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CLASS NOTES & IN MEMORIAM
From the Executive Dean

It has been a very productive first quarter at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. We have cleared a series of major hurdles and we believe are on our way to integrating a statewide three campus College of Medicine.

In Memphis the College of Medicine has assumed an unprecedented role at The MED as result of their Center for Medicare/Medicaid citations. With a Herculean effort by the faculty, led by Memphis campus Dean H. Pat Wall, we are pleased to report that The MED is again fully accredited with CMS. While we are very pleased with the results, I think it is safe to say the work has just begun. You will hear more about these endeavors and efforts to improve our flagship city-county hospital from Dean Wall.

We have begun the substantial effort of realigning our faculty-based practice, the UT Medical Group (UTMG), to become a smooth expansion service-oriented business. The initial efforts have been very successful and we are pleased to report that the practice plan is moving forward in an aggressive expansion mode, and is solvent and profitable. We will tell you more of our expansion plans, working with our hospital partners, in the future. Suffice it to say, for the current time, we are working to expand our inpatient specialty lines at the Methodist University Hospital (MUH). Our Transplant Institute is performing record numbers of kidney and liver transplants. The volume and the outcomes have never been better at this institution. We will be top 20 in terms of volume of kidney and liver transplants this year, and hope to move into the top 10 in the following year. The leadership of Dr. James Eason of the Transplant Institute and his team has been nothing short of phenomenal.

The College of Medicine underwent its three campus LCME accrediting visit. While we await the final results from this accrediting organization, the exit interview was very favorable, with the reviewers having much good to say about the students and faculty of the University of Tennessee. On the preliminary review, it appears that we will receive a record number of commendations, with fewer citations than the national average. The site reviewers were thorough and their recommendations of items that we do well were gratifying to hear, and their recommendations for our improvement were well thought out and on point.

In Knoxville and Chattanooga we are entering into a substantial recruiting effort as we continue with our efforts to create a three-campus, one-college system. The search committee for the Dean of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Knoxville campus is under way under the direction of Dr. John Neff. In addition, plans are under way for expansion of the teaching efforts on the Knoxville campus, as well as the development of both Medicine and Surgical subspecialty programs. Likewise on the Chattanooga campus, a search committee is being empaneled under the direction of surgical chairman Dr. Phillip Burns (a UT Alumnus) and additional specialty and subspecialty training slots are scheduled to come to the Chattanooga campus. The outstanding leadership of Drs. Jim Neutens, B.W. Ruffner and Pat Wall as Interim Deans on these three campuses continues to make this growth possible.

Finally, on the Memphis campus nationwide searches are under way for the Chair of Physiology and a Chair of Family Medicine, with the search for the Chair of Medicine to begin soon.

All in all, we believe we have begun a remarkable effort to advance the College of Medicine from its current strong position to become a top quartile performer. It has been a pleasure serving this first three months and I look forward to communicating with you again soon.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Executive Dean
College of Medicine
As he notes in his letter, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) site visit in mid-November (last routine visit was 1998) went great thanks to the planning of Drs. Dick Peppler and Bob Shreve and the many faculty and students who participated in this very important process. The site visitors from peer institutions from across the country were particularly impressed with our students and our educational program.

Of major challenge have been site visits to the MED from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Joint Commission (JCAHO) which were not routine but for cause. The several citations from both have been responded to and so far we have been able to satisfy these agencies that we will get in compliance and should continue to operate one of the largest inner-city county-owned safety net hospitals in the country. The COM has been fully engaged along with our faculty and house staff in this long process. Needless to say, the Regional Medical Center (The MED) is our most valued partner in this large academic medical center and vital to our educational program. Its role in providing health care to the underserved and underinsured is without peer in this community. I will keep you informed of its status in future issues.

We are pleased to share experiences from our graduates who have been serving our country in Iraq in the feature article. Classmates, Army Col. Joan Sullivan and Navy Commander Joel Hardin, COM ’87, describe their extraordinary tours of duty vividly and with great sensitivity. I have just recently talked to Army Maj. Peter Dunaway, COM ’96, just back from Tikrit, Iraq, who also served in the first gulf war in Kuwait. There are most likely many others of our college family who have or are currently serving somewhere and we would like to know who they are so that they can be recognized and appreciated.

I was very proud to have been at the dinner at which several of our outstanding clinical faculty were honored by the Memphis Business Journal as HealthCareHeroes. One of these Heroes was recently notified that he and his planning group were awarded an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Center planning grant. Jim Dale, the Stollerman Endowed Professor, and featured in the last issue of this publication, is one of our most valued faculty for many reasons.

Please also read about this year’s Outstanding Alumni honored in October during Alumni Weekend. We were all very proud of their contributions to our college and to their communities.

The campus landscape continues to change as we have noted in Campus Progress over the past several issues. These are truly exciting times in Memphis and across the state. I am pleased to tell you that your college is doing well and the leadership looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2007 as we fill vacant department chairs and work toward strengthening relationships with our institutional partners in this very fine academic medical center.

Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, COM ’60
Interim Dean, UT College of Medicine, Memphis
Chair, Editorial Board
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From the President

Our Alumni Reunion Weekend was a great success! Many thanks to Chris Fleming, MD, UTCOM ’74, who served as president of the Alumni Council for the past two years and chaired all the events. Chris did an outstanding job during his tenure as alumni president while also serving as vice chair of the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology.

Alumni who returned to Memphis saw firsthand the many changes in the downtown Memphis Medical Center and heard of the phenomenal growth that is planned—an investment of over $1 billion over the next five years.

The site of what most of us knew as the Baptist Memorial Hospital is now cleared for development of the UT-Baptist bio-tech research park. The first new building will house the UTHSC College of Pharmacy.

For those who stayed over for the football game, we got to see the UT VOLS defeat the University of Memphis TIGERS. Please check out the alumni weekend photos on page 30.

As always, we are proud of the quality of UTHSC medical students who go on to compete for many of the most prestigious residency programs across the United States. To meet these students and learn of their impressive credentials and ambitions is a real treat.

And before I close, I want to say welcome to the new executive dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Steve Schwab, who is working hand in hand with Dr. Pat Wall, interim dean of medicine for the Memphis campus and Interim Deans Jim Neutens and W. B. Ruffner in Knoxville and Chattanooga.

These individuals met with the Alumni Council in September to present their shared vision for our statewide College of Medicine. We’ll be hearing more details about their goals and accomplishments, so stay tuned.

William A. Sims, MD, COM ’61
President
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council
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The Brooks Museum – A Memphis Treasure

A Pierre-Auguste Renoir painting, a Frank Lloyd Wright tall-back chair, an 18th-century English Boy’s Waistcoat, ceramics crafted by ancient Mayans, and a pair of Roman sarcophagus panels: Most visitors wouldn’t think to find all these items in Memphis. But for those who really know the city, a scavenger hunt would not be necessary. All these objects of art and thousands more can be found among the treasures at the Brooks Museum.

Located in Overton Park at the heart of the city, the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is a dynamic cultural complex. With 29 galleries, art classrooms, a print study room with more than 4,500 works of art on paper, a research library with over 5,000 volumes, and an auditorium, the Brooks is a treasure trove of artistic resources.

Founded in 1916, the Brooks is the oldest fine arts museum in the state. It is housed, in part, in its original Beaux-arts style building, which is a registered U.S. National Landmark. The Brooks’ facilities also include the museum store, the acclaimed Brushmark Restaurant, the Holly Court garden, and a grand terrace that overlooks the greens and trees of Memphis’ Overton Park.

With a total of 86,000 square feet -- of which 36,600 is devoted to the display of art – the Brooks is one of the largest fine arts museums in Tennessee, housing one of the most outstanding collections of fine art dating from antiquity to present. The museum’s encyclopedic permanent collection is consistently complemented by an exciting schedule of international loan exhibitions and award-winning programs.

The Brooks’ permanent collection consists of more than 800 objects of painting and sculpture that survey the development of Western European and American art, from the early Renaissance to modern and contemporary works; 1,500 pieces of decorative art from mid-19th to early-20th century, which includes pressed and blown glass, beadwork, silver, embroideries, quilts, and coverlets; more than 4,500 works on paper, comprising prints, drawings, photography, and artist’s books and spanning nearly six centuries; an antiquities collection that highlights the art of the ancient cultures surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and those of the Americas, from ancient Egypt to Pre-Columbian times, and; smaller but dynamic collections of African art and Chinese objects.

In yet another arts category, each spring the Brooks serves as the regional venue for the national Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, showing six to ten films. In the fall, the museum hosts the Latinbeat Film Festival, which showcases award-winning works from Latin American countries.

To celebrate the holiday season, the museum hosts several annual programs that are free and open to the public including its “Light Festival,” a family celebration that features art, live music, a dance performance, children’s activities, holiday treats, and festive decorations. The Rhodes College choral group, “Lipstick on My Collar,” also performs in the museum’s rotunda each year, singing seasonal favorites.

For more information on exhibits and events at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, go to www.brooksmuseum.org or call (901) 544-6200.
The Fire This Time:  
Downtown Memphis Recovers from Blaze

On Friday, October 6, a three-alarm fire ravaged the 180-year-old sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, the oldest congregation in Memphis. The blaze turned the church’s well-known steeple into ashes and left a hollow shell of granite and limestone in place of a historic downtown landmark. The church structure, located at 204 North Second Street, blazed with such intensity that the fire sent embers raining down on other parts of the central city. The embers caused major damage to three other buildings on Court Square.

Investigators went through the church layer by layer, aided by two fire/bomb squad dogs. They pinpointed that the fire started in the ceiling area of the basement. After three days of sifting through tons of rubble, 25 officials from the Memphis Fire Department, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, along with the state bomb and arson team, concluded arson was not the cause of the fire.

“We know it was not intentional,” said Memphis Fire Department Deputy Director Alvin Benson. “We can’t definitely determine what caused the fire, but the investigation ends here.”

Bob Pollard, assistant director of the Tennessee Bomb and Arson division, added that key clues they look at to determine arson were not present at the church fire.

“I will not and cannot discuss what those clues are, but just know that those very definite things were not here,” he said. “Again I just want to add that the fire was not set.”

Although the members of First United Methodist were stunned and saddened at the loss of their building, the congregation remains intact.

“It doesn’t take a building for us to be a church,” stated Reverend Martha B. Wagley, Senior Pastor.

Since the devastating blaze, the congregation has gathered outdoors near the ruins of their building and at the Cannon Center in downtown Memphis to celebrate services and retain their spirit as a faith community. More than a dozen area churches have also offered to loan their space as worship sites for the displaced group. One local newscaster commented the First United Methodist members have proved “not even a fire this vicious can destroy faith.”

Reverend Wagley said it’s their faith in the word that’s getting them through what’s been a tough, trying time, and faith that keeps their eyes focused on the future.

“Out of these ashes will rise a new life and a new light,” she stated. “Out of disappointment comes the promise for the future.”

As fire investigators wrapped up the investigation, church officials discussed plans to rebuild. Recently, First United Methodist Church had announced a capital campaign, established to finance renovations. The campaign has now been reformulated to fund rebuilding efforts. Originally to be used for repairs to the roof and clock tower, and other renovations, all money raised from the “First Responder” plan now will be used for reconstruction.

Donations may be sent to First Alliance Bank, 464 N. Front, Memphis, 38105, and should be designated “First United Methodist Church.”
James J. Neutens, PhD, was appointed interim dean for the UT Graduate School of Medicine in 2005. Since his arrival on UTHSC’s Knoxville campus 15 years ago, Dr. Neutens has accepted positions of increasing responsibility and visibility.

In 1990 he moved to Knoxville to teach at the Graduate School of Medicine, and to administer the clerkship and residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology. His efforts earned him the position of professor and director of education in obstetrics and gynecology. In 1997, he was asked to serve as the associate dean for the Graduate School of Medicine.

A native of Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada, he earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Western Ontario. In addition, Dr. Neutens holds a master’s and PhD in health science education from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

“Through the vision of the chancellor and executive dean there is no doubt that the Graduate School of Medicine is being further integrated into the overall UT Health Science Center,” observed Neutens. “I believe many of the faculty at both institutions view this as a positive sharing of resources, including intellectual property, to enable the Health Science Center to reach its full potential.

“The Graduate School of Medicine represents the Health Science Center on the eastern side of state through an excellent hybrid model. Our presence, in conjunction with the Colleges of Medicine in Chattanooga and Memphis, reflects the vast opportunities available to the state of Tennessee through the university. All three Colleges of Medicine and their hospital partners are being united to improve the health of our citizens under one umbrella — the UT Health Science Center.”

Cheryl R. Scheid, PhD, assumed the position of vice chancellor for academic, faculty and student affairs.

As vice chancellor, Dr. Scheid will be responsible for identifying and implementing academic process improvements, and the establishment and enforcement of academic policies that affect UTHSC’s students and faculty. Dr. Scheid will work closely with the UTHSC’s college deans, Offices of Research, Equity and Diversity, and Human Resources, as well as the UT system Provost, Dr. Bob Levy.

Prior to joining UTHSC, Dr. Scheid was interim provost and vice chancellor for faculty administration, as well as professor of physiology and surgery for the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. While simultaneously holding these positions, she led several major initiatives including, a successful accreditation visit for the medical school, a task force to review faculty salaries and address gender-based disparities, and an interdepartmental research program on kidney stone disease.

During this same time period, Dr. Scheid held a temporary position as vice president for academic affairs at UMass Memorial Health Care, the clinical partner of the medical school.

Dr. Scheid began her academic career as assistant professor of physiology at Tufts University School of Medicine after receiving her doctorate in biology from Boston University. She is internationally recognized in the field of urology and has published extensively in the area.
Ruffner Appointed Interim Dean of COM, Chattanooga

On August 1, B. Winfred Ruffner, Jr., MD, an accomplished leader in medical oncology, assumed the interim dean position of the UTHSC College of Medicine, Chattanooga. He will serve in this capacity for a one-year period. Dr. Ruffner, associate professor of medicine at UTHSC, Chattanooga, has been actively involved in determining medical policy for the Erlanger Health Systems, Chattanooga, through his participation on several hospital committees.

He replaced Ronald G. Blankenbaker, MD, who stepped down to pursue special projects at UT, Chattanooga.

Dr. Ruffner’s impact is felt on the state level as well through his position as a trustee in the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA). He represents the TMA as a member of the TennCare Stakeholder Group and is also an appointee to the Governor’s Safety Net Study Committee.

Prior to assuming his position as an associate professor, Dr. Ruffner was assistant dean of the UTHSC Chattanooga College of Medicine from 1997 to 2004. He continues as chairman of UT Physicians, a clinical practice group in Chattanooga.

Dr. Ruffner, a native east Tennessean, holds a medical degree from Duke University and completed fellowships at the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics, National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health. He also worked in the Laboratory of Biochemistry of the National Cancer Institute while at NIH. Dr. Ruffner was chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Virginia for six years before returning to Tennessee in 1976.

“We appreciate Dr. Blankenbaker’s contribution to the UT Health Science Center and wish him the best as he pursues ongoing grant research,” said Michael R. Caudle, MD, vice chancellor for Health System Affairs at UTHSC. “Dr. Ruffner is an experienced administrator who will support our search for a full-time dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine in Chattanooga.”

Dr. Ruffner’s daughter, Katherine, is a graduate of the College of Medicine and is currently on the faculty at Vanderbilt University specializing in medical oncology.

Johnson Assumes New Role as Associate Vice Chancellor
Faculty and Student Retention

Dianna A. Johnson, PhD, assumed her role as the associate vice chancellor for faculty and student retention in the fall.

Reporting to Cheryl R. Scheid, Dr. Johnson is responsible for facilitating the UT Health Science Center’s processes for recruiting faculty, as well as developing and executing faculty development and retention programs.

She has been the assistant dean for faculty affairs at UTHSC since 2002. Dr. Johnson held the Roger L. Hiatt Endowed Professorship and served as director of research in the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology since 1997. She was director of the UTHSC Center for Vision Research from 1997 to 2002.

Before coming to Memphis, Dr. Johnson was the Research to Prevent Blindness Stein Professor and director of basic research in the Department of Ophthalmology, as well as assistant dean for Research Training at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston Medical School.

She has made significant research contributions in the area of retinal development through her publications, collaborations, and success in garnering extramural funding for construction of laboratory facilities and for shared research equipment.
Myers to Serve as Associate Professor in Pediatrics and Surgery after Unexpected Move to Memphis

Jeff Myers, MD, has been appointed associate professor of pediatrics in the Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UTHSC. He brings 19 years of training and a growing passion to help children to his additional role as Chief of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. He was previously Chief of Pediatric Heart Surgery at Tulane University Medical Center in New Orleans, La.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Myers was recruited to Memphis, initially discussing the move as a temporary one; however, timing and circumstances encouraged him to move his family and make the Bluff City their new home. Dr. Myers is in distinguished company as one of only about 150 physicians in the U.S. who perform pediatric heart surgery. For him, pediatric cardiothoracic surgery is fascinating. “To care for children with congenital heart disease is an amazing feeling,” Dr. Myers said. “You take patients with the potential for a very short life span and give them the ability to grow up, become teenagers, learn to drive, go to the prom … you give them their entire life. It’s a great feeling to know that you’ve done something very powerful for that person.”

Dr. Myers earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He received a PhD in physiology from Georgetown University, and later completed his surgery residency at Georgetown University Medical Center. He completed his cardiothoracic surgery residency at Duke University Medical Center, then moved to California for his fellowship in pediatric cardiac and transplant surgery. Dr. Myers completed his fellowship at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center.

Gosnell Assigned as Associate General Counsel at UTHSC

Devon L. Gosnell, an associate general counsel for The University of Tennessee, was assigned to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in July and relocated to the UTHSC main campus in Memphis. Her responsibilities include handling litigation for UTHSC and other University units in West Tennessee, as well as providing advice to UTHSC administrators on legal issues.

Since November 2004, Gosnell has served as an Associate General Counsel in the main office of the University’s Vice President and General Counsel located in Knoxville. She has represented the University in federal and state courts.

Before joining UT, Gosnell was in private practice for nine years handling employment litigation at Ford & Harrison and McKnight Hudson Lewis & Henderson, working in their offices in Memphis and Tampa, Fla. Prior to joining the firm, she spent 19 years in Memphis working for the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. During that period, her work entailed prosecuting criminal cases and defending the United States in civil cases.

Gosnell holds both her bachelor’s and juris doctor degrees from West Virginia University in Morgantown, W. Va. She also holds a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Memphis and a master of divinity degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tenn. She is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, West Virginia and Florida.
On their feet cheering most of the evening, UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) attendees at the Memphis Business Journal’s Eighth Annual Health Care Heroes Awards had a lot to be excited about. The September 7 event at the Hilton-Memphis turned out to be a showcase of UTHSC talent. As Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD, pointed out, “Five out of six winners were either current or former UT Health Science Center faculty; and they represented the broad spectrum of our healthcare expertise.”

The Health Care Heroes Awards is the only event that honors healthcare providers through a competitive process. Open to every healthcare entity in Memphis, dozens of entries are submitted each July from hospitals, clinics and private practices. Four finalists in each of the six categories are selected by a panel of judges representing a cross section of local businesses. Because Memphis is such a widely recognized medical center, these awards are highly sought after and quite competitive. Literally every major healthcare entity in the city was represented at the gala banquet honoring the winners.

Winners in each of the six categories were: As the Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Roger L. Hiatt’s, MD, 44-year career as an ophthalmologist has been a testimony to service, both in teaching and medical missionary work. In addition to hundreds of students trained while he was chairman of the ophthalmology department for 30 years at UTHSC, Dr. Hiatt has taught doctors around the world through his educational missionary trips. He has trained residents in ophthalmology in both hemispheres—in Mexico and Guatemala, as well as the Philippines, China, Egypt and Sudan. In accepting his award, Dr. Hiatt centered his comments on medicine as a service profession. He noted, “I’m fortunate that medicine is a form of service. I would do it if I never got paid.”

James Dale, MD, who is also associate chief of staff for education at the VA Medical Center, received the Healthcare Innovations Award. For more than 25 years, he has researched the development of a vaccine for Group A Streptococci, which can cause everything from mild sore throat to toxic shock syndrome to rheumatic fever, a disease that kills 1,400 people every day worldwide. Dr. Dale has developed a vaccine that promises to curtail strep and prevent its deadly effects. He refers to the vaccine, StrepAvax, as the most complex genetically engineered vaccine ever designed for human use. With the ability to prevent 90 percent of serious Strep A infections, this vaccine has the potential to prevent 21 million cases of rheumatic fever alone in one year. Accepting his award, Dr. Dale said, ‘I’m not really a hero. The heroes are the people in my lab who helped bring the vaccine to clinical trials.”

Stanley Kaplan, MD, was presented the Health Care Provider Physician Award because of his devotion to patients, many of whom travel across the country to be treated for crippling arthritis. More than 95 percent of those patients rate their experience with him as “exceptional.” This year he received the Tennessee Rheumatology Society’s very first President’s Award and was once again named to The Best Doctors in America, a peer-ranked national list.

Waletha Wasson, DDS, recognized for her numerous service projects in Memphis through the field of dentistry, was presented the Community Outreach Award. Her focus on underserved populations and her leadership have convinced volunteers from the UTHSC College of Dentistry to donate their time to touch the lives of more than 3,700 people at 84 different venues to date. As an internationally known professor of physical therapy, Barbara Connolly, EdD, PT, received the Health Care Provider Non-Physician Award. Dr. Connolly regularly reaches out far beyond the classroom to make an impact on the Mid-South region.

“Our faculty is among the best in the country,” stated Chancellor Owen, who congratulated the winners, “whether they are teaching future healthcare providers, conducting research, caring for patients, or serving our community.”
James King, MD, currently a volunteer faculty member and a 1982 graduate of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), has been chosen president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Previously, he served three years as a member of the AAFP board of directors. The AAFP represents more than 94,000 physicians and medical students nationwide. Dr. King was elected to the position on September 28 by the Congress of Delegates, the AAFP’s governing body, during the organization’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

**UT Health Science Center Alumnus and Selmer Physician Chosen President-Elect of American Academy of Family Physicians**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) researchers have found a new way to treat insulin resistance, one of the major impediments to recovery for burn victims.

Victims of burns and other major trauma often suffer from a condition known as the “diabetes of trauma” when their bodies become unable to properly maintain a balance of sugar in their blood. This leads to increased infections, longer hospital stays, muscle loss and death in these patients.

However, research by postdoctoral research associate Sherry Kasper of the department of surgery in UTHSC’s Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville has found a new approach to treating the insulin resistance associated with burn injury. She presented her research at the annual Experimental Biology conference in April.

Often, burn victims who cannot process the sugar in their blood are given intensive insulin treatments. While this treats the symptoms of the condition, it is a time-consuming and potentially hazardous treatment requiring almost constant monitoring.

“This research was designed to prevent the insulin resistance resulting from injury,” said Kasper. She noted that their research indicated a specific body system was the underlying cause of the condition.

Kasper’s area of expertise is a system that regulates blood pressure, known as the renin-angiotensin system. Since the system is important to insulin resistance in diabetic patients, she and her fellow researchers suspected that it may also affect the insulin resistance that appears in burn patients. Using a variety of techniques, they discovered that burn-related diabetes is tied to the renin-angiotensin system.

“Finding a way to prevent the ‘diabetes of trauma’ could be of enormous benefit in the way we treat burn victims,” said UTHSC Graduate School of Medicine Professor Michael Karlstad, who oversees Kasper’s research. “This is an extremely exciting finding with many clinical possibilities for the future of burn injury treatment.”

**UT Health Science Center Researchers Make Burn Treatment Discovery**

What are the factors that cause certain people to develop diabetes and others, with the same background, to remain healthy? Samuel Dagogo-Jack, MD, professor of medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine intends to answer that question thanks to a five-year, $2.9 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant.

As program director for the UTHSC Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, and associate director of the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), he is in a pivotal position to execute this study. The GCRC is one of 70 research centers located in major teaching hospitals throughout the country where investigators have the opportunity to conduct research in a clinical setting.

“We will compare two groups of people: African-Americans and Caucasians, who have one or both parents with type 2 diabetes,” explained Dr. Dagogo-Jack.

“Over a five-year period, we will repeatedly assess changes in body composition, diet and exercise habits, insulin sensitivity and secretion, fat cell-derived hormones, as well as a variety of risk predictors.”

African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Native Americans are known to suffer disproportionately from diabetes compared to Caucasians. The exact mechanisms and timing of the ethnic and racial differences in the development of diabetes are not well understood.

“Dr. Dagogo-Jack’s research will provide the medical community with invaluable information on ethnic and racial differences in diabetes occurrence and risk factors,” said Abbas E. Kitabchi, PhD, MD, professor of medicine and molecular sciences, and director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. “The results of this study could significantly broaden the horizon of diabetes prevention, particularly among African-Americans,” Dr. Kitabchi observed.

**Nearly $3 Million NIH Grant to UTHSC Professor Focuses on Early Predictors of Diabetes and Role of Race/Ethnicity**
The discovery of a unique intracellular organization of proteins in smooth muscle cells could have a significant impact on the treatment of asthma. Rennolds S. Ostrom, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine and the Vascular Biology Center of Excellence, received a five-year $1.4 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to pursue basic research on the organization of pathways inside smooth muscle cells that control muscle contraction.

“When a patient suffers an asthmatic attack, or spasm, the primary treatment currently is to use an inhaler, which causes the muscles lining the airway to relax and relieve the spasm. We have developed new insight, at the subcellular level, into a mechanism that relaxes smooth muscle cells. Our research mission now is to understand how this mechanism might be altered in an asthmatic patient,” explained Dr. Ostrom.

“Dr. Ostrom’s discovery and research are potentially laying the groundwork for entirely new therapeutic approaches to treating asthma. Without the understanding gained from basic scientific exploration, such as this work done at the cellular level, major medical advances would occur in far fewer numbers,” noted Burt M. Sharp, MD, the Harriet S. Van Vleet Chair of Excellence in Pharmacology and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at UTHSC.

UTHSC Researcher’s Discovery Lays Groundwork for Future Asthma Therapies

College of Health Science Engineering Becomes Department of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging in the College of Medicine

Effective July 1, the College of Health Science Engineering was realigned as the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging within the College of Medicine. The realigned department comprises two areas and one division: Biomedical Engineering, BioImaging, and the Biomedical Instrumentation Division (BID).

Repositioning the academic units as a single department will allow UTHSC to achieve greater efficiencies in operations and increase administrative economies. Health Science Engineering has been a college of UTHSC since 2003.

Gary Keyes, professor and acting chair of the Department of BioImaging, will serve as interim department head. Chris Waters, professor and interim chair of the Department of Physiology, will lead the national search to identify a candidate to assume the leadership role in the realigned department.

The Health Science Engineering staff includes ten faculty members, nine full time, two administrative workers and a part-time business manager. In addition, nine technical staff, a supervisor and a part-time director work in the BID.

“During this transition, there will be no disruptions of the educational programs for pre- or post-doctoral trainees,” Chancellor Owen observed. “In addition, our exciting educational partnerships in this discipline with the University of Memphis will continue uninterrupted.”

UTHSC and the University of Memphis offer a joint program in the field of biomedical engineering that allows graduate students to access a broader range of educational opportunities that reflect the expertise of the faculty at both universities.
InMotion Musculoskeletal Institute partnering with UTHSC in big ways

by Chris Przybyszewski

In 2005, the community leadership group Memphis Tomorrow and the UTHSC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery-Campbell Clinic and Campbell Foundation made the landmark decision to position Memphis as a center for excellence in orthopaedic research.

Out of this commitment came the InMotion Musculoskeletal Institute, an independent nonprofit orthopaedic laboratory. The Institute’s mission is to reduce disability and to improve mobility for the musculoskeletal patient through translational research.

Already in place were industry components such as Medtronic, Smith & Nephew, and Wright Medical Technology, Inc. Also in place were clinical resources such as the Campbell Clinic and the UTHSC Department of Neurology – Semmes Murphy Neurologic & Spine Institute.

Combined with the future UT-Baptist Research Park, as coordinated by the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, the opportunity was to create a nexus at which these entities meet to quicken the path musculoskeletal discoveries take to clinical applications, “Translating ideas into treatment.”

To lead InMotion, Memphis Tomorrow, through the Hyde Family and Campbell Foundations, provided seed money through 2007. With these funds, the groups recruited Richard R. Tarr to Memphis. Tarr, a bioengineer with over three decades experience in biomedical and orthopaedic research, is the retired vice president of Worldwide Research and Emerging Technologies at DePuy Orthopaedics, a Johnson & Johnson Company.

Since his arrival in Memphis, InMotion has recruited an operational management team, including a director of Grants & Communications and an executive assistant. InMotion also has received incorporated status from the State of Tennessee and 501(c)3 nonprofit status from the Internal Revenue Service.

As part of this process, Tarr formed a Board of Directors that includes UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Leonard Johnson, Campbell Clinic Chief of Staff James H. Beaty, and the Chairman of the UTHSC Department of Orthopaedics, S.T. Canale. Also formed were the InMotion Scientific Advisory Committee, which includes Professor Emeritus Andrew Kang, and the InMotion Executive Advisory Committee, which includes UTHSC Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD.

With UTHSC, InMotion is recruiting two clinician scientists with specialties in total-joint replacement and trauma, respectively. These MD or MD/PhD surgeons will perform clinical duties at the Campbell Clinic and will have laboratories at InMotion through a unique joint appointment. As well, InMotion is recruiting research staff to assist its primary investigators.

Funding for these researchers and staff comes from the Plough Foundation, which has agreed to fund the clinician scientist and research assistant positions through 2009 with a $3.1 million commitment.

As a third joint appointment, the UTHSC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is recruiting a PhD research faculty member who will hold the Hyde Family Foundation Chair in Rehabilitation Engineering, which is also receiving endowment funding from Smith & Nephew. This person will teach at UTHSC and will conduct research at InMotion.

These new researchers and staff members will have their home in InMotion’s new laboratory space, which resides on the UT-Baptist Research Park, in the Memphis Bioworks Foundation headquarters at 20 South Dudley. Funding for the laboratory comes from the Assisi Foundation and the Baptist Health Care Foundation, which have combined for $800,000 of support through 2008.

Photo courtesy of InMotion Musculoskeletal Institute

Richard R. Tarr, InMotion Musculoskeletal Institute President & Executive Director, with classic ball and socket total hip implant device
UTHSC Receives NIH Funding for Clinical and Translational Science Center Planning Process

Effective September 23, 2006, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) officials were notified by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) they have been awarded a nearly $185,000, one-year planning process for the development of a new Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC).

The NIH is engaged in a series of initiatives, collectively known as the “NIH Roadmap for Medical Research,” that promote clinical and translational investigation designed to improve health and prevent disease. The goal of the Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program is to transform the local, regional and national environment for clinical and translational science by increasing the efficiency and speed of the research process.

Through the CTSA program, the NIH plans to fund up to 60 CTSCs nationwide over the next four to five years. According to UTHSC Chancellor William F. Owen Jr. MD, “The CTSA program is a great opportunity for selected institutions and their affiliates to develop innovative proposals that can transform their clinical and translational science programs and resources.”

Principal investigator for the NIH award, James Dale, MD, professor of medicine and molecular sciences noted, “The one-year planning grant from the NIH will allow UTHSC ample time and resources to develop a full CTSA proposal which will be submitted to the NIH in late 2007 or early 2008. A multidisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians, and academicians has already begun to identify exemplary research activities and resources within UTHSC. Our goal is to develop a comprehensive, logical, and achievable plan that will transform the entire clinical research enterprise. We plan to challenge traditional methods and structures.”

“Transforming the research process requires that we create an academic home (CTSC) for faculty and programs that integrates clinical and translational science across multiple departments, schools, clinical and research institutes, as well as hospitals,” Dr. Dale explained. “The CTSC is expected to include faculty who are able to conduct original research, develop graduate and postgraduate training curricula, and lead programs that integrate clinical and translational science across all of these entities.”

The CTSC on the UTHSC Memphis Campus will be an interdisciplinary center of research excellence with three primary missions: to translate scientific discoveries into clinical applications, to educate a cadre of professionals in all aspects of translational science, and to serve as a local, regional, and national resource for advancing scientific discoveries into community health care.

“The center will provide support for all levels of translational and clinical research. We plan to develop an environment that will promote interdisciplinary teamwork, facilitate sharing of methods and results, and respond to the needs of our community,” commented Dr. Dale.

“Racial and socioeconomic disparities in the causes and treatment of diseases, potential environmental and/or genetic associations, and access to medical care are key components of our vision for the CTSC,” Dr. Dale said.

“UTHSC has many areas of research excellence that have the ability to change human health on a societal scale. We offer large programs in neurological diseases, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, arthritis, infectious diseases and vaccine development, and genetic determinants of disease. The CTSC will create an integrated research infrastructure that provides focused areas of expertise and core support services to address complex diseases, diagnostics, and therapeutics,” observed Chancellor Owen. “By restructuring the existing research enterprise and removing academic silos, researchers, clinicians and educators can have a powerful impact on the most pressing health care issues of today and tomorrow.”
UTMG Commits to Growth Under Dr. Steve Schwab’s Leadership

UT Medical Group is laying the groundwork for future development and growth. With the recent appointment of Executive Dean and UTMG Board Chair Dr. Steve J. Schwab, the organization is eagerly pushing forward with a strong vision to serve the health care needs of Memphis and the region.

“Dr. Schwab brings experience from outside UT and UTMG that is pertinent to our plans for growth in the future,” says Chief Operating Officer Richard Baer. “He has worked with other faculty medical groups at Medical College of Georgia and Duke University, so he has an openness to change that will help to stimulate our own activities here in Memphis.”

A nephrologist by specialty, Dr. Schwab came to UTMG this summer with a background in organizational management at academic medical centers, and private and public institutions. Consequently, he is well versed in the challenges that face not-for-profit clinical practices like UT Medical Group, and he is enthusiastic about the opportunities for change.

“UTMG is a huge asset, and we must use it well,” he says. “We need to define our mission and move forward. Our job is patient care, and our goal is to bring the best physicians to the market and make needed services available to the public.”

A Plan for Growth

In order for UTMG to grow, says Dr. Schwab, we have to expand our size dramatically over the next few years, capitalizing on our ability to practice medicine in multiple locations and fully utilizing our available space.

“We have to offer more services and grow in total dollar value,” he explains. “The Germantown facility will be one of the primary mechanisms by which new patients enter our market, and we also have to have a strong profile in the private hospitals. We have a crucial role at The MED and always need to provide care to patients regardless of ability to pay. But our growth opportunity will be heavily based at Methodist and Le Bonheur.”

Already, Dr. Schwab has set a goal for UTMG to be responsible for 50 percent of admissions to Methodist University Hospital within five years. To achieve that objective, UTMG President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Burkett says we must look at the way our clinical programs relate to each other and develop those services along lines that have logical relationships. For example, he points out that UTMG’s new renal and gastroenterology services that are scheduled to debut at Methodist in January will complement each other and will also be enhanced by the recent recruitment of colorectal surgeon Dr. Alexander Mathew and vascular/endovascular surgeon Dr. Michael Rohrer.

“It’s all about customer service. If the best physicians aren’t user-friendly to get to, they won’t be used.”

In the same way, UTMG’s administrative support structure must also support that model of development, says Mr. Burkett.

“Traditionally, our administrative support system has aligned itself along departmental lines, but the outside world doesn’t really see us as a series of departments. So we are organizing our administrative structure along the lines of delivery systems in three spheres.

Tim Mashburn is operationally responsible for services at Methodist University Hospital and Germantown, Richard Baer manages our relationship with The MED, and Lexanne Horton is the administrator for our child health services at Le Bonheur and St. Jude. It’s only natural that we organize and develop practices in this way.”

Customer Service

As the entry point for patients, UTMG’s front-line employees are “incredibly important” in the development of a growing medical practice.

“It’s all about customer service,” says Dr. Schwab. “If the best physicians aren’t user-friendly to get to, they won’t be used. How easy is it to get an appointment?

“Is the front desk pleasant? Are patients angry about bills they can’t understand? Our staff are the gateway to our doctors.”

Good customer service isn’t just for patients, though, he stresses.

“We must be incredibly responsive to the needs of our referring physicians, and that includes establishing guidelines for patient referrals and setting timelines to get patients into the system. This is the only way we’re going to be able to compete for private patients. Our own doctors need to refer internally because we provide outstanding service.

“If we don’t provide good service, we have met the enemy, and it is us. We have to fix our ship and make our service responsive.”

Looking Ahead

Dr. Schwab says he wanted to come to Memphis because he saw the ability here to effect change, and he has challenged UTMG to move forward boldly into its 33rd year. Such growth will undoubtedly bring its own challenges, but UTMG leaders are confident the changes will only make us stronger organizationally and financially.

“I’m very excited about Dr. Schwab’s clinical leadership and where it is taking us,” says Mr. Burkett. “It means a change in the way everybody works—pay for performance, benchmarks, and achieving goals will become part of our culture as we move forward. But we all need to be on the same wavelength with the organization’s mission and vision in order to successfully grow the practice.” In the coming months, UTMG will examine the organization’s current mission and vision statements as part of our overall review of the organization.

Reprinted with permission from LINK, the UT Medical Group employee newsletter.
“There’s no front line in Iraq. Everywhere we stayed was the front line,” said Joan Sullivan, MD, (UTHSC class of 1987) and a member of the National Guard, describing her 2005 tour of duty. As division surgeon for the 42nd Infantry Division, she was deployed to Tikrit, Saddam Hussein’s hometown. In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, this was the first time a National Guard unit had been sent into combat since the Korean War.

Day One in Iraq for Sullivan’s classmate, Joel Hardin, MD, proved her point. A surgeon for 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Commander Hardin loaded his gear into a H HMMWV (Humvee) ambulance for the final leg of a journey that began in Kuwait and would end a few miles west of Fallujah, in the heart of the Sunni Triangle.

“The Army escort staff from our battalion’s future headquarters rightly asked us to wait a couple of days for the road ahead to be declared clear of roadside bombs – the then new-emerging threat to military convoy traffic. So our Marines and sailors bided their time,” Dr. Hardin recalled. “After two nights of waiting, word came that the route simply could not be verified ‘clear.’ The Marine battalion commander, worried that we were now at risk of arriving overdue in relief of the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division [in Iraq since the invasion], decided we wouldn’t wait any longer. So we headed out in a convoy HMMWVs, some well-armored, others less so, including our ambulances,” he continued.

“Within five minutes the first roadside bomb detonated, fortunately well off its intended target – no casualties. The convoy then exited onto a two-lane rural road heading toward Fallujah. Minutes later, another roadside bomb targeted a vehicle to our rear. Again, all escaped unharmed. The convoy moved on. We entered a small village, and unlike many villages before, people were not up alongside the road to wave at us. In a deafening blast, our HMMWV ambulance was suddenly thrust over onto its passenger side wheels. Debris filled the vehicle through a shattered windshield and a gaping tear in the vehicle’s canvas roof. We had been the target of a third roadside bomb in a span of just under an hour. After a quick inventory; we discovered that all of us — my seasoned Chief at the wheel, the Marine lance corporal rifleman next to me, and the Navy corpsman in front of me — were all ok.”
CAREERS DISRUPTED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

These two UT Health Science Center College of Medicine grads gave up the better part of a year, smack dab in the middle of their blossoming medical careers, to serve their country. What were they thinking! Dr. Sullivan explained nonchalantly, “I like the outdoors and athletics so the reserves appealed to me. Before going to medical school, I’d taught at the UT Health Science Center College of Nursing and met some people in the reserves. I wanted an experience that kept me outside on a regular basis.”

Dr. Hardin simply had a notion to explore a different side of medicine, so he signed up for the reserves. “I really liked all the docs I met who had volunteered for the reserves. There was something different about them.”

Dr. Sullivan was a practicing obstetrician; Dr. Hardin, an up-and-coming pediatric cardiologist, not the usual suspects for battlefield duty. As it turned out, their roles went far beyond that of physicians. Drs. Sullivan and Hardin’s primary responsibility was to ensure their troops had the best medical treatment possible and were ready to deploy to a hostile environment. Underlying it all, the mission was to help the Iraqis regain their lives.

MEDICINE WITH A LARGER MISSION

Dr. Sullivan advised the division commanding general regarding troop medical readiness—immunizations, proper protective equipment, medical threats typical of the region, etc.—in the four provinces that made up North Central Iraq. Her role extended to helping Iraqi medical providers build their own healthcare infrastructure and meeting with the Iraqi Surgeon General and the Minister of Health to guide their efforts. It was a risky business for any Iraqi to work with the Americans. Three of the Iraqi physicians who worked with her were kidnapped by terrorists.

When Dr. Sullivan’s team held the first Iraqi-American continuing medical education program, they couldn’t advertise the classes. Instead they spread the message by word of mouth because they knew the terrorists would try to stop them. “We wanted the Iraqis to have confidence in their own medical system, but the terrorists did not want the Iraqis to succeed,” she observed. “We were told by the Iraqi doctors that before the war, Saddam Hussein had not allowed any continuing education,” so, as Dr. Sullivan explained, “The Iraqi physicians were well trained coming out of med school, but were understandably behind in the newer medical technology, procedures and treatments. Our job was to help them regain their edge in spite of the lack of modern technology; technology we take for granted in the US.”

As battalion surgeon, Dr. Hardin and the battalion’s corpsmen dealt more directly with the Iraqi people, making medical assessments and delivering basic healthcare to nearby village residents. His team encountered common ailments like high blood pressure and emphysema in the older people, as well as maladies not so commonly seen back home, including significant malnutrition affecting many of the children. During a number of journeys out to the villages surrounding their camp, the battalion’s command staff met with the local sheiks and advised where to rebuild clinics and other critical infrastructure – all with the primary goal of building trust.

LIVING QUARTERS: NOT QUITE SUBURBIA

Both doctors returned to quarters at night that were quite nice by wartime standards. Dr. Sullivan usually stayed in “fixed facilities,” sometimes old palaces from the Saddam Hussein era which had one “minor problem;” the water in the palaces was contaminated. This meant tons of bottled water for brushing teeth and washing faces. Another housing option was CHUs, containerized housing units, which were actually tiny rectangular-shaped trailers. Showers were taken in shower trailers; women at odd hours; men at even.

In the field, Dr. Hardin stayed in a tent although it had a plywood floor and a makeshift window air conditioner, a blessing in the 120 to 130 degree heat. A cold shower every three to four days broke through the baked-on sweat. He recalled, “The compound was guarded 24/7 by way-too-young,
and, thank God, exceptionally vigilant and tough Marines, standing watch under unbelievably difficult conditions and constant threat.”

EVERYONE IS A TARGET

While in different parts of the country, Drs. Sullivan and Hardin shared a common experience. Both were within mortar-attack range from the terrorists who seemed pervasive and relentless. “Early one morning, just at dawn, I was walking from my tent to the chow tent for breakfast. A rocket screamed overhead and landed about 100 yards away. ‘Don’t see that everyday, do you Major,’” Dr. Hardin remembered commenting to the battalion’s intelligence officer who had decided to join him for breakfast.

“One day a mortar landed about 15 yards from my office. A Navy petty officer out taking a smoke was severely injured,” recalled Dr. Sullivan. “The Army medics gave him initial treatment until I got there. He lost both legs, but he lived because he got immediate care.”

In fact, all enlisted men and officers were trained in basic first-aid skills because no one knew when or where they would be needed. “About 50 percent of our division was trained in combat lifesaver skills,” said Dr. Sullivan. “We trained any one who would stand still — MPs, cooks, interpreters, generals.” Her team also trained the Iraqi SWAT team on initial assessment, how to manage airways, start IVs and how to stop the bleeding.

“You know you’re a target out there; you just never know how many times you’re in the cross-hairs,” Dr. Hardin pointed out.

THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A DOC

Despite the danger, Dr. Sullivan felt very well taken care of, very protected. She carried a pistol and was guarded by soldiers with rifles and automatic weapons whenever she was “outside the wire” [off the Forward Operating Base]. An advance team secured the hospital before her visits. “It was a privilege to be the doc,” said Dr. Sullivan. “I was there to take care of our soldiers and any one of them would have taken a bullet for me or any other soldier.”

“I saw countless acts of heroism,” noted Dr. Hardin. “One day, one of our rifle platoons on patrol came under small arms and mortar attack, and a Marine was hit in the head, taking out one of his eyes and rendering him unconscious. The corpsman on that squad ran out from relative cover to blanket the wounded Marine’s body with his own. Then several other Marines and the platoon commander joined the corpsman, carrying their wounded comrade out of harm’s way and back to the battalion aid station.”

MEDIA DOESN’T QUITE CAPTURE THE BIG PICTURE

When asked if the media coverage of the Iraq War was accurately portraying the reality of the Iraq situation, both Drs. Sullivan and Hardin pointed out that the media presents one fairly narrow aspect and certainly not the full picture. “The media doesn’t show the good things; the relationships we’ve built,” observed Dr. Sullivan. “We’ve turned over a lot to the Iraqis. The Iraqi army, police force and medical teams are rarely mentioned.”

“The media can never portray what it feels like when you’re there, the loneliness and anger, the lack of immediate gratification regarding the mission – was it or will it be successful,” said Dr. Hardin.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HOME FRONT

Now back in their “day jobs,” Dr. Sullivan, an ob/gyn in Ithaca, NY, and Dr. Hardin, director of cardiology for Children’s Hospital of New Jersey (Newark), have time to reflect on their Iraq experience. “In order for the Iraqis to be successful and to have the lives they deserve, they must overcome the terrorists from other countries,” Dr. Sullivan pointed out. “Underlying that are years and years of intolerance, as well as bad feelings among the three cultural groups, the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. It’s a complex situation. We can’t easily overcome something that’s been entrenched for hundreds of years.”

Dr. Hardin describes Iraqi people as not that much different from us. “They’re eager, independent and ready to take control,” he said.

“The Iraqis are gracious, kind and wonderful people,” Dr. Sullivan noted. “Most realized we were there to help. The prevailing opinion seemed to be, ‘We want the Americans gone. But not yet.’”

And what about our guys still over there? “The unique thing about this war was that the generals were out there getting fired on just as we were. The Marine leadership never once let the enlisted folks down,” commented Dr. Hardin. “They empower, delegate and trust their people. I’m proud of them all, and proud of what they are trying to do. Not everything works 100 percent, but they’re doing the absolute very best they can with what they have.”

“The ingenuity and heroism of the American soldier is unparalleled — the things they did during this deployment were nothing short of phenomenal,” said Dr. Sullivan. “The vast majority of our troops are proud to be there and proud to be from the United States.”
The UT-Baptist Research Park, above, will consist of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, circled, as well as 1.4 million square feet of laboratory, research, education and business space in the heart of the Memphis Medical Center.

Pharmacy Building
The UT-Baptist Research campus will include the UTHSC College of Pharmacy’s new building, which will be constructed on the east side of the Lamar Alexander Building and is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Cleaned Baptist Site
Demolition and clearing of the former Baptist Memorial Hospital, which was imploded on Nov. 6, 2005, occurred at a record pace. Workers now prepare the site for the future UT-Baptist Research Park.

UT Cancer Research Building
The UT Cancer Research Building, a 90,000-square-foot facility, will house 32 state-of-the-art labs, a 60-seat lecture hall and conference rooms on every floor.
Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center

The Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center has plans for growth with a new 12-story tower. The $350 million project will provide an additional 650,000 square feet of hospital space.

The Gailor Memorial Hospital – Then and Now

The site of The Thomas F. Gailor Memorial Hospital has been transformed and now provides additional parking for The MED.
Ralph Snyderman, MD, chancellor emeritus at Duke University and the James B. Duke Professor of Medicine in the Duke University School of Medicine, delivered the charge to May 2006 graduates: “The Next Transformation in Medicine—It’s All Up To You.”

Although UTHSC has provided training second to none, Dr. Snyderman told graduates it will be a challenge to help lead the transformation of healthcare to the next level. The delivery of medicine is just one of the issues new graduates will face. Expect a radical change to prospective medicine or personalized health planning, Dr. Snyderman said. It is inevitable and it’s the right thing to do. Yet, as new graduates begin to face the challenges of change, he encouraged, “We must be deeply embedded that ours is a healing and caring profession.”

During his tenure at Duke University as chancellor for health affairs and as dean of the School of Medicine from 1989 to 2004, Dr. Snyderman led its transition from an excellent medical center into an internationally recognized model for academic medicine.
2006 White Coat Ceremony

2006 Entering Class
Applications.......................... 1,245
Applicants Interviewed............... 378
Class Enrolled.......................... 150
Male........................................... 93
Female........................................ 57
Underrepresented
Minority................................. 12.6 percent
Undergraduate campuses represented.......................... 64
Avg. GPA...................................... 3.64
Avg. MCAT................................. 9-9-O-10
Average Age.............................. 24
Age Range................................. 21-44

All took the MCAT – 98 percent had baccalaureate degrees

College of Medicine 2006 Graduates’ Statistics

Areas of Specialty

70 Primary Care 48%
22 Surgery 15%
49 Other 34%
4 1-yr progs. 2%

Where They’re Headed

PGY1 positions outside Tenn. 55%
PGY1 positions in UT System 42%
PGY1 in Tenn. but not at UT 2%
2006 SGAEC/Faculty Senate Awards

Teaching and service awards were presented at the 8th Annual Student Government Association Executive Council (SGAEC) and Faculty Senate Awards Banquet. Among the awards that were presented across the UTHSC campus, College of Medicine faculty, staff and students received the following:

**Excellence in Teaching**
James B. Lewis, MD
William A. Pulsinelli, MD, PhD

**UTNAA Public Service Award**
Barrett Haik, MD, FACS

**Imhotep Award**
(presented for service to students)
Kathy Gibbs,
student academic support services

**Phil Webb Award**
(presented for contributions to campus recreation)
Frances Kirkland, M-4 President

**Certificate of Appreciation**
Shannon G. Matta, PhD, physiology
Jay E. Mattingly, MD, anesthesiology
Parker Suttle, Jr., PhD, pharmacology
Syamal K. Bhattacharya, PhD, surgery
Vickie S. Baselski, PhD, pathology

**Presidential Citation**
Karen Johnson, MD,
preventive medicine

**Meritorious Achievement Award**
Rodolfo A. Palazzolo, EdD,
faculty and student affairs
Donald B. Thomason, PhD,
physiology

**Administrator of the Year**
Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD

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**2006 Caduceus Ball Teaching Awards**

### Class of 2009
Outstanding First-Year Course Director  Dr. Ed Schneider
Outstanding First-Year Lecturer  Dr. Jack Wilson

**Golden Apple Teaching Awards**
Gross Anatomy  Dr. Jack Wilson
Molecular Basis of Disease  Dr. Vicki Park & Dr. Mary Dahmer
Physiology  Dr. Polly Hofmann

### Class of 2008
Outstanding Second-Year Course Director  Dr. William Pulsinelli
Outstanding Second-Year Lecturer  Dr. William Pulsinelli

**Golden Apple Teaching Awards**
Microbiology  Dr. Patrick Ryan
Neurology  Dr. Daniel Menkes
Pathology  Dr. Pamela Sylvestre
Pathophysiology  Dr. Muthiah Pugazhenthi
Pharmacology  Dr. Kari Blaho-Owens
PCC/DRS  Dr. Owen Phillips

### Class of 2007 and Class of 2006
Outstanding Attending  Dr. Joseph Santoso
Outstanding Clerkship Director  Dr. Gayle Minard
Outstanding Clinical Lecturer  Dr. Dennis Schaberg

**Golden Apple Teaching Awards**
Family Attending  Dr. Greg Mitchell
Family Lecturer  Dr. Greg Mitchell
Family Resident  Dr. Misty Allen
Medicine Attending  Dr. Chris Sands
Medicine Lecturer  Dr. Jim Lewis
Medicine Resident  Dr. Anna Hicks
Neurology Attending  Dr. Tulio Bertorini
Neurology Lecturer  Dr. Daniel Menkes
Neurology Resident  Dr. Shane Smyth
Ob/Gyn Attending  Dr. Owen Phillips
Ob/Gyn Lecturer  Dr. Todd Tillmans
Ob/Gyn Resident  Dr. Glen Gallaspy
Pediatrics Attending  Dr. Lien Russel
Pediatrics Lecturer  Dr. Hershel P. Wall
Pediatrics Resident  Dr. Nick Desai
Psychology Attending  Dr. Mark Messer
Psychology Lecturer  Dr. Mark Messer
Psychology Resident  Dr. Otis Anderson
Surgery Attending  Dr. Scott King
Surgery Lecturer  Dr. Elizabeth Pritchard
Surgery Resident  Dr. Regan Williams
In August, nearly 60 patients were seen by volunteer doctors and medical students from the UT Hamilton Eye Institute. In a four-hour period, a record number of patients were seen in this nationwide community service project in which free glaucoma screenings were offered with the assistance of The Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation (FCGCF).

(Pictured Left (L-R)) Mary Scott Pearson, regional director for the FCGCF; Bobby White, regional director for Congressman Harold Ford, Jr.; Dan Linn, UTHSC medical student; and Taylor Brownlee, UTHSC medical student; stand by the FCGCF mobile unit which travels the country offering free glaucoma screening.

(Pictured right) Cort Sommerville, UTHSC medical student, examines a patient as part of the free glaucoma screening offered by the UT Hamilton Eye Institute and the FCGCF.

UT Launches New Strategic Plan for FUTURE

On September 19, William F. Owen, Jr., MD, chancellor of the UT Health Science Center, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at Freeman Auditorium in the Hamilton Eye Institute during the launch of the UT branding campaign titled “Future.”

Although the Chancellor was in Nashville participating in a previously scheduled meeting, via teleconference he reinforced the pivotal role the UT brand and image will play in distinguishing our organization and positioning us for even greater success. More than 250 pom-pom waving members of the UTHSC faculty and staff gathered at Freeman Auditorium and in the GEB to participate in the simulcast.

UT President John Petersen, PhD, spoke to six locations across the state, listening intently to the cheers from UT colleagues statewide. The simulcast is available on the web at http://future.tennessee.edu.
Herb Kosten Family Funds Pancreatic Cancer Support Endowment at UTHSC

Stephen Behrman, MD, associate professor of surgery at the UTHSC College of Medicine, has been selected to help direct the newly established UTHSC Herb Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Support Endowment.

“Our family wants to honor Herb’s memory by enabling Dr. Behrman to enhance his pancreatic cancer research and to develop outreach programs for pancreatic cancer patients and their families,” explained Alan Kosten, brother of Herb Kosten who died of the disease at age 67.

Dr. Behrman is committed to putting the $80,000 initial donation for the endowment to good use. His first step is to establish a support group for patients with pancreatic disease, which he began with letters to patients soliciting their input for the program.

Annually, he plans to recruit nationally recognized leaders in pancreatic cancer research to headline a symposium on the subject. Dr. Behrman will also support fellowship training for future pancreatic surgeons. Finally, he plans to continue his own research.

Dr. Behrman’s plans for the endowment are, in large part, a direct response to the Kosten family’s experience with pancreatic cancer.

When Herb Kosten was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he and his family found a dearth of information and lack of community resources and support. They felt isolated as they faced the deadly disease.

After his death, Herb’s family wanted to help others confronted with this disease find a source of strength and solid information for coping with it. With a goal of providing viable support for pancreatic cancer patients and their families, the Kosten family initiated an annual fund-raising tennis tournament in 2004. The proceeds became the foundation for the UTHSC Herb Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Support Endowment.

Maurice Petrovsky, DDS, pancreatic cancer survivor, was the catalyst for introducing the Kosten family to Dr. Behrman. “When my internist diagnosed me with pancreatic cancer, he recommended that I go to Sloan-Kettering in New York City for a second opinion,” said Dr. Petrovsky. “But I didn’t want to be up there without my family, I wanted to be treated here. When my family suggested Dr. Behrman, I asked my physician about him and he said, ‘Dr. Behrman is about as world-class as you can get and he’s right here in Memphis.’ ”

Pancreatic cancer patients have a 3 percent survival rate and Dr. Petrovsky is among that limited number. He attributes his being alive today to Dr. Behrman. “When I was told to get my affairs in order, I was stunned. At the time, they had no support group in Memphis. I can’t tell you how important such a group would be. When a person is drowning in quicksand, someone has to throw him a rope. People need every ray of hope they can get when facing such a terrible situation,” Dr. Petrovsky observed.

Alan Kosten commented, “Herb would be extremely proud of the establishment of our Endowment and the relationship we have built with the UT Health Science Center. I wish he could have met, and gotten to know Dr. Behrman. Knowing my brother, he would have sung the praises of this bright and charismatic physician to everyone he knew. When Herb liked someone or something, he could not and would not hold back his enthusiasm. It was contagious!”

The Herb Kosten Endowment is a tribute to a man who lived life with gusto. A multi-sports star at Central High School in Memphis in the 1950s, he was later named to the all-Century University of Alabama baseball team, which he called his “greatest honor in athletics.”

The Herb Kosten Charitable Fund Tennis Tournament will continue to augment the UTHSC endowment. The Harkavy Shainberg Kaplan Dunstan law firm is the title sponsor for the tournament, which will be held annually at the Racquet Club of Memphis. The event is not only a salute to Kosten, a top amateur tennis player in his lifetime, but it is also a tribute to a gentleman whose family has chosen to create a living legacy of service to pancreatic cancer patients.

Donations to the endowment can be sent to the Office of Development, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, 62 South Dunlap, Memphis, TN 38163. Checks can be made out to the UT Health Science Center, noting the Herb Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Support Endowment.
Honor and Altruism Evident in Gifts to UTHSC
by Anne Swearingen

From lettering in swimming to flight training in the U.S. Air Force, David D. “Mickey” Coleman has filled his life full of doing what he loves and doing for those he loves.

Among his lives is the University of Tennessee Health Science Center – indeed, all things UT. Coleman has recently donated $1.1 million in the form of a charitable remainder annuity trust to establish the David D. Coleman Endowment at the UT Hamilton Eye Institute.

Additionally, Coleman ten years ago funded a trust with commercial property valued at $1.2 million to establish the David D. Coleman Endowed Professorship in Transplantation Research in honor of his father, who died when Mickey was 13. He committed an additional $300,000 to fully fund the prestigious $1.5 million professorship in the UT College of Medicine department of surgery.

The idea for the transplantation research gift came out of a fishing trip at Coleman’s Collierville home with good friend John P. Nash, MD, assistant professor, department of surgery at UT College of Medicine, who suggested the idea.

Mickey Coleman attended UT Knoxville where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and lettered in swimming. “I never drowned,” he laughed, “and I could really dog paddle.” He follows UT sports and cheers his alma mater at every opportunity. Although Coleman made the most of his years at UT, he did not take home a diploma. “I wasn’t an outstanding student,” he said. Today Coleman “plays a little golf (‘I used to be an 8 or 9 handicapper,’), fishes (‘I have a place in Michigan where I fish pretty lightly,’), and plays duplicate bridge.”

About his golfing ability, Coleman said, “I’m about average, just like all the rest of me. I don’t like it, but it’s the truth.”

Coleman showed a knack for business early on, following in the footsteps of his father, a levee contractor, first president of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association of General Contractors (levee division), and partner in his own firm of Horton & Coleman Contractors. The elder Coleman purchased a lot of land near Proctor, Ark., but died before he could retire to the land.

After his stint in the Air Force, Mickey Coleman went back to the farm in Arkansas and made money through small harvests and by keeping the land out of production under the federal government’s soil bank program. In 1986, Coleman sold the farm that his father had purchased in 1940. Subsequent smart investing has enabled him to make the gifts to UTHSC, UT Knoxville, and to the Lutheran Church in honor of his mother.

Coleman’s gift to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Eye Institute resulted from his favorable experience with and admiration for Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS. “The eyes are the window to the body,” he said. “Dr. Haik has been able to tell me so much about my health from just an eye exam.”

Coleman had great praise for the man for whom the Eye Institute is named, Ralph S. Hamilton, MD. “I think very highly of Dr. Hamilton,” he said. “He’s an amazing man. He’s a good tennis player, he raises and trains horses, and loves music.”

Coleman has also remembered his late mother, who died in 1982, with his generous gifts, establishing a $500,000 professorship in her name at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis. “I think Mother would be proud,” he says. In addition, a $750,000 gift has made the Alma S. Coleman building of the Mid-South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod a reality. Coleman said he also has made provisions for a $1.5 million gift to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Memphis, also in his mother’s honor.

A $500,000 gift to the UTK business school in honor of his roommate at UT, James Goodner, “is given in thanks to my roommate for a stock tip he gave me years ago that has made all these other gifts possible.”

In his visits to the Eye Institute, Coleman has had ample opportunity to survey the demolition and clearance of debris from the old Baptist Memorial Hospital across the street. He jokes that although his two gifts to the Health Science Center bear his name, they are not evident to many people outside the UT community. “I am ultimately hoping to give more to create a fountain and steps up to the new building,” he said. “I think that would take care of my ego problem! But it’s already bigger than it should be.”

All joking aside, Mickey Coleman is unpretentious and modest in his ability to give so much to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. “I’m lucky,” he says. “I can give because I’m just lucky.

“What I’m trying to do,” he said, “is to give thanks to the University of Tennessee I honor of my father, and to the Church in honor of my mother.”

It may be part luck that makes his gifts possible, but it’s a strong desire to honor his parents as well as his altruistic nature that drives Mickey Coleman. Although he would be reluctant to talk about it, Coleman has managed to make a lot of money. In his view, it’s only good if it can help others and honor those he loves. And that has nothing to do with luck.
UTHSC Presents College of Medicine 2006 Outstanding Alumni Awards

Four University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) alumni received the 2006 College of Medicine Outstanding Alumni Award. S. Terrence Canale, MD, Edwin W. Cocke, Jr., MD, Alan S. Gubin, MD, and George W. Hansberry, MD, were feted at the Alumni Awards Luncheon on September 29 at the Peabody Hotel.

“Because of their outstanding contributions in so many areas, these alumni are exemplars of the Health Science Center mission to excel in education, research, patient care and community service. We salute Drs. Canale, Cocke, Gubin and Hansberry as role models for our colleagues, as well as our students who are our future physicians,” said Hershel P. (Pat) Wall, MD, interim dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine.

S. Terrence Canale, MD

Dr. Terrence Canale has created a legacy of orthopaedic research at UTHSC and has made his mark as a leader and an advocate for education. Currently chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and the Harold B. Boyd professor of Orthopaedics at UTHSC, he is a graduate of the 1967 College of Medicine class.

Well known in the community for his role as team physician for University of Memphis athletic teams, he has also played a vital role in developing the orthopaedic department at UTHSC. He worked tirelessly to improve research activities in the department, including recruiting Karen Hasty, PhD, and four doctoral-level basic scientists. A renowned clinical researcher in his own right, Dr. Canale has contributed significantly to orthopaedic literature in both refereed journals and textbooks. He served as editor for three editions of “Campbell’s Operative Orthopaedics,” co-editor of two editions of a pediatric orthopaedic textbook, and contributor to a number of other textbooks.

Nationally, he is past president of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Locally, he has been chief of pediatric orthopaedics at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, chief-of-staff of the Campbell Clinic and a member of the Regional Medical Center Board of Directors.

After completing his residency at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., and service at the U.S. Army Hospital in Fort Hood, Texas, Dr. Canale joined the Campbell Clinic staff in 1974 and practices there still.

Edwin W. Cocke, Jr., MD

A 1943 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, Dr. Edwin W. Cocke, Jr., was one of the first physicians to practice otolaryngology and specialize in surgery of the head and neck. A founding member of the organization that today is known as the American Head and Neck Society, he served as its president from 1972 to 1973. The majority of Dr. Cocke’s career was spent at Baptist Memorial Hospital, where he became president of the medical staff in 1972, at the time the largest private hospital in the world. Since 1973, Dr. Cocke has been a clinical professor at UTHSC, where he taught residents and students at John Gaston Hospital and the West Tennessee Cancer Clinic.

A lifetime of achievement has garnered abundant reward and awards for Dr. Cocke. He is the only person to have received two presidential citations from the American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. Among his many accolades, he also received the “Man of the Year” award from Baptist Memorial Hospital and Outstanding Physician of the Year Award from the Tennessee Medical Association. In 2003, he was recognized by the Memphis Business Journal’s Health
Care Heroes Awards for Lifetime Achievement. That same year, Dr. Cocke was one of the first five people inducted into the Shelby County Schools Education Foundation Hall of Fame for his distinguished career.

June 2006 marked the eighth annual Edwin Cocke Symposium, which focuses on otolaryngology research. Noted for his innovative surgical techniques, Dr. Cocke worked with the late Dr. Ralph Braund and Dr. Jon Robertson, currently the chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, to pioneer several life-saving procedures.

**Alan S. Gubin, MD**

Dedication to charity and community service sets Dr. Alan S. Gubin, UTHSC College of Medicine class of 1953 apart. Over 30 years ago, he spearheaded a drive to begin the Delta Area Head Start program, which has become the largest rural program of its kind in the country. Acting as the Head Start medical consultant, he traveled many miles to examine and treat children at Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation centers.

Dr. Gubin played a pivotal role in founding the Pemiscot County Youth Home in Caruthersville, Mo., which is funded solely through donations. As a member of the Pemiscot Welfare Advisory Committee, part of the Division of Family Services, he gave SAFE exams to children who were suspected of having been sexually or physically abused. While serving on the Caruthersville Recreation Board, he played a significant role in developing a recreational facility for the community, and he gave free medical exams to high school athletes. Dr. Gubin also served on the Caruthersville School Board of Education for 18 years.

Even with so much valuable time given to community service, Dr. Gubin has been a full-time pediatrician and family practice physician from 1957 to today. After completing his internship at the Medical College of Virginia, he completed a pediatric residency at the John Gaston Hospital in Memphis and a second pediatric residency at St. Joseph Hospital in 1957, before assuming his current position.

**George W. Hansberry, MD**

Community service and volunteer efforts have been the hallmark of Dr. George Hansberry’s career. A 1964 UTHSC graduate, he entered private practice in Decatur, Ala., and has been serving that community since 1965 in top leadership roles. The Morgan County Economic Development Association, Calhoun Community College Foundation, Hospice of the Valley, and City of Decatur Business Incubator all felt his impact. Dr. Hansberry was also an active fundraiser for the Morgan County Heart Association, the Boy Scouts of America, the Salvation Army, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Princess Theatre Community Advisory Board, and the Decatur Schools Foundation.

Professionally he has been involved with several medical societies and has received recognition awards from the American Academy of General Practice, the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Medical Association throughout his 40-year career.

The UTHSC Outstanding Alumni Award caps a multitude of earlier awards including the National Conference of Community Justice Brotherhood Award, the National Council for Resource Development Benefactor of the Year, the Kiwanis Golden Trowel Award, and the Freedom Award for Outstanding Contributions to the City of Decatur. He was also named a Decatur General Hospital Foundation Gala Honoree, an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Decatur, and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Prior to his retirement from private practice in 2005, Dr. Hansberry also practiced at Baugh-Wiley-Smith Hospital, the Decatur Clinic, and was Chief of Staff at Decatur General Hospital. He is currently a member of the UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council.

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Winter 2007 29
Golden Grad Classes – Alumni Weekend 2006

March ’56

Front row, left to right: Drs. Charles Lewis, Bill Brunner, Robert Keith, Dorothy Lloyd, James Bryant and James Cleveland
Back row, left to right: Drs. Hugh Johnson, Robert Tooms, Carl Stubblefield, Roy Renfro, Sid Bain and Bobby Higgs

June ’56

Front row, left to right: Drs. John Nash, David Kramer, Don Jones, Don Chamblee, Robert Todd, Mary Alice Lee, George Hall, Kenneth Petri and Dan Keel
Back row, left to right: Drs. Don Anishanslin, Sol Colsky, Robert Reeder, Prentice Fulton, William Clarke, Darwood Hance, William Hill, Gene Moore and James Anderson

September ’56

Front row, left to right: Drs. Leonard Berg, John Goodner, Charles Cowden, Nicholas Edwards, Richard Ballew, Warren Boop and Thomas Strong
Back row, left to right: Drs. Robert Kline, Wallace Bigbee, E.H. Thompson, Billy Pierce, James Craig and Jerry Gulledge

December ’56

Front row, left to right: Drs. Fletcher Goode, Harry Lawrence, Frederick Lansford, E. Justis, George Barker, Julian Jones, Jerry Grise and James Mays
Back row, left to right: Paul Phillips, Hugh Clarke, William Duncan, Morris Ferguson, Rex Orr, Robert Coghill and Samuel Massey

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Mario Ramirez, MD, is working with an innovative recruiting program in South Texas to attract more young people to careers in healthcare. He serves as vice president for South Texas to the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He plans to retire in April 2007.

Stanley Kaplan, MD, was recently honored by The Tennessee Rheumatology Society for his contributions to the medical specialty. Dr. Kaplan is a professor of medicine at the UT Health Science Center.

Abe Levy, MD, of Pound Ridge, N.Y., is currently serving as president of the Westchester Academy of Medicine.

Phyllis E. Miller, MD, stepped down in May as the 151st president of the Tennessee Medical Association as she finished her term in office.

James Soldano, MD, received the Heritage Award for Caring in September for his 29 years of dedicated service to the practice of family medicine and the care of elderly patients in Columbus, Ohio. The award was presented by Heritage Day Health Centers, which honors an individual who embodies the spirit of community caring each year.

Charles R. Handorf, MD, PhD, stepped up in May as the Tennessee Medical Association’s 152nd president. Dr. Handorf is currently the president of Duckworth Pathology Group and chair of pathology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Walton Smith, MD, of Knoxville, was recently appointed chief of staff (2006 & 2007) at Fort Sanders Regional Hospital.

Jason Fleming, MD, is currently a surgical oncologist and associate professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. His expertise is in basic research and clinical care of patients with pancreatic cancer.

Michael T. Beckham, MD, of Nashville, was elected Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 2006.

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Register today at no cost and get reconnected with your classmates and college.
In Memoriam

On September 30, 2006, David V. Smith, PhD, succumbed to a malignant brain cancer at the age of 63. Dr. Smith was Simon R. Bruesch Professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology, UTHSC, and the director of the Neuroscience Institute/Center of Excellence. He is survived by his loving wife, Michiko Smith, and his three children, Bryan Smith, Laurie Lundy and Charles Smith.

On Monday, October 9, UTHSC colleagues, friends and the family of Dr. Smith gathered to celebrate his life, filling the 117-seat Link Auditorium to capacity with a standing-room-only crowd of 150. Dr. Smith, a well-loved professor and much-admired family man, contributed greatly to the development of one of the premier programs on campus. Tributes to his significant contributions in the field of neurobiology and remembrances of his positive outlook on life were made by several departmental colleagues. In addition, Dr. Smith’s family shared their memories of the many times he served as an inspiration to them.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 21, 1943, David received his bachelor’s (1965) and master’s (1967) degrees in psychology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his PhD in Psychobiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1969. His PhD advisor was Donald H. McBurney. After completing his doctorate, David embarked on a postdoctoral fellowship with Carl Pfaffman at The Rockefeller University.

David established his first laboratory in 1971 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wyoming. He rose through the ranks to tenured professor before moving to the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Cincinnati in 1984, where he served as professor until 1994. From 1994-2002, he served as a professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and as vice chair from 1997-2002. David returned to Memphis in 2002 to lead the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology and the Neuroscience Institute at UTHSC.

During his career David authored over 130 publications, mentored many students and fellows, held editorial posts (including executive editor of Chemical Senses from 2001 - 2006) and served both the NSF and NIH in review and administrative capacity. He was a founding member of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences in 1983, and served as its executive chairperson in 1985.

Over the course of his distinguished research career, David’s abiding passion was the study of sensory coding. His most pervasive goal was to understand how taste information is extracted by gustatory receptor cells and encoded into neural activity, how this code is maintained during receptor cell turnover and synaptogenesis, and how these processes lead to taste perception. One of the defining characteristics of his career was to use a variety of experimental approaches. His work spanned human psychophysics, animal behavior, electrophysiology (both in vivo and in vitro), neuroanatomy and immunohistology. His studies were characterized by clear conceptualization, experimental rigor and a mathematical bent.

David created a collegial and productive atmosphere in his laboratory and in the department. His unwavering support enhanced numerous careers and created lasting friendships. He had a fine sense of duty, honor and humor, as well as an artistic flair.

Among the many honors and awards David collected throughout his illustrious career were the Claude Pepper Award (1989-1991) and Jacob K. Javits Neuroscience Award (1984-1991) from the NIH, the Frito-Lay Award for Excellence in Taste Research (1994), and the Mannheimer Lectureship (Lifetime Achievement Award) from Monell Chemical Senses Center (2004). At the time of his death, Dr. Smith was administering two NIH research grants: one for more than $1.4 million to study sensory coding in taste and another for more than $1.1 million to research brainstem gustatory processing.

“David Smith was a great scientist, a respected leader and a terrific colleague,” said William E. Armstrong, PhD, professor in the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology in the College of Medicine. “It’s a testament to his character and influence that the lasting memories for us all will be the privilege and fortune we enjoyed having such a fair and decent man as our leader and as our friend.”

Michiko Smith asks that those wishing to honor David may do so by making a donation to the David V. Smith fund through the UT Development Office.
John L. Montgomery, Sr., MD, FACS, was born in the Virtue Community of West Knox County on November 12, 1906, and died November 3, 2006, at his home in Buckingham. Dr. Montgomery served four years in the U.S. Army. He was the first board certified ophthalmologist in East Tennessee and was the founding member of the University Eye Surgeons in 1936. He practiced in Knoxville and was associated with Dr. Leon Haskins and later with his son, John Jr.

Lyman A. Kasselberg, MD, 92, died on June 10, 2006. Dr. Kasselberg served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He practiced medicine in Memphis from 1936 to 2001. Dr. Kasselberg was on the staff of St. Joseph Hospital for 51 years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Family Practice Clinic at St. Francis Hospital. Dr. Kasselberg was also an adjunct professor at the UTHSC College of Medicine.

William R. Raulston, MD, 85, died on September 15, 2006, in Hattiesburg, Miss., following a brief illness. After a tour of duty as a physician in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict, he worked in residence at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, obstetrics and gynecology. In 1955, he moved with his family to Hattiesburg and became one of the founding partners of the Hattiesburg Clinic.

Charles E. Guice, Jr., MD, 80, of Hattiesburg, Miss., died on March 2, 2006, at his home surrounded by loved ones after a long period of declining health. Dr. Guice attended Tulane University in New Orleans before he went to medical school at UT, where he graduated with honors at the age of 22. Dr. Guice also served a tour in the U.S. Air Force as Chief of Surgery in France.

Stephen R. Roddy, MD, 82, died on November 2, 2006, in Houston. Dr. Roddy was an aviation cadet in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II and was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He also was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, member of the Southeastern Surgical Congress and the Harris County Medical Society.

William P. King, MD, 77, of Corpus Christi, Texas, died on May 20, 2006. He passed comfortably at home, surrounded by loved ones, after a long valiant battle with angiosarcoma cancer. Dr. King served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and after an honorable discharge as a Major in 1963, Dr. King started his private Ear, Nose, Throat and Allergy practice, which he continued until his retirement in 2001.

Jack J. Pemberton, MD, 78, of Evansville, Ind., died on August 25, 2006. Dr. Pemberton served in the U.S. Army in Japan for four years. Dr. Pemberton retired from St. Mary’s Medical Center in 2000 with 46 years of service. He was a member of the American Medical Association, Vanderburgh County Medical Society and Simpson United Methodist Church. Dr. Pemberton also served on the Evansville Vanderburgh School Board for 17 years.

Carolyn Fiser Blackwell, MD, 73, died on June 7, 2006. Dr. Blackwell was a retired pathologist and a member of AOA Medical Honor Society. She is survived by three children and a sister.

Sidney Lane Bicknell, MD, 72, died on September 7, 2006, of natural causes. Dr. Bicknell served in the U.S. Air Force until 1963. He practiced urology in Jackson, Tenn., for 30 years, during which time he served as chairman of the board at The Jackson Clinic, P.A. in both 1981 and 1992. Dr. Bicknell also authored several professional research papers and presented them at the International Urological Society in Paris, France.

William Edwin Clark Jr., MD, 67, of Moneta, Va., died on October 5, 2006. Dr. Clark was a well-respected and skilled urologist in the Roanoke, Va., area for 27 years; he retired in 1998. He had the privilege of publishing a book that he labored to produce for the past six years. Dr. Clark also proudly served his country as a physician in the U.S. Army.

Sanjiv Mahajan, MD, died on May 12, 2006. He left behind a wife, and two girls age 6 and 2.

Thomas N. Stern, MD, 80, died of cancer in September 2006 at the hospice at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis. Dr. Stern received training in internal medicine and physiology at the UTHSC College of Medicine. He served in the Korean War as an Army captain. He returned to Memphis to help his father run The Cardiology Group of Memphis. It has since been renamed to The Stern Cardiovascular Center. Dr. Stern sat on the city school board from 1980 to 1992, serving as president in 1982 and 1986. Dr. Stern received the Tennessee State Medical Association’s Distinguished Service Award in 1991.
Mission Statement Revised

The UT Board of Trustees recently approved a revised mission statement for the UT Health Science Center. The changes better align the mission statement with our: (1) substantial commitments to the clinical care of Tennesseans, (2) statewide presence as an educational, clinical care and research institution, and (3) extensive network of clinical and research partnerships in Shelby County and across Tennessee.

The revised mission has been widely vetted and has strong support from the faculty senate, deans, vice chancellors, non-exempt faculty representatives and faculty leaders. The UTHSC revised mission statement follows:

The Health Science Center aims to improve human health through education, research, clinical care and public service. The UT Health Science Center campuses include colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Patient care, professional education and research are carried out at hospitals and other clinical sites across Tennessee. Endowed professorships, Research Centers of Excellence, and continuing relationships with research and healthcare facilities across Tennessee ensure that both basic science and applied research stay focused on contemporary health topics.

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

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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.

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.