Pediatric Research

Laying the Groundwork for Miracles in Children’s Health
LETTERS

MEMPHIS
South Main Historic Arts District

NEW FACES
Bill Owen Named UTHSC Chancellor

NEWS BITES

FEATURE
Pediatric Research

CAMPUS PROGRESS
- Baptist Hospital Property Demolition
- UT Cancer Institute Construction

STUDENTS
- Gone but not Forgotten
- Two Docs in the House

RESEARCH
Battling the Bulge

DEVELOPMENT
Dr. Leroy Sherrill Establishes Scholarship

ALUMNI
Alumni Mentor M3 Students

CLASS NOTES & OBITs
From the Dean

There is much excitement as we move into the spring and summer part of the calendar at the College of Medicine. First and foremost, we are pleased about the arrival of our new chancellor, Dr. William Owen, who came to the campus full-time in April. Dr. Owen, as many of you have learned, is a nationally renowned internist and nephrologist whose academic pedigree goes back to Tufts, Harvard and Duke. He most recently served as the senior scientist for the renal division at Baxter Healthcare Corporation. We look forward to the energy and enthusiasm that Dr. Owen brings to the campus.

For those who have not been to the Memphis campus in a number of years, we encourage you to look seriously at attending the fall alumni meeting. Memphis has undergone a great deal of change over the last ten to fifteen years. Key to this development has been the building of a beautiful AAA baseball stadium, known as AutoZone Park, on Union Avenue in the downtown area, and the development of the FedExForum, where the NBA Memphis Grizzlies play near Beale Street. Both facilities bring people from all over the Mid-South into the downtown area and have made Beale Street an even more energetic place than it had been. Downtown now has multiple restaurants, night spots and a variety of entertainment. The article in this issue describes some of the developments in the South Main area.

Our faculty and alumni continue to receive widespread recognition for their accomplishments as you will note in the News Clips. Rex Amonette, MD, has recently been honored with the American Academy of Dermatology’s highest award which is given for outstanding and exceptional service to the specialty of dermatology. Charles Handorf, MD, PhD was named president-elect of the Tennessee Medical Association for the 2005-06 year. Barrett Haik, MD, has been elected to the Board of Regents for the American College of Surgeons. Terry Cooper, PhD, and Pat Wall, MD, ’60, have received special recognition for their outstanding service to the Association of American Medical Colleges. In this issue you can read in more detail about their accomplishments, as well as others.

One of the areas where there is a tradition of excellence in the CoM is pediatrics. The innovative activities taking place in pediatrics, in association with our hospital partners, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, are proudly displayed in this edition.

The College of Medicine is an exciting, dynamic place, and we encourage you to communicate with us, support us with your dollars and your influence, and become an even more active member of the UT family.

Henry G. Herrod, MD
Dean
College of Medicine

From the Editorial Board

No doubt, you have noted the newly designed cover for the magazine and will also appreciate changes made to the formatting as well. The board enthusiastically endorsed the recommendation of the editorial staff, and complimented Brian Wiuff on his sleek new design for the cover. We were excited recently to receive the Vox Award for “Print Media--Magazine External Audience” from the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. It is basically for the best magazine of those submitted to the competition in Memphis. The staff deserves great credit for this outstanding achievement. The board also welcomed five new members, including Alan Levy, who is currently a resident and last year served as president of the Medical Student Executive Council. Frances Kirkland was also chosen as a current member of the MSEC, but since then has been elected president of that council. Other alumni joining are Charles Brown, ’77, family practice; Ann Brown, ’78, internal medicine; and Susie Austin, ’89, orthopaedic surgery. These new members will add significant diversity, as well as make fine contributions to the board.

In addition to many distinguished faculty who have been recognized and honored by their organizations, we are pleased to profile Dennis Black, MD, ’78, professor of pediatrics and pediatric researcher at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center.

We continue featuring Downtown Memphis in this issue with an article on the South Main Arts District.

Without bias, of course, we also are pleased to share the fine service activities of our students. Please note the efforts of the Council of International and Area Outreach
From the President

The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Alumni Council recently concluded its first meeting of 2005. It was a highly successful meeting, and I believe the future looks bright for the College of Medicine and, on a broader scale, for the University of Tennessee.

We were fortunate to have John Petersen, PhD, join us for the entire meeting. As you know, Dr. Petersen has been president of the University of Tennessee for the past 11 months. He brings a new vision for the university and for the College of Medicine. He has a strong background in administration, teaching and research, all of which will be an asset to the university. Dr. Petersen believes it is imperative to identify the strengths of the university and to “accentuate the positive.” Also, it will be a high priority of Dr. Petersen’s to “forge productive partnerships with others in government and the private sector.” Two examples of this are strengthening our relationships with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

We also have a new chancellor for the Health Science Center in Memphis. William Owen, Jr., MD, a native Memphian and a graduate of Tufts Medical School, is a vibrant leader who has a strong and impressive background in medicine. He has had a long association with both Harvard and Duke Universities. He also brings to the table a corporate view. His last position was chief scientist of the renal division at Baxter Healthcare Corporation. We are pleased to welcome him to the university and back to Memphis.

Hank Herrod, MD, dean of the College of Medicine, and Pat Wall, MD, ’60, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, also communicated positive news concerning our College of Medicine. This year’s resident match was viewed as the best in recent history with 39 percent of the class staying in Tennessee and 49 percent of the class pursuing primary care fields. UT’s medical students did exceptionally well on both the USMLE 2 exams and the new clinical knowledge section. Dr. Herrod has set a goal to recruit and hire more quality faculty. Progress is being made on both the new Hamilton Eye Institute and the UT-Baptist Research Park that will be built on the site of the former Baptist Memorial Hospital.

As you can see, this is indeed an exciting time for both the University of Tennessee overall and for the College of Medicine. We look forward to working with both our new president and our new chancellor. As Dr. Petersen said, the alumni support for UT is amazing. Last year was a record-breaking year for fund-raising with 50,000 donors giving $136 million to UT. As Dr. Petersen said, “Alumni are an important part of everything we do at the university. You are the people who know the university best and who have the strongest commitment to its success. You’re the face of the University of Tennessee in your local communities, and your professional accomplishments, and your community service speak well for the university.”

As your alumni council, we are excited about the future of the College of Medicine. Please keep up your support, and please let us hear from you.

James Christian Fleming, MD, ’74
President
UT College of Medicine Alumni Council
The next time you’re in Memphis, you may want to plan a trip to the South Main Historic Arts District. It’s been dubbed “the Soho of the South” and is well worth a visit.

Located in Downtown Memphis, this historic area is anchored by the Central Station and the famous Arcade restaurant on the south end, the Orpheum Theater on the north, and on the east and west by the National Civil Rights Museum, art galleries, hip restaurants, renovated warehouses-turned-lofts and trendy shops.

The last Friday of every month features free Art Trolley Tours from 6 to 9 p.m. Growing in popularity since its inception over four years ago, the tour includes stops at all of the galleries, shops and restaurants with refreshments served at most. The second Sunday of every month except January and February is also special with restaurants serving brunch, musicians playing on the streets, sidewalk sales and art exhibits inside and out.

Galleries dot the area in abundance and offer a variety of art perspectives -- from African to traditional and modern, as well as photography and etched glass art. A new addition to the neighborhood is Glasshouse 383 where shoppers can browse amid a stunning display of hand-blown, museum quality works of art, grab a quick lunch or sip a glass of fine wine.

Shopping on South Main is referred to by many as “a bite of the Big Apple with a dash of Southern hospitality.” The shops and galleries offer art, objects and apparel from local craftspeople and designers, as well as internationally known artists.

For those looking for something different to do, South Main and its backstreets offer an interesting collection of hidden treasures.
Owen Selected as Tenth Chancellor for UTHSC and Vice President for Health Affairs

William (Bill) F. Owen, Jr., MD, has been named the tenth chancellor of the UT Health Science Center and vice president for health affairs.

Dr. Owen succeeds Bill Rice, who stepped down as chancellor in 2002 after serving in that capacity for ten years. Rice returned as interim chancellor in December 2003 following Dr. Jim Gibb Johnson’s retirement from the position of interim chancellor.

Dr. Owen served as chief scientist for Baxter Healthcare Corporation’s Renal Division in McGaw Park, Ill. for the past three years while holding an adjunct appointment as professor of medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. He was recently named a senior scholar at Duke’s Fuqua School of Business in its health sector management program.

A native Memphian, Dr. Owen has a strong background covering academic medicine, clinical healthcare and scientific research. His academic career includes 25 years of experience with Harvard Medical School and Duke University, while his clinical experience includes 12 years as a clinical and academic staff physician with Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. As a research scientist, he has garnered approximately $10 million in external funding and is well-published with approximately 200 journal articles, scientific reviews and editorials; 23 book chapters; and two books on dialysis and transplantation.

UT President John Petersen, PhD, commented, “I am so pleased to appoint Dr. Owen to this position. His depth and breadth of experience in all facets of healthcare administration will serve the Health Science Center well.”

With a passion for improving the quality of clinical care for patients with end stage renal disease, Dr. Owen works with the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services on several advisory and monitoring committees.

“I am thrilled to be back in Memphis,” said Dr. Owen. “I look forward to engaging with all of the university’s constituencies and stakeholders to ensure that our Health Science Center continues to provide the highest quality healthcare education, clinical care, research and community health service for the citizens of Tennessee.”

Wake Named Urology Chair

Robert W. Wake, MD, has been named chairman of the Department of Urology. A 1985 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, Dr. Wake completed residencies in general surgery and urology before becoming an instructor in the urology department in 1990. His research has focused on prostate cancer, including minimally invasive treatments for this disease, as well as on endourology and stone disease. Dr. Wake was one of the first urologists in Memphis to do laparoscopic urologic surgery. He continues to place major emphasis on competency-based education for the urology residents.
Russell Chesney, MD, the Le Bonheur Chair of Excellence in Pediatrics at UTHSC, recently received two major honors. First, he received the Henry L. Barnett Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for distinguished contributions in the field of pediatric nephrology. He was also honored as Pediatrician of the Year at the annual awards luncheon of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as associate program director of the Center for Excellence in Connective Tissue Diseases.

Dr. Chesney is nationally known for teaching patient care and is consistently selected as the top clinician and educator by residents and student clinicians.

Dennis Schaberg, MD, has been elected a regent of the American College of Physicians, the nation’s largest medical specialty society. Dr. Schaberg is the Gene Stollerman, MD, Endowed Professor in Internal Medicine at UTHSC and chairman of the Department of Medicine, as well as associate program director of the Center for Excellence in Connective Tissue Diseases.

Dr. Schaberg is nationally known for teaching patient care and is consistently selected as the top clinician and educator by residents and student clinicians. Recently, he was recognized as a master physician by the American College of Physicians, in honor of his significant contributions to medical science and the art of medicine. This recognition was preceded by ACP’s Laureate Award for his demonstrated commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research and service.

Russell Chesney, MD

Goldowitz Named Methodist Professor for Neuroscience

Dan Goldowitz, PhD, has been named the Methodist Hospitals Foundation Endowed Professor for Neuroscience.

A professor of anatomy and neurobiology, Dr. Goldowitz also serves the Health Science Center as director of the UT Research Center of Excellence in Genomics and Bioinformatics.

As center director, one of his key projects has been establishing the Tennessee Mouse Genome Consortium, a collaboration of experts and resources from across Tennessee dedicated to studying complex disorders of the brain using mouse models. At UT, one of his objectives is to stimulate new research initiatives for large scale, multidisciplinary challenges at the Health Science Center and throughout the state.

With an interest in developmental neurology, Dr. Goldowitz directs a large ENU-based (N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea-based) mutagenesis program to produce mouse models for neurosciences. He has also been active in producing unique mouse models to study the role of the cerebellum in autism-related behavior.

Schaberg Elected Regent of ACP

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Chesney Receives State and National Recognition

Russell Chesney, MD, the Le Bonheur Chair of Excellence in Pediatrics at UTHSC, recently received two major honors. First, he received the Henry L. Barnett Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for distinguished contributions in the field of pediatric nephrology. He was also honored as Pediatrician of the Year at the annual awards luncheon of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Each year the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP) selects one pediatrician whose dedication to the health and welfare of Tennessee children is worthy of the chapter’s highest honor. Dr. Chesney has served as UTHSC pediatrics chair since 1988 and is a nationally respected pediatrician and researcher.

Dr. Chesney is a diplomate and member of the American Board of Pediatrics and has served as president of the American Pediatric Society and the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs. He has published over 300 original peer-reviewed articles and 190 chapters.
Amonette Honored with Academy’s Highest Award

Memphis dermatologist and UTHSC clinical professor, Rex A. Amonette, MD, was presented with the American Academy of Dermatology’s highest award at its annual meeting in New Orleans in February.

The Gold Medal award recognizes outstanding and exceptional service to the specialty of dermatology, as well as substantial impact on the future of the science, teaching and practice of cutaneous medicine. The award also honors exceptional national and international contributions to the specialty’s administrative aspects.

A past president of the Academy, Dr. Amonette currently serves as chair of the Academy’s development committee and co-chair of the National Coalition for Sun Safety. He is also a former president of the International Society for Dermatologic Surgery, the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology, and the Tennessee Dermatological Society. Locally, Dr. Amonette has served as president of the American Cancer Society, the Memphis Dermatological Society and the Memphis/Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Medical Society.

Over the course of his career, he has been recognized with numerous honors including the Public Service Award for Community Service by the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, the Distinguished Service Award by the American College of Mohs Surgery, and as the first recipient of the Meritorious Service Award and Medal from the United States Air Force.

The founder of Memphis Dermatology Clinic, PA, he is in practice with Drs. Harvey Gardner, Frank Witherspoon Jr., Lee Allen, Gwen Beard and Robin Friedman. His daughter and son-in-law, Drs. Amy and John Huber, are also in practice with the group.

UTHSC Dermatology Professor William Rosenberg, MD, was the 1999 recipient of the Gold Medal. He and Dr. Amonette are among an elite group of 26 physicians to have been honored with this award.

Dr. Rosenberg commented, “Dr. Amonette was one of the first individuals to learn the Mohs procedure, which is a special way for treating skin cancer. Over the years he has trained a number of individuals in this procedure, and he has many grateful patients. One patient was so grateful that he established a chair of excellence in his honor. Dr. Amonette is richly deserving of this award.”

Fleming Elected President of ASOPRS

James C. Fleming, MD, FACS, ’74, professor of ophthalmology at UTHSC, was elected president of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ASOPRS).

Effective January 1, 2005, Dr. Fleming assumed the reigns of the 500-member international society after spending five years on the ASOPRS executive committee in several capacities. He will be honored by the society and recognized for his leadership at its annual meeting in Chicago in October.

Barbara Beatty, executive director of the ASOPRS, stated, “Dr. Fleming is highly respected and very well liked by the ophthalmic community, both internally with ASOPRS and externally, in the wider spectrum of ophthalmology. His insight and integrity are valuable assets to the society.”

A recognized leader in the field of ophthalmology, Dr. Fleming is past president of several professional organizations including the Memphis Eye Society, the Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology, the Memphis and Shelby County Medical Society, and the Tennessee Medical Association. He is also a delegate to the American Medical Association.

Rex Amonette, MD, left, with his daughter and son-in-law, Drs. Amy and John Huber.
Handorf named Pres.-elect of TMA

Charles R. Handorf, MD, PhD, was named president-elect of the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) for the 2005-2006 year. He assumed office at the TMA annual meeting at the Opryland Hotel in April.

Dr. Handorf, a native Memphian, is the interim chair of the Department of Pathology and associate professor of pathology. He is president and associate pathologist of the Duckworth Pathology Group, Inc. and a member of the Tennessee Department of Public Health Laboratory Licensure Board.

Haik Elected to Surgeons’ Organization Governing Board

Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor in Ophthalmology and chair of the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology, was elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This is the governing board for the world’s largest organization of surgeons, and he will initially serve a three-year term.

UTHSC’s Cooper and Wall Recognized by AAMC

Terrance G. Cooper, PhD, the Harriet S. Van Vleet Professor in the Department of Molecular Sciences, and Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, ’60, professor and associate dean for admissions and student affairs in the College of Medicine, were each honored this fall by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Cooper was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant leadership contributions to the AAMC.

Dr. Cooper began serving in leadership positions for the AAMC in 1994 when he was president of the Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs and served as that organization’s representative to the AAMC for six years. He has served the AAMC Council of Academic Societies (CAS) in leadership positions for more than eight years, as well as in key leadership positions on the GREAT (Graduate Research, Education and Training) Group Steering Committee.

Dr. Wall was recognized with the Group on Student Affairs (GSA) Exemplary Service Award. Initiated in 2003, the honor recognizes a current or former GSA representative who has demonstrated exemplary service.

A pediatrician by training, Dr. Wall’s first service to the AAMC and GSA was as a member of the National Task Force on Student Retention from 1985 to 1987. He also served as chair for the GSA’s Southern Region from 1986 to 1987 and as GSA national chair from 1993 to 1994.

Research to Prevent Blindness Grant Supports Professor’s Research of Macular Degeneration

Alessandro Iannaccone, MD, MS, associate professor of ophthalmology at UTHSC and director of the Retinal Degeneration Center and Lions Vision Lab at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, has received a prestigious Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) Career Development Award for $200,000.

The award supports Dr. Iannaccone’s clinical research on retinal degenerative diseases, in general, and on age-related macular degeneration, in particular. He is investigating how inflammation, carotenoids (vitamins necessary for the good health of the section of the retina known as the macula), and genetic factors may interact to increase the risk of macular degeneration.
UTHSC Awarded Million Dollar Grant for Telemedicine

UTHSC, in collaboration with the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) and the University of Memphis, has been awarded a $1,000,000 Congressional Directed Medical Research Grant. Titled “A Biomedical Information Technology (BIT) Network,” the grant was awarded by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center for the development of a wireless, mobile, telemedicine system.

Under the direction of co-principal investigators Karen Fox, PhD, assistant dean of the UT College of Medicine and executive director of the UT Outreach Center, and Edward Chaum, MD, Plough Foundation Professor of Retinal Diseases, the system will be designed to screen the vision of underserved patients in rural and remote settings for common blinding diseases such as diabetes and glaucoma and to help patients have better access to ophthalmologists.

According to Dr. Fox, the BIT network will integrate the telemedical technology with novel approaches to population-based vision screening programs and computer-assisted diagnosis being developed at UT’s Hamilton Eye Institute and the UTSI Center for Laser Applications.

Runyan Receives Distinguished Service Award

John W. (Bill) Runyan, Jr., MD, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus, has received the State of Tennessee’s 2005 Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA). He was presented the award at the annual TMA meeting at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville in April.

Recently honored for nearly 45 years of service to UT, Dr. Runyan founded and led the Division of Endocrinology for a decade and served as professor and chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine from 1972 to 1994.

UT Pediatric Reading Program Awarded 7,000 Books

First Book, a national non-profit in Washington, DC, recently selected the University of Tennessee as the recipient of 7,000 books for its Reach Out and Read (ROR) program. The books were distributed through First Book’s National Book Bank.

Reach Out and Read trains doctors and nurses to advise parents on the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. Pediatric research reveals an association between pediatric literacy promotion and improvements in preschool language.

“We have experimental evidence that this program changes lives,” said Andy Spooner, MD, ’88, the Buckman Professor of Pediatrics.

For more information or to support the program, contact Shelby Terry at ssmith66@utmem.edu.

Allen Wins APA Teaching Award

David M. Allen, MD, professor of psychiatry at UTHSC, was presented the American Psychiatric Association’s (APA) first annual Irma Bland Award for Excellence in Teaching Residents at the APA’s annual meeting in May.
Pediatric Research
Laying the Groundwork for Miracles in Children’s Health

By Anne Manning

Great things are happening on the third and fourth floors of Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. The elevator doors open to medical laboratories and UT Health Science Center employees conducting pediatric research, under the auspices of the Children’s Foundation Research Center (CFRC), to improve children’s health.

The Children’s Foundation Research Center of Memphis is a partnership of three entities: the Children’s Foundation of Memphis, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center and the UT Health Science Center.
Research Funding: Fundamental to Success

Heavily dependent on external funding for survival, the center has been successful in obtaining it. Since opening in 1995, CFRC investigators have brought in over $19 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and an additional $13 million in funding from other sources. Currently, active NIH awards total over $13 million for three to five year funding periods. That kind of support comes only through persistence.

Dennis Black, MD, ’78, UTHSC professor and director of the CFRC, passionately encourages students and his staff to keep on trying in the event their first attempt at writing an NIH grant is thwarted. "I encourage them to address all of the reviewers’ comments, to rewrite and resubmit. NIH allows three opportunities to submit, and they may have to go to bat three times before hitting a home run."

"We’ve worked hard to earn every grant we have in a fairly favorable economic environment; but stormy times are ahead. Annual increases in the NIH budget have declined in past years to a mere 0.7 percent proposed for fiscal year 2006, less than the rate of inflation; so the competition for NIH funds will be even fiercer. Up to now, approximately one in five grants was funded, but going forward, it looks like maybe one in ten will make it. Nonetheless, I’m confident our researchers can compete with anyone because we are passionate about improving children’s health,” Dr. Black said.

Support for Budding Careers

With children in the Mid-South, and eventually worldwide, as beneficiaries, careers do blossom as CFRC investigators explore all three research areas: basic, clinical and translational (bench to bedside to community).

Michael Quasney, MD, PhD, a pediatric ICU specialist and UT associate professor, is investigating cytokine genes and how the body’s genetic make-up determines a child’s reaction to an infection. Cytokines mediate the body’s response to infection and are useful at certain levels to fight infection; however, when too many are produced, the patient can become very ill. The implication of Dr. Quasney’s research is that one day doctors may be able to test sick children, predict who is at high risk, and treat them appropriately.

“Our primary mission is to improve the health of children in the Mid-South. We put it into practice through research and foster our mission through collaboration and supporting young researchers,” Dr. Black concluded.

“We have three avenues for helping our researchers ‘stay in business,’ so to speak. We offer ‘New Investigator Awards’ to those just starting out. This money is used for lab space, a technician and equipment to launch their research. They then have three years to obtain NIH funding,” said Dr. Black.

“Secondly, we offer a ‘Supplemental Award’ to shore up NIH grants which inevitably get cut by 15 percent or more. And thirdly, we offer the Cannon Award to scientists who are between grants,” he commented.

One of the center’s biggest success stories is John DeVincenzo, MD, a UT associate professor, who knew he wanted to research RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) but had no funding. He applied for and won a ‘New Investigator Award’ to find a treatment for RSV, a respiratory disease potentially fatal to premature infants. Once launched, Dr. DeVincenzo successfully competed for NIH funding and conducted lab-based clinical research with a pharmaceutical company to develop a drug for RSV. Later this year, he is taking a sabbatical to work directly with the pharmaceutical industry to accelerate the development process. In the meantime, Dr. DeVincenzo has become one of the most prominent investigators in his field.

But Dr. DeVincenzo is just one of a distinguished group of intrepid pediatric bio-science explorers. Every lab on Le Bonheur’s third and fourth floors is filled with investigators actively pursuing answers to tough pediatric health questions.

Continued on p. 14

Dennis Black, MD, center, mentoring students in his laboratory.
Groundbreaking Research – Back to Basics

Significant research is also underway in the area of obesity and nutrition where Ron Adkins, MD, genomics and bioinformatics specialist and UT assistant professor, is investigating the genetic factors that cause fetal growth retardation. Initial findings reveal that, not only do these babies experience more complications in infancy, but they also tend to become obese adults. By studying DNA samples from fetal-growth-retarded infants and normal infants, Dr. Adkins hopes to identify genetic variations that contribute to fetal growth retardation with an ultimate goal of developing successful therapeutic interventions.

Russell Chesney MD, LeBonheur Chair of Excellence, a pediatric nephrologist and UT pediatric department chair, is world-renowned for his work on the amino acid, taurine, in infants. He has studied the adaptive regulation of taurine transport by the kidney for more than 25 years. This plays an important role in the build-up of bile acids in young infants, as well as in the development of the central nervous system, retina, and kidney. Among other things, his work, which led to the rationale for the recommended taurine allowances in infants and children, has had important implications for the normal and abnormal formation of the kidney.

Dr. Black and Gene Whittington, MD, ’53, a UT professor, are exploring a rare liver disease called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC) through a sizable grant from the Musette and Allen Morgan, Jr. Foundation for the Study of PSC. The Morgans’ son was diagnosed with the disease about six years ago, and the couple is determined to help researchers discover its cause and a cure. The challenge has been that there are usually not enough patients in one location to conduct clinical trials, so Dr. Black turned to the NIH for support.

“We hoped simply for NIH’s blessing but got far more,” Dr. Black explained. “The NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases director of liver disease research was intrigued with our proposal and is sponsoring an NIH workshop devoted solely to PSC later this year. Experts from around the world will gather and set a research agenda which includes establishing a registry of all patients with the disease in the U.S. and Canada from which we can draw participants for clinical trials.”

Building Pediatric Cardiology for Clinical Research

Participants for research are fundamental to any bio-science program, and the pediatric cardiovascular department is no different. Three years ago, Thomas Chin, MD, was hired to build the department’s cardiovascular team. Before April 2002, there were only three participants for research are fundamental to any bio-science program, and the pediatric cardiovascular department is no different. Three years ago, Thomas Chin, MD, was hired to build the department’s cardiovascular team. Before April 2002, there were only three
full-time and two part-time cardiac specialists who were able to perform about 100 surgeries a year. This past year, seven pediatric cardiologists and two surgeons completed over 300 complex heart surgeries. “We’re at a point now when we have enough patients to significantly expand our research program. I’m surprised at how quickly the program developed, but it’s obviously meeting a need in the Mid-South,” said Dr. Chin, who is planning to start a pediatric heart transplant program later this year.

“With the staff on board now we have the capability to perform all five areas of difficulty in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery,” Dr. Chin noted. “Our next step is to start a pediatric cardiology and pediatric cardiothoracic surgery fellowship.”

Research in the area of cardiovascular physiology is also advancing as clinical pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery develop. Bruce Alpert, MD, continues to perform NIH-funded research on hypertension. In January, Glenn Wetzel, MD, a pediatric cardiologist from UCLA with expertise in clinical electrophysiology, joined the UT Department of Pediatrics. He is the co-principal investigator for an NIH-funded study on “myocarditis”—weakening of heart muscle related to infection.

**Translational Research – “Taking It to the Streets”**

In addition to a strong basic science focus, a dynamic translational research program promotes health and wellness in the community. Initiated with funding from L.H.S., Inc., a private foundation, several community outreach programs have been launched.

“Para los Niños,” for example, is a multi-faceted program led by Gail Beeman, MD, MHPE, UT associate professor, targeted to the Latino community to help reduce obesity and diabetes in children. In an effort to determine culturally appropriate interventions that would interest Spanish-speaking people, the researchers first held focus groups. They learned that Mexican dancing, soccer and aerobics would attract participants if the program was held in a safe, convenient location. “The program was designed to attract children, but it’s become more of a family intervention, which holds even greater promise,” said Marian Levy, DrPH, RD, associate director, Health Promotion and Grants Management for the Center and UT assistant professor.

**Grant Support Translates to Good Health**

Thanks to an Aetna Grant, healthcare professionals are being trained in sensitivity to work with Hispanics. “We are providing cultural competence training to healthcare providers, hospital associates, and students in Shelby, Fayette, Hardeman, and Tipton counties. At UTHSC, Espi Ralston, coordinator, and Martha Kantor, consultant, conduct “Cultural Capsules” for students in all seven colleges.

Additionally, Ralston teaches a Health Care Interpreter Training Program, developed in affiliation with Hablamos Juntos and The Med. “This is one of only 10 such programs in the nation, and we are proud to partner with the UT College of Allied Health Sciences to provide this certificate program.” said Dr. Levy.

Continued on p.16
Dr. Levy describes herself as passionate about her mission as she enthusiastically describes other outreach programs such as SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids), a pre-kindergarten physical education program for Memphis City Schools, headed by Drs. Marion Hare and Phyllis Richey, both UT assistant professors, and a breast feeding collaboration among the UT Department of Pediatrics, Le Bonheur, The Med, and the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department. Other programs target the African-American population; for example, Pedro Velasquez-Mieye, MD, conducts clinical research on lifestyle interventions for obese teenagers.

The Sky’s the Limit

“We especially owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Children’s Foundation of Memphis. We couldn’t do all we do without their unwavering support and encouragement. There are incredible things going on here; we are limited only by our need for more space,” Dr. Black said, noting that Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center is planning a major expansion and has committed to expand the CFRC by adding more laboratories, equipment and scientists.

Dr. Dennis Black Profile
A Study in Persistence

“For every experiment that works, there might be 10 that don’t work; but if research is in your blood, you won’t let obstacles get in the way,” said Dennis Black, MD, ’78, UT professor of pediatrics and physiology and Director of the Children’s Foundation Research Center (CFRC) of Memphis. Persistence is the hallmark of Dr. Black, whose various roles include administrator, faculty recruiter, university professor, and mentor to budding pediatric researchers, as well as scientific investigator.

Living proof that persistence does “win in the end,” his efforts are paying off. Under his direction since 1998, the CFRC has grown from having around a dozen investigators to 30 full-time scientists whose discoveries are making a tremendous difference in children’s health and well-being. Supported by more than 75 research technicians, post-doctoral fellows, research nurses and study coordinators, CFRC pediatric investigators are breaking ground in all three types of research: basic, clinical and translational (bench to bedside to community).

When Dr. Black walks into his laboratory, he turns from physician and administrator into a basic scientist who has put UTHSC on the map with his research in the area of neonatal lipid absorption and metabolism. His lab was the first to prove that the role of a protein called apolipoprotein A-IV is to enhance fat absorption in the newborn’s small intestine. In his 16th year of NIH funding, Dr. Black’s ultimate goal is to understand what type of fat is best handled by the apo A-IV system and how the apo A-IV gene is regulated. This may lead to therapeutic strategies for up-regulating the gene to improve fat absorption in sick infants and possibly down-regulating the gene in older children and adults who are obese.

Developing and mentoring young researchers is at the top of his “to do” list. “We do everything we can to support our students because so few people are going into pediatric research. Every single one we win has a huge potential return. We need to expose people to research at an early age, even as young as high school, to get them fired up,” he stated. This opinion may have been fostered by his personal experience.

“When I was a med student here at UT, I hadn’t given a thought to research; I just assumed I’d go into private practice. One day, I was doing rounds and the attending physician, Dr. Seymour Sabesin, came up to me and asked if I’d stop by his laboratory. When I did, he got right to the point, ‘Why don’t you do some research on lipids?’ The rest is history. I did two research electives in his lab and liked it. Then I won the UT J.P. Quigley Award in Physiology as a med student and stayed involved with research through my residency. When I applied to the NIH for a research fellowship, Dr. Sabesin helped me write it, and that’s what got me started.”

As a result, Dr. Black is a big believer in encouraging and supporting medical students. “I don’t know what Dr. Sabesin saw in me; but if he hadn’t encouraged me, I’m not sure I’d have taken the road I have.”
MAKING WAY FOR STATE-OF-THE-ART
UT-BAPTIST RESEARCH PARK

UTHSC is literally and figuratively at the vortex of Memphis’ bid to become a world-class bioresearch center. Capitalizing on the city’s strengths in the bioscience industry, the Memphis Bioworks Foundation is leading the drive to create a nationally recognized bioscience cluster, yielding scientific breakthroughs and faster commercialization of life-enriching products.

Out with the old … The former Baptist Hospital complex is coming down. Demolition has begun on the Service building, red building above, and the Physicians and Surgeons building, white building above. Both the Physicians and Surgeons buildings and Intern’s Residence were imploded Sunday, May 8.

In with the new … When the property is cleared, construction will begin on the new UT-Baptist Research Park, right. The completion of the UT-Baptist Research Park is estimated to take ten years.

UT CANCER INSTITUTE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

In the Spring of 2007, the new basic science and clinical research building will be a reality, bringing the dream of National Cancer Institute designation ever closer. The four-story, 90,000 square-foot facility will be equipped with the latest technology to help UT scientists break new ground in cancer research.

Construction has begun at the corner of Union and Manassas on the UTHSC campus.
On Saturday, January 8 and again, on Saturday, February 19, medical students donned work gloves and boots to help clear Zion Christian Cemetery, an overgrown 15-acre site that was the first African-American cemetery in Memphis. Buried there are more than 22,000 former slaves, lynching victims and as the historical marker notes, “Many outstanding citizens including Georgia Patton Washington, 1864-1900, one of the first female African-American physicians.”

When Gus Mealor, first-year medical student, originally inspected the property, he was inspired by one of the grave markers peering above the weeds. It bore the epitaph, “Gone but not forgotten.” Mealor wanted to make sure that Zion Cemetery was not forgotten; so he encouraged the Medical Student Executive Council (MSEC) to take on the project of helping to clean it up.

“It’s a terrible social injustice that this property has been ignored for so long,” said Mealor. Founded in 1876 by former slaves, the cemetery was owned by shareholders until the last one died in 1986.

“It’s basically a forest. There are graves everywhere, but you can’t see them,” said Rodney Snow, 2004-2005 MSEC president, who participated in the clean-up days. “About four acres are cleared, and there are eleven to go.” Determined to see the project through to completion, Snow said, “It took us about three hours to clear three-fourths of an acre, and it was hard work; but medical students have a lot of energy. This is a tremendous opportunity to serve the community.”

The project is coordinated through “Hands on Memphis,” a community service program which matches volunteers with projects and supplies the equipment to do the work.

Mealor was sold on the idea of doing something different for the community other than blood drives and blood pressure checks. “We’ll be doing those kinds of things the rest of our lives. This is an opportunity to get outside and swing a machete or an ax and work out some of that pent-up med school stress,” he noted.

“The place is so big and needs so much done, we could have the entire medical college out there,” said Mealor. It appears that he’s well on his way.

“I think that, more than most any other group, my classmates have the capacity to make a huge impact on Zion since they’re generally goal-oriented, committed, and unafraid of a little hard work. So, the project has continued through the spring and will resume in the fall as long as there is someone to lead it,” said Mealor.

“I’d love to see alumni and faculty join us. Hands on Memphis supplies everything, so all we need to do is show up,” he said. Mealor can be contacted at amealor@utmem.edu.
Two Docs in the House
When Both Husband and Wife are in Med School,
Give-and-Take is a Way of Life

By Anne Manning

Two and one-half years into med school, Chuck and Lea Gilliland, both M4s, decided to get married, “We both looked terrible in our wedding picture—dark circles under our eyes. I looked bludgeoned,” admitted Chuck.

“I don’t think I could have gone through med school with someone who doesn’t understand when you can’t take his phone call or when you have to study or work until 4 a.m.,” said Meg Danekas, M4, and wife of classmate, Michael Danekas.

“It’s hard to explain studying 12 hours a day to someone who studied a couple hours a day in college,” said Jake Bostrom, M4, whose wife, Cara, also an M4, sat juggling five month old, Cole, on her knee.

Chuck and Lea, Meg and Michael, and Cara and Jake are three of the five married couples in the UT College of Medicine Class of 2005. All agree that the pluses of being married to a fellow student outweigh the minuses.

There are special challenges, too. Knowing that you and your spouse are following the same career path means that path just might have to make an unexpected turn. “We may have chosen other specialties had we been single. Some fields offer more flexibility than others to a two-physician family,” said Cara who opted for pediatrics, while Jake chose ophthalmology.

“When you’re choosing your specialty, you’re not just making a decision for the next year; it’s for the rest of your life,” noted Lea and Chuck, who both will pursue radiology. “You have to think how it’s going to work for everyone.”

“Compromise” seems to be the watchword of a dual medical career couple. “If we’re going to have a life-long career AND a family, we both have to invest in a successful family, as well as a career,” said Jake.

Chuck agreed, “We knew when we signed on to the deal that we would adjust our roles. I’m not foolish enough to think my wife will go through four years of ‘this’ and then stay home with kids.”

“Adjusting our roles” is an understatement for the Gillilands and the Bostroms, who chose to start their families in their fourth-years of med school. Both Jake and Chuck joked that they are taking their turns as house husbands.

Fortunately, the fourth year offers an opportunity to take three months to do things other than studying; most take the time to move to their residency locations. But Chuck and Jake took their daddy roles very seriously and stayed home with new babies, while their wives completed fourth-year rotations.

Other couples decide to wait on a family until after completing their residencies, “Medical school will determine when we start having kids,” said Meg.

Finding the ideal residency is a challenge for every fourth-year student and is a double hurdle for married couples. Michael points out that he and Meg have to find a place that is good in both of their specialties, which are anesthesiology and family medicine. “We may end up together at a place we wouldn’t have gone as individuals,” Mike noted.

“With both of us in radiology, we have to look at the bigger programs so we can both get a residency,” Lea said.

Jake and Cara had another consideration: ophthalmology residencies are unique in that the first year is an internship in internal medicine, and the last three years are focused on ophthalmology. “We may end up together at a place we wouldn’t have gone as individuals,” said Lea.

The Bostroms, Danekases and Gillilands were asked what advice they would give couples contemplating marriage and med school at the same time:

“Don’t put your life on hold because of medicine.”

“Let how you want your life to be shape your medical career …not the other way around.”

“If I were single, I know I’d have put my career ahead of my relationship … keep your priorities in order.”

The consensus of the group is that tackling marriage and med school simultaneously is a great foundation for a marriage. “If we could make it through gross anatomy together, we can make it through anything!”
The UT College of Medicine’s Council on International and Area Outreach (CIAO) recently lead an effort to raise funds for tsunami relief collectively across the seven colleges of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Established in 1997, CIAO is an endowed organization that fosters public service among UTHSC medical students. Under the direction of Pat Wall, MD, ‘60, and the leadership of CIAO President, Joe Mobley, M4, the medical student organization hopes to raise a minimum of $2,000. CIAO pledges to match donations up to $2,000.

“I believe we will prove $2,000 to have been a modest goal and that we will well surpass this amount once everyone has had a chance to contribute,” said Dr. Wall.

Mobley researched the various organizations involved in the national tsunami relief effort and identified Save the Children as one with a solid track record of working on the ground in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, two of the hardest hit countries. “We chose to make our contribution to Save the Children because over 90 cents of every dollar went directly to activities in the field,” explained Mobley.

Match Day

Students eagerly await the announcement of their residency assignments at Match Day.

Students celebrate getting a favorable residency match at Match Day.
Do you know your body mass index (BMI)? According to recently released results of the first Memphis Behavioral Risk Factors Survey (Memphis BRFS), nearly 85 percent of Shelby County adults do not know their BMI. For that matter, most people do not know their blood pressure or cholesterol numbers.

This landmark study of Memphis and Shelby County’s health was conducted as a joint effort of UTHSC and University of Memphis (U of M). Marion Hare, MD, ’89, UTHSC pediatrician and co-author of the survey report, points to just a few of the startling findings:

- **About two of every three adults in Memphis and Shelby County are overweight or obese, whether black, white, male, female, young or old.**
- **Almost one in 10 Memphis adults already have diabetes, which is higher than the national average.**
- **One in three adults have high blood pressure, which is higher than the national average.**

The study reveals that while most overweight Memphians are trying to lose weight, the most commonly cited barrier is the lack of a convenient place to exercise (42.5 percent).

In response to this finding, Dr. Hare noted, “Healthcare providers need to give people alternatives to exercising at a gym. We need to suggest ways to be physically active at home or at work.”

The 2004 study was designed and implemented under the direction of David Forde, PhD, of the University of Memphis Mid-South Social Survey Program and Jim Bailey, MD, the UT Callison Professor of Medicine, with the support of the Urban Child Institute.

“It is one study that will not sit on a shelf and gather dust; rather, this survey provides important benchmark data for Memphis and ongoing annual surveys which will allow tracking of local disease prevalence, health behaviors and perceived barriers to a healthy lifestyle,” said Dr. Hare.

The full report is available on-line at http://msss.memphis.edu/
“Growing up, a ‘good year’ for my family might have been earning $1,000 or it just might have meant we could afford three mules,” recollected Leroy Sherrill, MD, who was raised on a farm near Chattanooga with his three brothers and sisters.

“My older sister went to UT so I grew up knowing I wanted an education; I just wasn’t sure what in.” A high school theme assignment helped him to focus. “We were assigned to write about, ‘What I Want to Be When I Grow Up,’ and I sure didn’t know, but I did some research, and medicine seemed like a good thing, so I wrote about that. From then on, everyone seemed to assume that’s what I would do and so did I.”

There was just one minor problem. “We really don’t have the money, but we’ll find a way to support you,” his family said. By the time Dr. Sherrill was attending UT, his older sister was working, and she pitched in with her parents to pay his tuition.

Once Dr. Sherrill decided on what he wanted, he was single-minded and doggedly determined. “I just kept going, one semester at a time and somehow, I eventually graduated from UT medical school debt-free, believe it or not,” said Dr. Sherrill. “When I told my parents that I had spent $5,500 on med school, they couldn’t believe it. ‘We never had that much money!’ they exclaimed. Frankly, I can’t figure out how we did it.”

Dr. Sherrill didn’t want other aspiring young doctors to have to figure out how to pay for medical school if finances were an issue. “When our estate was secure, we wanted to make sure others had the same opportunity I had. Believe me, I was grateful right from the beginning and for every semester I was able to complete. I wanted to make it possible for someone else to go to medical school with one less worry.”

That “someone else” has become six since the Sherrill Scholarship Endowment Fund was initiated in June 2000. Dr. Sherrill knows most of the scholar-ship recipients personally, and they get more than financial aid from him; they get moral support and encouragement as well, with no strings attached.

About a current Sherrill Scholar, Wes Diddle, Dr. Sherrill commented, “I’m not sure I was ever as urbane and self confident when I was his age.”

“I think it’s important for physicians to share their stories with med students and to talk about their methods of coping,” commented Dr. Sherrill, who believes students crave interaction with experienced doctors.

Ian Gray, M4 and a Sherrill Scholar, agrees and is inspired by his interaction with Dr. Sherrill. “He is amazing, and Dr. Sherrill is the reason I came to UT and did not move out of state. He went to school with my father and was kind enough to write a story of my dad’s med school days and give it to me. I am immeasurably grateful for what he has done, and I hope to continue his good works.”

When asked for his advice to those still in medical school, Dr. Sherrill humbly replied, “I’m not sure that what I have to say is something they don’t already know. It’s fairly simple: Be as sure as you can that this is what you want to do, then be prepared for the struggle. Nothing worthwhile comes easy.”
Whether his legacy is evident in his advice or from his philanthropy, it is apparent that Dr. Sherrill has found a way to extend his own good fortune and experience to others; but as he pointed out, “The things that appeal to me may not be what others want to do. Most of us can’t underwrite an endowed chair, but there are many other ways to support the university.”

Although he’s now retired, Dr. Sherrill remains committed to the medical profession. He volunteers in the emergency room at Hutchinson Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. “If a patient is admitted without a doctor, they’re assigned to one of the volunteer physicians, and we take care of them while they’re in the hospital,” he explained.

“Determination and commitment are essential to every team, and we are extremely fortunate to have Dr. and Mrs. Sherrill on the UTHSC support team; they are remarkable people and we will always be grateful for their leadership in assisting students achieve their dreams,” said Sue Harpole, UTHSC vice chancellor for development.

Wouldn’t it be Nice to Get a Check from UT?

Many of us remember going to the Bursar’s office to pay our tuition and fees at the beginning of each quarter. Standing in line just to write a check … sometimes we wondered if we could stand in line … or make the check good!

You may not know it but there is actually a way to get paid by the university. By funding a charitable remainder trust, you may actually increase your income while reducing your taxes at the same time.

Here’s how it works:

Assume you have stock worth $100,000, and you paid $50,000 for it years ago. The stock only pays you 1 percent a year. You would like to move the money to a higher-yielding investment, but do not wish to pay the capital gains taxes on the appreciation. By transferring stock to the charitable remainder trust you receive the following benefits:

- Your income goes up five times, perhaps even more, depending on IRS regulations.
- You avoid $7,500 in capital gains taxes, thus keeping the entire $100,000 working for you.
- You receive an income tax deduction depending on your age. This can be used up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income (the bottom figure of the front page of your 1040) and can be carried forward for as many as five years.
- The $100,000 is not subject to estate taxes.
- You have the pleasure of making a gift to the UTHSC College of Medicine in your name or in the memory of a loved one.

Note: The university’s trust minimum is $50,000 and $5,000 for its pooled income fund. Please consult your tax or financial advisor before making such a gift depending on your tax and financial circumstance.

Contact Us

If you have any interest in discussing such plans, contact Bethany Goolsby, JD, director of planned giving, at (901) 448-5516, or 1-800-733-0482. As always, we appreciate your continued support.
UTHSC is pleased to announce a $500,000 donation by the Hyde Family Foundation to the Hamilton Eye Institute. This generous donation is being used to construct the Hyde Family Foundation Glaucoma Center.

“We are pleased to support UT’s Hamilton Eye Institute. Dr. Haik and his team are dedicated to providing the best possible education, research and clinical care in the area of ophthalmology,” said J.R. (Pitt) Hyde, III.

He commented, “Our foundation chose to specifically support the glaucoma center because of the hope affiliated with early diagnosis of glaucoma. Among the other benefits provided by the Hamilton Eye Institute, we feel that it will provide easy access to care for individuals with glaucoma. Here, too, research holds the promise of developing new and more effective therapies to combat this sight-robbing illness.”

Department of Ophthalmology chairman and the Hamilton Endowed Professor, Barrett G. Haik, MD, stated, “We are honored to have the support of Pitt and Barbara Hyde and their foundation. They are known for supporting quality education and research programs, and we are so pleased they felt we were deserving of their support. Dr. Peter Netland, one of the top ranked glaucoma specialists in the country, directs our glaucoma service. Under his guidance, this center will be able to advance treatment for this disease, which affects the lives of so many. Glaucoma is an asymptomatic disease, which robs sight without warning, and detection and early treatment are key to preventing blindness.”

The Hamilton Eye Institute is the only university eye center providing an advanced level of vision care for the Mid-South region. Named in honor of Memphis ophthalmologist and UT faculty member, Ralph S. Hamilton, MD, ’52, and his wife, Barbara Howell Hamilton, the institute provides services to patients from all walks of life. Recently, for the second consecutive year, the institute was ranked in the top ten facilities in the United States for clinical care. In the spring of this year, state-of-the-art research laboratories were completed; and construction of the clinical facilities are scheduled for completion in the summer of 2005.

Hyde is founder of AutoZone, an auto parts chain, established in 1979, that thrives throughout the country today. He and his wife, Barbara, have contributed greatly to the city of Memphis through their involvement and support of organizations such as the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis Tomorrow, Ballet Memphis, Greater Memphis Arts Council, Memphis in May and the Memphis Challenge. They were also instrumental in leading the efforts to bring the NBA’s Grizzlies to Memphis, fulfilling the city’s long-time dream of having an NBA team.
Alumni Mentors Encourage M3 Students

Most people are fortunate to find one mentor in their professional careers; so when the opportunity arose to ask 15 College of Medicine alumni about their residency decision-making experiences, nearly 50 M3 students jumped at the chance.

Pat Wall, MD, ‘60, associate dean for student affairs and UTHSC professor of pediatrics, heads up the career advising program. Last fall he saw an opportunity to parlay the College of Medicine’s alumni weekend into a learning experience for junior class students who must make career decisions within the next year; so he scheduled a one hour question-and-answer session between the students and College of Medicine Alumni Council members.

“It was overwhelming to realize that all of those doctors cared enough about medical students to take time out of their busy lives to help us make our career decisions,” said Frances Kirkland, third-year medical student.

Apparently the feeling was mutual. Jim Morris, MD, ‘72, a general surgeon from Lebanon, Tenn. who participated on the panel said, “It was a great experience for me; in fact, it was uplifting to have the interaction with students.”

“It’s good for us on the Alumni Council to get feedback from students who will be the flagships for years to come,” commented Albert Grobmyer, MD, ’62, a general surgeon who is currently CEO of Q Source, an independent, not-for-profit healthcare Quality Improvement Organization.

Dr. Wall facilitated the panel of UT medical alumni from a wide variety of specialties who shared their views on the profession in general, as well as their specialties.

“It seems the session helped lower the students’ anxiety levels about making their residency decisions. Several doctors said they discovered that their first choices out of medical school weren’t always what they ended up doing,” observed Ken King, MD, ‘74, an internal medicine private practitioner in Benton, Ky.

English Rockholt, M3, concurred, “The biggest thing I realized from this session was that no matter what decision we make in the next couple of years, medicine is always changing, and there is a lot of flexibility in the field. I thought it was very interesting to hear what people were doing now versus what they were doing when they graduated from medical school. That is extremely encouraging to me since I’m still not exactly sure what I want to do.”

“Hearing personal stories from doctors about why and how they chose the specialties they did, helped me to visualize what would be a good fit for me. We got to ask questions about specialties to doctors with both academic perspectives and private practices as well,” commented Kirkland.

“Most of us would do it all (choose the medical field) over again in spite of all the negatives happening in the field today,” said Dr. Morris. “The panel was very positive.”

The time, the occasion and the participants all seemed to fit for a productive experience.

“I would definitely encourage this session for all M3 students. It was perfect timing. We had a few core clerkships under our belt at the time of the session and at the same time, we still had plenty of time in the M3 year to think about what was discussed,” noted Rockholt.

“It was the perfect occasion to initiate dialogue; it was refreshing and healthy and, I think, should be continued. These students will be the face of our university to the medical profession at large,” said Dr. Grobmyer.

Dr. Wall concluded, “This mentoring session was such a success, it is now going to become a significant piece of the career advising program.”
**College of Medicine**  
**Alumni Council Officers**  
**2004 - 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2004-2006 Representatives</th>
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</table>
| East Tennessee | Richard Baker, M.D. ’68  
| | Kingsport  
| | Rhea Wesley Dean, Jr., M.D. ’86  
| | Powell  
| | W. Richard McGowan, M.D. ’69  
| | Johnson City  
| | William L. Burkhardt, M.D. ’82  
| | Knoxville  
| | James Killeffer, M.D. ’91  
| | Knoxville  
| Middle Tennessee | George Eckles, M.D. ’73  
| | Murfreesboro  
| | Jeffrey Kerlan, M.D. ’98  
| | Nashville  
| | James W. Morris, M.D. ’72  
| | Lebanon  
| | Richard B. Terry, M.D. ’70  
| | Nashville  
| | Deborah L. Williams, M.D. ’98  
| | West Tennessee | Mack Land, M.D. ’73  
| | Memphis  
| | Noel T. Florendo, M.D. ’74  
| | Memphis  
| | Ralph S. Hamilton, M.D. ’52  
| | Germantown  
| | James G. Johnson, M.D. ’63  
| | Memphis  
| | Jesse Cannon, Jr., M.D. ’76  
| | Covington  
| Alabama | George W. Hansberry, M.D. ’64  
| | Decatur  
| Arkansas | Paul J. Huffstutter, M.D. ’73  
| | West Memphis  
| Florida | Ann M. Grooms, M.D. ’66  
| | Gainesville  
| Georgia | James H. Harris, M.D. ’72  
| | Alpharetta  
| Kentucky | Nancy Flowers, M.D. ’58  
| | Somerset  
| Mississippi | Bruce A. Bullwinkel, M.D. ’74  
| | New Albany  
| North Carolina | Charles Parkin, M.D. ’63  
| | Statesville  
| South Carolina | (vacant)  
| Texas | Ronald Coy Jones, M.D. ’57  
| | Dallas  
| Virginia | James L. Cox, M.D. ’67  
| | McLean  

**Past Presidents**
- Mary C. Hammock, M.D. ’81  
  Chattanooga, TN
- Jerrall Paul Crook, M.D. ’58  
  Nashville, TN
- Albert J. Grobmyer III, M.D. ’62  
  Memphis, TN
- William N. Williford, M.D. ’70  
  Knoxville, TN
- Olin O. Williams, M.D. ’53  
  Murfreesboro, TN (deceased)
- John (Mac) Hodges, M.D. ’63  
  Memphis, TN
- Joe W. Black, Jr., M.D. ’57  
  Knoxville, TN
- John K. Wright, M.D. ’59  
  Nashville, TN
- John H. Burkhardt, M.D. ’45  
  Knoxville, TN (Deceased)
- Arthur R. Evans, Jr., M.D. ’50  
  Louisville, TN (deceased)
- Robert E. Clandenin, Jr., M.D. ’60  
  Union City, TN
- John P. Nash, M.D. ’56  
  Memphis, TN
- John K. Duckworth, M.D. ’56  
  Nesbit, MS

**Chancellor**
- William E. Owen, Jr., M.D.
  Dean of the College of Medicine
  Henry G. Herrod, M.D.
  Assistant Vice President, Alumni Programs
  Barbara McAdams, J.D.
  Directors of Alumni Programs
  Suzanne Davidson
  Amy Sorkin
  Vice Chancellor, Development
  Sue Harpole
  Directors of Development
  Andrew Prislovsky
  Shelby Terry
  Amanda Tamburrino
  Director of Planned Giving
  Bethany Goolsby, J.D.
UT National Alumni Association
2005 Tours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Classic tours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Passage of Peter The Great</td>
<td>June 29 - July 11</td>
<td>$2,695 (with air from Atlanta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruise The British Isles</td>
<td>June 30-July 11</td>
<td>$2,995 (+ air)</td>
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<td>Baltic Sea Cruise</td>
<td>July 7-19</td>
<td>$3,995 (+ air)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska: The Last Frontier</td>
<td>July 24-31</td>
<td>$3,595 (+ air to Juneau)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Great Rivers Cruise</td>
<td>Sept. 24-Oct. 2</td>
<td>$2,195 (+ air)</td>
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<td><strong>Village Life</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Life: In Ancient Greece</td>
<td>Oct. 11-19</td>
<td>$2,895 (+ air)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alumni Campus Abroad</strong></td>
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<td>Italy’s Lake District (Baveno)</td>
<td>July 4-12</td>
<td>$1,895 (+ air)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland – Kinsale</td>
<td>Aug. 14-22</td>
<td>$1,795 (+ air)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>Sept. 4-12</td>
<td>$1,895 (+ air)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlemagne’s Dream (Main Danube Canal)</td>
<td>Sept. 9-17</td>
<td>$1,995 (+ air)</td>
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For more information, contact: Kris Phillips, Director of Alumni Affairs, or Ginny Snow, Principal Secretary, Alumni Affairs (865)-974-3011; http://www.otalumni.utk.edu/tourcal2005.html or http://www.otalumni. utk.edu/Tours2005.html
Walter T. Hughes, MD, received the 2004 Citation Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America for outstanding research in infectious diseases.

Carter F. Miller, Jr., MD, retired in July 2003 as founder and senior member of the Knoxville Pathology Group, now IPS. He remains active as a board member of P.S.A., a national service organization for private practitioners of pathology.

Roy C. Ellis, Jr., MD, has been practicing medicine for 42 years in Harrogate, Tenn. where he served on the Board of Education for 30 years.

George W. Hansberry, MD, retired in February after 40 years as a family physician in Decatur, Ala. He left a huge imprint on his profession, his alma mater and the city of Decatur. Having served on the boards of several medical-related organizations over his career, he left an indelible mark by helping to lead the fund-raising effort for the Community Free Clinic of Decatur-Morgan County where he still actively volunteers his services. An avid UT alumnus, Dr. Hansberry chaired the Class of 1964’s 40th reunion and has served on the UT Medical Alumni Council since 2001. He served with 40 community organizations or special events and received numerous awards including: the Decatur Kiwanis Golden Trowel Award for Outstanding Community Service (1993), the National Brotherhood of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award (1993) and the Spirit of America, Barrett C. Shelton Award for Outstanding contributions to the city of Decatur and the state of Alabama (1994).

Leonard Brown, MD, was elected chairman of the Board of Governors for the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery last September in New York City.

Mahlon Johnson, MD, PhD, has joined the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine and the staff at the University of Tennessee Medical Center as a professor of neuropathology. He has authored numerous publications and book chapters on topics in neuropathology. Dr. Johnson is also well known in the mainstream media as the author of the creative non-fiction book, “Working on a Miracle,” which was translated into 11 languages. As a result of the book and his experiences, Johnson has been featured on 60 Minutes, The Today Show, Time’s special issue “Heroes of Medicine,” the cover of USA Weekend, Der Speigel, Paris Match and other media outlets coast-to-coast.

Gazi B. Zibari, MD, is professor of surgery and chief at Louisiana State University Health Science Center (LSUHSC) and director of the LSU Regional Transplant Center. He is president of the Louisiana Surgical Association, chairman of the annual scientific program for the Louisiana college chapter, vice president of the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency, and vice president of the American Foundation for Donation and Transplantation. In 2004 he was named as one of America’s Top Surgeons by the Consumer’s Research Council of America. Dr. Zibari has spent one month every year since the first Gulf War doing medical missionary work in Kurdistan.

Mark Dayton Herron, MD, is practicing dermatology in Montgomery, Ala. He completed a medical pediatric residency, a dermatology residency and a pediatric fellowship. He and his wife have two daughters, Ellie (7) and Vivian (3).

Brian L. Abbott, MD, became clinical director of leukemia and lymphoma at the University of Colorado, where he is also on the bone marrow and stem cell transplant faculty. In the laboratory, he is studying blood stem cell markers.

Sean T. Smith, MD, was deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2003 after completing a pediatric residency in San Antonio, Texas. He is currently a staff pediatrician at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He and his wife are expecting their fourth child this summer.
Clifton Woolley, MD, died Dec. 31, 2004 at the age of 94. A pediatrician by trade, he was best known as the team doctor for the University of Memphis football team, a post he held for four decades. He was a decorated World War II veteran, earning both the Silver and Bronze Stars. According to newspaper accounts, Dr. Woolley won the Silver Star for rushing 3,000 yards through enemy territory in northern Luzon, an island in the Philippines, to save a wounded man.

W. M. Buttermore, MD, died March 9, 2005 in Corbin, Ky.

Walter K. Hoffman, Jr., MD, died Nov. 1, 2004. Dr. Hoffman founded the Medical Group in Memphis in the mid 1950s, practicing medicine from 1945 to 1999. Also, he was a past president of the Memphis and Tennessee Heart Associations.

George W. Clayton, Sr., MD, died Jan. 18, 2005 in Galveston, Texas, where he had retired and was working as a part-time pediatric endocrinologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch after a long and distinguished career. He began his career in academic medicine at Baylor College of Medicine as the first specialist in children’s endocrinology in 1954, and subsequently became a full professor serving as vice chairman of the pediatric department. He established and was the director of the Clinical Research Center of the Texas Children’s Hospital at Baylor University.

Robert Eugene Yoss, MD, PhD, died Nov. 16, 2004. Dr. Yoss received his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Michigan Graduate School in 1953, accepting a position as assistant professor of neuroanatomy there upon graduation. He was on active duty with the Medical Corps from 1953 to 1955, when he joined the staff of the Mayo Clinic where he was also a professor of neurology at Mayo Medical School. After retiring from the clinic in 1982, he continued private practice, limited to patients with narcolepsy. He retired in 1995.

Harold H. Fry, Jr., MD, died Nov. 20, 2004 while visiting southernmost Chile in South America. After graduating from UTHSC, Dr. Fry received a master’s degree in public health from Harvard University and completed a residency in psychiatry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was board certified in aerospace medicine and psychiatry. Dr. Fry served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and was awarded a commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters, as well as the Air Force medal during the Vietnam War era.

Albert W. Biggs III, MD, died Dec. 15, 2004 at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville, where he had been vice chancellor with administrative responsibilities for the medical education program and the hospital since 1975. Prior to that, Dr. Biggs had been a professor of urology and chairman of the Department of Urology at UTHSC. He was a past president of the southeastern section of the American Urological Association. Dr. Biggs established the Pastoral Care program at UT and helped provide vaccinations and general healthcare to the homeless through the Rescue Mission.

Rebekah E. Griffitts Wiser, MD, died Sept. 28, 2004. Dr. Griffitts Wiser was Dickson, Tenn.’s first emergency physician certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and was a founding fellow of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine. In 1962, she entered the UTHSC College of Medicine as one of three women in the freshman class; she was the only one of the three to graduate. After a rotating internship at the City of Memphis Hospital, she married a classmate, Dr. Eldred Wiser. While Dr. Wiser was serving as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Griffitts Wiser practiced medicine as a general medical officer at Barksdale Air Force base in Shreveport, La. The couple returned to Memphis in 1969 where Dr. Griffitts Wiser began a pediatric residency, but also accepted a position as general medical officer with the U.S. Public Health Service in order to support the family, while her husband completed a four-year

Continued on p.30
general surgical residency. She returned to practice in Central Tennessee and, in 1992, earned board certification in emergency medicine 27 years after her graduation from medical school.

Garabed H. Aivazian, MD, died in November 2004. A former professor at the UT College of Medicine, Dr. Aivazian was a graduate of the American University of Beirut (Lebanon) Medical School, where he was a recipient of a Rockefeller Fellowship in psychiatry. He was a consultant for the Veterans Administration Medical Center-Memphis, an American Psychiatric Fellow, former president of the Tennessee district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, former director of residency training in psychiatry, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry (UTHSC), and former chief of psychiatric services at City of Memphis hospitals.

Donald S. Acuff, MD, died Oct. 30, 2004. He was director of the pathology labs at Park West Hospital Laboratories and the laboratory of Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. 

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Pictured, from left to right, are the staff of the Alumni Affairs Office: Suzanne Davidson, Barbara McAdams, and Amy Sorkin.

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