Beneath the Surface of a New Department

More than skin deep

Dermatology
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The College of Medicine is firmly launched on a positive trajectory. Yes, change is in the air in our educational, clinical and research environments at regional and national levels. We are developing new programs and departments, recruitments are taking place in virtually all of the departments, and a sense of “We can do it!” is returning. The challenge is to utilize this breath of fresh air to move purposely forward.

In this letter, I am pleased to report on one of our major initiatives — emphasis on physician-hospital alignment. This strategic alignment is unfolding through several new faculty practice plans, which are in various stages of development and implementation. The goal of physician-hospital alignment is to unify the objectives of physicians and health systems with the patients that they serve. Of course, the ultimate goal is to enhance patient care. Being first rate at our core business, taking care of our community when they need us, is the basis of the clinical mission. Average care for average people will not work. We must be able to provide care that is not otherwise available in the community, and do it in a manner that exceeds the expectations of our referring physicians and patients.

Currently, the UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists (ULPS) faculty practice, a joint venture between UTHSC and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, is thriving. Since its inception in January 2010, this practice plan has shown rapid growth with recruitment of 29 new physicians, bringing the current physicians total to 110, and an approximate 25 percent increase in revenue. The Department of Pediatrics, under the chairmanship of Dr. Jon McCullers, has been the well-deserved recipient of ongoing funding from St. Jude, the state and the Memphis Research Consortium. ULPS is a stellar example of successful physician alignment with Le Bonheur that provides significant, measurable benefit for all concerned parties including our patients, faculty, students, residents, fellows and the greater community.

At this writing, the boards of UT, UTMG and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MLH) have approved the establishment of the UT Methodist Physicians faculty practice (UTMP). The practice plan will operate as a separate entity under the Methodist umbrella, administered by UTHSC and Methodist. Under the auspices of UTMP, we plan to develop strong Centers of Excellence to provide better coordination of care objectives with MLH and to enhance clinical opportunities for our faculty in the Methodist system. July 1 is the tentative timeline for UTMP to become operational.

We are also in discussions to establish UT MED Associates (UTMA), a faculty practice plan with the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED). Additionally, UTHSC and The MED are in the early stages for planning a Mothers and Infants Tower to focus on high-risk deliveries, neonatology and other areas. Located on the site of the current Adams Pavilion, the tower is expected to house a comprehensive Maternal Fetal Medicine Center in which our faculty will hold the leading physician roles.

As these changes unfold and various UTMG physicians migrate into other practice plans, our original practice plan — UTMG — will undergo changes. We are confident there is an essential group of physicians who will remain with UTMG to serve multiple hospital entities.

There’s an apropos expression that springs to mind during these dynamic times: “Change is good. You go first!” As the health care environment continues to evolve, so do change and adaptation continue as our watchwords. Still there are some constants — anchors that will always define who we are as a college. Photos that capture the euphoria and relief of Match Day 2013 are one terrific annual anchor, page 47. The commitment of medical students and residents to events like the Third Annual National Day of Solidarity for Compassionate Patient Care, page 49, is another example of how generations on the cusp of their futures define themselves and our profession.

David M. Stern
Executive Dean
College of Medicine
It has been a very good year for UTHSC and the College of Medicine. Our educational and clinical enterprises have done very well and are our largest ever. Our research enterprise is unfolding as we recruit faculty and construct new research facilities. Major changes are under way on our Memphis campus including the planning for complete renovation of the historic UTHSC quadrangle. The governor’s budget this year allots $66 million to renovate the Nash, Crowe and Mooney buildings, the cornerstone structures of the 1920s quadrangle. During the last fiscal year, we received the planning money that allowed us to start the design process for this major undertaking. We are demolishing old buildings and constructing several new teaching and research buildings as we finish the transformation of the Memphis campus.

In December, we revisited our long-range plans for the campus renovation, presenting an updated outline for the campus master plan. During the next five years, this comprehensive, strategic effort will change the face of our campus, aligning our academic focus with our emphasis on training students for a more team-oriented health care environment. We invite you to review our most recent campus updates on construction/renovation, research, finances, and our educational enterprise through this link: www.uthsc.edu/chancellor/messages/

Federal sequester and the state’s decision to not expand Medicaid will adversely affect us. However, at this time, we do not anticipate severe budgetary reductions at UTHSC. We expect our UTHSC proposed budget will fare well in the legislature and that we will be prepared to handle the negative effects of these new adverse economic actions. This does not mean we will not feel the effect of these economic actions, we will. But, our building and academic expansion plans are funded and intact. We expect funding for the UTHSC portion of the state budget to be approved in April.

We are analyzing the effect of the federal sequester on our research enterprise in terms of federal grant funding and calculating the lack of Medicaid expansion on our partner teaching hospitals. Alternate health care funding proposals for low-income Tennesseans have been advanced by the governor to the federal government and we are optimistic that a solution will be found.

Details will be much clearer in the coming months when our budget will have been approved and signed into law and the effects of the federal sequester and health care reform can be better calculated.

Our faculty members continue to gain much-deserved recognition and funding for their outstanding work. On page 4, you’ll read about Robert W. Williams, PhD, being chosen as one of only four U.S. scientists to work on this portion of the European Commission’s 10-year, 1.19 billion Euro project to map the human brain. You’ll also read more about our closer alignment with our health care partners, especially Methodist Le Bonheur and The West Clinic. In one recent initiative, The West Clinic joined UTHSC to raise funds for our second annual Cancer Awareness Day, see page 10. I’d also like to call attention to the generosity of COM alumni and their families who in November created an endowed student scholarship fund in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD. Read about our alumni’s valued, student-focused giving on page 28.

As 2013 unfolds, we invite you to join us on campus when you are in the area. Make plans to attend events that reunite you with fellow alumni, professional colleagues and longtime friends. On page 5, read about the new, annual Legacy Scholarships that will be available starting this fall. Perhaps someone in your family will become part of the rich UTHSC legacy that was shaped and is supported by alumni like you.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
The UT Health Science Center
Professor Robert W. Williams, PhD, of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has been selected by the European Commission to participate in the Human Brain Project (HBP), one of its two Future & Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship projects. The new project will federate European efforts to understand the human brain.

The goal of the HBP is to pull together all our existing knowledge about the human brain and to reconstruct the brain, piece by piece, in supercomputer-based models and simulations. The models offer the prospect of a new understanding of the human brain and its diseases and of completely new computing and robotic technologies.

According to the Human Brain Project website (humanbrainproject.eu), “The project is driven by profound and fundamental questions in neuroscience, medicine and computing. How does our brain make us human? Where are its vulnerabilities? How do these vulnerabilities lead to disease? How does the brain represent information?”

Federating more than 80 European and international research institutions, the HBP is planned to last ten years (2013-2023). The cost is estimated at 1.19 billion Euros (more than $2.5 billion). The project will also associate some important North American partners. It will be coordinated at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland by neuroscientist Henry Markram with co-directors Karlheinz Meier of Heidelberg University, Germany, and Richard Frackowiak of Clinique Hospitalière Universitaire Vaudoise and the University of Lausanne.

“UTHSC's role is to assemble massive genetic data sets and to build computer systems for the analysis of brain function and disease,” said Dr. Williams, UT-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. “We will build a sophisticated tool kit for joint genetic studies of humans and mouse models of human brain disease.”

Dr. Williams is one of four scientists in the United States who are part of the first phase of this multinational collaboration. The other three U.S. institutions involved in the massive project are the Allen Institute for Brain Research, the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.

The selection of the Human Brain Project as a FET Flagship is the result of more than three years of preparation and a rigorous and severe evaluation by a large panel of independent, high profile scientists, chosen by the European Commission. In the coming months, the partners will negotiate a detailed agreement with the European Community for the initial first two-and-a-half-year ramp-up phase (2013-2016). The project will begin work in the closing months of 2013.

FET Flagships are ambitious large-scale, science-driven, research initiatives that aim to achieve a visionary goal. The scientific advance should provide a strong and broad basis for future technological innovation and economic exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as novel benefits for society.
Dr. Robert Williams was interviewed by David Brancaccio, host of Marketplace Tech Report. The complete January 29, 2013, podcast can be found on American Public Media’s “Marketplace” website at www.marketplace.org/topics/tech/human-brain-project-and-recruiting-more-cyberwarriors

When asked about neuromorphic chips, which could enable computers to compute the way the human brain does, Dr. Williams explained, “Conventional microprocessors are based on a clock — so they have a high gigahertz or megahertz clock rate. Neuromorphic chips compute more in line with the way a human brain or neurons compute. One of the key differences — they can be extremely energy efficient. The human brain only uses about 75 watts of power, and yet does fabulous computation in parallel, and we don’t have anything like that right now.”

Brancaccio asked if the HBP team will create technology with the capability to “think,” and Dr. Williams replied, “That is a difficult question. I do not think the Human Brain Project really is set up to develop A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). That’s not our goal. We will leave that to Google and Apple and Microsoft and other corporations. Our goal is really to do the fundamental science that might underlie future Artificial Intelligence.”

UT Alumni Association and Alumni of UTHSC Create Legacy Scholarship for Students

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has been producing generations of medical professionals for more than a century. To honor that tradition, the University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) and alumni of UTHSC have created a legacy scholarship. In this context, a legacy is a UTHSC student, who is the child/stepchild or grandchild/step-grandchild of a degree-holding graduate, from one of the UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, or Memphis.

The scholarships were originally funded by $2,000 from the UTAA’s Board of Governors and a campus match of $2,000. However, Steve J. Schwab, MD, UTHSC chancellor, increased the campus match, making the overall total $6,000. Each of UTHSC’s six colleges will award one $1,000 scholarship each year in partnership with the UTAA director of Alumni Programs and Scholarships.

The first recipients of the six $1,000 scholarships will be announced in fall 2013. Scholarship requirements are as follows:
- The scholarship will be available to both in-state and out-of-state students.
- The award will be for first-year students only.
- Recipients of the scholarship must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to retain the scholarship for the second semester.
- Possible recipients will be identified by using the application for the college and campus they wish to attend. As with the other UTAA scholarships, the campuses will use the parameters listed above to select its recipients.

“We welcome the opportunity to offer these six, annual Legacy Scholarships to qualified, first-year students,” said Chancellor Schwab. “Our alumni play a defining role in our shared institutional identity. These scholarships are another way to acknowledge and award our students, particularly those who are continuing a tradition of excellence by enrolling at UTHSC like the generation or generations before them.”

Please contact Sarah Stair, director of Alumni Programs and Scholarships, with any questions at sstair@utfi.org or (865) 974-2502.
Studies being done by Dr. Darryl Quarles’ lab may lead to new treatments for metabolic syndrome, a precursor of Type 2 diabetes, a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the Mid-South and one that places a heavy health and financial burden on the public.

His research is currently focused on two hormones, FGF-23 (fibroblast growth factor 23) and osteocalcin, which are expressed by the bone and which regulate mineral and energy metabolism.

Dr. Quarles’ lab was the first to explain the regulation and function of FGF-23 and the novel bone-kidney endocrine network by which it regulates phosphate and Vitamin D metabolism. In addition, he discovered the adaptive role of this pathway in regulating mineral metabolism in chronic kidney disease.

The clinical relevance of Dr. Quarles’ findings is more clear now that a link has been made between high concentrations of FGF-23 and adverse cardiovascular outcomes in patients with chronic kidney disease.

The aim of Quarles’ ongoing work is to learn more about the ways that FGF-23 affects the heart and kidney and how this hormone is regulated by local and systemic factors. “The study of FGF-23 has tremendous translational potential,” said Quarles. “At present, we don’t know enough about it to use measurement of FGF-23 levels as a clinical tool.”

In a second study, Quarles is looking at the role of the other bone-derived hormone, osteocalcin, and its receptor, GPRC6A. In a third, he will investigate the role of polycystins in mediating the mechanosensing response in bone.

Quarles is division chief of Nephrology and associate dean for research in the College of Medicine. His work is being supported by two NIH grants that he received this year to study the endocrine functions of bone. These awards, which total more than $3 million, were made by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.
Research Yields Significant Insights into a Common Form of Autism

Identifying and understanding the combination of factors that leads to autism is an ongoing scientific challenge. This developmental disorder appears in the first three years of life, and affects the brain’s normal development of social and communication skills. Results from a study led by Larry T. Reiter, PhD, an associate professor in the UTHSC Department of Neurology, are providing significant insights into the disorder through the study of a specific form of autism caused by a duplication on chromosome 15. His work was recently published in Autism Research, the official journal of the International Society for Autism Research.

“This is the largest study of this particular sub-group ever undertaken at a single location with the same set of investigators,” Dr. Reiter said. “We found several interesting points in the course of the study.”

“Not only does Dr. Reiter’s study make a significant contribution to what is known about how certain genetic abnormalities directly affect brain function, in this case in a subset of patients with autism, but his approach is a great example of how basic scientists can work with clinicians to translate findings from the research laboratory to actual patients to gain important insight into mechanisms of human disease,” said Dennis Black, MD, director of the Children’s Foundation Research Institute at Le Bonheur. “We hope that this will set the pace for more translational collaboration in the future across the UTHSC campus and with other institutions,” said Dr. Black, who is also the vice president for research at Le Bonheur.

On the basic science side, Nora Urraca, MD, PhD, a UTHSC postdoctoral researcher, worked with Dr. Reiter. Their clinical team members at Le Bonheur were Kathryn McVicar, MD, a pediatric neurologist at Le Bonheur, who is also an assistant professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC, and Eniko Pivnick, MD, a pediatric geneticist at Le Bonheur, who also serves as a professor of Pediatrics in the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology. The project was funded entirely by a grant to Dr. Reiter from the Le Bonheur Shainberg Neuroscience Fund.
Improvised explosive devices have devastated the lives of many soldiers in combat. Damage to their eyes caused by blast injuries may sometimes be made worse when the soldiers have specific types of genes. Eldon Geisert, PhD, professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology, and Anatomy and Neurobiology at UTHSC, has been awarded a $1 million grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity to try to pinpoint these genetic markers. Dr. Geisert is conducting a study, “Genetic Networks Activated By Blast Injury to the Eye,” that he and other researchers believe may lead to better treatment for injured soldiers.

In an effort to understand these types of injuries, develop ways to monitor their severity, and treat the effects of the injuries, Dr. Geisert is developing new research strategies that he hopes will translate into better care — new treatments that may be used on the battlefield and later in the hospital.

“Our work will lead to understanding the effects of blast injuries on the eye and should lead to novel diagnostics and therapies,” said Dr. Geisert. “Helping those injured in the defense of our country is a true privilege.”

U.S. Military Looks to UTHSC for a Few Good Researchers

Obesity isn’t just a problem for civilians. It’s the No. 1 reason people are not allowed to enlist in the military, and ranks high as a cause for discharge of enlisted persons who have become unable to pass the annual fitness tests.

“Contrary to many people’s beliefs, the epidemic of obesity has not escaped the military,” said Robert Klesges, PhD, professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC. Klesges is researching weight loss and maintenance in the military. To further his study, the National Institute of Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), a branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded him a $3 million grant.

While many weight loss studies have been conducted with the civilian population throughout the years, Dr. Klesges’ study is different. “Ours is the first large-scale study to look at weight loss in the active duty military population,” he said.

Participants in the study will come from the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Klesges said cooperation from the Air Force has been invaluable.
Childhood Obesity Focus of Norfleet Forum and New Pediatric Program

Pediatric obesity was the focus of the 24th Frank M. Norfleet Forum for the Advancement of Health, held April 15 at the FedEx Institute of Technology at the University of Memphis.

The all-day symposium brought together noted national experts in all aspects of pediatric obesity to give talks and interact with community partners and stakeholders. Guest speakers included Claude Bouchard, PhD; Carey Lumeng, MD, PhD; Robert Lustig, MD; Virginia Stallings, MD; Leonardo Trasande, MD, MPP; and Denise E. Wilfley, PhD. Topics ranged from genetics to research and the health policy changes needed to combat obesity in our children.

This year’s meeting was organized by Dennis Black, MD, director of the Children’s Foundation Research Institute and vice president for research at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, one of the Health Science Center’s teaching hospitals and our partner in the fight against childhood obesity.

“This forum represents a significant milestone in our efforts to solve our pediatric obesity problem,” said Black. “If we don’t reverse the current trend of obesity among Tennessee children, they will be the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents.”

The forum is one component of a coordinated multidisciplinary initiative to develop a major pediatric obesity program in our area. To find out about the program, we spoke with Jon McCullers, MD, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC and Le Bonheur’s pediatrician-in-chief.

“To me, pediatric obesity is the No. 1 problem in Memphis with our kids,” said Dr. McCullers, who explained that it drives much of the chronic disease in our area such as hypertension and diabetes.

“We are planning a major pediatric obesity program with a clinic for children who are obese, at risk for obesity, or who have complications from obesity,” McCullers said. “We will also have a translational research program to discover new ways to prevent and treat obesity in children, with studies that go from bench-to-bedside and out into the community.”

Joining Le Bonheur and UTHSC in the obesity program will be the University of Memphis and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where Dr. McCullers is an adjunct faculty member and researcher in pediatric infectious diseases.

The 24th Frank M. Norfleet Forum for the Advancement of Health and this year’s forum on the topic of pediatric obesity were made possible by the Frank M. Norfleet Forum for the Advancement of Health Fund for the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. This endowed fund was created in 1979 with a gift from Dunbar Abston, Sr., in honor of Frank M. Norfleet.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center collaborated with Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and Methodist Healthcare to present this year’s forum.

The event was attended by researchers, physicians, practitioners, nurses, dieticians, government officials, community partners and stakeholders.

“If we don’t reverse the current trend of obesity among Tennessee children, they will be the first generation to live shorter lives than their parents.”

Dennis Black, MD, director of the Children’s Foundation Research Institute and vice president for research at Le Bonheur
The College of Medicine raised awareness about cancer and $2,690 for adult cancer research at its second Cancer Awareness Day in March.

The West Clinic accepted donations at all of their locations, giving green bracelets to anyone who made a donation of $5 or more to the Cancer Research Fund. Employees also held a West Clinic-wide Jeans Day to help raise funds, contributing the lion’s share of the total amount raised.

David Stern, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine, said a day dedicated to adult cancer awareness is especially needed since most types of cancer (90 percent or more) occur in adults. “We have to be aware of adult cancer to decrease the risk factors within our control and to take part in preventive care,” he said. “With regular cancer screenings, health care providers can detect signs of potential problems early on, when efforts to help can do the most good.”

Cancer Awareness Day also reminds us of the importance of the research and education mission of the Health Science Center. “Here in the Mid-South, cancer rates are among the highest of any other area in the U.S.,” added Stern. “Research to find a cure for cancer and to improve survival rates is part of our responsibility and our mission to improve the health of all patients in Tennessee.”

Dr. Stern noted a recent American Cancer Society report of dramatically improved survival rates for adults with most types of cancer, thanks to many decades of cancer research. “Research and education, like that being done here at UTHSC, are key,” he said.

If you were not able to come by the Madison Plaza, you can still contribute to the Cancer Research Fund. Visit www.uthsc.edu/give/endcancer/ to make a quick and secure donation at any time.
Johannes J. van der Aa Named Vice Chancellor for IT, Chief Information Officer at UTHSC

UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, announced the appointment of Johannes “Jan” J. van der Aa, PhD, as vice chancellor for Information Technology (IT) and chief information officer. Dr. van der Aa was the assistant vice president for Health Affairs and director of Educational Technologies for the UF&Shands, the University of Florida (UF) Academic Health Center. At UF, he was responsible for coordinating IT services and resources in support of six health sciences colleges, and five multidisciplinary research institutes.

In his new role, Dr. van der Aa is responsible for collaborating with the constituents of the six UTHSC colleges, associated research entities, and campus administration to direct and manage IT systems and services. He is also leading and coordinating UTHSC IT operations in tandem with the University of Tennessee System IT initiatives. He arrived on the Memphis campus full time in September.

“Dr. van der Aa brings a tremendous amount of experience and insight to our organization,” Chancellor Schwab observed. “He understands the special IT needs and requirements of complex health sciences institutions. Jan also has a proven ability to build strong, positive relationships. Those relationships are an integral element in supporting IT governance and in the efficient implementation of rapidly changing IT systems and processes. We look forward to welcoming Jan to our statewide campus community,” he added.

Born in the Netherlands, Dr. van der Aa grew up in the city of Eindhoven, the Netherlands. He earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology in 1978. He moved to Gainesville, Fla., in 1980 and joined the Department of Anesthesiology, College of Medicine at UF. There he became part of a multifaceted group of physicians, engineers, students, and staff known as Florida Anesthesia Computer and Engineering Team. The group was involved in interdisciplinary research in biomedical and health care technology, clinical and basic research, and education. Dr. van der Aa also managed departmental IT services and staff. In 1987, he earned a master’s degree from the UF College of Engineering. Awarded in 1990, his PhD is in medical electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology.

Wall Named Chancellor Emeritus of UTHSC

The University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro recently named Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, Chancellor Emeritus for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The appointment reflects unparalleled service and dedication to UTHSC during a professional career that spans more than 52 years.

“It is a truly humbling experience to be named Chancellor Emeritus,” said Dr. Wall. “It continues to be a great honor and pleasure to teach medical students, meet with donors and alumni, and serve the institution at which I have spent nearly my entire professional life.” Outside of military assignments in Europe, Dr. Wall has been part of the UTHSC community since he enrolled in medical school some 55 years ago. As Chancellor Emeritus, he will continue to support development and alumni relations initiatives for UTHSC.

A UTHSC alumnus who graduated from the College of Medicine in 1960, Dr. Wall has served the Health Science Center in a wide variety of roles. For the past three years, he focused on fundraising, capital development and alumni relations with one year as a special assistant to the UTHSC chancellor, and two years as a special assistant to the UT president (2009 to 2011). A longtime UTHSC faculty member and administrator, Dr. Wall has served as UTHSC chancellor (April 2007 through September 2009), interim dean for the UT College of Medicine, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, and division chief of General Pediatrics. In September 2008, UTHSC established the Hershel P. Wall, M.D., Legacy Society to honor the distinguished alumni and special friends who have made a commitment to the UT Health Science Center through a planned gift arrangement.

“Pat Wall embodies the spirit of the UT Health Science Center in its education, research and outreach capacities,” said President DiPietro. “As a proud graduate of the UT College of Medicine, he is as passionate today about the work of the Health Science Center, its faculty, students and alumni as the day he became a pediatrician and taught his first students.”
Innovation and scientific research would seem to go hand in hand, but researchers are not always recognized for unique approaches to their areas of study. That’s not the case for Ae-Kyung Yi, PhD, who received a $200,000 Innovative Research Grant from the Arthritis Foundation.

“The funds will permit me to pursue a novel method of targeting the inflammation and pain associated with arthritis,” said Dr. Yi, an associate professor in Pediatrics at UTHSC. It is believed that signals sent through proteins called Toll-like receptors (TLRs) are responsible for triggering rheumatoid arthritis.

Protein kinase D1 (PKD1), one of the newly discovered key signaling components in the TLR pathway, is the subject of Dr. Yi’s study. She is developing a specific inhibitor for PKD1, and examining the efficacy of delivering PKD1 straight into patients’ inflamed joints. “Nanotechnology will be used to deliver a PKD1 inhibitor directly into painful joints. Delivery of therapy directly to the site of inflammation is more effective and much safer, having fewer side effects than many traditional therapies,” Dr. Yi explained.

Ae-Kyung Yi Receives $200,000 Grant for Arthritis Research
To date, the College of Medicine has raised nearly $100,000 for an endowed scholarship in cardiovascular research in the Department of Physiology. The scholarship will be named in memory of Memphis painter Paul Penczner, whose widow, Jolanda Penczner, donated more than 400 of his paintings to the college. Also part of the gift was his fine art studio on Poplar Avenue in Midtown Memphis.

The inaugural showing of 40 paintings was at the Palladio Group in Midtown. This event was followed by showings at the Peabody Hotel during the College of Medicine weekend, the Trezevant Performing Arts Center (Trezevant Manor) and at Memphis Botanic Gardens. Pat Kerr Tigrett, one of Penczner’s art students, co-hosted a reception in November to celebrate Paul’s legacy and gifts to his adopted city of Memphis.

The Hungarian-born artist and his wife, Jolanda, came to the United States after World War II and settled in Memphis. Though they briefly considered moving to New York to be a part of the arts scene there, they quickly came to love Memphis and made it their lifelong home.

Paul and Jolanda knew nothing about the Health Science Center or about Memphis before they emigrated to America. They were first introduced to the Health Science Center through a commission for a portrait, which led to a steady stream of work and an ongoing relationship with the university.

Paul’s commissioned portraits, including those of UTHSC department chairs, proved popular and ensured the Penczners of a regular income. But Paul also painted to satisfy himself. It’s this work that won him critical acclaim and a place in the history of modern art.

Paul’s work was exhibited at museums such as the Smithsonian, the New York National Academy of Design, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and locally at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens and Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

Many of Paul’s noncommissioned works are in private collections, including “Jesus and the Twelve Apostles,” a series of pen and ink portraits now housed in the Vatican Collection in Rome.

Paul painted “American Starry Night” to memorialize the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attack and donated it to then-President George W. Bush. His most famous work, “Falling Stars,” was painted between 1995 and 2000 to show the suffering of the people of Hungary. It has been compared to Picasso’s Guernica.

Dr. Gabor Tigyi, chair of the Department of Physiology, is working to place this work in the Hungarian National Museum.

You can view some of Penczner’s works at http://uthsc.edu/penczner. For a private viewing or to purchase, contact Zach Pretzer, director of development for the College of Medicine, (901) 448-4975. You can also email him at pencznergift@gmail.com.

Friday Evening in Overton Square
by Paul Penczner
When is it time for members of a larger group to branch off to form their own entity? When is a division ready to leave the nest of an existing department to take on the mantle of an independent department?

The timing for change within the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Medicine can be influenced by many circumstances — community health care needs, faculty composition and economic conditions. Any of these can inspire the college to modify its organization.

This time it was all of these factors and more that combined to become a catalyst for change. The result was the new Department of Dermatology.

To understand why the College of Medicine chose now to create the new department, we have to probe beneath the surface.

One step in an ongoing journey
While it's not unheard of for the university to create new departments, it's also not commonplace. UTHSC has a long and productive history of commitment to dermatology, which has been a beneficial division of the Department of Medicine.
for many years. Formation of the new department is concrete proof that the university is growing and thriving. It is a visible example of UTHSC expanding its educational foothold in the region.

In deciding to move forward with the new department, there were both internal and external factors to consider. Internally, a number of new dermatologically focused faculty members joined the university during the same time period. This influx of medical expertise and training resources enabled UT to boost its educational offerings and clinical services, while also expanding its research capabilities — a logical result of maximizing human assets and talent that were previously unavailable.

The addition of the new faculty will bring fresh expertise and experience to the university — enhancing patient care and improving medical student and resident education. The improvements won’t only affect dermatology. Other departments will benefit from interdepartmental collaborations and research.

Externally, the fact is that many of the best dermatology teaching programs in the country are organized as departments rather than divisions within departments. UT’s commitment to offering the best medical education possible made the creation of the new department a decision based on common sense. When Rex Amonette, MD, takes the helm as interim chair, the Department of Dermatology will have increased autonomy, giving it greater ability to shape a bright future for the dermatology program at UTHSC.

“Bill Rosenberg has trained more dermatologists in this city and state than any other physician. He has imparted a sense of compassion for patients upon generations of dermatologists. Dermatologic patients in the Mid-South have benefited from his unique intellect and world-class expertise for decades. During this time, he has remained the consummate physician-teacher.

“His passion for education continues to this day with his attendance and contributions at weekly grand rounds and journal club. The College of Medicine is privileged to be able to carry on his legacy with the formation of the Department of Dermatology.”

David M. Stern, MD

The existing dermatology community in Memphis provides outstanding care for much of the needs of the community; our practice should enhance the level of care offered by providing expertise that may not otherwise be readily available.”

David M. Stern, MD

Rex Amonette, MD
A partner for the local community

The relationship between the Department of Dermatology and local dermatologists will be a symbiotic relationship. All of the members of the new department are very active in the local dermatologic and medical community, and the local dermatologic community is very much involved with the new department.

UT’s goal is to provide a valued resource for local dermatologists, while local dermatologists provide a valued resource for UT. Community dermatologists help to teach medical students and residents, who in turn will benefit from their unique experiences and special knowledge. In return, the new department strives to support the community with its expertise, particularly in the subspecialties in which it has chosen to focus.

The new department gives the university the capability to offer dermatological subspecialties and deliver medical services that meet needs in the region that are not currently being met. Pediatric dermatology and contact allergy are just two of the areas of expertise the department hopes to provide. The department plans to focus on medical dermatology — the care of patients with serious cutaneous and internal diseases.

Dermatology is the study and care of skin, nails, hair and mucous membranes. Any related disorders can require treatment and diagnosis by a dermatologist. Also, any samples from those sites can be interpreted by a dermatopathologist. Therefore, community requests for consultations come from a wide range of sources.

Some consultation requests come from other specialists, such as ophthalmologists, dentists, podiatrists, gynecologists, urologists and rheumatologists.

Still other consultations are sought by primary care doctors, internists and pediatricians when their patients’ needs call for the specialized services of a dermatologist or dermatopathologist.

The department works with rheumatologists with conditions like lupus and psoriasis, and with allergists and immunology colleagues on conditions like urticaria and contact dermatitis.

The department works with surgical colleagues on skin cancer cases, including ENT, general surgery and plastic surgery, and it works with oncology colleagues when appropriate for these cutaneous malignancies.

The faculty is actively involved in the Memphis Dermatology Society, the Tennessee Dermatology Society, and the American Academy of Dermatology. Members also serve many hospitals in the area, including the Regional Medical Center, the VA Medical Center, Methodist University Hospital and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, interacting with local colleagues on a daily basis.

"The face of medicine is rapidly changing. While all physicians will likely be impacted by these changes, the role of specialists, such as dermatologists, will evolve as we move into accountable care and, possibly soon, managed care systems. It is anticipated that primary care providers will subsume care for much of the ‘routine’ dermatologic care, leaving the dermatologist to manage those patients with more complicated dermatologic diseases. Dermatologists, along with other specialists, will be asked to provide ready access to care and to communicate efficiently with primary care providers, returning their patients to their care with clear roadmaps for long-term management of their diseases.

“We hope to poise the Department of Dermatology to be ready to react to and fit into this changing paradigm. The existing dermatology community in Memphis provides outstanding care for many of the needs of the community; our practice should enhance the level of care offered by providing expertise that may not otherwise be readily available. Faculty members will be recruited and mentored to develop expertise in the management of highly complex dermatologic diseases, which we ultimately hope will include (but not be limited to) the following:

Dr. David Stern is the executive dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Rex Amonette is the interim chair of the
autoimmune skin disorders
- cutaneous manifestations of rheumatologic diseases
- allergic contact dermatitis and occupational skin disorders
- skin diseases in immunosuppressed patients, including transplant patients
- complex pediatric dermatologic diseases
- skin conditions in patients with other systemic diseases
- care of skin diseases in underserved populations
- inpatient consultative dermatology
- innovative care delivery systems, including telemedicine

“We envision our faculty practice serving primarily as a consultative service. We will, of course, continue to provide care to our patients in need at The MED and the VA hospitals. Our residency training program will remain a primary focus of our program; we will work closely with our residents to instill in them both the knowledge of our specialty, as well as the skills they will need to navigate the changes that lie ahead. We hope to train residents who leave us with their idealism intact, ready to take on the world and to ‘pay it forward.’

“We look forward to working with the community to help provide the best possible care for all of our patients and, if need be, to fight to ensure that our patients have access to appropriate dermatologic care. Our guiding principle will be one of compassionate service: service to our patients, to our community and to the institution. We hope to become a trusted and valuable resource to our colleagues both within the institution as well as the community, offering educational opportunities in addition to our consultative services. Together, we can provide the full spectrum of primary, specialty and now tertiary dermatologic care essential for the health of all our patients in the western Tennessee region.”

Rex Amonette, MD
David M. Stern, MD

Department of Dermatology and the founder of the Memphis Dermatology Clinic.
UT Dermpath

Situated within the department is a new dermatopathology laboratory, UT Dermpath, which is staffed by dermatology faculty members. Each of these new dermatopathologists brings expertise in the area of interpretation of skin biopsies and excisions, in a laboratory setting that serves both the university and the community.

Dermatopathologists work closely with dermatologists, but their focus is the microscopic examination and analysis of skin, hair, nails and mucosa samples. Since three of the new faculty members are dermatopathologists, an immediate area of focus for the new department will be the services provided by UT Dermpath.

UT Dermpath has the capability to provide diagnostic services for any location in the country. The new state-of-the-art dermatopathology laboratory combined with the expertise and experience possessed by UT Dermpath’s three dermatopathologists enables it to provide accurate, precise diagnoses that will help clinicians administer the best possible patient care.

For more about UT Dermpath, see page 24.

“During my residency at UT, I have been impressed with the excellent clinical training, the commitment of the faculty to the dermatology program, and the surgical experience. We are exposed to a vast variety of diseases in all different patient populations. We are able to see everything from difficult pediatric cases at Le Bonheur to skin cancers at the VA. Most importantly, the faculty continues to model a patient-centered practice for the residents. The importance of taking care of patients with all problems and backgrounds remains at the heart of the program, and the tradition of excellent patient care continues to be passed down to the next generation of dermatologists.

“Becoming a department is an added excitement for our training program. We look forward to having a home and hopefully expanding at UT. For the residents, this will mean expanded learning opportunities and broader exposure. For patients, it will mean more efficient and effective care. I am thrilled to be joining a faculty committed to patient care, resident education and clinical research.”

Emily Jones, MD, Chief Resident
Getting out ahead of educational trends

Adapting to changes in educational demands has also played a role in the university’s decision to create the new department. Dermatology has become a very popular specialty for graduating medical students. According to the National Resident Matching Program, it has become one of the most competitive residencies to obtain. As a result, the best and brightest medical students are contributing to the field, advancing it through research and better patient care. Many of these top students are then returning to academia and contributing as researchers and clinician-educators.

UTHSC is positioning itself to become a major source of the next generation of dermatological health care providers. All of the dermatology faculty are clinician-educators and are very much focused on resident and medical student education. The department is committed to training compassionate, professional, first-class dermatologists.

The changing face of health care needs

This increased interest in dermatology has paralleled the increased incidence of skin cancer in the population. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, more than 3.5 million skin cancers in more than 2 million people are diagnosed in the United States annually.

Current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, and by 2015, it is estimated that one in 50 Americans will develop melanoma in their lifetime. Melanoma incidence rates have been increasing for at least 30 years, and have increased by about 2.8 percent annually since 1981.

Skin cancer has increased with the aging baby boomer generation in particular. As America continues to age, a growing workforce will be needed to diagnose and treat these patients.

Tejesh Patel, MD, shares observations with residents.
Although the surgical arm of the specialty is very active treating skin cancer, other areas of the field are increasingly sought by patients as well — not just conditions like acne and psoriasis, but also preventive care, conditions of aging, cosmetic treatments, disorders of hair and nails, and pediatric dermatology.

Dermatology as a specialty is growing and will continue to grow.

The financial landscape

Monetary considerations are always a concern in the current economic climate. The new department plans to provide first-class care to anyone who needs or requests services, and physicians are not always rewarded financially for seeing underserved populations or the sickest of patients. While providing these services to the patients who need them most will naturally incur expenses, the university hopes to offset these costs with generous community support.

The existence of the new department owes a great deal to the efforts and financial support of one local dermatologist in particular, Robert J. Kaplan, MD. His continuing generosity has been instrumental in helping to make the vision for the new department a reality, along with other invaluable educational and clinical resources at UT.

"Bob has helped us to envision a department that combines the best of university and community physicians working together," said Executive Dean David Stern, MD. "He moves seamlessly between these groups, and has fostered the development of the new department in a way that is a model for other departments in the College of Medicine."

For more about Dr. Robert Kaplan’s philanthropic endeavors, see page 23.

Dr. Andrzej Slominski received funding from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for his study researching the hormone melatonin and its role as a skin protectant.

A long-standing question is whether melatonin and its metabolites can be therapeutically controlled to work as general skin protectants with anti-genotoxic, anti-oxidant, and/or anti-carcinogenic properties. Dr. Slominski said, "While the skin is a recognized target for melatonin action, it is only recently that we were able to document that human skin can indeed synthesize and metabolize melatonin."

It is hoped that melatonin may be used as a component in sunscreens or in the treatment of diseases of the pigment, including pre-cancerous states, epidermal cancer or even melanoma, inflammatory skin disorders and skin aging. There is even a possibility of new treatments for mood disorders and drug addiction.

A legacy of research
UTHSC is no stranger to dermatological research. The university has been actively contributing to the advancement of our knowledge of dermatological conditions and diseases for years.

Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, professor of Pathology and director of the Dermatopathology Fellowship Program and Skin Cancer Division of the UT Center for Cancer Research, has been a major force in the ongoing research being conducted at UT. He is currently working on vitamin D and its effects on skin diseases and cancer, the protective effect of melatonin against damaging effects of solar radiation, and the role of the ultraviolet light spectrum in endocrine activities.

Dermatology research has brought increased visibility and prestige to the University of Tennessee. In 2009, UTHSC hosted the XVth PanAmerican Society for Pigment Cell Research Conference — an annual international meeting of clinicians, developmental biologists, biochemists, immunologists, cell biologists, molecular biologists, chemists and physicists interested in various aspects of pigment cells.

The future of research
Upcoming research in dermatology has multiple possibilities, from the pathogenesis and treatment of cutaneous tumors to autoimmune disease and stem cell biology. The new department hopes that a clinical/translational research program will develop, followed by more basic research.

The new Department of Dermatology will initially have a clinical focus on dermatologic manifestations of systemic disease and children’s health, in addition to dermatopathology. Dr. David Stern said, “I view the research and educational missions as integral to the clinical focus. ’Best practices’ in clinical dermatology form the basis of any teaching program, and the clinical material is the foundation for a clinical/translational research program.”

Clinical trials
Dr. Stern believes that the initiation of a clinical research program should be closely tied to the kind of patients being treated in the clinics. He hopes that the new department can become active in clinical research.

“As a member of the Memphis medical community, I’m very excited about the creation of the new Department of Dermatology. I believe it will benefit UTHSC and the local community for several reasons. The new department will provide much more autonomy in what can be accomplished. We also want to grow the dermatopathology program and pediatric dermatology. This is a logical next step for the school due to its proximity to St. Jude and Le Bonheur. Additionally, UTHSC is going to expand the VA program, which should provide phenomenal clinical experience for residents.

“The current dermatological needs of Memphis are being well met by a good supply of great private practitioners. The relationship between the university and practicing dermatologists in Memphis has always been excellent — we’ve never had any problems between ‘town and gown.’ We have always complemented each other and I think that will happen to an even larger degree in the future. In fact, I expect the new department to be a great resource for the Memphis dermatological community. By creating a Department of Dermatology at UTHSC, we are going to be able to concentrate on difficult cases — complicated skin problems, pediatric problems and dermatopathology. The new department will be particularly helpful in dealing with several complicated diseases, including severe psoriasis and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. These are conditions that are ideally suited for a university setting.

“The broad patient population in Memphis presents us with a great deal of pathology. It provides the medical school and residency program with an excellent chance for the residents to learn. The opportunity for training experience will benefit the new department as well.

“The department will also be able to capitalize on opportunities to get local doctors involved in training the next generation of dermatologists. I believe the incoming chair for the Department of Dermatology will want to increase local dermatologists’ involvement in teaching so they will have opportunities to deal with the residents. I think it is going to be extremely beneficial for both sides.

“Dermatology at UTHSC has a very rich past. Bill Rosenberg has been an outstanding leader for many years, and Bob Skinner has continued the tradition. Now dermatology at UTHSC will be able to grow even more. It will be a world-class program. It is going to be great for Memphis and it is going to be great for the people UTHSC is training.”

Robert Kaplan, MD

Robert Kaplan, MD of Kaplan and Kaplan Dermatology
Memphis, Tenn.

(left) Robert Kaplan, MD  (right) David Stern, MD

Continued
trials to advance the field of dermatology. “Our aspiration would be to recruit a clinical trialist who would establish an investigator-initiated trial based on our clinical practice,” said Dr. Stern.

Stern thinks there are multiple possibilities for this. For example, certain research might relate to radiation damage of skin and subcutaneous tissues after radiation therapy for head and neck cancers, an area in which UT’s Otolaryngology Department already dominates the region.

Another possible theme of dermatological research would involve the problems of the African-American population that the university’s medical community serves. This would harmonize with a larger effort across the College of Medicine. Dr. Stern said, “From the pathogenesis of skin lesions to differences in the response to dermatologic treatments, it is imperative to understand environmental and genetic factors that might be operative in distinguishing different groups of patients based on race, as well as other factors.”

Research dividends

However, research provides other benefits beyond knowledge. It is a source of funding through grants, increased visibility through publications and potential patents through commercial applications derived from research results. Also, world-class research produces world-class prestige, which is indispensable when it comes to recruiting.

College and high school students are allowed to participate in the lab, gaining practical knowledge, conducting research, producing presentations and even getting their names on publications. This experience helps them dramatically with college, graduate school and employment applications.

“Further, there are a number of veterans of our lab who have gone on to great success after completing their training here,” Dr. Slominski said.

Dermatology research isn’t just about producing investigative results. It’s about producing doctors.

Game change

New dermatology departments are not common. Most departments in the country are already established, and many smaller programs will remain divisions for the foreseeable future. This is one of the reasons there is so much excitement surrounding the formation of this new department.

In the same way living organisms need to evolve to adapt to changing environments, UTHSC needs to remain receptive to changes in educational and medical demands. A new university Dermatology Department registers on the national landscape. Dermatology programs across the country recognize other competitive programs that are growing and advancing. The creation of the new, independent Department of Dermatology and expansion of the dermatology program at this time will thrust UTHSC into the national spotlight in the field of dermatology.
This May, almost 150 students will receive their medical degrees from the UTHSC College of Medicine. Many will pursue residencies in primary care specialties such as internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, or family practice, while others will seek advanced training in pathology, dermatology, radiology, psychiatry, emergency medicine, anesthesiology, or surgery. These future physicians will follow many different paths, with a large portion staying inside the state of Tennessee for training, but they all shared one very important experience as medical students: They directly benefited from the support of Robert J. Kaplan, MD, ’73.

Nothing Short of Transformational

A History of Support, A Commitment to Our Future

Dr. Kaplan’s philanthropy has been nothing short of transformational for the UTHSC campus. His support of clinical skills at UTHSC has had a profound impact on the education of our state’s future physicians, and his recent gift to the UTHSC Department of Dermatology, a major multi-year commitment, will have a tremendous impact on the expansion of the department.

However, Kaplan’s philanthropic endeavors run even deeper than that. He is creating another lasting legacy at UTHSC by including the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center and the Department of Dermatology in his estate plans.

“Bob’s passion for medical education is palpable. He wants the next generation of UTHSC physicians to be trained according to the very best practices,” Executive Dean for the UTHSC College of Medicine David Stern said. “This vision has guided his support of the clinical skills center and this impacts most positively on the education of every student who passes through our doors.”

The Robert J. Kaplan, M.D. Clinical Skills Center

The Robert J. Kaplan, M.D. Clinical Skills Center has been a critical place for teaching, assessing, and improving clinical and communication skills of future physicians and other health care professionals. Training includes physical examinations, medical history taking, and interpersonal communication skills. Through the use of standardized patients, students get hands-on experience. The 18 exam room, state-of-the-art center features an impressive combination of technology and human interaction. It’s a giant leap from the days of “see one, do one, teach one,” and it’s all made possible by Kaplan’s generosity.

“The Kaplan Center is where students begin the process of developing their patient care skills, and we owe Bob Kaplan a great debt of gratitude for his interest in making our graduates into patient-centered physicians,” said Robert Shreve, EdD, MS, BS, and associate dean for Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. Shreve continued, “Very little of what we have accomplished would have been possible without Bob’s interest and extraordinary commitment to helping us make our students among the best trained in the South.” On a recent accreditation survey, students listed the Kaplan Center as one of the truly outstanding facilities on the campus.

Department of Dermatology

Given the success of the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center, it is perhaps not a surprise that Dr. Kaplan, a dermatologist with his own private practice in Memphis, would like to see the Department of Dermatology grow substantially at UTHSC.

When asked what drives his passion for supporting UTHSC, Kaplan called upon the wisdom of a longtime Yankees announcer.

“As Red Barber used to say, ‘You’ve got to remember who brought you to the dance,’” Kaplan said. “If anybody thinks they are a self-made man, they are wrong. You have to remember who made you who you are.”

This past fall, a ceremony was held at the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center to name eight new exam rooms recently added to the center. This coming fall, an event is being planned to celebrate Dr. Kaplan’s generosity to the Department of Dermatology.

Robert J. Kaplan practices in Memphis at Kaplan and Kaplan Dermatology. He serves multiple leadership positions within the university, including serving on the UT Foundation’s Board of Directors and the UTHSC College of Medicine Alumni Council.
The term “dermatopathology” comes from the Greek words “derma,” meaning “skin,” and “pathos,” meaning “harm.” As a medical discipline, it stands at the intersection of dermatology — the study of the skin, and pathology — the study of disease. UT DermPath, the new dermatopathology laboratory at UT, plays a crucial role in support of the Department of Dermatology.

Dermatopathologists work closely with dermatologists. In fact, many of them are trained primarily in dermatology. Their focus, however, is diagnostic: Examining samples of skin, hair, nails and mucosa, they diagnose cutaneous diseases — diseases of the skin.

With more than 1,500 conditions, from skin cancer, lupus and psoriasis to the simple cutaneous eruptions commonly known as rashes, this covers a huge amount of ground, providing dermatopathologists with what is perhaps the greatest challenge of their field: its sheer scope. Dermatopathologists must maintain a broad base of knowledge and be familiar with several other specialty areas of medicine.

Dermatologists are often able to recognize skin diseases simply from their appearances, anatomic distributions and behavior. Sometimes, however, a skin biopsy must be made and examined under a microscope. In rarer cases, additional specialized testing is required for these biopsies, including immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry or even molecular-pathologic analysis — analysis at the molecular level.

“Our personal level of service is one of the features that sets us apart. We are accessible and accountable to the clinicians who put their trust in us.”

M. Barry Randall, MD

These are some of the highly specialized diagnostic and consultative services that UT DermPath was created to provide.

UT DermPath serves referring clinicians who submit their lab specimens and expect a rapid turnaround and accurate, precise diagnoses to provide the best possible care for their patients.

The staff is composed of three board-certified dermatopathologists, each of whom also holds a faculty appointment in the new Department of Dermatology. This academic tie-in keeps UT DermPath at the forefront of its field.

M. Barry Randall, MD, who has more than 20 years experience in the field, is UT DermPath’s medical director. He is joined by Kristopher Fisher, MD, and Tejesh Patel, MD. Drs. Fisher and Patel are certified in dermatology by the American Board of Dermatology; Dr. Randall is certified in anatomic and clinical pathology.
by the American Board of Pathology. All are certified in dermatopathology by the American Boards of Dermatology and Pathology. In addition to a medical degree, certification in dermatopathology in the United States requires a three- or four-year residency, plus one or two more years of postresidency.

Each physician brings a different area of expertise to UT DermPath in the microscopic examination of skin biopsies and excisions in a way that serves both the university and the community. Besides teaching and research, Drs. Fisher and Patel also treat patients in the new dermatology clinic.

At UT DermPath, Drs. Randall, Fisher and Patel are supported by a team of experienced histotechnologists, all of whom are registered or eligible for registry by the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Grace Swaney serves as director of client services and business development.

The three dermatopathologists also make it a point to communicate closely with referring physicians to discuss their findings, with a goal of further improving the level of service and patient care they provide. The involvement of staff members in the Memphis dermatology community engenders a strong sense of local and regional pride in the new project.

For more information, call (901) 866-8834 or 1 (855) DERMPATH.

UT DermPath Services:

UT DermPath adheres to the highest standards of quality care. The lab offers a full range of dermatopathology services for skin biopsies and other testing, including:

- Standard tissue processing
- A complete battery of special stains
- Immunohistochemistry
- Direct immunofluorescent studies
- Full consultation services and second opinions

(left to right) Dr. Kristopher Fisher (sitting); Dr. Tejesh Patel; Grace Swaney, director of business development; and Dr. M. Barry Randall
“One of the most rewarding things is to see the children and their parents smiling. A stay of about six days changes the lives of these kids. They look better and feel better.”

Barrett Haik, MD
For children in many countries, strabismus and ptosis — pronounced “TOH-sis” — are more than medical terms. Crossed eyes and drooping eyelids can cause emotional distress and even ostracism in addition to visual impairment.

Ophthalmologists in Panama, however, have been working to give children both sight and self-confidence through a program with ophthalmologists from the University of Tennessee’s Hamilton Eye Institute.

Niños Sanos, Niños Felices — meaning Healthy Children, Happy Children — is a program of the Fundación Pro-Integración that serves Panamanians with disabilities.

Barrett Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the UT Hamilton Eye Institute, has traveled to Panama for 15 years, performing surgeries on children born with strabismus and ptosis. Ernesto A. Calvo, MD, a former Fellow of Dr. Haik who visits Panama every two months, was instrumental in forging the link between HEI and the program.

“I realized there was an unmet need in my country,” he said. Dr. Calvo is also a clinical professor of ophthalmology at UTHSC.

In 2012, a group from HEI accompanied Dr. Haik, including Margaret Phillips, MD, oculoplastic surgery instructor; DeRayne Boykins, MD, anesthesiologist; and HEI alumni Alan E. Oester, MD, and Adham Al-Hariri, MD.

“We have some very loyal alumni,” Dr. Haik said, adding, “I’m seeing a new era of volunteerism in young physicians.” Volunteers from the University of Southern California and Panama joined the team from HEI, traveling at their own expense.

Working hand in hand with local physicians, Niños Sanos, Niños Felices brought pre-screened children and their families to the El Vigia Hospital in the village of Chitré.

“It’s a wonderful, cross-cultural collaboration,” Dr. Haik said.

“Many of the children came from rural areas of Panama,” Dr. Haik noted. Parents slept on floors and shared communal meals to give their children a fresh start in life.

Panama’s Health Ministry made a hospital available for the sole use of the ophthalmic specialists, who performed more than 140 surgeries in less than a week. Of those, approximately 100 corrected strabismus while 40 surgeries corrected ptosis.

Local physicians provided follow-up care to the children.

As the youths recovered in the post-operative area, the effects were obvious. Children who had spent their whole lives ashamed of their appearances beamed with new-found, confident smiles.

“Most of these children are younger than 10 years old,” said J. Thomas Ford, one of the program’s trustees. They are at an age where they can get back their self-esteem. That’s just as important as recovering their eyesight.”

Dr. Haik called the trip “a tremendous experience” which gave him a sense of warmth and accomplishment.

“One of the most rewarding things is to see the children and their parents smiling,” he said. “A stay of about six days changes the lives of these kids. They look better and feel better.”

At the project’s conclusion, the First Lady of Panama, Marta Linares de Martinelli, invited Dr. Haik to the presidential residence where she presented him and world-renowned pediatric ophthalmologist Kenneth W. Wright, MD, of the University of Southern California with the highest award a non-Panamanian can receive, the Condecoración Nacional de la Orden Vasco Núñez de Balboa. The First Lady presented program directors Jorge Arrue, MD, and Felix Ruiz, MD, with the Condecoración Nacional de la Orden Belisario Porras.
Jack L. Wilson, PhD, Endowment

When he retired on June 30, after 45 years of teaching at the UT Health Science Center, Jack L. Wilson, PhD, left a generous gift for future students and faculty, a pledge for $25,000 to start a multi-purpose endowment in his name. Dr. Wilson explained its goal. “The endowment will provide an award for the gross anatomy faculty in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology and scholarships for medical and dental students,” he said. “In this way, I hope to continue benefiting educational programs at UT.”

Dr. Wilson, who received his PhD in anatomy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, taught gross anatomy and embryology. He received more than 70 teaching awards, including numerous Golden Apple Awards, 16 awards for Best Course Director, and distinguished teaching and alumni awards.

Though he wrote 45 published papers, abstracts plus books and chapters, Dr. Wilson said that the most rewarding aspect of his years at UT was the wonderful interaction with students. If you were one of Dr. Wilson’s students or want to be involved in making this endowment a success, contact Bethany Goolsby, associate vice chancellor for Development at (901) 448-8212.

College of Medicine Alumni and Families Endow Scholarship Fund in Honor of Hershel “Pat” Wall

Thanks to the generosity of College of Medicine alumni and families, an endowed student scholarship fund has been created in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD. The first recipient of the $50,000 award, dubbed the Dr. Hershel P. Wall Endowed Scholarship, will be named in fall 2013.

A 1960 alumnus of the College of Medicine, Dr. Wall has been part of the UTHSC community since he enrolled some 55 years ago. He has served in a wide variety of roles, including special assistant to the UTHSC chancellor and special assistant to the UT president, where he focused on fundraising, capital development and alumni relations. A longtime UTHSC faculty member and administrator, Dr. Wall has also served as UTHSC chancellor, interim dean for the UT College of Medicine, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, and division chief of General Pediatrics.

“Dr. Wall is Volunteer medicine,” said Joseph DeLozier, MD, a 1982 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine and donor to this effort. “He is an example to doctors and our society of what we should all be about — unconditional giving to his students, colleagues, patients, friends, and even strangers. There will be others to follow, but he has created the path and the standard, all out of love.”

Dr. DeLozier’s wife, Jan, is also a 1982 College of Medicine graduate, and the couple’s daughter, Meg, recently began medical school at UTHSC. J. Stephen Rich, MD, a 1974 COM graduate, and his wife, Susan, joined the DeLozier family in support of this scholarship.

Dr. Rich agreed. “Dr. Hershel Wall was the most influential professor of my medical school career,” he said. “He instilled a steady calm. He inspired confidence. And he fueled a desire for knowledge. I have always known that I could count on Dr. Wall’s kindness and wisdom for guidance. I am grateful to have him as both a friend and a mentor. By providing scholarships for medical students, this effort simultaneously honors my mentor and positively impacts future graduates from the UTHSC College of Medicine. I can think of no better investment.”

The DeLozier and Rich families hope other alumni and friends will join in supporting this effort. To discuss a donation to the Dr. Hershel P. Wall Endowed Scholarship Fund, contact Zach Pretzer, director of development for the UTHSC College of Medicine, at (901) 448-4975 or zpretzer@uthsc.edu.
James H. Harris, PhD, MD  
*Hometown: Alpharetta, Georgia*  
*Education: UTHSC College of Medicine  
PhD in Anatomy 1969; MD 1972*  
*Specialty: Pathology and Neuropathology*

**Why did you decide to attend UT?**  
“Since I came from a poor family and couldn’t afford medical school, I decided to get a PhD first so I could teach and do research with Drs. Murphy and J.T. Robertson to help pay for my medical training. Luckily, I also received some loans and scholarships.”

**What is your favorite memory of being a student?**  
“I remember working and studying very long hours to accomplish my goals. I married Judy Hutchinson during my first year of graduate school. I was the first doctor of any type in my family or my wife’s family. A UT alumnus who lived in Arizona funded a $1,000 scholarship, and I received that each year I was in medical school, since I was one of the rare married students with a child. Judy and I now have three sons and nine grandchildren!”

**Why did you get involved on the UT Alumni Council?**  
“The strong desire to learn, to teach others and contribute to my community were great motivating factors. To quote the Bible, ‘To whom much is given, much shall be required.’

“Coming from a poor Georgia family with solid values and a strong Christian faith, I knew I could accomplish many things with a proper education. I had to be enterprising and look for opportunities. I also had to be willing to take risks to accomplish my goals, such as moving from Memphis to New York. I couldn’t have done it without my wife’s strong support. Many people helped me along my career path and I wanted to give back to help others achieve their goals.”

**Do you have advice for other UT Alumni?**  
“Most of us would not have our professional careers without those initials behind our names. Our families, our lifestyles and our contributions are largely dependent on the training we received at UTHSC. I would urge everyone to get involved and make their unique contribution to UTHSC with financial support and volunteer participation. We are better because of what the university gave to us and we can make the university better by what we give back.”

**Career Achievements**  
*Medical College of Ohio (MCO) 1975-1982*  
- First neuropathologist in northwest Ohio  
- Co-chaired Residency Training Program at MCO in Toledo (now University of Toledo College of Medicine)  
- Chairman, MCO Admissions Committee  
- AAMC Leadership Conference to revise MCO curriculum  
- Chairman, Faculty United Way Campaign  
- Served on four PhD graduate committees

*Toledo Hospital 1979-1993*  
- Credentials Committee  
- Helped develop Quality Assurance (QA) program with the Medical Illness Severity Grouping System (MEDISGRPS)  
- Chairman of Clinical Support Services QA Committee (first one by Intergroup)  
- Medical Staff Quality Review Committee  
- Established first computerized EM lab with STEM and X-ray analysis  
- Consulting neuropathologist, University of Michigan

**Professional Societies**  
- Executive Council, Lucas County Academy of Medicine  
- Academy Liaison and Toledo Hospital Representative to Blue Cross Blue Shield  
- Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee to Blue Cross Blue Shield (first pathologist)  
- P.E. Mutual Insurance Advisory Board — malpractice insurance (first pathologist in Ohio)  
- Served on several national committees (AANP, AMA)  
- Presented first paper on neuropathologists’ role in malpractice cases at International Society of NF, Stockholm, Sweden 1986  
- Medico-legal consultant in brain-damaged infant cases and criminal cases

**Other activities**  
- Chairman, Finance Committee (10 years) and Building Fund Committee, First Baptist Church, Perrysburg, Ohio  
- Chairman, Cub Scout Pack 198 Committee  
- Volunteer coach for several baseball teams  
- Listed in more than 20 Who’s Who lists including Emerging Leaders of America, Medicine and Health Care, Science & Engineering, Who’s Who in the World, Who’s Who in America  
- Chairman, 50th Anniversary Campaign, Truett-McConnell College 1996-1998  
- President, Alumni Association, Truett-McConnell College 1998-2002
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<th><strong>Thursday, August 15</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Board Room — Hamilton Eye Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Alumni Council Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Freeman Auditorium — Hamilton Eye Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner</strong></td>
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<td>Iris Ballroom — Madison Hotel</td>
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<th><strong>Friday, August 16</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>CME Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</strong></td>
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<td>Freeman Auditorium — Hamilton Eye Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Continental Breakfast for Spouses and those not attending CE Program</strong></td>
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<td>Mezzanine — Madison Hotel</td>
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<td>10:40 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address: Concussion: A Perfect Storm, Education and Advocacy for Student Athletes</strong></td>
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<td>Freeman Auditorium — Hamilton Eye Institute</td>
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<td>Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS; 2013 Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor; Chairman, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Continuing Medical Education Conference Luncheon</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Topic: Birds, Bees, Brains and 21st Century Science</strong></td>
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<td>Freeman Auditorium — Hamilton Eye Institute</td>
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<td>Featuring guest speaker, Jonathan Burdette, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>UT Health Science Center Walking Tour</strong></td>
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<td>3 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td>Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 7 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Networking Reception for Alumni &amp; Students</strong></td>
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<td>Twilight Sky Terrace — Madison Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Class Reunion Dinners</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Saturday, August 17</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 10 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>UTHSC Night at the Memphis Redbirds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 - 9 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Class Reunion Dinners</strong></td>
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*Note: Room locations are subject to change. Please check hotel postings for confirmed locations.*

*For more details, visit the 2013 Medicine Alumni Weekend website at [www.uthscalumni.com/2013MedicineWeekend](http://www.uthscalumni.com/2013MedicineWeekend). Registration opens Tuesday, June 11!*
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

Downtown Memphis serves as the backdrop for the 2013 Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner. Join us in the Iris Ballroom at the picturesque Madison Hotel as we honor four distinguished College of Medicine alumni for their contributions to the field of medicine.

UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER WALKING TOUR

How much has the Health Science Center campus changed since you graduated? Does your favorite study spot look the same? Take a stroll down memory lane and go on a walking tour of the campus. Led by current medical students, this tour highlights the past, the present, and the bright future ahead for the Health Science Center.

ALUMNI NETWORKING RECEPTION

Whether you want to reconnect with old friends or make new ones, the College of Medicine networking reception is the place to be. Current students will be on hand to talk to you about life as a UTHSC medical student in 2013 and gain valuable insight from you about the exciting career that lies ahead for them.

SPouse Activities

Spouses Breakfast plus Tour and Luncheon at the Brooks Museum
In an effort to have something for everyone, the Alumni Office is offering a spouses program, which includes breakfast at Madison Hotel, a tour of the Brooks Museum and a scrumptious lunch in the Brushmark Restaurant.

REUNION ACTIVITIES

If you graduated in ’73, ’83, ’88, ’93 or 2003, then 2013 marks a reunion year for you! Individual class reunion activities are coordinated by your class reunion chairmen and will take place on Friday or Saturday evening. For more information on your class reunion, please call the UT Alumni Office at 1 (800) 733-0482 or (901) 448-5042, or send an email to ctuggle@utfi.org.
Greetings on behalf of your UT College of Medicine Alumni Council!

The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Alumni Council is looking forward to your attendance at Medicine Alumni Weekend. This year's celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever! As most of you remember, we went GREEN with our first online brochure and event registration last year, and it was a tremendous success!

Alumni Weekend has moved from its traditional late September/early October date. In an effort to offer more programming to interact with students, Alumni Weekend is scheduled for Aug. 15-17. In addition to class reunions, continuing medical education and campus tours, alumni also have a chance to attend the White Coat Ceremony, the College of Medicine Networking Reception, and the UTHSC Night at the Redbirds.

We have a great CME program, titled Concussions: Sports-Related Head Injuries. This year's Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor and keynote speaker is Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS, Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Ellenbogen's presentation is titled Concussion: A Perfect Storm, Education and Advocacy in Student Athletes.

We are also pleased to offer expanded spouse programming this year. Along with the traditional Spouses Continental Breakfast, we have scheduled a tour of the Brooks Museum of Art and a luncheon Friday afternoon.

In another break with tradition, the College of Medicine Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 15, at Madison Hotel — the College of Medicine Alumni Weekend conference hotel. This year's four recipients of the 2013 College of Medicine Outstanding Alumnus Award are Dennis D. Black, Charles R. Handorf, H. Norman Noe and Charles W. White, Sr.

Medicine Alumni weekend is the perfect time for each of us to reflect on where would we be without UTHSC? Prepare now for a joyous, fun-filled weekend. Registration opens online June 11 at http://www.uthscalumni.com/2013MedicineWeekend.

We hope you will make every effort to join us in Memphis for this Grand Celebration!

Thomas A. Whitaker, MD ’70
President
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council
Keynote Speakers

Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD, FACS

Dr. Richard G. Ellenbogen is professor and chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and is the Theodore S. Roberts Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurological Surgery. Dr. Ellenbogen is the co-director of the Seattle Sports Concussion Program for Seattle Children’s Hospital and UW Medicine. He is also the chief of Neurological Surgery at Harborview Medical Center and the Residency and Fellowship Director for the Department of Neurological Surgery. Dr. Ellenbogen is an adjunct professor in the Department of Global Health Medicine and the Department of Radiology. He is co-chair of the National Football League Head, Neck and Spine Medicine Committee. Dr. Ellenbogen is active on many local, regional and national boards and committees, is currently an officer with the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons, and was past-president (2006) of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Ellenbogen has been married to Sandy for 28 years and has three children. His hobbies include his family, fishing, skiing, diving and almost any sport activity, indoor or outdoor.

Jonathan Burdette, MD

Dr. Burdette, a 1993 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, is a professor of Neuroradiology at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. His current research focuses on using advanced MR imaging techniques to study the brain as a complex system. He is a founding member of the Laboratory for Complex Brain Networks, whose members study how exercise, nutritional habits, music and meditation affect the functioning brain in the elderly. In his free time, Dr. Burdette watches his daughters’ band play at Bluegrass Festivals. He also performs regularly in operas for Piedmont Opera, and co-founded, with his wife Shona, a Chamber Music Series based in their home.

Dr. Burdette has authored, co-authored, and contributed to almost 100 papers, journals, abstracts and textbooks. He has also made presentations at academic conferences all over the world. Dr. Burdette’s current research is approximately 50 percent NIH funded.

For more details, visit the 2013 Medicine Alumni Weekend website at www.uthscalumni.com/2013MedicineWeekend. Registration opens Tuesday, June 11!
March ’62
(standing left to right) Morris W. Ray, William A. Potter, Hugh B. Watts, Robert E. Northrop, John F. Wright, Robert B. Avery
(seated left to right) Larry H. Johnson, Elbert M. Jones, Robert C. Mulliniks, James F. Herd, Joe E. Parrish, Gus Scott, Shirley B. Avery

June ’62
(standing left to right) Joseph E. Roe, Gale O. Jones, Edgard D. Baker, Robert Henderson
(seated left to right) Curtis Sexton, Harold McCormack, Robert Oliver, Katherine Goff, Jim Edwards, Lisle Wayne

September ’62
(standing left to right) John E. Dorman, Fred Massey, Charles W. White, Robert C. Barker, Gene Galloway, Joseph Pryor
(seated left to right) William L. Wood, Jr., Herman A. Crisler, Albert Grobmyer, Catherine A. Gilwreath, George S. Hester, James Donnell

December ’62
(left to right) Samuel R. Jones, Gordon G. Nidiffer, James O. Gordon, James T. Craig, Lurton Lyle
Golden Graduate Homecoming Weekend

Oct. 2-4, 2013, will bring a new tradition to the UT Health Science Center campus — Golden Graduate Homecoming Weekend. For the first time in the school’s history, all six colleges will come together to honor the class of 1963 as they celebrate their Golden Graduate year. All previous Golden Graduate honorees are invited to attend as well.

The events of the weekend include college open houses, back-to-class simulations, a ceremony honoring the classes of 1963 and special events at historical Memphis landmarks.

We look forward to the special weekend. For more information please contact the UTHSC Office of Alumni and Development at (901) 448-5516.

Classes of 1963 and Prior,
You are Invited to the Inaugural
Golden Graduate Homecoming
Honoring Graduates of 1963 from All Six UTHSC Colleges
October 2 - 4, 2013 • Memphis, TN

Featuring

• Welcome Tea • Back to Class • College Open Houses •
• Golden Graduate Ceremony & Dinner (inducting class members of 1963) •
• Special Events at Memphis Attractions and More!

Please watch your mailbox for a detailed event brochure. Call (901) 448-5516 for more information.

Where would you be without UTHSC?
“N
o one can get anywhere without
an education,” said Morton
Friedman (PhD ’69), who
benefited from scholarship support of
his graduate studies. That’s why Mort
and his wife, Myra, set up scholarships at
three schools, including the University of
Tennessee Health Science Center, where
Mort earned his PhD in anatomy.

I spoke with the Friedmans when
the first recipient of the Friedman Family
Scholarship graduated with her doctoral
degree from UTHSC.

The recipient was Mitzi Dunagan, a
first-generation college graduate, who
was born to a maintenance electrician
and housewife on her grandparents’ farm
outside Franklin, Tenn. Receiving the
scholarship allowed Dunagan to enroll
in the Integrated Program in Biomedical
Sciences in the fall of 2006 and to
complete her studies in cell biology and
biochemistry uninterrupted, in the spring
of 2012. She now teaches premed students
at a small college in northwest Mississippi.

At the Health Science Center,
Dunagan joined the lab of Radhakrishna
Rao. He helped her earn a pre-doctoral
Kirschstein Fellowship from the National
Institutes of Health and present her work
Rao and the aid of numerous scholarships,
including the one given by the Friedmans.

After a stellar academic career,
Dunagan taught middle school science in
Sumner County, north of Nashville, for
eight and a half years. For her work she was
honored as Teacher of the Year the first year
that she was eligible for the award.

An assistant principal noticed Dunagan’s
keen mind and affinity for science. Rather
than trying to hold onto her, he urged
Dunagan to enter an NSF-sponsored
master’s program for teachers at Vanderbilt.

Tuition was covered for the summer
program, and Dunagan received a small
stipend. More importantly, she said:
“Working in a science lab whetted my
appetite to do more. When I graduated, I
asked my mentor at Vanderbilt what it
would take to get a PhD.”

Dunagan’s mentor told her what she
probably didn’t want to hear: Go back to
undergraduate school and take the classes
needed to fill the gaps in her knowledge.
Then she could apply to a doctoral
program for six more years of study.

“By this time I was ready for a change,”
she said. Despite the extra time and effort,
she knew that she had it in her. “After all, it
takes a lot of energy to teach middle school,”
she laughs. Four days after graduation,
Dunagan started teaching premed
courses as an assistant professor at Blue
Mountain College, a private liberal arts
school in northwest Mississippi.

When told about the success of their
first scholarship recipient, Morton Friedman
paused to take it in. He then responded with
genuine enthusiasm: “That’s just great!”

Friedman explained that the couple
has not quit working for what they think is
important, just because they are officially
retired. The opposite is true: “Even though
we don’t work 9 to 5, we’re busier now
than before,” Morton said. In addition to
golf, travel and spending time with their
nine grandchildren, the couple works
in numerous organizations committed
to bringing about a better world and
improving their local community.

A real note of pride crept into Morton’s
voice when he reported co-chairing a
fundaising event for the 50th anniversary
of their temple. “We raised nearly a
million dollars.”

Morton concedes that Myra is the real
worker. “She’s an ex-professional volunteer.
She’s had several hundred volunteers
under her at one time.”

The Friedmans initially wanted to fund
graduate studies in anatomy, but decided
it was more important to look for the right
person, someone who could give back to
future students and to the profession.
The year was 1968. A volatile time for America indeed. The Vietnam War was in full swing. “Hunger in America,” a CBS documentary, was plastered across TV screens, and New York Sen. Robert Kennedy announced his plans to run for President of the United States. For many Americans, the most vivid memory etched in their minds from that time is the assassination of renowned civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, just days after leading a street protest. It was also around this tumultuous time that Bill Byrne, PhD, arrived in the city. He came as a professor and chairman in the Department of Biochemistry at UTHSC, but he ended up doing much more, not only for the university, but for the entire Memphis community.

Dr. Byrne spent his childhood in Santa Fe, N.M. Of his childhood, Dr. Byrne said, “When you grow up in Santa Fe, and most importantly in my family, it is expected of you to go to college, but not in New Mexico. You either go to the West Coast or the East Coast.”

He chose the West Coast. Byrne followed his brother to Stanford University where he became interested in biochemistry. After graduation, Dr. Byrne received his medical degree in Wisconsin. Following a year at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., Byrne made his way to Duke University. There, as a teacher and researcher, he helped the medical school start a program for medical scientists and worked to establish a medical law program. After serving on the Duke faculty for 12 years, he decided to move to Memphis.

A Community in Need

When he arrived, Dr. Byrne noticed that the city and the students were in the process of surveying the community and assessing its many health care needs. “The medical students in general in their spare time or when they could, wanted to go out and organize clinics to take care of people,” he said. “They were not interested in medical scientist programs or law degree programs.” This ignited a passion within Dr. Byrne and he set out to make a difference.

At the time, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital was reaching out to community leaders concerning a plethora of issues. One issue in particular spurred Dr. Byrne’s interest: nutrition in children. A dedication to this cause would become the catalyst for his stellar career at UTHSC.

“A notable nutritionist at St. Jude demonstrated that you could take a 12- to 18-month-old child, put them on a proper diet, and his brain began to grow again,” Dr. Byrne remembered. “So, I would go to scientific meetings and I would see presentations on breakthroughs in brain development due to kids getting proper nutrition. I was amazed and wanted to delve further into this issue.”

By Amber Carter
Byrne convinced the UTHSC administration to start a nutrition course through the Department of Biochemistry, which gave the institution a significant boost in test scores and attracted more students to the university. Byrne can also be credited with recruiting Stanfield Rogers, MD, a trailblazer in the field of human gene therapy. Bringing Dr. Rogers on board led to the formation of a special advisory committee for the specialty. Some of the committee's documents later became part of the National Library of Medicine.

As a new chairman, he also worked with the existing faculty and recruited new faculty, including Duke graduates. As an example of a success story for existing faculty, Byrne talked about the important work of Lorraine Kraus, PhD, MA, BS, and her husband, Alfred Kraus, MD. They discovered a new variant of sickle cell hemoglobin, hemoglobin Memphis S. With this second mutation, these individuals and their families lived a normal life span. Another hemoglobin expert was Robert Hill, PhD. Before he joined the UTHSC faculty, he was a part of the team that sequenced hemoglobin for the first time. “The textbook sequence was Bob’s hemoglobin,” Byrne reflected.

Tennessee Mentorship

In 1990, after 22 years of dedicated service to UTHSC, Dr. Byrne retired. “I wasn’t interested in spending the next 20 years in a laboratory,” he said. “I wanted to do things for the community, especially children. I looked for ways that a retired professor could work in the community. I also looked for things that had a scientific basis and evidence-based kinds of things.” He then decided to work with mentoring programs. Mentoring was not a popular word in 1990, so when Byrne mentioned it, people were puzzled. However, he stuck to his guns and kept pushing toward his goal, eventually starting a nonprofit organization at his home, Tennessee Mentorship.

Tennessee Mentorship provides children with role models and coordinates various community service projects. Dr. Byrne reached out to several friends and community entities such as the University of Memphis to get started. He secured office space in the Frayser community in 1993. He chose the area not only because he previously volunteered there and saw the need for additional resources, but also because of a popular historic figure with a Memphis connection: Davy Crockett. According to various sources, Frayser was the community Crockett stayed in while on vacation to meet with the mayor.

“I began mentoring at both Frayser Elementary and High School and I decided the major priority in the area was community building,” Dr. Byrne said. “So, my partners and I took the existing organizations there and created a Frayser Community Association and a Frayser Community Development Corporation whose primary focus is housing. We also decided that churches were an integral part as well, which is why the Frayser Interfaith Group was founded. It is my hope that these organizations will be sustained long after I’m gone.”

From the looks of things, Dr. Byrne is well on his way to accomplishing that goal. Not only will these organizations carry on his legacy, but he also has achieved countless other honors as well. One of the most notable honors occurred in April 2012, when elected officials presented him with a resolution in his honor.

Some of the projects Tennessee Mentorship has taken on include cleaning up and organizing the Point Church Cemetery, as well as the Memorial Garden at Ed Rice Park. Given the organization’s project history, it is easy to see why Byrne and his colleagues have received so much praise.

At age 85, Dr. Byrne has no plans to slow down any time soon. One of his major concerns in Frayser is family mobility. “At the beginning of the school year, Frayser Elementary has about 55 percent new students every year,” he said. “When you look at that, it makes it difficult for the school, difficult on health care and on the churches. I would like to understand why these people move, and come up with a solution to keep the area stabilized.”

Another area of concern for Dr. Byrne is infant mortality. At one point, the city of Memphis had the highest infant mortality rate in the nation. “The awareness is up, but I feel like there is an opportunity in the area of prevention,” he said. “I think for years that nutrition is what we thought it is, but I think it is stress on the moms, particularly young moms; financial stress, moving and relocation, illegal activities and other related pressures. We need to find a way to comfort them and prevent this issue.”

Children’s Lives

Its Own Rewards

When he isn’t working, Dr. Byrne enjoys living in the countryside with his wife, Fran, whom he met during his freshman year of college. “We always wanted to live in the country,” he said. “We have a farm, a lake and for about 15 years we grew Christmas trees. Looking back, we actually used local teenagers as employees so that was sort of mentoring at the same time. One time I had a project where a couple of the young people and I had to canoe across the lake. If the kids were interested, I would talk about DNA and genetics or whatever for them to learn. There is a mentoring flavor there so I enjoyed doing that and I enjoy family.”

As time progresses, Dr. Byrne cannot help thinking about the future and what his final message to the community would be. “My final message would be that community service has its own rewards,” he said. “You can look at successful individuals you have worked with, and good jobs that you’ve had, and be proud, especially when what you have done has created a positive change in the community. In my opinion, it doesn’t get better than that.”
Dr. Michael C. Levin has received a $650,000 grant from the VA Office of Research and Development to study the immune system of patients who have multiple sclerosis. Studying the immune system of MS patients might give important clues as to its cause because multiple sclerosis is an autoimmune disease. Results of Dr. Levin’s study may also lead to a new diagnostic test for MS, the most common type of neurologic disease in middle-aged adults. “At present, we have no blood test to diagnose multiple sclerosis or to screen patients for it,” said Dr. Levin. He said that such a test would be faster, more convenient and possibly more accurate than an MRI of the brain, the current diagnostic tool.

He is in the midst of applying for a grant from “Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis” to determine whether a blood test can detect signs of multiple sclerosis early on, when efforts to help the patient can generally do the most good. Dr. Levin’s interest in multiple sclerosis began during his undergraduate and medical school training. It became personal when he was completing his clinical training in neurology. “I met several patients whose lives had been devastated by MS,” he said. He then completed his research training at the Neuroimmunology Branch of the National Institutes of Health.

A professor in the Department of Neurology at UTHSC, Dr. Levin is also chief of Neurology Services at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Memphis. His research into the causes of multiple sclerosis has been continuously funded for 15 years. During this time, he has received more than $2 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Veterans Administration and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In addition to his work as a researcher, Dr. Levin also volunteers at the Church Health Center.
McCullers Named Pediatrician-in-Chief

Pediatric infectious disease researcher Jon McCullers, MD, was appointed Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital pediatrician-in-chief and the sixth chair of the UTHSC Department of Pediatrics. An adjunct faculty member at UTHSC and full faculty member of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Dr. McCullers is an accomplished translational researcher who has built a National Institutes of Health-funded laboratory focused on the study of coinfections.

Elijovich New Interventional Neurology Director

Lucas Elijovich, MD, is the new medical director of Interventional Neurology at Le Bonheur. He practices with Semmes-Murphey and also serves as a medical director of the NeuroICU at Methodist University Hospital. He completed a fellowship in interventional neuroradiology at St. Luke’s and Roosevelt Hospitals, The Hymann-Newman Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery. Elijovich attended medical school at University of Texas Medical Branch. He serves as an assistant professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at UTHSC.

Williams Named Le Bonheur Surgeon in Chief

Pediatric urologist Mark Williams, MD, FAAP, FACS, has been named the new surgeon in chief for Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. Williams has practiced at Le Bonheur since 2002 and serves as the hospital’s chief of Pediatric Urology.

“Dr. Williams is a well-respected surgeon and division chief,” said Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour. “His thoughtful and personable approach will guide this hospital and our surgical program to best meet the needs of our patients.”

Williams will represent surgical interests and participate in strategic planning efforts for the hospital. He also will serve on the executive committee of the UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists board.

Dr. Williams serves as associate professor within the Department of Urology at UTHSC. He is program director of the Pediatric Urology Fellowship Program for UTHSC and a faculty member of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Williams graduated from the Medical College of Georgia and completed fellowship training in pediatric urology at UTHSC and Le Bonheur.

Le Bonheur, UTHSC Partner in Mentoring

Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and the UTHSC Department of Pediatrics have experienced rapid growth in the number of faculty members in the last two years. A new program has been designed to help these young physicians and researchers thrive in their careers.

“The first few years are a critical time to get the right start and understand what's expected of you,” said Keith English, MD, associate chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

English is leading the effort to develop an Office of Faculty Development, which will focus on mentoring, recruitment, new faculty orientation and promotion and tenure. One aspect of this initiative is facilitated peer mentoring groups that meet monthly.

These new mentoring initiatives complement the program-specific mentoring that already happens. Dr. English said that by crossing over specialties, this allows new faculty members to learn from others across the hospital.

“Our ultimate goal is a faculty that is dynamic and successful and improving the lives of children,” Dr. English said.
**William Armstrong, PhD**, recently received a $1.5 million grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development, one of the National Institutes of Health. Armstrong is using a rodent model to conduct a basic science study of brain neurons that regulate release of oxytocin, the hormone involved in labor and lactation. He is specifically interested in the pulsatile pattern of the release and how oxytocin neurons change their properties during pregnancy to foster this pattern. Though his is a basic science study, what he learns may ultimately lead to changes in the way the hormone is administered to induce labor, that is, from a continuous to pulsatile method. Armstrong is a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology and director of the Neuroscience Institute.

**Beth Choby, MD**, the new director of the Kaplan Clinical Skills Center, is an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Choby is assisted by Michael Holliday. Holliday works with the clinical skills program and helps to develop monthly course syllabi. Her husband, Kent Lee, MA, MD, FAAFP, is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine.

**Terrance Cooper, PhD**, has received a $1.4 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, an institute of the NIH. His current research focus is the global cell regulator TorC1 (the Target of Rapamycin Complex I). Dr. Cooper is the Harriet S. Van Vleet Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry. His work has been continuously funded by the NIH for nearly 45 years.

**Marion Dugdale, MD**, has been awarded the Tennessee Medical Association 2013 Distinguished Service Award for her contribution to public health and the field of blood disorders. Dugdale joined the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in 1962 and focuses on blood clotting disorders.

**Isaac O. Donkor, PhD**, a professor and vice chair in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named associate dean for Student Affairs in the College of Graduate Health Sciences. "Dr. Donkor’s knowledge and experience is a tremendously valued resource for the college and the university," said Donald Thomason, PhD, dean of the College of Graduate Health Sciences. “I look forward to working with him as graduate education evolves along with the increasingly fast-paced and exciting advances in biomedical research.”

**James Fells, Sr., PhD**, has received a $150,000 award from the American Cancer Society for his research in the Department of Physiology. His research uses computer-aided drug discovery to identify small molecules targeting the protein LPA2. The goal is to develop LPA2 antagonists for use in the treatment of breast cancer.

UTHSC has received a $110,000 grant from Research to Prevent Blindness to study the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by **Barrett G. Haik, MD**, Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the UT Hamilton Eye Institute. RPB is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling $2,445,000 to UTHSC.

**Alessandro Iannaccone, MD**, has been honored by Research to Prevent Blindness with its Physician-Scientist Award. The distinction, given annually to a few nationally recognized physician-scientists, awards a $100,000 research grant. Dr. Iannaccone is one of only 53 physicians from 27 institutions across the country to receive the award since its inception in 2000. He is the first award winner from UTHSC.
An NIH-funded study called Look AHEAD yielded important results, even though the intervention was stopped early. The study, begun in 1999, was scheduled to run through 2014. In the Memphis area, more than 330 participants enrolled in the study through the Department of Preventive Medicine with Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH, BS, and through the Division of Endocrinology with Abbas Kitabchi, MD, PhD.

The goal was to determine whether weight loss and exercise help to prevent heart attack and stroke in people with Type 2 diabetes who are overweight. The NIH stopped the study early because the intervention did not appear to prevent either. However, study participants lost weight and increased their activity, which resulted in other health benefits — lower blood pressure, decreased blood sugar and reduced cholesterol.

Further long-term study is needed to evaluate whether these health benefits persist and ultimately lead to a prevention of disease. “We are following the patients until August of this year and have submitted a grant proposal to the NIDDKD [National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases] to follow them for an additional two years,” said Dr. Johnson.

Francesca-Fang Liao, PhD, has received a $412,500 grant to study the causes of Alzheimer’s disease from the National Institute on Aging, one of the National Institutes of Health. She is an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology. Michael McDonald, PhD, co-investigator of the study, is an associate professor in the Departments of Neurology, and Anatomy and Neurobiology.

Jena J. Steinle, PhD, is continuing study of a drug compound that has shown promise in treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Her work is of particular interest in Tennessee and the Mid-South, where rates of diabetes are among the highest in the nation and a leading cause of blindness.

Ten years ago, Dr. Steinle found that the sympathetic nerves of the eye die in patients with diabetes. That these nerves die in other organs was already known, and the reason why many patients with diabetes have kidney disease or lose a lower limb due to amputation. “We cannot re-activate the ‘fight-or-flight’ response nerves in patients’ eyes or reverse their diabetes,” said Steinle. "But we may be able to prevent or even reverse retinal damage with the drug we’re studying."

In her R01-funded research, Dr. Steinle studied how the drug works — the mechanism of protection. She also learned something that she did not expect. The drug may be useful in the treatment of other types of disease and conditions, including blast injury to the eye from improvised explosive devices. In the next phase of study, she plans to test the compound in a rat model of Type 2 diabetes and to eventually move to a human model.

Steinle’s current work is supported by a $1.8 million grant from the National Eye Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Steinle is an associate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Qiuhua Zhang, PhD, has received a $60,000 research grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The award will support continued study of a promising treatment for retinoblastoma, the most prevalent primary eye malignancy in children. In a previous phase of her research, Dr. Zhang and colleagues found an unexpected problem with the treatment, which consists of vascular delivery of two drugs known to be effective in destroying retinoblastoma cells. Delivery via the blood vessels of the eye is preferred over whole-body treatments because it allows oncologists to specifically target tumor cells, and it not associated with systemic toxicities.

In their earlier study, whose results were published in 2012, Dr. Zhang and colleagues found that both drugs (melphalan and carboplatin) resulted in toxicity to the vascular system, which must remain intact for delivery of the chemotherapy and to support healthy tissue after tumor cells are killed. In the next step, Dr. Zhang and her colleagues aim to develop a novel treatment to prevent the negative side effects of the chemotherapy to the vascular system. Dr. Zhang is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology. Her mentor is Dr. Jena Steinle.
**Chattanooga**

**Todd Boren, MD**, has joined the College of Medicine in Chattanooga as an OB/GYN instructor. Dr. Boren, a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Medicine, completed his fellowship in gynecology and oncology at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the H. Lee Mofitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., and a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Jeanie Dassow, MD**, has joined the University of Tennessee Erlanger Women’s Health Specialists office in Pikeville. Dr. Dassow is a specialist in pediatric and adolescent gynecology, pre-menopausal syndrome and menopause. She graduated from Washington University Medical School.

**Heath Giles, MD**, has joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery as an assistant professor and associate director of the residency program in general surgery. Dr. Giles, a graduate of the College of Medicine in Memphis, returned to Chattanooga after a general surgery residency and a fellowship in endocrinology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

**Jeff Horn, MD**, has also joined the Department of Surgery faculty as an assistant professor. Dr. Horn completed a general surgery residency at the College of Medicine in Chattanooga before completing a two-year vascular fellowship at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Horn graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Garrett Lam, MD**, joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as an associate professor in October. Dr. Lam is a recognized expert in the field of fetology and has conducted research at institutions such as Harvard Medical Center, UCLA and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Sudave Mendiratta, MD**, assistant professor, has been named director of the residency program in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Mendiratta graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and completed his residency training at Emory University School of Medicine.

**Theodore Tsaltas, MD**, has joined the staff of the University of Tennessee Erlanger Women’s Health Specialists in Pikeville. Dr. Tsaltas specializes in minimally invasive surgery, abnormal uterine bleeding, sonography, preterm labor, fetal and maternal physiology and other gynecological conditions. He is a graduate of Washington University School of Medicine.

**Knoxville**

**Eric R. Carlson, DMD, MD**, received the 2012 Committee Person of the Year Award during the 94th annual meeting of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Under Dr. Carlson’s stewardship, the Parameters of Care Committee produced two editions of clinical practice guidelines for the 11 recognized areas of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Carlson is also a section editor for the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and chair of the Residency Review Committee on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

**Carol Ellis, MD; Jonathan Wall, PhD**: Rajiv Dhand, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine, has appointed two faculty members to key research positions: Carol Ellis, MD, to director of clinical research and Jonathan Wall, PhD, to director of experimental research. Dr. Ellis, an assistant professor in the department, previously worked in pharmaceutical research. Dr. Wall, a professor in the Human Immunology and Cancer Program, was a postdoctoral fellow when he came to the Graduate School of Medicine.

**Dustin Osborne, PhD**, assistant professor of Radiology, has joined an international committee charged with creating standards for single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT). Its mission is to define standards to test the performance of preclinical SPECT imaging equipment.

**William Bedford Waters, MD**, has been recognized by Worldwide Who’s Who for dedication, leadership and excellence in medical education. He has taught at the UT Graduate School of Medicine since 2001. Dr. Waters was featured in U.S. News and World Report as one of four top physicians in Tennessee. In 2005, he was recognized as one of 25 African-Americans “Making It Happen” for his work in promotion of early detection of prostate cancer in African-Americans.

**Dale Wortham, MD**, led a multidisciplinary cardiac team in completing initial training in use of a new, minimally invasive procedure to treat severe aortic stenosis. The new procedure, termed “transcutaneous aortic valve replacement,” is an alternative for patients too ill to undergo open heart surgery. Dr. Wortham is a professor in the Department of Medicine and director of the fellowship in cardiovascular disease.

**William Metheny, PhD**, assistant dean, Graduate Medical and Dental Education, recently returned from six weeks in Cali, Colombia. He spent time there as a Fulbright Specialist at La Escuela Nacional del Deporte (the National School of Sports).

**Nashville**

**Brian S. Biesman, MD, FACS**, received the 2012 Henry Baylis Award from the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in November during the society’s 43rd annual symposium in Chicago. Dr. Biesman is associate professor in the Department of Oculoplastic at UTHSC and director of the Nashville Centre for Laser and Facial Surgery.
Aniket Rali, an M4 who plans to specialize in cardiology, made a discovery during his first clinical rotations that led to the 2012 formation of The Memphis Mobile Market, a student-led social enterprise set to launch this spring.

"By the time we saw patients in clinic, it was often too late to practice good medicine," said Rali, who met me in the lobby of the GEB on a gray January morning before other students had returned from break. "We [Rali, co-founder Namrata Patel, and other medical students] didn’t want to just treat the chronic conditions that we saw — we wanted to give patients a fair shot at being healthy.”

The medical students found that many patients with chronic conditions — patients whose health would benefit from changes in diet — live in areas of Memphis termed “food deserts.” One patient told them that it was not “affordable or practical” for their family to eat healthy foods.

As a result the students banded together to raise funds for a mobile market and take fresh, low-cost produce into designated food deserts in the city. The currently targeted communities are Frayser and Raleigh. The students aim to expand to Binghampton and Soulsville.

“We have the funds to buy the trailer and convert it into a mobile grocery unit," Rali said. He believes that the converted trailer will be ready to roll in time for the projected launch date.

Start-up funds came from individuals and businesses in Memphis and other parts of Tennessee such as Martin and Chattanooga. Business sponsors that stepped up to help include Whole Foods, Inc. and Arch Plastics Packaging, LLC. In addition, Charlie Scira and Sons and Easy Way Produce have helped with pricing, acquiring produce and market design and layout.

Community support has grown up from the grassroots level: neighborhood churches, community centers and community organizations, a neighborhood farmer’s market and the nonprofit group Grow Memphis.

Aniket Rali with Dr. Hershel P. “Pat” Wall, Chancellor Emeritus and board member of The Memphis Mobile Market.

The plan is to take the converted van into the target neighborhoods Fridays to Sundays initially and to then add other days of the week. “We will sell food at cost or 10 percent to 15 percent lower than a typical chain grocery," said Rali. He added that volunteers will be able to accept EBTs, cash or credit/debit cards.

Student volunteers will also conduct health screenings and healthy cooking demonstrations.

Rali and board members have applied to several foundations for funds to carry them through their first year of operations. After the first three years, MMM aims to be financially self-sustaining.

The Memphis Mobile Market is affiliated with a national mobile market organization. Affiliated mobile markets are already up and running in Nashville and Chattanooga. Others are planned for Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Dallas and St. Louis.

To find out how you can be a part of this effort, visit the organization’s website at www.memphismobilemarket.org. You can also follow its progress on Facebook and Twitter.
Each year for the past five years, the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Beta Tennessee chapter, and the College of Medicine have sponsored a medical student research poster session on the UTHSC campus in Memphis. Similar events are held each year on the campuses in Chattanooga and Knoxville.

In Memphis, this year’s poster sessions were presented in February in the lobby of the 910 Madison building. The College of Medicine’s Office of Student Affairs invited faculty, residents and students to drop by to see results of studies that students have been working on, typically in the summers between their first and second or second and third years.

Owen Phillips, MD, associate dean, Office of Student Affairs, explains why the program is important. “First, it gives students unique insights into the realm in which we practice medicine, that is, through evidence gathered from basic science and clinical research,” she said.

“Second, it helps them build relationships with internationally known researchers working here at UT. Finally, successfully completing a project tells residency programs that students are willing to go above and beyond in scholarly activity.”

A typical presentation was made by Ryan Ward, an M3 from Cookeville, Tenn.

Ward worked closely with Guy Reed, MD, and four other researchers on a study examining diagnostic biomarkers present in congestive heart failure. The students chose heart failure as their research topic because it is a serious health condition that affects millions of people and one that is especially prevalent in the Mid-South.

The two biomarkers they examined were corin, a heart enzyme that Reed has studied extensively, and BNP (molecule b-type natriuretic peptide). The study team started out knowing that BNP concentrations are “sky high” in patients with acute heart failure, one reason why BNP is widely used in the diagnosis of such cases. They also knew that BNP is not as useful as a diagnostic marker in cases of chronic, subclinical heart failure or cardiomyopathy.

Through their research, they found that corin may be useful in detection of both stages of heart failure. Diagnosis of patients in a subclinical stage allows the health team to follow their condition and intervene to prevent the condition from worsening.

Other study teams had already identified corin and described its function. “Our unique contribution was suggesting that corin is a better biomarker of damage to the heart muscle, reflecting both past and present damage, whereas BNP reflects only recent damage,” Ward said.

“We hope that through continued research, corin can one day be used to identify the millions of patients who live with heart failure on a day-to-day basis, but don’t show all the clinical signs and symptoms that are easily seen in the acute stage of the condition.”

There were some obvious limitations to their study: “Our population was small, just 48 patients at the VA, and they were mostly African-American males. When we publish our results, other study teams may want to replicate our work in a larger population, looking across ages, gender and race.”

Ward’s faculty mentor, Dr. Guy Reed, also chairs the Department of Internal Medicine. “I had an excellent research experience,” said Ryan. “Dr. Reed is a great research mentor. He allowed me to take part in design of the experiment, analyze data, and communicate our findings. From this experience, I have a much better understanding of the research process, from idea generation to manuscript writing.”

Regarding the event, Dr. Reed said, “Research experience is key to medical education. Our mission is to train exceptional physicians, some of whom will improve human health through medical discovery and, others that can apply scientific advances to improve clinical care.”

UTHSC students participated in the Medical Student Research Poster Session in Memphis. Similar events are held in Chattanooga and Knoxville.
Match Day 2013

Friday, March 15, 2013, brought UTHSC College of Medicine students, families and supporters to the Pink Palace Museum for Match Day. After four years, the day that students receive notice of their residency match had finally arrived. The envelopes containing students’ match information were distributed, and at noon the students simultaneously opened their envelopes.

Sounds of joy quickly erupted as students embraced their families and each other. After students received their match information, they were asked to place a pin on an oversized map that will represent the location of their match. This was a new tradition started by the UTHSC Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

More than 50 percent of the class of 2013 will stay within the UT system to perform their residency.
Students in the Health Care Challenge 2013 were recognized at an awards banquet March 27, joined by faculty advisors, UTHSC administrators and Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA) representatives.

Alicia Dorsey, PhD, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and director of Interprofessional Education and Clinical Simulation, presided over the event.

In the Health Care Challenge, students form teams and compete for cash prizes. Each team selects an underserved group in the Memphis area and comes up with a plan to address that group’s health-related needs.

The competition also strengthens interprofessional understanding and collaboration among future health professionals.

Now in its second year, nearly 200 students have participated in the Health Care Challenge, developing and/or implementing a wide array of community-based, health-related initiatives.

Students from each of UTHSC’s colleges participated in nine teams guided by 23 faculty advisors. Each team represented a variety of professions across the students and advisors. After close consideration and discussion, a panel of judges selected five teams for the final round. Judges were very impressed with the thoughtfulness, creativity and effort that went into the proposals.

All of the finalists and their advisors were recognized during the awards ceremony. The members of the fourth and fifth ranked teams each received $50 iTunes cards. Members of the third, second and first ranked teams received cash awards of $300, $500 and $1,000 respectively.

The finalist teams presented summaries of their proposals at the ceremony.

This competition is a result of two important community partners — the Assisi Foundation, which provided the funds for the competition and the implementation of the winning initiatives, and MIFA.

Sally Heinz, executive director of MIFA, joined with the seven MIFA judges in expressing appreciation for the students and UTHSC. Dr. Dorsey expressed appreciation for support from both Assisi Foundation and MIFA over the past two years.

Last year’s focus was MIFA’s Senior Companion Program. This year’s focus was MIFAs college-readiness program for at-risk teenagers called “COOL” (College Offers Opportunities for Life). This program provides high school students from Booker T. Washington, George W. Carver and Central High Schools with a wide variety of skills associated with academic success and college acceptance. COOL students represent a population that is 96 percent African-American and 62 percent female. All program graduates enter post-secondary education or the military; more than 75 percent are still in school two years later.

First Place: Healthy Transitions – facilitating a healthy transition to college through the use of social media and other interactive strategies. (left to right) Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD; Vata Sitimascharoen (2012 awardee, Pharmacy); Anna Dutton (Pharmacy); Wesley Dutton (Medicine); Teresa Bell (Research); Amanda Box (Medicine); Barton Sanders (Medicine); Candace Schaefer (Medicine); Associate Professor Waletha Wasson, DDS (Dentistry); and Vice Chancellor Cheryl Scheid, PhD. Not pictured: Instructor Brenda Hill, (Nursing)

Second Place: Cognition/Dare to Care – curriculum focused on sexual health. (left to right) Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD; Eric Zimmermann (Medicine); Lauren Bode (Pharmacy); Assistant Professor Rebecca Chhim (Pharmacy); Professor Linda Pifer (Allied Health Sciences); and Vice Chancellor Cheryl Scheid, PhD. Not pictured: Millicent Nwokolo-Udeaja (Nursing)

Third Place: Shaping Healthcare Career Development – use of social media and hands-on activities designed to introduce the students to a wide range of health professions. (left to right) Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD; Carolyn Watson (Nursing); Professor Trevor Sweatman, PhD (Medicine); Keanna Dandridge (Nursing) and Vice Chancellor Cheryl Scheid, PhD. Not pictured: Alyssia Dacus (Nursing)
Knoxville Student Wins Research Award

Emily Martin, who is completing the third year of her PhD program, has found a way to enjoy the best of two worlds she loves: medicine and science. “I had initially planned to go to medical school,” she explained. Volunteering in a lab one summer tipped the scales in favor of science.

The decision has obviously paid off for Emily, who recently won Best Clinical Science Presentation at the International Symposium on Amyloidosis in The Netherlands. “Winning the award felt surreal,” she said.

Emily describes the clinical importance of her presentation topic. “In the U.S. we don’t have a way to image whole-body amyloid deposition in patients with amyloidosis,” she said. (In the U.K. human serum amyloid P component [SAP] is used to image visceral amyloidosis for diagnosis, disease staging and monitoring treatment response.)

Her presentation explains the use of a novel radiolabeled peptide (p5) as effective as SAP in whole-body amyloid imaging. “If translated into the clinic, p5 can be used to determine the extent of disease and response to treatment,” she said.

The title of her abstract was “The Amyloidophilic Peptide, p5, Binds Rapidly and Stably to Visceral Amyloid in vivo: A Potential Radiotracer for PET/CT Imaging.” Co-authors were Stephen Kennel, PhD; Tina Richey; Alan Stuckey; Dustin Osborne, PhD; and Jonathan Wall, PhD.

After she completes her doctoral degree, Emily would like to continue working with researchers in the Preclinical and Diagnostic Molecular Imaging Laboratory, the Molecular Imaging and Translational Program, and the Human Immunology and Cancer Program, where she is now a research assistant.

Kisses for Compassion — Students Join in National Day of Solidarity

(left to right) Donna Hammonds signs a “What does Compassionate Care mean to you?” poster for Katherine Fyall, MD, and Kristen Dunbar, MD, transitional year residents at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga.

On Valentine’s Day, medical students and residents showed that they have a heart, as well as a head, for medicine. On Feb. 14, they joined with peers throughout North America in observance of the third annual National Day of Solidarity for Compassionate Patient Care.

Students on all three College of Medicine campuses made time for observance of the day, handing out 7,000 candy kisses and 350 Solidarity buttons to those who added their names and comments to a poster that asked “What does Compassionate Care mean to you?”

The designation for this day grew out of shootings in 2011 that killed six people, injured 13 others and critically injured former U.S. representative Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona. It honors the compassionate care of Giffords’ first trauma surgeon, Randall Friese, MD, and other team members like him who care for the wounded and dying.

Dr. Friese said that his most important actions that day were “holding [Giffords’] hand, speaking to her and reassuring her that she was in the hospital and would be cared for.”

The event was started by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and its national Gold Humanism Honor Society Chapters.
**Ann Bell — She Taught Thousands**

“She was a woman who held strong opinions,” said Charles Handorf, MD (‘77), a former student of Ann Bell, MS, who died in February at the age of 91.

Handorf, professor and chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was one of several thousand medical students Bell taught during a professional career that spanned more than 40 years.

Handorf first knew Bell as an instructor in practical hematology lab. “She was a hard taskmaster,” he said. “She made us toe the line.”

In academic medicine, Bell is most well known for her work with her mentor and co-author L.W. Diggs, MD, a hematologist and sickle cell disease researcher. With Dr. Diggs and Dorothy Sturm, she wrote *The Morphology of Human Red Blood Cells*, first published in 1956. After the death of Dr. Diggs, she revised the seventh edition, which is still in use by hematology instructors.

LeiLani Collins, MS, associate professor, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, knew Ann Bell as a teacher, mentor and friend. “Her knowledge of hematology was unparalleled and her ability to pass that knowledge on to others was inspiring,” she said. “She was the epitome of the clinical laboratory professional,” added Linda L. Williford Pifer, PhD, a professor in the department.

In 1992, Bell was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Medical Honorary Society. After she retired in 1992, she volunteered at the Health Science Center and the Church Health Center. Among the many loves of her life, the Health Science Center topped the list, especially her colleagues and the thousands of students whom she taught.

If you would like to donate to the Ann Bell scholarship fund, please contact Adele Hixon-Day, development director at 1 (800) 733-0482 or by email at chixonday@utfi.org.

**Dorothy Gerwin — A Generous Donor**

Mrs. Dorothy Gerwin, a generous donor to the Health Science Center, died on Feb. 22 at the age of 100.

“You can’t talk about Dorothy’s contribution to the Health Science Center without talking about her husband, Dan,” said Leonard “Rusty” Johnson, PhD, who holds the Thomas A. Gerwin Chair of Excellence in Physiology, established in memory of the Gerwins’ son.

“The Gerwins’ imprint is all over the campus,” said Johnson. One of their first gifts was used to establish the endowed chair in the Department of Physiology that Johnson now holds. Others were used to renovate research space in the Nash building.

Today, the Department of Physiology ranks second in the nation in funding for physiology research, said Johnson, who credits the Gerwins with laying the groundwork for its success.

They couple also established the Gerwin Endowment for Cancer Research in the Department of Pathology. “This endowment has supported our progress in several adult cancer research projects,” said Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Muirhead Chair of Excellence in Pathology and director of the Center for Cancer Research.

In addition, the Gerwins supported student awards in the Departments of Physiology and Ophthalmology and in the Hamilton Eye Institute.

Johnson recalls that the Gerwins had almost nothing when they came to Memphis, the only place where Dan could work days and attend law school at night. He quickly parlayed his hard work and knack for business into a sizable fortune, mostly through real estate deals.

“They took an interest in everything that happened at the Health Science Center,” said Johnson, who was a part of the Gerwins’ inner circle.

After her husband’s death Mrs. Gerwin continued to open her home to friends from the Health Science Center, including Leonard Johnson and his wife, Dianna Johnson, PhD; Chris Fleming, MD, and his wife, Anne; Gabor Tigygi, MD, PhD, and his wife, Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD; and Hank Herrod, MD, and his wife, Ann.

To find out how you can join the Gerwins’ legacy of giving, contact Zach Pretzer at (901) 448-4975 or by email at zpretzer@uthsc.edu.
Doug Hixson — A Faithful Healer

Doug Hixson, MD, aged 64, died in January, after 30-plus years of teaching in the College of Medicine and at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.

Max R. Langham, Jr., MD, chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery at UTHSC, credits Hixson (’73) with recruiting him to the faculty of the College of Medicine, where he holds the St. Jude Chair of General Pediatric Oncological Surgery. Langham also worked with Hixson at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, where Hixson had several key roles: chief of staff, chief of surgery and director of trauma. He also trained residents and worked with fellows. Though Hixson's professional accomplishments are impressive, Langham believes that his lasting legacy will be the personal influence that he had on others.

Bob Hollabaugh, Sr., MD, (’63), a retired faculty member, agrees. He thinks that Hixson will be remembered most by his patients and by the students and residents he trained, and not just because he was a good doctor and teacher. "He carried his faith with him into his life as a healer," said Hollabaugh.

Another friend, Gerald Jerkins, MD, (’73), recalls the difficult times when Doug’s faith carried him, specifically the 17 years when Doug’s wife, Pam, had Lou Gehrig’s disease. “I never heard him complain,” said Jerkins.

Doug’s family was even closer to him than others, said Jerkins. Because of Pam’s illness, their daughter and her family lived with them so she could help care for Pam. As a result, Doug was surrounded by family throughout his illness. And, a few weeks before his death, Doug got to hold his youngest grandson and share the joy of his birth with the rest of the family.

Despite his cancer diagnosis, Doug remained positive. "Doug always enjoyed other people," said Langham, who paused to frame his thoughts. “He had an unshakable, deep-seated faith in Jesus Christ as his savior. He typified an observant Christian.”

It was this trait that earned Dr. Hixson the Faith and Healing Award from the Methodist Healthcare Foundation in 2010. Typically, he had to be persuaded to accept the award. "He was a very humble man," said Langham.

Dr. Milton Ralph Barrett III, age 59, died May 12, 2012. Dr. Barrett completed his fellowship in diagnostic radiology at the UTHSC College of Medicine in the 1980s. He was a faculty member until 1990.

Winston Caine, Jr., MD, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Dr. Winston Caine, Jr., died Oct. 23, 2012. He served as professor in the UT College of Medicine, Chattanooga, from 1975 to 2012. The UT Department of Medicine and the Internal Medicine Education Foundation have established a Winston P. Caine, Jr. Lectureship Series in his honor.

Ray Weller Collman, Knoxville, Tenn.
Mrs. Ray Weller Collman, age 91, died Jan. 4, 2013. Mrs. Collman was the widow of Reid Collman, MD, former dean of the Graduate School of Medicine. With her husband, Mrs. Collman established an endowment for a summer research program. You can read about the students’ experiences at http://sticerd.utk.edu/students/assistantships.cfm

William Sherman Craddock, Memphis, Tenn.
William Sherman Craddock, age 94, died Feb. 27, 2013. “Lieutenant Colonel Craddock was a true friend of the University of Tennessee and a special friend of the Department of Neurology,” said William Pulisnelli, MD, PhD. “I came to know Mr. Craddock through his interest in degenerative neurologic diseases, which his wife Jeanne had suffered from for many years.” The family requests that memorials be made to the William S. Craddock Fund for support of the Department of Neurology or to Second Presbyterian Church.

Virgil Glenn Crosby, MD, Memphis, Tenn.
Dr. Virgil Glenn Crosby (’58), age 79, died Oct. 13, 2012. Dr. Crosby practiced cardiovascular and thoracic surgery for more than 30 years. In 1985, he performed, with James Pate, MD, the first heart transplantation in Memphis. He served on the faculty of the UTHSC College of Medicine as an associate professor and was associate director of resident training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery.

Edward Francis Goyea, MD, Collierville, Tenn.
Dr. Edward Francis Goyea, age 81, died Feb. 26, 2013. Dr. Goyea was a retired professor of Neurology in the College of Medicine and a vice chairman of the Department of Neurology. He was also the former chief of Neurology at the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center. Tulio E. Bertorini, MD, a professor and interim chair of Neurology, recalls Dr. Goyea. “Ed was a superb clinician and a wonderful teacher and friend,” he said. “He was a classical neurologist, who understood, in a magnificent way, the localization of tumors and clinical findings of neurologic disorders.”

Jerry Lynn Shenep, MD, Memphis, Tenn.
Dr. Jerry Lynn Shenep, age 60, died July 26, 2012. Dr. Shenep, a professor of pediatrics in the College of Medicine, was cited on the list of Best Doctors in America for pediatric infectious diseases (1988-2012). He joined the Department of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in 1982 and was appointed chief medical information officer in 1998. In addition to writing more than 100 academic articles, Dr. Shenep trained untold numbers of pediatric infectious disease students, residents and fellows.

Would you like to honor the memory of any of these individuals?
Contact Zach Pretzer, development director for the College of Medicine to discuss ways you can memorialize your friends, colleagues, mentors or professors from medical school. You can contact Zach Pretzer via email at zpretzer@uthsc.edu or by calling (901) 448-4975.

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1930

1946
James Arch Coleman, Jr., MD, age 91, of Waco, Texas, died Jan. 24, 2013.

1948

1950

1953
Joel Lawrence Alvis, Sr., MD, age 89, of Black Mountain, N.C., died March 30, 2013.
Raymond Bunn, MD, age 83, of South Knoxville, Tenn., died Dec. 28, 2012.

1954
Robert W. Carson, MD, age 84, of Laredo, Texas, died Nov. 22, 2012.

1956
William Joseph Acuff, MD, age 81, of Knoxville, Tenn., died March 16, 2012.
James E. Mays, Jr., MD, age 85, of Trenton, Tenn., died Aug. 21, 2012.

1959
James C. Benton, III, MD, age 78, of Knoxville, Tenn., died July 1, 2012.
Johnny L. Heard, MD, age 77, of New Orleans, La., died Sept. 18, 2012.
Gary A. Sneed, MD, age 81, of Alexandria, La., died Aug. 8, 2012.

1960
James Campbell Bradshaw, Jr., MD, age 81, of Lebanon, Tenn., and Naples, Fla., died Feb. 18, 2013.

1962
James Gale Lawson MD, age 74, of Phoenix, Ariz., died June 12, 2012.

1963
Thomas Doyle Weems, MD, age 73, of Memphis, Tenn., died Sept. 20, 2012.

1964
Curt H. Smith, MD, age 72, of Cookeville, Tenn., died Aug. 3, 2012.

1965
Robert O. Philips, Jr., MD, age 71, of Dallas, Texas, died April 13, 2013.

1966
Mike J. Brown, Jr., MD, age 72, of Englewood, Fla., died Feb. 15, 2012.

1967
Roy Kulp, Jr., MD, age 65, of Memphis, Tenn., died Nov. 6, 2012.

1972
Virgil T. “Tom” Deal, MD, age 63, died Dec. 16, 2012, near Fayetteville, N.C.

1974
Kenczer Jeryl Dirkson, MD, age 63, died March 30, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas.

1976
Mark Allen Wood, MD, age 54, of Richmond, Va., died May 12, 2012.

1983

1991

2007
J. Mark Sledge, MD, age 45, of Memphis, Tenn., died Jan. 28, 2013.
Robert Walling, MD, completed his pediatric residency at UTHSC in 1973 and studied in London, England, for a year before joining a general pediatric group in Ft. Smith, Ark., in 1974. After 15 years, Dr. Walling returned to Memphis and eventually joined the Department of Pediatrics as a generalist and child-abuse consultant. In 2001, with colleague Alicia McClary, EdD, MS, BA, he developed an exchange program with the University of Guadalajara, Mexico, and UTHSC that continued until 2010. Dr. Walling continues to travel to Guadalajara each year to work with colleagues there in the International Outreach and Cooperation Department.

C. Christopher Smith, MD, is a general internist in the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and an assistant professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He received a BS degree in biology with Presidential Honors in 1992 from Loyola University and received his MD summa cum laude from the UT College of Medicine. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in 1999 and was awarded the Lowell B. McGee Award for Excellence in Teaching. After serving as Chief Medical Resident, Dr. Smith completed the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education at the Carl J. Shapiro Institute for Education and Research. Prior to becoming the Associate Director for the Medical Residency Program, he served as the Associate Medical Director of Healthcare Associates, the internal medicine teaching practice at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He is involved in the creation and implementation of a unique inpatient medical procedure service designed to enhance resident education, improve patient safety, and provide a means to assess trainee competency in these medical procedures. In addition, he investigates the use of central venous line simulators to improve resident skill and reduce adverse events. Dr. Smith is the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Herrman L. Blumgart Faculty Award, the S. Robert Stone Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Society of General Internal Medicine National Award for Scholarship in Medical Education. He is the Associate Chief of the Blumgart Medical Firm and the Co-Director of the Rabkin Fellowship in Medical Education at BIDMC and Harvard Medical School.

The University of Tennessee Partners with Harris Connect to Produce Comprehensive Alumni Directory

In an effort to reconnect the more than 335,000 University of Tennessee alumni worldwide, UT has begun work on Alumni Today, a comprehensive directory.

As you can imagine, this is a massive undertaking. We’re a mobile society. Like everyone else, UT graduates follow jobs to different towns, we upsize and downsize, we shuffle between various email addresses and phone numbers. Even with online social networks at our disposal, keeping in touch with friends, former classmates, and potential business contacts remains a challenge.

With Alumni Today, the UT Alumni Association is doing some of the heavy lifting for you. The directory, which will be published in print and electronic formats in fall 2013, will be sorted by campus, class year, and the location of current residence. Complete listings for each respondent will include academic, professional, and personal information.

How often does UT do a directory?
We typically do one every five or six years. The previous alumni directory was published in 2008.

Who is Harris Connect?
We’ve partnered with Harris Connect to produce our directory. Harris Connect has been an industry leader for nearly 50 years and, based on their reputation and on our experience working with them on past projects, we are confident they will meet the needs of our alumni and the high standards of the University of Tennessee.

Creating the Directory
Beginning in late March 2013, alumni were contacted via email and postcard by Harris Connect. The names of alumni who responded were removed from the contact list and they were no longer included in future mailings.

In late April and early May, Harris Connect began calling alumni who did not respond to the mailer.

If I didn’t respond, will I still have an opportunity to update my information?
The deadline for updating your information is June 2013.

For alumni updates and directory orders, call Harris Connect at 1 (877) 461-5609.
For order cancellations or questions, call Harris Connect at 1 (800) 877-6554.
SAVE THE DATE

August 15 - 17, 2013
2013 Medicine Alumni Weekend
For more detailed event information, visit www.uthscalumni.com/events.

October 2 - 4, 2013
Golden Graduate Homecoming (all colleges)