Three UTHSC faculty were recently honored with Memphis Business Journal’s Health Care Heroes Awards, which recognize outstanding work by medical professionals.

Russell W. Chesney, MD, Le Bonheur Chair of Excellence in Pediatrics and pediatrics department chair, was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award; Timothy Fabian, MD, Harwell W. Wilson Alumni Professor and chair of the surgery department, was recognized as the outstanding Healthcare Provider – Physician; and Thom E. Lobe, MD, professor in general surgery, was honored for Health Care Innovations.

As recent chairman of The Future of Pediatric Education II (FOPE II) task force, Dr. Chesney developed what has become the blueprint for the modern practice of pediatrics. Additionally, his research endeavors have produced landmark results in the role of taurine in bile acids and its effects in the development of the central nervous system, retina and kidney.

Dr. Fabian was the leader in the establishment of the Regional Medical Center at Memphis and helped create the Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center in 1983. He recently became chair of the department of surgery at UT, and has renewed interest in salvaging damaged blood vessels, his specialty.

Because of Dr. Lobe’s tireless efforts, UTHSC is one of three leading centers for laparoscopic surgery. Currently, he is renovating rooms at Le Bonheur Children’s Research Hospital, adding, among other things, voice-activated lights and special beds for patients with spinal injuries.

UTHSC Awarded Grant to Strengthen Bioterrorism Preparedness Training and Education

UTHSC, in conjunction with other partners, has been awarded a $2.9 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to strengthen bioterrorism training and education for the nation’s health professions workforce.

Part of a federal investment in bioterrorism preparedness, the two-year program is designed to provide bioterrorism-related continuing education opportunities and training for practicing healthcare providers.

The Health Science Center’s involvement represents a collaborative with UT Martin, UT Graduate School of Medicine, UT College of Veterinary Medicine, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Tennessee and Shelby County Departments of Health. Known as the Tennessee Integrated Training and Alert Network (TITAN), the collaborative represents a multi-agency approach to build upon existing educational programs and share the experience of experts across the state.

As part of its involvement, UTHSC will provide project direction and management, access to its existing telecom network, and management of continuing education credits, as well as conduct evaluations and disseminate findings. The Health Science Center will also provide a variety of educational and training programs in allied health and host an annual workshop.
The University of Tennessee Cancer Institute has been accepted as a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an elite alliance of 19 of the world’s leading cancer centers.

The inclusion acknowledges the status of UT as the parent university and UT Cancer Institute as the adult cancer care counterpart of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the NCCN. St. Jude was a founding member of the Network, which develops and disseminates a library of clinical practice guidelines now considered the standard for decision making for patient care in clinical oncology.

“Conducting research and providing optimal care form the backbone of a great cancer center,” said Fuad Hammoudeh, CEO of the Cancer Institute. “NCCN will give us access to the best clinical trials network, enhancing our work.”

Membership means that local clinicians and researchers will participate in determining best practices in cancer care, according to Mohammad Jahanzeb, MD, chief of the division of hematology and oncology at UT.

“A full-member status has enabled us to put 38 cancer experts from UT on NCCN guideline panels to have a say in what constitutes state-of-the-art management of cancer,” Dr. Jahanzeb explained, “and gives us a leadership role in the realm of setting standards.” He serves on the Guidelines Steering Committee and Board of Directors.

NCCN seeks to improve and advance promising cancer therapies through the clinical trials performed by its members and shared with oncologists around the country.

Imagine, as a doctor, having access to a state-of-the-art computer allowing you to check patient records in seconds. Next, imagine a vein-contrast-enhancement system allowing you to find veins for needle injections in children, or a spinal implant testing device that allows three-dimensional motion studies on human specimens with implants.

These developments, and many others, can be found in the UTHSC department of health informatics and clinical engineering and department of biomedical engineering, which are led by Jack Buchanan, MD, and Mohammad Kiani, PhD, respectively. The two departments, along with the division of biomedical instrumentation, make up the College of Health Science Engineering, which became UTHSC’s seventh college in June.

With its applications of engineering and physical science, Dr. Kiani believes that biomedical engineering will become an integral component of the developing biotechnology industry in Memphis. With new federal HIPAA security and privacy regulations, securing electronic health records is a growing concern, said Dr. Buchanan.

“We believe that our placement within a health science, rather than the traditional engineering environment, provides us a unique opportunity,” said Dr. Kiani. “We can collaborate with and provide expertise to the other departments on campus.”
Asst. Prof. Awarded Funding for Educational Project

Golden Gate Full Gospel Baptist Church is home to three new Gateway computers thanks to UTHSC’s Brenda Green, MLS, assistant professor in the Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center. Green received funding from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to develop the Faith-Based Community Education Project, which seeks to introduce African-Americans to current, accurate and culturally sensitive sources of health information.

Individuals will be able to access MEDLINE Plus, a Web site that offers over 600 health topics and more than 150 interactive tutorials on diseases such as diabetes, HIV/AIDS and hypertension. The tutorials are presented in Power Point, combining both sight and sound to help with retention.

“Studies show that African-Americans receive poor healthcare regardless of social, economical or educational backgrounds and some of this is due, in part, to access,” said Green, who delivered the computers Wednesday, Sept. 10, with the help of Cassandra Holder Ballard, RDH, MPH and Sandra Holmes, a PhD candidate in nursing. “In some small way, we are hoping to close the health disparities gap that exists in the African-American population here in Memphis.”

Golden Gate Full Gospel Baptist Church is located at 3240 James Road.

UT Bio-Defense Research Gets Boost From NIH

Researchers from UTHSC are aggressively pursuing research on biological threats and agents of bioterrorism. The group’s effort was recently boosted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which selected eight Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (RCE) in the United States. The University of Tennessee is affiliated with the Region IV Center of Excellence known as the Southeast Regional Center of Excellence for Emerging Infections and Biodefense (SERCEB).

To aid in these biodefense research initiatives, the Centers have been funded by a $350 million grant distributed over five years by the Department of Health and Human Services. With Duke University as the lead institution, the SERCEB has been ranked number one in the nation by the NIH based on the strength of the expertise of the core and affiliated organizations.

Malak Kotb, PhD, the university’s director of biodefense research, commented that the Region IV RCE will open the door to a lot of research and job opportunities, particularly in the area of biodefense. “Since our university is a leading center for studying the genetics of human diseases in the United States, we have the resources available to study the ways genes interact and react to infectious agents and toxins, as well as the expertise to use this information in developing countermeasures for life threatening infections. Also, since Memphis is so centrally located and accessible, we can provide support to our research affiliates.”

BOO FLU Day

Friday, October 31, 2003
Lobby of the Plaza Buildings
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Free Flu shots for UTHSC students and employees (with ID)

Flu shots are $15 for the general community
News Bites

The Rheumatic Disease Research Core Center (RDRCC Molecular Resource Core Lab), funded by the NIH through UTHSC, is available to provide molecular and technical support for UTHSC investigators conducting research that affects Rheumatic diseases. The lab provides a variety of services including: extracting and measuring RNA and DNA, providing quantitative, real-time PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) assays, single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analyses and interpreting test results. The center can provide researchers with detailed information on genes and their expression.

Personnel costs are underwritten by the NIH grant with a nominal fee for services to help cover the cost of the basic reagents. The center is located in the Veterans’ Administration Medical Center, 1030 Jefferson Avenue, room BE 121. The lab director is Anita Curcio-Brint, who may be contacted at 523-8990, extension 7616; acuricob@utmem.edu

University Health Services and the campus recreation center are offering faculty, staff and students a chance to lose weight with a new program, “Steps to a Healthy Weight.” Experts will be available every Monday at noon on the fourth floor of the Randolph building to provide motivation, support, and weight loss and exercise advice.

The cost is $25 for a four-week session. The next session begins Monday, Nov. 3. For more information, contact Christa Deiss at 448-5064 or e-mail cdeiss@utmem.edu

UTHSC employees can now review their insurance coverage, evaluate available options and make changes to their coverage for the new calendar year 2004. Changes must be made Oct. 15 through Nov. 14. They will be effective Jan. 1, 2004.

During the annual enrollment period employees may contact the campus payroll/insurance office at 448-5577 or visit 120 Hyman building for materials on any of the other options.

UTHSC Promotes Science Education in Schools

Through the assistance of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, two Memphis schools kicked off the academic year by introducing their students to hands-on science activities.

The project was a collaborative effort between the university’s Center of Excellence in Genomics and Bioinformatics, the Institute for Women’s Health and the Memphis City Schools. The LabLearner science program will allow students attending the Downtown Elementary School (K-6) and the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering (7th grade) to experience science in fully equipped laboratories, complete with grade appropriate activity modules and lessons. Students will also be treated to guest presentations and after-school family science and health programs by UTHSC faculty and students.

The LabLearner program, a trademark of Cognitive Learning Systems, Inc., integrates four basic components: a fully equipped lab, hands-on curriculum composed of 30 science activity modules, teacher professional development and community outreach programs.

“It is our goal to expose every child to the thrill of scientific discovery,” said Nancy Hardt, MD, the Methodist Healthcare Professor in Women’s Health, and director of The Institute for Women’s Health. “The opportunity to turn students on to science should be seized in elementary school. We need to develop students with laboratory experiences, as well as the critical thinking skills necessary to prepare them for the high technology workplace they’ll be entering. The LabLearner program also provides students and teachers with a strong foundation for health concepts.”

UTHSC Gains National Attention for Disaster Plan

The UT College of Medicine was one of six schools included in a report recently published by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Titled, “Training Future Physicians About Weapons of Mass Destruction: Report of the Expert Panel on Bioterrorism Education for Medical Students,” the report was developed by a panel of medical, public health and nursing experts as a guideline for schools to follow during bioterrorism preparedness training.

In spring 2002, students formed the “Community Disaster Response Unit” as their Longitudinal Community Project, a requirement in the first and second years of medical school. Students prepared two two-hour training sessions on biological and chemical agents, and visited community and state emergency management agencies, as well as area hospital administrators.

Future plans at UTHSC include the development of general disaster response models and the coordination of a disaster drill.

A group of UTHSC students were recently recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges for their Community Disaster Response Unit plan.
1. “Apo2L/TRAIL: Anticancer Activity & Preclinical Development”
   Dr. Ralph Schwall
   12:30 p.m., Link Auditorium

   “Heart Failure Revisited: Evolving Paradigms of Pathophysiology and Therapy”
   Dr. Daniel Villarreal
   8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium

2. Twentieth Annual Forum on Child Health
   8 a.m., Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center
   www.utmem.edu/specialevents/FCH.html

   “Neurotrophin-like Actions of Cyclic-Phosphatidic Acid”
   Ms. Yuko Fujiwara
   3:30 p.m., 516 Nash

3. “Therapeutic Applications of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)”
   Dr. Daniel Menkes
   8:15 a.m., Link Auditorium, 2nd floor

4. “Bacterial Communication and Communities: Quorum Sensing and Biofilm Formation in Pseudomonas Aeruginosa”
   Dr. Peter Greenberg
   4 p.m., Link Auditorium

5. “Use of Genomes to Examine Microbial Function”
   Dr. Carolyn Harwood
   12 p.m., Room A303, GEB

   Neuroscience Seminar, title TBA
   Dr. Anthony van den Pol
   Noon, Link Auditorium

6. “Economic Contributions of the Memphis Medical Community”
   Dr. Cyril Chang
   10 a.m. Room 400, 66 N Pauline

   “Lessons Learned from Landmark Diabetes Studies: DCCT/EDIC and DPP”
   Dr. Abbas Kitabchi
   8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium

   “Proteome and Transcriptome Studies in Rodent Models of Heart Failure and Diabetes”
   Dr. Ivan Gerling
   12:30 p.m., Link Auditorium

   “Toll-like Receptors and Dendritic Cells Activation: Functional and Structural Studies”
   Dr. Fabio Re
   Noon, Room A302, GEB

7. UT National Alumni Association Scholarship Luncheon
   By invitation
   Noon, 101 Hyman

8. “Ion Transport Mechanisms in the Human Intestine”
   Dr. Pradeep K. Dudeja
   3:30 p.m., 516 Nash

9. “Hypertension Therapy and Stroke Prophylaxis: An ACE Up your Sleeve?”
   Dr. William Pulsinelli
   8:15 a.m., Link Auditorium, 2nd floor

10. “Fungal Communication and Communities: Quorum Sensing”
    Dr. Peter Greenberg
    4 p.m., Link Auditorium

11. “Structural Insights into Ubiquitin-like Protein Transfer”
    Dr. Brenda Schulman
    4 p.m., Link Auditorium

12. “Immunodeficient Mouse Models for Human Hematolymphoid Engraftment and Stem Cell Plasticity”
    Dr. Leonard Schultz
    4 p.m., Link Auditorium

13. “Therapeutic Applications of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)”
    Dr. Daniel Menkes
    8:15 a.m., Link Auditorium, 2nd floor

    Dr. Bruce Appel
    Noon, Link Auditorium

15. “Role of Cation-Chloride Co-Transporters in Neuronal Communication”
    Dr. Eric Delpire
    3:30 p.m., 516 Nash

16. UT College of Medicine Alumni Weekend
    The Peabody

17. “A Role for Cation-Chloride Cotransporter in Synaptic Transmission”
    Dr. Eric J. Delpire
    Noon, Link Auditorium

18. UT Campus-Wide Residency Fair
    3-6 p.m., Holiday Inn Select: Grand Ballroom

Calendar continued on back
20 “New Insights into Interferon Signal Transduction”  
   *Dr. Larry Pfeffer*  
   4 p.m., Link Auditorium

21 Neuroscience Seminar, title TBA  
   *Dr. Adrian J. Dunn*  
   Noon, Link Auditorium

22 “Current Paradigmns in the Management of DVT”  
   *Dr. Suresh Kari*  
   8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium

23 “Orderly Disorder in Tumor Suppressor Function and Dysfunction”  
   *Dr. Richard W. Kriwacki*  
   3:30 p.m., 516 Nash

24 “Carotid Artery Dissection”  
   *Dr. Michael Jacewicz*  
   8:15 a.m., Link Auditorium, 2nd floor

27 “Nothing Succeeds Like Success: Unit B Cell Homeostasis and Selection with BlyS”  
   *Dr. Michael Cancro*  
   4 p.m., Link Auditorium

28 “How do Drugs of Abuse Rewire the Motivational Circuitry”  
   *Dr. Marina Wolf*  
   Noon, Link Auditorium

29 “PAX3-FKHR in Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma”  
   *Dr. Gerard Gosveld*  
   12:30 p.m., Link Auditorium

30 “Hyperosmolar Stimulation of Muscle Sodium-Potassium-Chloride Co-Transporter”  
   *Dr. Donald Thomason*  
   3:30 p.m., 516 Nash

31 “27th Annual Robert A Utterback Memorial Lecture”  
   Title TBA  
   *Dr. Flint Beal*  
   8:15 a.m., Link Auditorium

31-1 UT College of Pharmacy Alumni Weekend  
Marriott Hotel: Knoxville, TN