The long-term goal is to define these molecular abnormalities in such detail that we can diagnose and treat them before they turn into actual immune system malfunctions and Type 1 diabetes. This would allow doctors to diagnose and cure the disease before it even occurs.”

Sol Solomon, MD, professor of medicine (endocrinology) and pharmacology at UTHSC COM and chief of endocrinology at VAMC, said of his colleague Dr. Gerling, “He has done brilliantly, in two ways: first, by using the new discovery-science approach, proteomics and genomics, to unravel the complex immunology of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus; and second, by being a pioneer in these discovery-science approaches both at the national and international levels, as well as at the local and regional levels ‘ushering in’ other scientists and helping them utilize these new approaches in their own areas of research.”

Radic Chosen for Lupus Research Grant

Marko Z. Radic, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Molecular Sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, was among a select few researchers to be chosen for a Lupus Research Institute grant. The three-year $300,000 grant will support Dr. Radic’s examination of the molecular features of the primary cellular components that are targeted by the immune system in lupus.

“If we are successful, we will be able to devise a method to prevent the tissue damage that arises in this disease,” said Dr. Radic, who also noted that the last “new” treatment for lupus was approved over 40 years ago.
UT Medical Group Physicians Named to Best Doctors in America®

The 2006 listing of Best Doctors in America® names more than 80 physicians affiliated with UT Medical Group, Inc. as best in their fields.

UT Medical Group is the Memphis area’s largest physician practice with over 325 providers, all of whom are qualified to teach on the faculty of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine.

The Best Doctors in America® database is widely regarded as a high-quality reference guide to the medical profession. The list is based on an exhaustive survey in which more than 35,000 doctors are asked to rate the clinical abilities of their peers.

The guide lists doctors in more than 400 areas of medical expertise, including allergy, cardiovascular disease, ophthalmology, internal medicine, pediatrics and plastic surgery.

The following UT Medical Group doctors are included in the Best Doctors in America® database. They are listed alphabetically by specialty.

Adolescent Medicine
Sarah B. Stender

Allergy & Immunology (Pediatric)
D. Betty Lew, Mary Ellen Conley

Anesthesiology
John Zanella

Cardiovascular Disease
Bruce S. Alpert

Cardiovascular Disease (Pediatric)
Brad S. Burlew

Critical Care
John P. Newman

Critical Care (Pediatric)
Mark C. Bugnitz

Dermatology
Ronnie Rasberry

Developmental Pediatrics
David A. Kube

Dermatology
Robert B. Skinner Jr.

Endocrinology
Eniko Pivnick

Endocrinology (Pediatric)
B. Keith English

Gastroenterology
Edward Chaum

Gastroenterology (Pediatric)
Dennis D. Black

Gastroenterology
John P. Devincenzo

Infectious Disease
Barrett G. Haik

Internal Medicine
Michael S. Gelfand

Medical Genetics
Jewell Ward

Medical Genetics (Pediatric)
R. Sidney Wilroy

Neurology (Pediatric)
J. Daniel Massie

Obstetrics & Gynecology
Caudette J. Shephard

Obstetrics & Gynecology (Pediatric)
Vanessa Givens

Ophthalmology
Edward J. Wheless

Ophthalmology (Pediatric)
J. Daniel Massie

Pediatrics (General)
J. Daniel Massie

Paediatrics
Gail Beeman

Paediatrics (General)
Marlon Hare

Paediatrics
John R. Hill

Paediatrics
Valerie P. Jameson

Paediatrics
Karen L. Lakin

Paediatrics
J. Daniel Massie

Paediatrics
Deborah Nelson

Paediatrics
Gerald J. Presbury

Paediatrics
Lien Pham Russell

Paediatrics
Robert V. Walling

Paediatrics
Robert D. Wallace

Paediatrics (General)
Robert A. Schoumacher

Paediatrics (General)
James D. Tutor

Paediatrics
Martin Croce

Paediatrics
Timothy Fabian

Paediatrics
F. Elizabeth Pritchard

Paediatrics
Guy Voeller

Paediatrics
Linda K. Myers

Paediatrics
Andrew H. Kang

Paediatrics
Martin Croce

Paediatrics
Timothy Fabian

Paediatrics
F. Elizabeth Pritchard

Paediatrics
Guy Voeller
The feature story in this issue of Medicine discusses the latest trend in translational research—the process of taking scientific discovery from the laboratory to the clinic. First, we cover a “case study” of translational research as it traditionally has been conducted at UTHSC and every other academic health science institution for years. Then we talk with three leading campus researchers about the new direction the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is forging for medical research.
A Case Study of Traditional Translational Research

Gene Stollerman, MD, Edwin Beachey, MD, and James Dale, MD: Their laboratory discoveries have been chronicled in the pages of the most esteemed academic journals (Journal of the American Medical Association) and the most revered business dailies, like The Wall Street Journal.

Over a period of 42 years, these three intrepid University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) scientists focused their careers on one goal, to develop a vaccine that will prevent group A streptococcal infection and its deadliest complications, acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. The opening scene was a VA Medical Center, Memphis lab, but the action took these explorers to Canada for clinical trials and is still playing out in the impoverished countries of Nicaragua and Mali, Africa.

It all began in 1964 when Dr. Stollerman was awarded the first National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to study group A streptococcus and rheumatic fever in his UT lab and in the Gailor Clinic of the old John Gaston Hospital. A few years later he recruited Dr. Beachey as his first fellow in Infectious Diseases. The two first met at Northwestern University where Beachey, then a medical student, suffered a recurrence of acute rheumatic fever, and Stollerman was called in as the attending physician. Having teamed up at UT, they faced down one of the major challenges in finding a viable vaccine: toxicity. Through much trial and error, Dr. Beachey found a way to remove the vaccine protein (M protein) from the streptococcal bacterium, thus removing the toxic elements, and they were ready for preliminary trials. With FDA approval, they recruited 11 volunteers in addition to Dr. Stollerman. The vaccine was free of toxic components and elicited an immune response that could protect people against infection by at least one of the many types of streptococcal infections. The results, which were published in 1979, were encouraging and seemed to pave the way for the development of a complex vaccine that could potentially prevent the majority of streptococcal infections.

The next step was to use the same process with multiple types of streptococci. The process worked with the next “type” of streptococcus, but the laboratory results showed that the M protein elicited not only protective antibodies but also autoimmune antibodies. This finding suggested that the vaccine itself might trigger rheumatic heart disease, the very complication it was intended to prevent. Unable to go to clinical trials, the team went back to the drawing board, or in this case, the bench.

Enter Dr. Jim Dale (UTK ’73, COM ’77), professor of medicine and molecular sciences at UTHSC and associate chief of staff for education at the VA Medical Center, to take on the next challenge: to understand the molecular structure of M proteins and how it relates to the function of potential vaccine components. Undeterred, Drs. Dale and Beachey experimented relentlessly for the next ten years. Using molecular and genetic techniques, they found a way to separate the important vaccine component, located at the tip of the protein, from the dangerous remainder. Using this process, they synthesized a protein copying the tips of three different proteins and produced a vaccine that would “trick” the immune system into “believing” it
was seeing three different proteins. It worked! The test mice were protected from infection with all three types of streptococci and none developed autoantibodies.

Finally, Dr. Dale had the potential solution to a vaccine that would prevent the majority of streptococcal infections, but the technique of chemical synthesis was too expensive for commercial production. Fortunately for Dr. Dale and his team, by this time technology had caught up with the problem. As Dr. Dale explained, “We taught ourselves to be molecular biologists and we started making the genes.” Genetic engineering, together with the painstaking groundwork already established, allowed the production of complex vaccine proteins that seemed to solve the remaining problems associated with developing an effective vaccine.

Dr. Dale and the UT Research Corporation then teamed up with ID Biomedical Corporation, a small biotechnology firm focusing on the development of novel vaccines. In partnership with the NIH, they conducted a phase 1 clinical trial in adult volunteers using a prototype vaccine first made in Dale’s laboratory. The results were groundbreaking. The vaccine could potentially prevent infection by six of the more important types of group A streptococci, which cause a spectrum of clinical illnesses, ranging from the relatively innocuous “strep throat” to “flesh-eating disease” and toxic shock syndrome. The prototype vaccine appeared to be safe and potentially effective but was not designed to cover the majority of streptococcal types. Thus, Dr. Dale’s team worked with scientists at ID Biomedical to develop a final “product,” which is a vaccine designed to protect against 26 types of streptococcus, or more than 90 percent of the infections in North America and Western Europe. According to Dale, “This is the most complex genetically engineered vaccine that has ever entered human trials.” “StreptAvax” has now been tested in phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials involving over 100 adult volunteers. “A considerable number of people die every year in the U.S. due to strep disease. Our vaccine is designed to prevent strep throat and all of its possible complications,” stated Dr. Dale.

But just when Dr. Dale and ID Biomedical were ready to begin critical tests of the vaccine in young children, the most important target population, ID Biomedical was acquired by GlaxoSmithKline, which, at this writing, is evaluating the vaccine, as well as their role in future clinical development. Dr. Dale remains optimistic that the many years of basic discovery at UTHSC and the VA Medical Center will eventually be translated into a marketed vaccine that will improve the health of millions of people in the world.

**NIH Re-engineers**

The road from “bench,” or basic research—in which scientists study disease at the molecular or cellular level—to the clinical level, the patient’s “bedside,” historically has been a rocky one. A discovery in a university lab may make it to clinical trials, but then get sidetracked when “big pharma” buys the license, as our story just illustrated.

The good news is that the arduous saga of Drs. Stollerman, Beachey and Dale’s adventures from discovery to meeting patients’ needs might read more like a short story in the near future if NIH has its way. Traditionally, basic scientists and clinical practitioners operated in two separate domains and only rarely did their paths cross. Determined to knock down barriers between basic and clinical research, NIH wants to create a “new discipline of clinical and translational science.”

As only NIH can do, it is putting its money where its mouth is to stimulate a paradigm shift in the world of academic medical research. The first step is to fund planning grants that, as the NIH Web site notes, “will assist institutions in forging a uniquely transformative, novel and integrative academic home for clinical and translational science.” NIH is challenging grant applicants to develop a plan that will: 1) develop a cadre of well-trained multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary investigators and research teams; 2) create an incubator for innovative research tools and information technologies; and 3) allow multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary clinical and translational research to apply new knowledge and techniques to clinical practice at the front lines of patient care.

Dr. Dale, as principal investigator, has assembled a team of UTHSC’s leading scientists to go after one of those grants. “If we had the kind of infrastructure for translational research that NIH is proposing, we could already be working on the next generation of the streptococcal vaccine, one that could be used as a nose spray.”

Dan Goldowitz, PhD, professor and the Methodist Hospitals Foundation Professor in Neuroscience and one of Dr. Dale’s team members, believes they have their work cut out for them. “This effort will require a whole new culture. We will need a full court press to get basic scientists to think of applying what they do to human disease, to center their research on the patient. And from the clinical end, physicians are going to have to start going back to the lab to share their insights from what they see in practice,” he said.
the Roadmap from Lab to Patient

Larry Hak, PharmD, professor of pharmacy, also a team member, explained further, “Traditionally, everyone was educated in silos of medicine, pharmacy, nursing, etc., and we stayed in those silos when we entered academia. We need to move to the next level and stimulate inter-disciplinary teams. For example, a molecular scientist finds a new receptor that has a potential role in causing a particular disease. Pharmacy has a computer modeling system that can create a compound that just might be effective in blocking that receptor. Other faculty have high throughput chemistry procedures that can efficiently produce the chemical molecules, and the College of Pharmacy has an FDA-approved Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) laboratory that can make these drugs for human use. In other areas of the campus, clinicians from all professions have large numbers of patients with the disease in question. In the past, these scientists didn’t communicate with each other. Discovery can be sped up immensely if they get together on the front end.”

The proposed change in translational research would move the research process from a fragmented, piecemeal approach to a more holistic one. With the former, scientists off in their separate labs make discoveries, possibly sell them to a commercial entity, and go back to their basic science and start over again. The NIH wants to see this entire process made more efficient and effective.

If the team wins the grant, a lot will change about how research is conducted at UTHSC and on campuses across the country. Dr. Dale illustrated, “In the future, the General Clinical Research Center will be phased out and replaced by the new Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). The GCRC is currently geared to take what comes to them and to focus on ‘efficient’ clinical trials. The CTSC is envisioned as a separate department or center that will provide training, conduct clinical and translational research, design and execute trials with a large patient recruitment arm, and provide all of the necessary support from biostatistics, clinical trial design, genomics, and bioinformatics to regulatory guidance, manufacturing of test substances and intellectual property support.” The CTSC will also participate in large multicenter clinical trials with the national network of centers around the country.

The grant proposes a two-tier approach to creating a clinical translational research program. First, is the development of an independent research center, a CTSC as described above, with all colleges working together to translate discoveries from the lab to the patient or, just as important, translating major clinical discoveries into medical practice in the community. The latter will provide new opportunities for clinical investigators at UTHSC to partner with community medical leaders to improve the health of all of our citizens. The second part involves educating scientists to work in this environment. “We will have to develop a new curriculum and an entirely new graduate degree in Clinical Translational Research,” said Dr. Hak. The goal is to stimulate more research around the patient. “We want to make the clinical researcher an esteemed member of the faculty; but more importantly, we want to make more of a difference in patient care,” noted Dr. Hak.

“Whether or not we receive the grant, this is the first time a team of about 20 of our top researchers have gathered and grappled with this situation, and our grappling has been fairly meaningful. The real benefit is getting all of these experts together at the table to come up with a plan,” commented Dr. Goldowitz.

“Re-engineering the clinical research enterprise will streamline the process of discovery from lab to clinical application. This is the future of the UTHSC campus and the chancellor is supporting our efforts 100 percent,” concluded Dr. Dale.

The grant was submitted at the end of March and funding decisions will be announced in September.
Tracking Down Strep Around the World

Rheumatic fever, the most devastating disease resulting from group A streptococcus, is still rearing its ugly head in far-away places around the world. While the disease is no longer a major threat in the United States, thanks to penicillin treatment, it is a major health problem in developing countries. The fact is that rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) cause 500,000 deaths among children and young adults worldwide every year.

An e-mail to Dr. Dale from a clinical cardiologist, John Paar, MD, who was treating children with rheumatic fever in Nicaragua, personalizes that large number. “No matter what we do, we have tons of kids coming down with rheumatic fever. We're making no headway,” wrote Dr. Paar, who is semi-retired from practice in North Carolina and is a central figure in improving medical care in Nicaragua through his nonprofit organization, Project Health for León. Prior to contacting Dr. Dale about becoming involved in the rheumatic fever vaccine project at UTHSC, Dr. Paar had worked for several years with Nicaraguan physicians and the government, together with Rotary Club sponsorship to develop a rheumatic fever control program. As in many other poor countries, this antibiotic-based prevention strategy had only marginal success.

 Attacking the streptococcal bacteria on all fronts requires a multivalent vaccine, which Dr. Dale is still developing. He has developed a 26-valent vaccine, which can be used in North America and Europe to vaccinate people against group A streptococcus, but he needs to learn more about the types of streptococcus attacking third world children before developing a vaccine to help them.

Dr. Dale joined Dr. Paar in his mission to Nicaragua to see for himself the impact of the disease in this Central American country. Here were large numbers of children who might benefit immensely from participating in clinical trials. “The first clinical study should help us determine the epidemiology of the infection and whether or not the streptococci are the same types as in our country,” Dr. Dale said.

“We have our work cut out for us. First we need to determine the actual number of children with rheumatic heart disease. This will be valuable information as we move forward to help us convince the people and the government officials of the need to conduct vaccine trials. We are also helping the Nicaraguans establish an infrastructure so they can study the disease. We are exporting the technology, training the local physicians and university personnel to conduct clinical trials, and essentially developing the foundation so that they can direct future clinical trials,” Dr. Dale explained.

While the task of developing a vaccine for rheumatic fever for patients in underdeveloped countries is daunting, Drs. Dale and Paar think it can be done over a period of 10 years. After all, most of the groundwork was laid and hurdles crossed in the last 42 years. The real challenge may be in getting the vaccine to market and to the children who need it.

“No pharmaceutical company will take on a vaccine intended to prevent rheumatic fever because the countries that need it don’t have the money to pay for it,” concluded Dr. Dale. The NIH is now supporting Dr. Dale’s studies in Nicaragua and Mali to establish the groundwork for eventual vaccine trials. However, further more expensive clinical development will likely only move forward with funding from large private organizations.
Construction is nearing completion on the Basic Science Research Building of the UT Cancer Institute.

The UT Bowld Hospital has been demolished to make way for a new building for the Memphis Mental Health Institute.
Clinica Esperanza, Spreading Hope to Those Most in Need in the Community

Celebrating its first anniversary in June, Clinica Esperanza (Clinic of Hope) continues to do just what its name states – bring hope to a segment of the community’s underserved minority population.

The hands that bring this hope belong to students, residents and faculty members from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine (COM).

As a community-based primary care clinic, Clinica Esperanza offers free primary care every Saturday to underserved, uninsured Latino adults. The clinic is located in a racially integrated neighborhood in which 48 percent of the households have annual incomes less than $20,000.

“Seeing our patients return for follow-up visits and experiencing charity in the truest sense of the word is an extraordinary thing,” said Jenny Tinch, an M4, and one of the 250 student and resident volunteers who have helped to organize this endeavor. Over 30 UTHSC faculty members also serve as volunteer attending physicians. There is no paid staff.

According to Alicia McClary, EdD, professor of preventive medicine and a faculty advisor for Clinica Esperanza, student interest in the health of the Latino population began almost five years ago in a community-based program called “Mucho Gusto” (Pleased to Meet You) in which preventive medicine students taught English to area Latinos. Class content was limited to phrases commonly used in patient/doctor conversations where poor communication is often a major barrier to effective healthcare. As teachers of these classes, the medical students discovered that in addition to not knowing how to talk to their doctors, their Latino students also had few places to go where they could find affordable healthcare. Many had come to the classes in hopes that they might also receive medical treatment from their student teachers.

Now Clinica Esperanza has made that hope for medical care a reality and is providing a gateway into the American health system for the underserved in the community. Open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the clinic provides primary healthcare for 20 to 25 patients on average each Saturday. Over 400 patients have been seen in the past year.

“Clinica Esperanza represents all that is best in our medical students and faculty in demonstrating their commitment not only to patients but also to community service,” said Pat Wall, MD, interim dean for the College of Medicine in Memphis. “As noted in our Code of Professional Conduct, ‘patient welfare is our primary concern, for only by this commitment do we justify the trust placed in us by patients and the community at large.’ This clinic’s devotion to the underserved Hispanic community...
is very special and no doubt will be realized even more in the years to come by all who have been involved.”

Efforts to open the clinic began in the fall of 2004. Despite rapidly developing enthusiastic support from students and residents, the success of the clinic depended on first finding a site that was affordable and accessible to an underserved population.

Fortunately, the outcome of this search marked the start of an exciting partnership with Christ Community Health Services (CCHS), a federally qualified primary care health center for the medically underserved. CCHS generously offered Clinica Esperanza the use of its clinic facilities every Saturday morning. In addition, CCHS physicians, administrators and staff are always available to share their knowledge and expertise concerning community need, patient care and clinic operation.

“Recruiting volunteers was the next step,” Molly Wimbicus, one of the M4 organizers, remembers. “It took many months of e-mailing and talking with students to get enough volunteers to operate the clinic. Luckily, the Class of 2006 was very eager to help.”

This willingness of students to serve has been key to the clinic’s success. “I have seen my classmates so concerned about a patient’s welfare that he or she will take time to contact a referral or follow-up on a lab while at work on a rotation during the week,” said Tinch, who was this year’s senior clinic coordinator. One example of this volunteer spirit is seen in M4 Kim Ingram, who while working the TICU (Trauma Intensive Care Unit) last summer, took a young boy’s information home with her so that she could contact a pediatric specialist during the week. “The TICU is a tough rotation,” Tinch explains. “Most students sleep on their days off, but Kim came to work on her free Saturdays and followed up with this patient during her regular work week. It’s inspiring to see that kind of dedication from so many people.”

There are many other examples of selfless service: for example, Kevin Giles, M4, a clinic regular who capably multi-tasks almost every job from clinic leader to lab technician; Jeremy Draper, M3, who teaches the twice-a-year Spanish Class for Clinica volunteers, recruits interpreters, and regularly volunteers for clinical service; as well as Ben Bowman, Taylor Brownlee, Blake Bergeron, Anita Mehta, David and Jamie Navel, Erin Myers, Max Kelly, and Annie Glover, who are among the rising M4s preparing to lead the clinic in the coming year.

Although many student volunteers speak fluent Spanish, additional interpreters are always available to help deliver needed medical services, such as acute care, diagnostic and laboratory testing, preventive services and physical exams. Monthly specialty clinics recently have been added for eye care and women’s health.

Clinica Esperanza is not only changing the lives of the Latino patients it serves, but its medical providers have been forever influenced as well. If patients need referrals outside the realm of the clinic, students become patient advocates and help them navigate the complexities of the healthcare and social service systems.

“My experiences have shaped my future career plans,” Tinch said. “I want to make public health and helping the underprivileged my life’s work.”

Without the assistance of UTHSC faculty members, the clinic would not be possible. Dr. McClary and James Lewis, MD, associate professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, serve as the faculty advisors for the clinic, while the 30 additional faculty members provide invaluable support. The community is also involved with members having a chance to “pay back” the clinic by helping with pre-clinic setup, providing childcare in the waiting area and serving as Spanish “coaches” for the medical students.

“However, for all of the Clinica’s growth and success, the reality is that every week patients in need of healthcare are turned away. Our most immediate goals are to recruit more volunteer attending physicians; to obtain funding for enhanced medical education activities, clinical supplies and linguistically appropriate patient educational materials; and to assist patients in obtaining medications at a reasonable cost,” Dr. McClary concluded.
Students Again Have Dedicated Space in Student Alumni Center

Recent redecorating brought new life to the Student Alumni Center (SAC) when the revamped student lounge was opened in May.

To celebrate the opening, UTHSC administration and the Student Government Association Executive Council (SGAEC) hosted a “Back to the SAC Party,” where students enjoyed good food, music and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“The current administration recognizes that our students not only need an adequate area to learn, they also need space to relax outside of the classroom,” said Chief of Staff Ken Brown. “Redecorating the SAC makes the atmosphere more inviting for students to socialize and study. These changes will help return the SAC to its original purpose, while preserving substantial classroom space in the General Education Building.”

The redecorations provided the student lounge with new furniture for both relaxing and studying. Comfortable couches, as well as tables and chairs now fill the student area on the main floor of the SAC.

“A common recreational space on campus where students can meet, eat, relax, watch television or just socialize has been a goal of the student government for more than four years,” said Kirk Hevener, 2005-2006 SGAEC president. “The SGAEC was very excited to have had the opportunity to work with Chancellor Owen and his administration to make the student lounge a reality.”

Match Day Photos

The opening of the student lounge is just the beginning of a redesign that is scheduled to take place in the SAC. Plans to create additional study space, a game room, a full-service computer lab, as well as a conference room for the SGAEC offices are being discussed. With all these additions, students will have space of their own 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
A casual conversation with Robert Kaplan, MD, COM ’73, quickly turns to his passion for superior patient care. Dr. Kaplan, a Memphis dermatologist and UT alumnus, is a full-time practitioner and unabashed advocate of communication, kindness and empathy.

“Medicine is a science,” he says, “and it’s also an art. You can be very knowledgeable in your field, but if you can’t communicate, you won’t do anyone much good.”

Dr. Kaplan has put his money where his heart is in the form of a gift to UTHSC to create the state-of-the-art Robert J. Kaplan, MD, Clinical Skills Center. When completed, the 10,000-square-foot center with 18 fully equipped exam rooms and leading-edge interactive audiovisual technology will provide students with an optimum environment for developing the qualities that Dr. Kaplan holds dear – kindness, compassion and empathy.

Originally from New Jersey, Dr. Kaplan graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, and came to the UT Health Science Center to complete his MD degree and dermatology residency. After graduating in 1973, he joined the faculty at UTHSC for two years and then entered private practice.

“I’ve known Bob for almost 25 years,” said Myron Lewis, MD, Memphis gastroenterologist. “He’s one of the most outstanding and caring people you’d ever meet. He is a superb clinician and he’s an excellent speaker who is known nationally for his presentations in the field of dermatology.”

“Bob’s caring is evident in his patient base,” said Don Ellis, PharmD, a UT faculty member and friend of Kaplan’s. “Some of them have been his patients for 20 years and his new patients are willing to wait a long time to see him.

“Every patient feels special when they leave Bob’s office,” Dr. Ellis added. “It doesn’t matter if he sees 80 or 100 patients a day, everyone walks away feeling special.”

Memphis cardiovascular surgeon Rodney Wolf, MD, said he jokes with Dr. Kaplan that he doesn’t even need a front door “because he tells everyone to just come on in the back door. Everyone is special to him.”

It’s that sort of care and patient relationship that Dr. Kaplan believes is important for UTHSC medical students to learn and take to heart.

“Just as important as dealing with the body is dealing with the patient’s mind,” he said. “When the patient is comfortable, the outcome is better. If we can teach that and guide students earlier in their education, chances are they’ll practice the skills in their professional lives.”

Dr. Ellis agreed. “The biggest complaint patients have is a lack of empathy and personal touch from their doctors,” he said.

Dr. Kaplan acknowledges that some people are empathetic and communicative by nature while others struggle with these skills.

The Clinical Skills Center takes that into consideration. Robert Shreve, EDD, assistant dean for the College of Medicine, said the school
is already using the facility to teach M1 and M2 students vital signs, ENT, lung, abdomen and musculoskeletal systems. As a result, the students are now able to experience standardized patient encounters much earlier than in the past. The patient-actors also give feedback to the students. The Center allows students to practice sensitive exams such as breast exams. “This helps build self-confidence,” said Dr. Kaplan. “We now have a more formal learning process and a good way for students to learn problem solving in a real-world atmosphere. It’s just a great teaching tool.”

Dr. Kaplan also said that M1s and M2s will be required to pass an exam that is structured to closely resemble a real clinical exam.

Dr. Wolf said modeling professional behavior is one key to students’ future success. “Being around teaching physicians who set an example of empathy and communication will help the students learn and understand how these skills are put into practice,” he said. “Bob Kaplan is a unique practitioner in the sense that he makes himself available to his patients day or night. He gives everyone special attention. If the Center can help show students how important that is, it will have done something great.”

“It’s critical that these skills be taught,” said Dr. Lewis. “This Center – Bob Kaplan’s gift – is regional, and it’s right here at UT in Memphis.”

Dr. Kaplan sees the Center reaching out to other colleges on the UTHSC campus and regionally to teach exceptional patient care. “We can teach doctors and nurses how to work together and include pharmacy as well to present a new standard in total patient care.

“Our approach from a medical standpoint is to create the best possible medical professionals we can. If you interrelate with your patient well on the front end, you’ll save time and have a better outcome down the road.”

Dr. Kaplan is a Civil War buff with an extensive library on the subject. He’s also an avid supporter not just of UTHSC but of the entire University of Tennessee system. In the words of his friend Dr. Lewis, “They can’t play football without him!”

Guiding Principles from Dr. Bob Kaplan

- Respect every individual.
- Surround yourself with people who are adept at dealing with others. Learn from them.
- Take your time and be caring in your work and relationships.
- Remember that everyone deserves your respect and your time.
- Good relationships on the front end mean better results.
- The practice of medicine is a privilege that cannot be taken for granted. Be grateful that you are good enough to do this.
- Stay up to date and always remember that it is an honor and privilege to be a physician. Never take it for granted.
- Never be afraid of hard work.

Remember Who Brought You to the Dance

Although Dr. Robert Kaplan’s gift to the University of Tennessee is a large one, he would tell all college and university alumni that giving back is the right thing to do.

“It’s sad that some people seem to forget their roots and the school that gave them a chance to be who they are,” Kaplan said. “You have to give back. You have to participate to some degree.

“We all worked hard but we all had guidance and someone who took a chance on us. You owe something for having been given that chance.

“Just remember who brought you to the dance.”

“Medicine is a science, and it’s also an art. You can be very knowledgeable in your field, but if you can’t communicate, you won’t do anyone much good.”

--Bob Kaplan, MD
Passion for Philanthropy and Medicine Marked the Life Of Dr. Iris Pearce

Giving was a way of life for Iris Pearce, MD, COM ’50. Since her death last year at 84, she continues to give to those she valued most – the students of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and the underserved in the public health system.

A fifth-generation physician and UTHSC College of Medicine alum, Dr. Pearce, through her estate planning, has established the $1.5 million Dr. Robert S. Pearce Chair in Internal Medicine in honor of her late father.

Iris’s father discouraged her from attending medical school although he, as well as her grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great grandfather all were physicians. “He wanted to protect me from what he thought was a hard enough life for a man and much too demanding for a woman,” she said in a past Tennessee Medical Alumnus article. “Nothing he said ever changed my mind.”

Dr. Pearce said her father, a 1915 graduate of the UT College of Medicine, was the greatest influence on her life, even though she paid no attention to his advice to stay out of medicine. As an only child whose mother died when she was seven, Iris went on house calls and to the hospital with her father, who practiced in Memphis for 35 years. She recalled being left in the care of the emergency room nurses while he made his rounds. “Everything about medicine fascinated me,” she said. “I had to find out about it. And I always knew I would.”

Iris Pearce attended Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) and graduated from Vanderbilt University. She joined the WAVES, the women’s corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve, during World War II as a lieutenant. After midshipman’s school at Smith College, she was stationed in Miami and New York. She enrolled in UT – one of only two women students in her class – and graduated in 1950. After graduation, she became the first female resident in internal medicine at John Gaston Hospital (now the Regional Medical Center, or The Med), and was later named the hospital’s first Chief Resident. She served as director of the City of Memphis Hospitals for many years and had a unique passion for the poor and underserved. Dr. Pearce was also professor of community medicine at UT beginning in the 1960s through the 1980s. She received the L.M. Graves Memorial Health Award in 1981 for her outstanding contributions to community healthcare.

She directed the Streptococcal Disease Center as well as the medicine, rheumatic prophylaxis and primary care clinics at the Gailor Clinics. She supervised the first adult nurse practitioner program at UTHSC and was a consultant for the chronic disease program offered in the Health Department’s system for primary and satellite health clinics. Part of the protocol nurses follow today is based on Dr. Pearce’s work.

Her commitment to public health and to teaching never wavered. Dr. Pearce had no misgivings about choosing public health over private practice and believed that an uncaring community is forced to carry the burden for its sick poor. “In dollars and cents,” she had said, “it costs more down the road when we don’t keep our community well. One of the problems we have is ensuring that those who actually need the care do receive it.”

Dr. John Runyan, her friend and colleague, said, “Iris was a unique, strong-willed woman who was devoted to the care and health of Memphis’s poor and poverty-level citizens. She was important to the development of a decentralized network of clinics and the opening of the City of Memphis hospital.”

Despite her accomplishments, Dr. Pearce preferred a low profile. She said medicine “just happened” to her. She never intended to practice or teach it, yet she ended up doing both and giving of herself to many – students, colleagues and the poor she held close to her heart. “She was an excellent teacher and role model for students. Iris had a great sense of humor and raised the spirits of everyone around her,” said Dr. Runyan. Her cousin, Dr. Robert Waller, 1963 graduate of the UT College of Medicine and president emeritus of Mayo Clinic, said, “She was a great lady, a wonderful friend, mentor and teacher to many. I was indeed fortunate to be one of her students and also a member of her family.”
Anyone can come to the library and use all of our resources—journals, books, online databases, etc. If you have a valid Tennessee license in your field, you can request a library card that will allow you to check out circulating materials. Also, you can contact us (e-mail: utlibrary@utmem.edu, toll-free number: 877-733-0482) for assistance in locating information and requesting searches (a small fee applies for searches). Additionally, the library can provide document delivery service for articles you need (the charge, $6, is the same for faculty, staff, students, and alums—but be sure to tell us you’re an alum).

Finally, just for you—our graduates—we developed an alumni Web page (library.utmem.edu/hslbc/alumni/) that lists a growing number of accessible full-text journals and other resources.

All of our online journals and databases can be accessed from library and on-campus computers. However, because of licensing restrictions from the publishers, only current faculty, staff and students can access these resources from off-campus.

Perhaps the most important resource you can access and use freely is PubMed MEDLINE (pubmed.gov). For example, through this site, you can customize search strategies (use the MyNCBI feature) that will search specific libraries (for example, if you live closer to another health science library, you can search that library’s journal collection), and you can order journal articles (use the Loansome Doc delivery link).

Questions, comments or suggestions are welcomed and should be addressed to utlibrary@utmem.edu.
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<td>UT Medical Center-Knoxville</td>
<td>MARK GAYLORD, M.D. ’78 (Knoxville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Medical Center-Chattanooga</td>
<td>L. DIANE ALLEN, M.D. ’81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee At-Large Positions</td>
<td>ROBERT KERLAN, M.D. ’69 (Germantown)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STEPHEN H. FALWELL, M.D. ’70 (Huntsville, AL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THOMAS WHITAKER, M.D. ’70 (Myrtle Beach, SC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of State At-Large Positions</td>
<td>ROBERT M. CALLIS, M.D. ’74 (Decatur, SC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WILLIAM A. SIMS, M.D. ’61 (Decatur, AL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeritus</td>
<td>A. MITCHELL BURFORD, Jr, M.D. ’57 (Florence, AL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HARVEY G. COKER, Jr., M.D. ’53 (Birmingham, AL (deceased))</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JOHN P. NASH, M.D. ’56 (Memphis, TN)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JOHN T. ROGERS, M.D. ’50 (Saint Joseph, MO (deceased))</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEROY SHERRILL, M.D. ’52 (Chattanooga, TN)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAVID H. TURNER, M.D. ’52 (Chattanooga, TN)</td>
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</tbody>
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### College of Medicine Alumni Council Officers 2004 - 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>JAMES C. FLEMING, M.D. ’74 (Germantown, TN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>WILLIAM A. SIMS, M.D. ’61 (Decatur, AL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>JAMES W. MORRIS, M.D. ’72 (Lebanon, TN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>RICHARD BAKER, M.D. ’68 (Kingsport)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHEA WESLEY DEAN, Jr., M.D. ’86 (Powell)</td>
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<td>W. RICHARD McGOWAN, M.D. ’69 (Johnson City)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WILLIAM L. BURKHART, M.D. ’82 (Knoxville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES KILLEFFER, M.D. ’91 (Lebanon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>JEFFREY KERLAN, M.D. ’98 (Nashville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES W. MORRIS, M.D. ’72 (Nashville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEBORAH L. WILLIAMS, M.D. ’98 (Nashville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Tennessee</td>
<td>MACK LAND, M.D. ’73 (Memphis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOEL T. FLORENDO, M.D. ’74 (Memphis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RALPH S. HAMILTON, M.D. ’52 (Germantown)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES G. JOHNSON, M.D. ’63 (Memphis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JESSE CANNON, Jr., M.D. ’76 (Covington)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>GEORGE W. HANSBERRY, M.D. ’64 (Decatur)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>MACK LAND, M.D. ’73 (Memphis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAUL J. HUFFSTUTTER, M.D. ’73 (West Memphis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANN M. GROOMS, M.D. ’66 (Gainesville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES H. HARRIS, M.D. ’72 (Alpharetta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>NANCY FLOWERS, M.D. ’58 (Somerset)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>BRUCE A. BULLWINKEL, M.D. ’74 (New Albany)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>CHARLES PARKIN, M.D. ’63 (Statesville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>(vacant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>RONALD COY JONES, M.D. ’57 (Dallas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>(vacant)</td>
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### Representatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region I</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAUL BLAYLOCK, M.D. ’72 (Portland, OR)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J. KENDALL ETHERIDGE, M.D. ’64 (Waco, TX)</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. KENDALL ETHERIDGE, M.D. ’74 (Waco, TX)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARK GAYLORD, M.D. ’78 (Knoxville)</td>
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### Chancellor

WILLIAM F. OWEN, JR., M.D.

### Executive Dean of the College of Medicine

STEVE SCHWAB, M.D.

### Dean of the College of Medicine-Memphis

HERSHEL P. WALL, M.D. (INTERIM)

### Vice Chancellor, Development and Alumni Affairs

BRUCE DOWNSBROUGH (INTERIM)

### Director of Development (VACANT)

### Director of Planned Giving (VACANT)

### Associate Vice Chancellor, Alumni Programs

BARBARA MCADAMS, J.D.

### Director of Alumni Programs

SUZANNE DAVIDSON
Lost Touch Since Graduation?
Join the UT Alumni Online Directory

Have you lost touch with classmates you were close to in college? Do you ever wonder what they are doing today? The UT National Alumni Association has created a secure exclusive Online Directory for alumni of all UT campuses. Searching for a lost classmate is just one of the features this directory offers. You can also:

- Receive a permanent e-mail address that will remain the same no matter how often you change your other e-mail addresses.
- Update your fellow classmates by submitting class notes regarding special occasions (marriages, births, etc.) and career advances.
- Know what’s going on at each UT Campus with access to a current events calendar.
- Visit one of 116 UT Alumni Chapters by browsing the chapter pages.
- Keep your contact information, home address, business address, phone numbers and e-mails current.

Only UT alumni will have access to the directory.

Another exciting aspect of the online community is our ability to reach you via e-mail. The UTNAA NETwork will serve as your official alumni source for information about future alumni events and other UT items of interest. Your online community has been designed specifically to keep you current with happenings at your alma mater.

You must be registred (it’s easy and free) to access the online UT alumni community. To register and look up fellow alumni, visit www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UTK. Or, you may visit www.utmem.edu and click on the button located at the bottom of the left navigation bar.

Register today at no cost to you and get reconnected with your classmates and college.
James Basil Hall, MD, recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Dr. Hall served as a flight surgeon in World War II and shared a hut with Charles Lindbergh while stationed in New Guinea. Dr. Hall moved to Mount Dora, Fla., after the war and oversaw the county’s public-health program. He currently resides in a nursing home in Mount Dora.

Tony Gentile, MD, describes himself as a teacher, landscaper and social service worker living in Scranton, Pa.

Fred Hardwig, MD, is living in Kansas City, Mo., and volunteering his time at a free health clinic. He also enjoys woodworking, gardening and winemaking.

Carl Nelson, MD, serves as chairman of MEDIC, a not-for-profit community blood bank that he started 40 years ago in Knoxville, Tenn.

Pedro Otero, MD, is retired from practice in surgery in San Antonio where he enjoys reading and watching TV.

Bill Raulston, MD, is spending his retirement enjoying traveling and spending time with his 22 grandchildren.

Mario Ramirez, MD, serves as a vice president at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio with an office in McAllen. He has been involved with a family practice and is active in a recruiting program for high school students who are interested in careers in healthcare.

Hiram Sturm, MD, retired in 2003 after 55 years of medical practice. He spent three years in general practice and four years as an OB-GYN before settling in to dermatology and dermatologic surgery for 48 years. Dr. Sturm also served as a clinical professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

Myron Fine, MD, currently serves as chief of urology at Baylor University Medical center and as a clinical professor of urology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. His son, Joshua, is in practice with him in urology. Dr. Fine has five grandchildren.

J.D. Connell, MD, currently lives in Dyersburg, Tenn., where he practiced pediatrics for 40 years before retiring in 1998.

Sam Massey, MD, retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel in 1998. He is currently doing medical mission work near his home in Brandon, Miss., and around the world.


James Beaty, MD, was elected first vice president to the board of directors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons at the organization’s 73rd Annual Meeting.

Marcus Wang, MD, is currently serving as an attending physician in the emergency department at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, Calif.

Gin Sanders, MD, is a pediatric emergency medicine physician at T.C. Thompson’s Children’s Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. His son, William Nicholas Sanders was born in November 2005.
Jerome Weems, MD, a native of McMinn, Tenn., died in January. Dr. Weems trained at John Gaston Hospital before taking a position at Nabors Clinic in Morristown, Tenn. He subsequently took over as medical director of Chickasaw Ordinance Works, a DuPont company, in Memphis. While in Memphis, he helped to establish the Industrial Nurses Association and supervised medical programs at several companies. In 1990, he was honored by the Memphis and Shelby County Medical Association for 50 years of service.

Henry Christenberry, Jr., MD, 94, died in December 2005. He did his residency in New York at Manhattan Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat hospital before returning to his hometown of Knoxville, where he practiced with many family members. He also served as chief of staff at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at Knoxville General Hospital. Shortly after graduation from UTHSC, Dr. Christenberry served in World War II for 33 months. While there, he commanded the Allied Hospital at Epinal, France.

L. G. Caylor, MD, 96, died in April in Knoxville. He practiced in Knoxville for more than 50 years. In addition to medicine, Dr. Caylor was also passionate about farming and raised Angus cattle. He established the Chair of Nursing for the Caylor School of Nursing and Allied Health at his undergraduate alma mater, Lincoln Memorial University.

Kenneth Hicks, MD, 88, of Knoxville, Tenn., died on Feb. 23. Dr. Hicks practiced both internal medicine and radiology in Knoxville after completing his service in the U.S. Navy.

Charles Prater, MD, 89, died in January. The family practitioner from Jellico, Tenn., was a member of the Campbell County Medical Society.

Frederick Brown, MD, 83, died in October 2005 in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The Knoxville native was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. After his time in the service, Dr. Brown practiced neurosurgery in Knoxville, primarily with St. Mary’s Medical Clinic.

Samuel McNeeley, MD, 82, died in October 2005 in Norris, Tenn. Dr. McNeeley attended Milligan College before he was valedictorian of his class at UTHSC. He subsequently joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps and served in World War II. After his service, he returned to East Tennessee where he practiced at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge.

Powell Trusler, MD, 82, died in March after a long fight with Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Trusler attended East Tennessee State University before receiving his medical degree. He subsequently did his residency at John Gaston Hospital. Afterward, he practiced medicine in Morristown, Tenn., for more than 45 years in a variety of leadership roles, including chief of staff at Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System. Dr. Trusler served in both World War II and the Korean War.

Sam Miller, MD, of Crystal River, Fla., died in May. A native of Knoxville, Tenn., he had lived and practiced in Florida since 1955.

Edward Seiler, MD, 77, died in January. Dr. Seiler served as a doctor in the U.S. Navy before practicing Psychiatry in Chattanooga, Cookeville and Oak Ridge.

C. Windom Kimsey, MD, 79, died in February. The former member of the UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council practiced as a radiologist in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was a member of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society.

J. W. Ettinger, MD, 80, died in February in Poplar Bluff, Mo. After receiving his medical degree, Dr. Ettinger interned at St. Vincent Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., before starting a practice in Rockledge, Fla. He was a veteran of the Korean War.
John Moore, Jr., MD, died in December 2005 in Knoxville, Tenn. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Washington University in St. Louis. He then served as an obstetrician and gynecologist at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville for 34 years. After retirement, he pursued his loves of fishing and gardening.

James Waters, Jr., MD, died in November 2005 in Maryville, Tenn. Dr. Waters was a member of: American Academy of Family Practice, Tennessee Academy of Family Practice, Knoxville Academy of Medicine and Christian Medical and Dental Society. He also served as chief of staff for Park West Hospital in Knoxville, Tenn.

David Cawood, MD, 69, of Jefferson City, Tenn., died recently after an extended illness. Dr. Cawood attended Carson Newman College, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1959, before enrolling at UTHSC. After receiving his medical degree, he practiced in Jefferson City with his good friend J. B. Sams, MD.

Julia Heath, MD, died in March in St. Louis. While in school, she won the Ellen Quinn Award for Excellence and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

At the UTHSC College of Medicine
Our Alumni are a Valuable Asset
Please Contact Us!

Alumni Programs Staff

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Associate Vice Chancellor of Alumni Programs
bmcadams@utmem.edu

Suzanne Davidson
Director of Alumni Programs
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(800) 733-0482
Fax: (901) 448-5906
e-mail: utalumni@utmem.edu
The University of Tennessee College of Medicine

Outstanding Alumnus Award

Send Your Nominations Now

Up to four Outstanding Alumni Awards will be presented each year based upon recommendations from UT College of Medicine alumni, faculty or other UT College of Medicine constituents; and upon approval by the Awards Committee of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Council, on behalf of the UT College of Medicine Alumni Association. Selections are made in March each year.

Criteria:
The Outstanding Alumnus Award will not be limited to those in active medical practice, and will recognize a member of the medical profession who has distinguished himself/herself in the areas of:

- Community service
- Leadership in local, state or national health professional organizations
- Teaching and/or research activities or any other area or areas of performance or accomplishment for which the Medicine Alumni Council determines a candidate to be worthy

A letter of nomination and curriculum vitae should be mailed to:
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council c/o UT Office of Alumni Affairs, 62 South Dunlap, Suite 520, Memphis, Tennessee 38163; e-mail: utalumni@utmem.edu; fax: (901) 448-5906.