UTHSC Graduates Nearly 700

At ceremonies on May 15, 22 and 29, UTHSC graduated a total of 698 health care professionals.

Six different graduation ceremonies were hosted by the deans of the six UTHSC colleges. During each of the ceremonies, UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, conferred the degrees and gave the charge to the graduates.

This year’s graduating class included 68 African-Americans, 12 Latino-Americans, and 145 graduates who came from out of state to study at UTHSC. In addition, this graduating class comprised 410 women and 288 men. Plus, 26 of the out-of-state dentistry graduates were Arkansans who earned their doctoral degrees from the UTHSC College of Dentistry. Arkansas students come to Tennessee to train as dentists because Arkansas has no dental school.

The 698 UTHSC graduates, along with their friends and families, enjoyed commencement according to the following schedule:

- 175 from the College of Pharmacy on Friday, May 15 at 2 p.m. at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, 70 N. Bellevue Blvd.
  Speaker: Joseph T. DiPiro, PharmD, dean, professor and Archie O. McCalley Chair at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy
- 116 from the College of Dentistry on Friday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m. at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, 70 N. Bellevue Blvd.
  Speaker: James "Jay" R. Hight, Jr., DDS, president of the Tennessee Dental Association and UTHSC College of Dentistry alumn. He discussed ethical practice decisions.
- 142 from the College of Health Professions on Friday, May 29 at 9 a.m. at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, 255 N. Main St.
  Speaker: Diane Wyatt, MS, retired in 2009 from the UTHSC College of Allied Health Sciences, now the College of Health Professions. She worked at UTHSC in various roles for 18 years and spent 43 years total in the medical laboratory science field, providing didactic and clinical training along with leadership and service.
- 38 from the College of Graduate Health Sciences on Friday, May 29 at 11 a.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center, 255 N. Main St.
- 149 from the College of Medicine on Friday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, 255 N. Main St.
  Speaker: Alvin H. Crawford, MD, FACS, first African American to graduate from the UT College of Medicine in 1964. He served for 29 years as chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, where the Crawford Spine Center is dedicated in his name, and where he now holds endowed chairs in Pediatric Orthopaedics and Spinal Surgery.
- 78 from the College of Nursing on Friday, May 29 at 7 p.m. at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, 255 N. Main St.
  Speaker: Sherry Webb, BSN, MSN, DNSc, nurse for 43 years and option coordinator for the MSN CNL (Clinical Nurse Leader) program at UTHSC.

Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich came to campus April 23 to speak about sexual assault, domestic violence and the Special Victims Prosecution Unit. The event was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Office of Equity and Diversity’s efforts to prevent sexual assault and violence.

Amy Weirich, Shelby County District Attorney, and Dustin Fulton, deputy conduct and compliance officer for UTHSC’s Office of Equity and Diversity

From the Chancellor: Lori Gonzalez is New Vice Chancellor

Lori S. Gonzalez, PhD, has been named vice chancellor of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs. Dr. Gonzalez joins UTHSC from the University of North Carolina General Administration, the North Carolina higher education authority, where she served as a special advisor to the chief academic officer.

As the chief academic officer of UTHSC and its statewide campuses, Dr. Gonzalez will assume her new responsibilities, working from UTHSC’s main campus in Memphis, on July 1.

With more than 27 years of experience in higher education, Dr. Gonzalez brings a wealth of experience and insight to this position. We look forward to the many contributions she is sure to make to our statewide campus community.

The vice chancellor of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs is responsible for setting policy and procedure for all academic programs as well as for the development and execution of strategic initiatives to promote these programs. Her office will be responsible for the vision, leadership, policy, and monitoring of academic, faculty, and student affairs for UTHSC. Vigorous advocacy for the academic programs and the intellectual life of the university community is essential.

Dr. Gonzalez will work closely with the deans and other vice chancellors to set academic priorities and to allocate funds to move these priorities forward. She will collaborate with the deans and lead academic planning, policy, curriculum, and program development efforts; provide for meaningful faculty and academic staff development activities; and establish academic budgeting priorities. In this role, Dr. Gonzalez will also serve as the primary academic officer for the interface with the Faculty Senate and academic officers in all colleges.

Dr. Gonzalez will assume the position being vacated by Dr. Cheryl R. Scheid, who has served since September 2006. In late 2014, Dr. Scheid announced her plans to retire at the end of June 2015, the close of the state’s fiscal year.

Dr. Scheid has served the UTHSC community with commitment, caring and sound judgment, forging close partnerships with her counterparts at the UT system, and working to adjust and improve our organization’s academic processes and policies. We wish her all the best as she embarks on her next chapter.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor
The UTHSC brand is getting a reboot. It isn’t a radical change; some people may not even notice, but with a new, cleaner look will come more resources and explanations of branding and logo use for UTHSC staff, faculty and students, all in one convenient place on the web.

THE UTHSC BRAND

According to the theory of rapid cognition, people view and process information, then make judgments within six seconds. Because perceptions are formed so quickly, branding – presenting a consistent external and internal image – becomes extremely important.

A strong brand will clearly deliver a message, confirm credibility, connect with constituencies and create loyalty. Thus, our brand is one of our most precious assets.

Every time we communicate, whether through a brochure, a presentation or a video, we have the opportunity to build our UTHSC brand.

Each of us at UTHSC helps build the brand, and it is incumbent upon each of us to protect it.

The new UTHSC Graphic Identity Standards and Branding Guidelines are being prepared to assist in implementing a consistent identity system. They provide cohesion and bring together our many different colleges, divisions and institutes so that when seen, people will think UTHSC.

Topics covered in the new UTHSC Branding Guide include:

- The Look: Protecting Our Brand
- The UTHSC Logo
- Logo Variations
- Secondary Identifiers
- Alternate Logos
- The UTHSC ShortSig
- Promotions
- The University Seal
- The College Seals
- The Primary Colors
- The Secondary Colors
- Resources
- The Policies

Any art for any item that uses the UTHSC logo – T-shirts, brochures, fliers, posters, and any other printed or digital representation – must first be approved by Communications and Marketing. Communications and Marketing can be contacted at communications@uthsc.edu or (901) 448-5544.

STRENGTHENING THE UTHSC BRAND

Students and organizations often do not realize all that they need to do before producing and selling an item such as a T-shirt. First, they must submit the design for their art to the UTHSC Communications and Marketing Department for review. After Communications and Marketing has reviewed, edited and approved the design, it then must be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs at www.uthsc.edu/studentlife/documents/student-solicitation-fillable-form.pdf.

All student fund-raising projects, even when they don’t include the UTHSC brand, must first be approved by the Office of Student Affairs. The Office of Trademark Licensing will provide an updated list of approved vendors from which to choose at http://licensing.tennessee.edu/. Vendors who do not appear on the list are not approved to print items with the UTHSC brand.

For more information about licensing, contact Michael Keener at mkeener@tennessee.edu or Katrina Phelps at kphelps5@tennessee.edu.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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RACE FOR THE SUMMITT

The third annual Race for the Summitt 4-Miler held March 21 to raise money for the Pat Summitt Foundation for Alzheimer’s disease research drew its best attendance this year, according to Pharmacy student and race founder Jennifer Reed Beavers. The race, held on the UTHSC campus, was hosted by the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) at UTHSC. A total of 304 runners showed up, 374 registered, and with memory donors (who didn’t run but gave money) the total sign up hit 429.
Administrative Professionals Day “Just as Important!”

The UTHSC campus joined organizations across the country in observing Administrative Professionals Day on April 22. At the luncheon in the Student-Alumni Center, the theme was “Celebrating the Generational Melting Pot.” Tonjanita Johnson, PhD, vice president of the University of Tennessee system for Communications and Marketing, was the keynote speaker.

During her speech, Dr. Johnson paid homage to the many administrative professionals who had made a difference in her life. “Some of us see you for the incredible and extraordinarily talented individuals that you are,” she said. “Be proud of the critical role that you play.”

“The profession has transformed into something so much more than answering phones and making coffee,” she continued. Dr. Johnson traced the role of administrative assistant back to ancient Egypt, and noted that the term “secretary” came from Latin and was related to the word “secret” – it referred to the ability to handle sensitive, confidential information.

“Never say ‘I’m just an administrative assistant,’” she concluded. “If you must use the word ‘just,’ say, ‘I’m just as important.’”

From left, Chandra Alston, associate vice chancellor for Human Resources, presents a gift to Tonjanita Johnson, vice president of the University of Tennessee system for Communications and Marketing. Below, administrative professionals receive yellow roses as they exit the luncheon April 22 in the Student-Alumni Center.

UTHSC SPONSORS NEONATOLOGY CONFERENCE IN NEPAL

UTHSC helped to organize the first International Conference of Neonatology held in Dharan, Nepal, March 8-10, 2015.

The conference, whose theme was “Use of Evidence-Based Practice Model to Optimize Care of Vulnerable Newborns,” was a joint effort of the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC and the Department of Pediatrics at the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, also in Dharan, Nepal.

The conference was chaired by Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy, MD, neonatology division chief at UTHSC; Rajesh Dudani, MD, an assistant professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC, served as its organizing secretary. A graduate himself of the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dr. Dudani described himself as “very happy to organize” a collaboration between UTHSC and his alma mater.

Dr. Ajay Talati, MD, professor of Pediatrics and OB/GYN at UTHSC, also helped to organize this conference but was unable to attend. Other notable participants from UTHSC and its partners included: Kirtikumar Upadhyay, MD, assistant professor of Pediatrics, UTHSC; Jane Thompson, RN, patient care coordinator from Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU); and Marianne Mejia, RN, patient care coordinator from Regional One Health, NICU.

Rajesh Dudani, MD, (PI) and Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy, MD, (co-PI) also received an unrestricted medical education grant of $20,000 from Mead Johnson Nutrition to support this conference.

The program covered a range of recent advances in neonatal medicine, and included panel discussions, poster presentations and workshops. There were around 60 participants for each of the two primary workshops.

According to Dr. Dudani, some of the most distinguished physicians in the field of neonatology from South Asia, the Middle East and the United States attended, along with approximately 200 physicians from Nepal. The World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Ministry of Health of Nepal, the Nepal Pediatrics Society, and other medical universities and not-for-profit organizations also were represented.

The goals of the activity, Dr. Dudani said, included improving the competency of attendees and the quality of care received by newborns, with a focus on new and future therapies, and the fostering of an opportunity for attendees to interact with colleagues from across Nepal and internationally.

Several media organizations from Nepal covered the event.

As for future partnerships between UTHSC and the B.P. Koirala Institute, Dr. Dudani said, “We are hoping to pursue more collaborative work between two institutions in research and improving patient care in Nepal.”
April Blood Drive a Success

Stefanie Haffer, and Charles “Taylor” Valadie, both first-year students in the UTHSC College of Medicine, give blood under the care of Libblood’s Nicole Parker. Libblood and the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation at UTHSC teamed up to host a blood drive Tuesday, April 21, in the GEB, collecting 49 units of blood to boost supplies before summer. According to Libblood, those 49 units have potential to save 147 lives.

UTHSC RAISES $3,381 FOR NEPAL

On April 30, donations for Nepal earthquake relief came in a range of amounts, from coins and $1 bills to checks for more than $100. Together team members at UTHSC raised $3,381 in six hours and delivered the funds to the local Red Cross office.

Diwa Koirala, Sabina Ranjit and Bishwas Shrestha, UTHSC graduate research assistants who are all from Nepal, spent six hours in the GEB thanking contributors and sharing the news they were hearing firsthand from their family members in their home country.

“We’d like to thank all the UTHSC team members who made the time to donate to this important cause,” said UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab. “With the death toll continuing to climb, and many villages being difficult to access because of blocked roadways, there is still so much more to do. But we know the Red Cross will combine our donation with many others to make a tangible, positive difference in this catastrophic situation. Thank you for taking the time to give.”

Medical Lab Professionals Week

The week of April 20-24 was Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, and student Yarsha Jenkins helped spread the news on April 22 in the lobby of the 920 Madison building.

Jenkins, who is earning an MS degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, passed out information and answered questions for anyone interested in knowing more about the profession, which employs approximately 300,000 people in the United States. In recognition of the week, Clinical Laboratory Sciences students are also raising money for FedExFamilyHouse through a GoFundMe campaign http://www.gofundme.com/fedexfamilyhouse.

According to KathyKenwright, who chairs the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, the BS in Medical Laboratory Science program at UTHSC started in 1923 and is the oldest program in the country. “Alumni from our program work in many different jobs including hospital laboratories, doctor’s offices and research facilities,” she said. “These highly trained laboratory professionals perform the tests that provide information critical for about 70 percent of all diagnoses made by physicians.”

COPS’ CORNER: Preventing Mercury Spills and Exposure

Mercury from broken thermometers and other equipment such as manometers and blood pressure cuffs can present hazards for faculty, staff and students. Mercury is also a hazardous waste that is expensive to dispose of properly. Safety Affairs encourages the use of non-mercury thermometers and other products when available in order to increase safety and reduce environmental hazards.

For example, there are non-mercury thermometers with temperature and accuracy ranges equal to most mercury thermometers with the exception to the high end of the temperature scale. Non-mercury thermometers are available for temperature ranges from -100 to 260°C (-148 to 500°F). Therefore, non-mercury thermometers can be used in many applications where mercury thermometers have traditionally been used such as water baths, incubators, etc.

UT General Stores will order non-mercury thermometers for you or you can purchase directly through a vendor. Consideration should also be given to replacing other equipment containing mercury as resources permit.

Departments that possess mercury and mercury-containing equipment such as thermometers can refer to the below guidelines.

Please DO:
• Purchase a Mercury Spill Kit if you are using mercury thermometers and familiarize yourself with the cleanup instructions enclosed
• After a spill is cleaned up, place material in a secure container (zip- lock bag, covered beaker, etc.) and call Safety Affairs for a hazardous waste pick-up
• If you are unable to contain and clean up the spill, call Safety Affairs for assistance at (901) 448-6114.

Please DO NOT:
• Handle mercury without gloves. (The fumes are very corrosive.)
• Pour mercury down the drain.
• Put mercury in the trash.
• Use a regular vacuum or shop vacuum to clean up a mercury spill.

For more information, please call the Safety Affairs Office at (901) 448-6114.

Norfleet Forum Focused on Alcohol

On Thursday, April 30, the Frank M. Norfleet Forum for the Advancement of Health focused on alcohol use disorders in adults and youth. The one-day forum titled, “Populations Particularly Vulnerable to Alcohol Use Disorders,” was held in the auditorium of the FedEx Institute of Technology on the University of Memphis campus.

Four main areas were examined—genetic vulnerability to alcohol use disorders (AUD); alcohol use during pregnancy and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; vulnerability to AUD in youth and the risks of mixing alcohol with energy drinks; and the role of immune status and inflammation on the liver and pancreas in AUD. Internationally known leaders in each area addressed these and other issues related to alcohol abuse and the populations most at risk.

The annual forum is made possible thanks to the support of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis and its donors. An endowed fund to support the forum was established in 1979 with a gift from Dunbar Abston, Sc., in honor of Frank M. Norfleet.

Each year, the forum brings together researchers, health care providers and the community to interact, discuss and address major health problems. The Department of Pharmacology in the College of Medicine at UTHSC organized this year’s event.

“Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, immune system depression and liver disease are all highly prevalent in the Memphis community,” said Alex M. Dopicc, MD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology at UTHSC, as well as chair of the UTHSC organizing committee for this year’s forum. He believes information regarding teens mixing alcohol and energy drinks will be especially useful to area educators, as well as to health practitioners, law enforcement officials and members of the community who must deal with the human cost of this dangerous combination.

“The forum was designed to attract a wide audience interested in the societal and medical consequences of AUD,” Dr. Dopicci said.
Information Security of UTHSC Information Technology Services is here to protect and secure! The Information Security team is on a mission to ensure the protection of confidential data at UTHSC. Our team hosts Information Security sessions with focus-based topics such as how to detect confidential data, securing data with strong passwords and passcodes, and emailing securely. Awareness and passwords are critical but encryption adds another deep layer of defense.

Confidential information is identified as any information or data concerning an individual maintained by an organization, including any information that could be used to distinguish or trace that individual’s identity, and any other information that is linked or linkable, such as medical, educational, financial and employment information.

Confidential information can also be labeled as classified, sensitive, restricted, or private depending on the source of the data.

Examples of confidential information include, but are not limited to:
- Full name, maiden name, mother’s maiden name, or alias.
- Social security number (SSN), passport number, driving license number, taxpayer identification number, or financial account or credit card number.
- Any personal characteristics, including photographic image (especially of face or other identifying characteristic), fingerprints, handwriting, or other biometric data (e.g., retina scan, voice signature, facial geometry).

Encryption is a very effective way to secure confidential information and data. To read an encrypted file, you must have access to a secret key or password that enables you to decrypt it. Full disk encryption, or FDE, gives you the protection and data security you need to protect your device and confidential information across every device and application. In the event a device is lost or stolen, full disk encryption ensures your data is unreadable.

If you have acquired a UTHSC-owned laptop and/or desktop, full disk encryption soon will become a requirement. Currently, within full disk encryption is being deployed to all laptops and other mobile computing devices. During the initial phase of encrypting ITS-owned devices, our endpoint security analyst, along with ITS computer technicians, are gaining experience with the technology before requiring and deploying full disk encryption on university-owned laptop(s).

IT UPDATE: Laptop Encryption is Coming

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding Encryption: UTHSC Data Protection, contact the UTHSC Information Security team at (901) 448-1579 or itsecurity@uthsc.edu.

UT Day on the Hill

Each year, the University of Tennessee Office of Government Relations and Advocacy presents UT Day on the Hill.

Set up in the Legislative Plaza in Nashville, the event showcases for legislators the good work going on throughout the UT System.

Several UTHSC students, as well as staff members from Communications and Marketing and UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, made the trek to Nashville to represent UTHSC to the legislators.

From left, Lauren Desain, a medical student; UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab; Chad Slaven, a dental student; and Crystal Martin Walker from the Colleges of Nursing and Graduate Health Sciences.

First BSN Graduating Class Had 100% Pass Rate

The first graduating class of the reactivated Bachelor Science in Nursing (BSN) program graduated in December 2014, and 35 out of 35 students passed the National Council Licensure Examination on their first attempt.

To compare, the average for the state of Tennessee is 87 percent and the national average is 81 percent.

“I am so proud of our faculty, our students, and our reactivated BSN program,” Interim Dean Wendy Likes said. “A perfect pass rate is real-world evidence of the commitment of our outstanding faculty and the high-quality, high-achieving applicants who choose to attend the College of Nursing.”

She added, “The demand for baccalaureate-prepared nurses is increasing, and the CON [at UTHSC] has demonstrated it can provide these very needed integral health care providers.”

National Public Health Week

As a part of National Public Health Week, the Colleges of Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing at UTHSC collaborated to bring Teddy Bear Checkups to students at Cornerstone Preparatory School on April 10. Roughly 100 kindergarten students were given stuffed bears to take to different stations where they learned about taking care of themselves using the bears as examples. The effort lets children learn about basic health topics in a fun and engaging way.

UTHSC students manned multiple stations distributing information to the children on nutrition, stretching and exercise, dental hygiene, tobacco use, kidney health and drug abuse.

PATE HONORED BY STUDENTS

At the annual UTHSC SGAEC awards banquet held April 28 in the Student-Alumni Center, Jane Pate, editorial and design specialist in the Communications and Marketing department, was given the Imhotep Award.

The highest honor the students can bestow on a staff member, the Imhotep Award is given only in years when the students believe someone has gone above and beyond in providing students with an additional voice to make changes and assist them throughout the year.

Pate began working in Communications and Marketing in 2012. Since this time, she has been responsible for coordinating the production of the UTHSC yearbook, The Asklepieion. She initiated the annual “A Day in the Life” photo shoot in which students are encouraged to take photographs from around the UTHSC campus and submit them for use in the yearbook. She has also accompanied students to Nashville for UT Day on the Hill two years in a row.

Jane Pate with incoming SGAEC president Dinah Ali

JUNE 2015

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Forensic Center Earns Prized Reaccreditation

The West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center (WTRFC), which has been managed by UTHSC since July 1, 2014, has been reaccredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), the premier organization of physician medical examiners, coroners, medical death investigators and medicolegal system administrators in the United State.

According to NAME, accreditation is an endorsement that the policies and procedures of the office meet prescribed standards for medicolegal systems. Accreditation, which involves an onsite, peer-review process and is conferred for a period of five years, signifies that the office performs with a high degree of competence and attention to public service. The review looks at administration and procedures, but does not apply to individual practitioners or the work produced by the office.

The WTRFC houses the Shelby County Medical Examiner’s Office, and oversees medicolegal death investigation services for 20 counties west of the Tennessee River. The Shelby County Commission last year awarded UTHSC a one-year, $3.1 million contract to operate the facility, with an option to renew for three additional one-year periods.

“We work for the people of Shelby County. This accreditation means that every citizen can be assured that medicolegal death investigation in Shelby County occurs at the highest level,” said Karen Chancellor, MD, chief medical examiner for Shelby County. Dr. Chancellor, a forensic pathologist, also serves as a professor in the Department of Pathology in the College of Medicine at UTHSC.

“We bid on the contract for the WTRFC because we believe we are uniquely positioned to deliver high-quality, cost-effective management, and to further the education, public service, clinical care and research the facility delivers for the benefit of the health and welfare of the citizens of Shelby County and West Tennessee,” said Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, FACHE, executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer for UTHSC.

“Reaccreditation confirms our success,” he said. “I am proud of each person at the WTRFC for continuing to do this very difficult job, and for being the consummate professionals necessary to achieve full accreditation status.”

Investigations by the medical examiner’s office totaled 2,687 in 2011; 3,709 in 2012; and 4,152 in 2013. The WTRFC is located at 637 Poplar Ave. in a $10 million facility that opened in June 2012.

BOLING CENTER PLANS CAMP IN JUNE

Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) will have a unique opportunity to participate in a fun and exciting camp with activities to help them develop appropriate social skills. The UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities has opened registration for its 13th “All Days Are Happy Days” summer day camp. Open to children ages 6 to 11 and offering one-to-three supervision, the camp runs from June 8-12.

A team of professional social workers, educators and medical personnel from the UT Boling Center will be available to provide oversight and consultation. The Boling Center will hold “All Days Are Happy Days” camp at St. Columba Episcopal Center, 4577 Billy Maher Rd. in Memphis. The day camp is designed to help children understand their ADHD-type behaviors.

Campers team with other children who experience similar issues related to ADHD, such as inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity. Promoting self-esteem and learning appropriate problem-solving behaviors in a fun environment will help these children realize they are not alone in facing their challenges.

Interested parents can register children or obtain more details by contacting Ashley Annestedt by phone (901) 448-6670 or email annestedt@uthsc.edu. Parents may also visit the Boling Center website at www.uthsc.edu/bcdd.

Part of the College of Medicine at UTHSC, the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities is an interdisciplinary program that supports children and adults with developmental disabilities – as well as their families – through training, service, applied research, information dissemination, planning and policy development.

Dr. Brown Addresses AAMC

Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, FACHE, spoke at the spring meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on April 24. He addressed the AAMC’s Group on Business Affairs/Group on Institutional Planning, covering the twin themes of “Space Master Planning for Faculty Success in a Constrained Resource Climate” and “Moving From an Incidental Campus to an Intentional Campus for UTHSC.”

Dr. Brown is executive vice chancellor and chief operations officer of UTHSC.

JULY 1 DEADLINE FOR UTRF AWARD

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation is accepting nominations for the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley award for excellence in technology transfer. The deadline for submission is July 15. The $5,000 award will be presented in the fall of 2015.

The B. Otto and Kathleen Wheeley Award is given to a University of Tennessee faculty member, graduate student, medical or pharmacy resident, or post doc who excels in the commercialization of university-based research results. Recent winners include Gabor Tigyi, Tami Wyatt, J. Douglas Birdwell, Tsiewei Wang and Edward Chaum.

Selection criteria include:
• The technological and/or scientific significance of the invention,
• The market success of the product or process,
• The active involvement of the nominee in the commercialization process, and
• The nominee’s contribution to the university’s missions of teaching, research and service.

The technology transfer description must include: the company (or companies) that have licensed the technology; the information on the market to which the product is directed and its success in the market place; the innovative/unique qualities of the product or process and its benefits to society; and, the nominee’s active and direct involvement in commercialization process.

For more information, visit http://utrf.utk.edu or contact Melissa Dos Santos at (865) 974-1809 or mdossant@utk.edu.
On Feb. 25, the University of Tennessee initials appeared on a Memphis hospital for the first time since 2004, when the UT Bowld Hospital closed its doors.

The bright orange UT icon was added to new exterior signage at Methodist University Hospital, which became Methodist UT Hospital in recognition of the successful and growing partnership between UTHSC and the Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare system. The new signage above the hospital’s main entrance and its new Emergency Department entrance was unveiled at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 25.

Members of the UT Board of Trustees, who were holding their winter meeting in Memphis at UTHSC Feb. 25-26, were on hand for the unveiling ceremony.

A brief program and lunch began at noon in the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health located inside the main hospital entrance in the Tower wing.

UT System President Joe DiPietro, UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD; Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare CEO Gary Shorb; Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare President and COO Michael Ugwueke, MPH, DHA, FACHE; and Methodist University Hospital CEO Jeff Liebman, DDM, MBA, offered remarks prior to unveiling the new signage.

Methodist UT Hospital, the largest and most comprehensive hospital in the Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare system, is a core teaching hospital for UTHSC. Faculty members from UTHSC make up a significant complement of the physicians and clinicians who provide care at the hospital while teaching the next generation of health care professionals in the clinical and hospital setting.

The hospital is also home to UT Methodist Physicians, an academic physician practice group created in 2013 as an outgrowth of the partnership between the university and the hospital.

Below, from left, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare CEO Gary Shorb, UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare President and COO Michael Ugwueke.
**GRANTS**

- John Bissler, MD  
  $637,501/three years  
  U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity  
  Prevention of TSC Renal Disease

- Monica Brown, DO  
  $150,000/one year  
  The Scleroderma Foundation  
  "17,20(OH)2pD Mediates Antifibriotic Effects in Murine Models of Sclerosis"

- Subimal Datta, PhD  
  $1.4 million/four years  
  National Institute of Mental Health (National Institutes of Health)  
  Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of REM Sleep

- Mohamad Elabiad, MD  
  $26,618/one year  
  The Gerber Foundation  
  "Pharmacokinetics of Lead, Mercury and Cadmium in Extremely Low Birth Weight Infants After Co-Transfusion with Packed Red Blood Cells"

- Byron Jones, PhD  
  $2.6 million/five years  
  National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (National Institutes of Health)  
  "Neural Toxicity of Paraglut is Related to Iron Regulation in the Midbrain"

- Sarah Neuner  
  $1,4 million/four years  
  National Institutes of Health (National Institutes of Health)  
  "Identification of Genetic Modifiers of Neuronal Deficits and Memory Failure in Alzheimer's Disease"

- Tim Salukiaroglou, PhD,  
  Ashley Harkrider, PhD  
  $417,625/two years  
  National Institute for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (National Institutes of Health)  
  "Hospital Responses to Medicare Readmission Penalties"

- Robert W. Williams, PhD  
  $300,000/three years  
  Research to Prevent Blindness  
  "Molecular Activity in the Retina that Initiates Glaucoma"

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**Neuner To Study Alzheimer's**

Sarah Neuner, a graduate research assistant in the lab of Catherine Kaczorowski, PhD, in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, College of Medicine at UTHSC, has received a grant totaling $172,480 from the National Institute of Health. The award will be used to support a project titled, "Identification of Genetic Modifiers of Neuronal Deficits and Memory Failure in Alzheimer's Disease." The award will be distributed over four years.

Identifying those genes that modify susceptibility to Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease (LOAD) in human studies has proven challenging, in part due to large genomic variability in individuals. In contrast, animal studies suffer from the opposite problem – too little genetic diversity, as most traditional studies utilize one inbred Alzheimer's disease (AD) mouse model. Therefore, Neuner and her collaborators have developed a new panel of AD mice that model some of the genetic complexity of human populations, which is thought to contribute to the "sporadic" nature of the disease. In this project, the research team will measure memory function as well as clinically relevant markers of AD in this panel throughout their lifespan in order to determine which strains are more or less prone to developing AD. Results from these tests will be used to pinpoint the region or regions in the genome that contain genes influencing the susceptibility and/or resistance of an individual strain to AD. Once these genes have been identified, gene therapy tools will be used to prevent or reverse AD-related memory deficits. Research outcomes, combined with insight from analysis of available human datasets, will allow researchers to prioritize candidates with the best potential to translate into treatments for use in human populations.

If successful, this research may uncover new therapeutic targets that can be used to delay, prevent, or cure Alzheimer's disease in humans. They may also be useful as "biomarkers" to identify individuals who are at high risk, enabling earlier detection and treatment, which would ultimately result in better outcomes for both patients and their families.

"I am extremely fortunate and thankful to have received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institute on Aging, which will provide support for my doctoral training over the next four years," said Neuner. "My mentor, Dr. Catherine Kaczorowski, and the co-sponsor of this award, Dr. Rob Williams, will provide training on research design, ethics, grantsmanship, and additional career development opportunities that are essential for progressing towards a career as an independent scientist. Working closely with Drs. Kaczorowski and Williams in the development of this project has allowed me to learn from experts in the three fields I am very interested in – aging, Alzheimer's disease and genetics – and combine them in new ways. This award is especially important to me because it will help me achieve my goal of making significant contributions to the field of Alzheimer's disease genetics and to the understanding of the mechanisms causing this disease."
Dr. Dehghan Receives Grant For Oral Health Care

Mojdeh Dehghan, DDS, assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry in the College of Dentistry at UTHSC, was honored by the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) with the group’s 2014 Proctor and Gamble/Gillette Hayden Memorial Foundation Research Award. This award is accompanied by a grant designed to support innovative scientific discoveries that will advance new concepts in women’s oral health research and encourage the study of gender differences in oral health care delivery.

Dr. Dehghan and her colleagues have developed a mouthwash that will prevent dental erosion in patients with eating disorders. The aim of the study is to determine its effectiveness.

The title of her project is “A Neutralizing Mouthwash to Minimize and Prevent Tooth Erosion in Patients with Eating Disorders.” She will make a presentation about her research at the AAWD national meeting’s award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in November.

According to the National Eating Disorders Association, 20 million women in the United States suffer from eating disorders such as bulimia at some point during their lifetime. These women can show accelerated rates of tooth erosion, Dr. Dehghan said. “As a practicing dentist for the past 22 years, I have treated many patients with eating disorders, acid reflux and other systemic diseases suffering from advanced erosion resulting in destruction of tooth structure, in some cases requiring full mouth rehabilitation to restore their teeth to optimal form and function,” she said. “Dental erosion due to stomach acid exposure is the most frequent oral manifestation of bulimia nervosa and is caused by chronic regurgitation.”

Besides those with eating disorders, others that stand to benefit from the mouthwash are pregnant women with morning sickness and those undergoing chemotherapy.

She called the number of women with eating disorders “underrepresented, under diagnosed and under treated,” with some as young as 10 or 11 years old, she said.

“Patients suffering from conditions such as acid reflux or eating disorders are in need of an agent that can prevent tooth surface loss from stomach acid exposure and is affordable and easy to use,” Dr. Dehghan is the principal investigator.

Her co-investigators are Daranee Versluis, DDS, PhD, and Janet Harrison, DDS. Her consultants are Nancy Johnson, EdD, LPC/MHSP; Antheunis Versluis, PhD; and Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, PhD, PhD.

DR. WILLIAMS RECEIVES GRANT FOR RESEARCHING GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma is a leading cause of irreversible blindness in the United States and globally. Currently, there is no cure for the disease, and once vision is lost, it cannot be regained.

However, Robert W. Williams, PhD, chair of the Department of Genetics, Genomics and Informatics at UTHSC, has received a Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) Stein Innovation Award totaling $300,000 for research into molecular activity of the eye that initiates glaucoma. His goal is to understand the first targets of the disease – the cells most susceptible to the disease – and help devise new prevention and therapy.

Current treatment focuses on reducing pressure in the eye that can trigger glaucoma rather than addressing the disease at a cellular level. Often, by the time patients seek treatment, vision is lost.

Working with mouse models, Dr. Williams aims to identify the cells connecting the eye to the brain (retinal ganglion cells) that are most susceptible to high pressure in the eye that results in their death, and over time, in blindness. Once these cells are identified through cutting-edge, single-cell analysis, the next step would be to develop targeted treatments to make them more resistant to damage from pressure.

“The hope is that this will give us a way to rationally target interventions to help out those cells that are most likely to be damaged by intraocular pressure,” Dr. Williams said. “So that if a patient comes in and we learn enough about the patient to say you’re glaucoma prone because your mother and father had glaucoma, and your brother had it, and we looked at your DNA and you have high-risk genes, now we would recommend dietary or drug treatment,” he said.

“What we’d like to do is strengthen the ganglion cells to make them so strong that even if there is increased pressure in the eye, they don’t go into a tailspin,” Dr. Williams said.

The UT-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Governor’s Chair in Computational Genomics, Dr. Williams was nominated by the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology for the prestigious award that will be delivered in two installments over a three-year period. The award provides funding to basic scientists actively engaged in research in collaboration with a department of ophthalmology with the goal of understanding the visual system and the diseases that affect its function.

New technologies and cutting-edge research that apply to blindness, but are developed outside of a department of ophthalmology, are supported through this award.

“Dr. Rob Williams is a brilliant scientist and a leader in genomics and bioinformatics,” said Barrett Haik, MD, FACS, Hamilton Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Hamilton Eye Institute at UTHSC. “His research into the cellular and genomic processes involved in glaucomatous tissue damage has the potential to answer crucial questions that could revolutionize the way millions of glaucoma patients are treated.

He is one of only four remarkable individuals to receive the Stein Innovation Award, the largest source of flexible funding available to bring new ideas into vision science.”

RPB is the world’s leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. Since it was founded in 1960, RPB has channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions for research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding eye diseases. For information on RPB, and RPB-funded research, eye disorders, and its grants program, go to http://www.rpbusa.org.

Match Day 2015

UTHSC College of Medicine students and their families celebrated Match Day March 10 as they received word of where the students would be heading for their residencies after graduation.
Medicine Research Day
On Feb. 20, the UTHSC Department of Medicine and Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), Beta Tennessee Chapter (honor society) sponsored the Third Annual Medicine Research Day and AOA Student Research Day. More than 85 abstracts were submitted by students, post doctoral trainees, fellows and faculty in the College of Medicine. Awards were given for the top two abstracts in each student and trainee category; and the top abstract was presented orally during the session.
The keynote address, entitled “Development of Vaccines to Prevent Group A Streptococcal Infections and Rheumatic Fever,” was delivered by Dr. James Dale, Gene H. Stollerman Professor of Medicine and chief, Division of Infectious Diseases. The event concluded with a reception and the presentation of more than 80 posters by students, trainees and faculty.

Dentistry Research Day
On Feb. 19, the UTHSC College of Dentistry hosted its annual research day in the Student-Alumni Center. Below, Kalid Hosn explains his project "Inhibitors of Bacterial Protease Enzymes for Periodontal Therapy."

Graduate Research Day
On April 10, graduate students presented their research in the GEB. Below, Saini Setua explains “Restitution of Tumor Suppressor MIR-145” that won the prize for first-year graduate student poster presentation.

Parenting Seminar in Fall
The Association for Successful Parenting (TASP) is hosting the seventh biannual “A Chance to Parent Conference” with the theme, “Promoting Change Through Advocacy, Policy and Practice.” The international event will be held Oct. 11-12 in Memphis. Ashley Annestedt, LCSW, and Malissa Duckworth, LCSW, social workers at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in the College of Medicine at UTHSC, will lead the event.

TASP is a collaborative community of parents, researchers, social workers, support providers and advocates working together to help families succeed. Through their website, TASP offers webinars on a variety of topics and keeps members informed of upcoming regional and international conferences, workshops or training opportunities, and shares resources, events, contacts and information for advocacy.

Due to its overwhelming past success, a track for parents with intellectual disabilities as well as for those who support them will be part of the conference.

“TASP is a really sweet sentiment, “ Petree said. “It’s nice to know that they recognized so many former patients and their families!”

Almost as gratifying was being reunited with some of her former patients while receiving her award.

“I received an email last year from the College of Nursing saying a scholarship was available,” Petree explained, “so I applied.”

She was notified in January that she was a winner, and was invited to the foundation’s annual meeting in March. She thought she’d just be picking up a check. Instead, she got to meet the committee that had selected her, as well as some of her former patients. “It was a huge surprise,” she said, adding, “I recognized so many former patients and their families?“

The Tennessee-based OCAF aims to educate women about ovarian cancer. It was founded, Petree said, by families of women who had dealt with the disease. In addition to educational efforts, Petree said, the foundation decided to honor and support a nursing student who worked with cancer patients.

“That’s a really sweet sentiment,” Petree said. “It’s nice to know that they appreciate nurses and the role they play. It was a huge surprise, and, for me, a total blessing.”

She speculated that the scholarship was the foundation’s way of rewarding oncology nurses and getting them to stay in oncology.

Petree is already a UTHSC alum, having earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2012 as a Clinical Nurse Leader. She then worked at the West Clinic (now the West Cancer Center) for two years before deciding to return to UTHSC to pursue her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, choosing the family nurse practitioner track. Her projected date of graduation is May 2017.

“It’s a passion for me,” Petree said of oncology.

More information about the Ovarian Cancer Awareness Foundation is available at www.ocafoundation.org.

KAT PETREE HONORED
A UTHSC nurse practitioner student has been helped in her studies and rewarded for her contributions in patient care, Katherine “Kat” Petree, MSN, received a scholarship from Ovarian Cancer Awareness Foundation (OCAF). She is a candidate for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at UTHSC. Almost as gratifying was being reunited with some of her former patients while receiving her award.

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She was notified in January that she was a winner, and was invited to the foundation’s annual meeting in March. She thought she’d just be picking up a check. Instead, she got to meet the committee that had selected her, as well as some of her former patients. “It was a huge surprise,” she said, adding, “I recognized so many former patients and their families!”

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DR. ARNOLD INDUCTED INTO GROUP
Valerie K. Arnold MD, FAPA, chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in UTHSC, was inducted into the American College of Psychiatrists during its recent ceremony in California.

The American College of Psychiatrists comprises more than 750 psychiatrists who have demonstrated excellence in the field, and achieved national recognition in clinical practice, research, academic leadership, or teaching.

“I am thrilled to be inducted into the college this year and to have the hope of contributing toward quality training of current and future residents and fellows,” said Dr. Arnold. “My current involvement in fellow, resident, and medical student education means so much to me, and I look forward to contributing through the college in an even broader way.”

HARRIS COHEN COMPLETES TERM AS NATIONAL CHAIR
Harris L. Cohen, MD, chair of UT Radiology and Radiologist-in-Chief at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, finished a two-year term as chair of the Pediatric Ultrasound Community at the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the largest national multidisciplinary umbrella organization for users of diagnostic ultrasound.

Dr. Cohen ran the pediatric portion of this year’s program, consisting of lectures, hands-on learning sessions and scientific sessions, and presented lectures on fetal ultrasound and neonatal correlation as well as the pediatric gastrointestinal tract.

Dr. Cohen and his staff – Anand Majmudar, MD, Ina Radtke, MD, and Thad Wilson, MD – coauthored and presented four scientific papers.

DR. DAGOGO-JACK LEADS FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES
As the 2015 president, Medicine and Science, for the American Diabetes Association (ADA), Samuel Dagogo-Jack, MD, director of the Division of Endocrinology in the College of Medicine at UTHSC, hopes to “shine a light on” the organization’s work in diabetes research and education around the world. Dr. Dagogo-Jack is now the co-principal spokesperson for the organization, along with the president, Health Care and Education, on matters of science, care and education concerning the disease, which currently affects more than 370 million and is estimated to affect 592 million worldwide by 2035.

To read Dr. Dagogo-Jack’s blog post, visit http://diabetesstophere.org/2015/01/21/dagogo-jack/.

DR. HOWDEN GIVES TV INTERVIEW ON COLON CANCER
Colin Howden, MD, chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hyman Professor in the Department of Medicine at UTHSC, was interviewed on March 17 on Local 24 during a morning of programming for National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Dr. Howden’s interview may be viewed at http://www.localmemphis.com/video/d/video/dr-howden-3-16-15/5661796.

DR. HUANG HONORED
George Huang, DDS, director and professor in the Department of Bioscience Research in the College of Dentistry at UTHSC, is the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Scientist Award in Pulp Biology given by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). The IADR Pulp Biology and Regeneration Award, supported by L.D. Caulk DENTSPLY International, is one of the highest honors bestowed by IADR.

Dr. Huang and his collaborators have found that to regenerate the tissue in the root canal, termed dental pulp and dentin, would require the delivery of stem cells from outside sources. This important finding directs how researchers in this field should plan their research design to reach the goal of pulp/dentin regeneration.

KRIS PHILLIPS HONORED
Kris Phillips, associate vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs, was recently named chair of District III for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The international association serves educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work for them. District III is the second largest in North America and represents nine states. Phillips will serve for a two-year term.
"Never forget your past. It’s the foundation that built your existence and the secret to your future.”

Jasmina Siderovski

This quote definitely reflects the personal sentiments of fourth-year pharmacy student Rosie Ann Riley. A self described “country girl” and one of six children, Riley hails from Madison, Mississippi.

“I’m named after my paternal grandmother, Rosie Lee Riley, who was born in 1901,” Riley shared. “This is a big deal for me because she passed away in 1967, two years before I was born.”

Riley is the middle child and has vivid memories of her childhood in Mississippi.

“I grew up in an area where most of the people were farmers,” said Riley. “We assisted many of the elderly in their fields and gardens. My parents never allowed us to accept any pay. They wanted to teach us to help others and not to expect anything in return; one of the many morals and values that were instilled in us. To this day, I believe that those who live in ‘the country’ are some of the best people you will ever meet.”

Riley is a graduate of Madison-Ridgeland High School in her hometown and is a member of the class of 1987.

“I valued my education, but I had no financial assistance,” Riley said. “The military was my way of ensuring I would be financially secure.” She served from May 1989 until October 1992 and was active during the Persian Gulf War. In August 1995, Riley received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Riley then began her academic career at the University of Southern Mississippi, but had to leave due to financial hardship. To earn more money for her educational endeavors, Riley took a different route and decided to serve her country as a Marine.

“Single parents tend to get a bad rap, but there are many who work hard and sacrifice to ensure that their children excel in life. My daughter will graduate magna cum laude with her Bachelor of Science in civil engineering in May. She became the exception and not the rule.”

Involvement has never been an issue with Riley. Upon her arrival at UTHSC, she became actively involved with the Black Student Association on campus. Shortly after, she had a bit of an epiphany – a personal revelation.

“I realized that I prefer to spend my time helping others and giving back to the community,” she said.

“For the past two years, I have raised money for the American Heart Association and participated in Mid-South Heart Walk as a top walker. I volunteer at the National Civil Rights Museum and I have organized a group of people to save tabs and we donate them to the Ronald McDonald House, which is one of their big money makers. I also volunteer to help with events on campus and health fairs.”

Although her involvement is more community based, Riley continues to stress the importance of student involvement, but maintaining individuality as well.

“It is important that students be involved, but we are all individuals and have to do what works best for us,” she said. “As a mature student, I prefer to spend my time making a difference in the lives of others and with friends and family.”

When she is not tackling her academics, Riley enjoys hiking, working out, dancing, reading, movies, museums and researching her family history. However, Riley feels her biggest accomplishment to date is raising her daughter, Ivy Lace Riley.

“I am so proud of both mom and daughter for their great achievements,” Dean Chisholm-Burns said. “It is a true testament to their love, strength and intellect. I am both humbled and honored to know them and be part of this special celebration in their lives.”

For incoming pharmacy students, Riley offers heartfelt advice.

“Pharmacists play a very major role in the lives of patients, so take this career very seriously,” she shared. “Always treat patients the way you want your family member to be treated and you cannot go wrong.”

Riley plans to practice as an oncology pharmacist and also become involved in cancer research upon graduation. However, she has no intentions of leaving UTHSC behind.

“I plan to be a very active alumna,” she said. “The relationships I’ve formed here are priceless. Everywhere I go on campus I know someone and they have become my family. It’s my desire to support the university and give back since I gained so much by being here.”