Approximately 4 million people in the U.S. suffer from dementia, a chronic brain disorder that, over time, impairs reasoning ability and restricts daily activities. Those afflicted require constant care from a loved one. Studies have shown that primary caregivers endure extreme psychological and physical distress in these situations, but help is on the way, according to Robert Burns, MD, and Linda Nichols, PhD, of the UTHSC department of preventive medicine.

Data collected from a 24-month study of 167 caregivers at 14 physicians’ offices in Memphis and Shelby County suggests that brief primary care interventions may be effective in reducing the hardship of long-term management of a dementia patient. It further suggests that interventions focusing only on patients, without addressing caregiver stress, may not be as adequate.

The six-year, multi-site study was titled, “Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer’s Caregiver Health (REACH I).” The results were published in the August edition of The Gerontologist. All six sites tested home and community-based interventions for maintaining and improving the health and quality of life of caregivers. Funding was made possible by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

“This was cutting-edge because of where the study took place,” said Dr. Burns, principal investigator. “When caregivers have a question, they often contact their primary care doctors. So we decided to start there.”

Each study participant met with a master’s-level health educator every three months during a scheduled office visit. One group received education only about patient behavior management; the other group received education on caregiver well-being and patient management.

While stress reduction was a primary concern, promotion of assertive behavior and healthy lifestyle were also included in the study, according to Dr. Nichols.

As for lifestyle changes, participants learned about eating balanced meals, exercising, getting enough rest, and taking time for themselves.

UTHSC is expanding on these results in REACH II, which will include health educators going into homes of caregivers to work on health, safety, behavioral problems and stress management. Participants are being sought for REACH II through December 2003. For more information, call 577-7485.

The Children’s Foundation of Memphis and UTHSC will sponsor the Twentieth Annual Forum on Child Health Thursday, Oct. 2, in the auditorium of Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. Titled “First Years Last a Lifetime,” the forum will present a variety of topics by a distinguished group of experts. Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton Jr. will give a special presentation, and Chris Peck, editor of The Commercial Appeal, will introduce one of the sessions.

The morning-long program will address the nature of early brain development and the importance of interacting with children at an early age. The event will conclude with a presentation on how to integrate science and public policy within the educational system.

The registration cost is $10. All forms and fees must be received by UTHSC no later than Wednesday, Sept. 24. Forms may be obtained by calling 448-6354. Continuing education credit is offered for medical and social work professionals. Visit www.utmem.edu/specialevents/FCH.html

Computerized test scoring services are available for faculty that include automatic scoring, test analysis, record keeping and grade book flexibility, as well as other options. Survey and evaluation analysis are also available upon request. Call Akila Wells, coordinator, at 448-1606.
Interim Pres. Outlines Priorities

After 18 days as interim president of UT, Joseph E. Johnson, EdD, says his first priority is to restore the external credibility of the university and refocus attention to positives such as education, research and a commitment to the community, which have been hallmarks of the system.

“I am happy to have found that, since I left UT as president four years ago, we have maintained our commitment to providing our students the best possible education and made advancements in our research efforts,” said Dr. Johnson.

“No university should have to go through what we have been through. So, I want to emphasize a UT culture that stresses care, prudence and judgement in doing everything we can to ensure that our primary responsibilities to our students, faculty, staff, patients and greater communities are met.”

According to Dr. Johnson, the foremost challenges facing UTHSC are to find a permanent chancellor and continue to build relationships.

“Jim Gibb Johnson is doing a tremendous job as interim chancellor, but we need to proceed with the plan to name a permanent chancellor. Also, it’s crucial for the Memphis campus to maintain and build relationships with Methodist, St. Jude and other healthcare entities in this area.”

Dr. Johnson went on to commend the excellent research and teaching at UTHSC.

“Since leaving as president, I’m particularly pleased to see that, especially here in Memphis, our research efforts have dramatically increased, which demonstrates the hard work of our faculty in securing grants. At the same time, our students are consistently winning awards and shining in their professions, which is indicative of our faculty’s high level of devotion to teaching.”

Dr. Johnson says he is happy to be back at UT, but hopes his stay will not be a long one.

“I told the board of trustees that I would like to serve as interim president for no more than 15 months. It’s imperative that this university have a strong leader who can establish a sense of strength and integrity that will permeate the entire UT community.”

UTHSC Leads Workforce Development Program

UTHSC’s Center for Health Services Research has been designated as the coordinating center for the Tennessee Consortium for Public Health Workforce Development.

The project is designed to provide graduate-level education programs for the state’s public health workforce. It is part of Tennessee’s efforts to enhance its public health infrastructure in response to the threats of bioterrorism and emerging infectious diseases. Besides UTHSC, the Consortium includes East Tennessee State University and UT Knoxville. The three academic centers will develop and implement courses in basic public health disciplines that will be taught using distance learning methods.

For information, call 448-5826.

U of M Honors Hiatt

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Memphis will present Roger L. Hiatt Sr., MD, with its 2003 Outstanding Friend Award, Thursday, Sept. 25. Dr. Hiatt currently serves as professor emeritus and consultant in the department of ophthalmology at UTHSC.

At the University of Memphis, Dr. Hiatt serves on the college’s advisory board and the university’s health professional advisory committee.
Nina Sublette, a second-year PhD student, was awarded one of the annual HIV-Related Anemia Nursing Case Study Awards from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. This award is sponsored through an educational grant from Ortho Biotech. As an award recipient, Nina will receive complimentary conference registration, $625 in conference-related travel expenses, and attend an awardees’ luncheon at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care conference that will be held in November in New York City.

Ann Marie Estes has been named director of continuing dental education and publications in the UTHSC College of Dentistry. Glenda Owings has been named assistant to the dean.

Christa George, PharmD, assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy, was named chair-elect of the Tennessee Society of Pharmacists.

William Frey, PhD, will join the College of Allied Health Sciences administrative team as associate dean for student and academic affairs on September 15. He is joining UTHSC from St. Mary’s College of California where he is a professor in the department of health services administration. He served as Chair of the department from 1992 to 2000. Dr. Frey has an extensive background in academic administration, as well as in hospital and rehabilitation settings.

Three residents in the department of surgery, T. Wright Jernigan, MD, Matthew Mulloy, MD, and Christopher Speck, MD, won awards in a paper competition for residents sponsored by the Tennessee chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

George S. M. Cowan Jr., MD, professor of surgery, will be named president of the American College of Nutrition at their October meeting, where he will serve as program chair.

Isaac O. Donkor, PhD, vice chair of the department of pharmaceutical sciences, has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the AIDS Discovery and Development of Therapeutics Study Section with the Center for Scientific Review.

Eli Fly has been named executive vice president and chief business officer of UT. His term will coincide with that of interim president Joseph E. Johnson, EdD. Fly has served UT in a variety of positions for more than 40 years.

Dennis D. Black, MD, professor of pediatrics and physiology, and scientific director of the Children’s Foundation Research Center at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, has been appointed to the editorial board of The American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. This well-respected scientific journal publishes original articles pertaining to all aspects of research involving normal or abnormal function of the gastrointestinal tract, hepatobiliary system and pancreas. Dr. Black will assist in the review of manuscripts for publication and with editorial and policy decisions made by the journal.

Dr. William Frey

Pharmacy Fraternity Takes Top Honors

Fifteen brothers of UT’s Omega Chapter of Phi Delta Chi attended the fraternity’s Sixty-fourth Grand Council in Minneapolis from August 12-16. After completing a very successful year, the Omega chapter was awarded the 2003 Emory W. Thurston Grand President’s Cup, recognizing it as the number one chapter in the fraternity across the nation. In addition to the top prize, the chapter also came away from the meeting with first-place awards in brotherhood, window display and chapter publication.

The chapter’s Christine Corsberg was elected the new grand vice president of student affairs, the only national office held by a student. Christine is a fourth-year pharmacy student at UT and former worthy vice counselor of Omega Chapter.

Note: All members of Phi Delta Chi are referred to as brothers, regardless of gender.

Pictured, from left to right, Phi Delta Chi brothers Jill Hodges, Melanie Robinson and Alicia Gross, hold awards received at the fraternity’s Grand Council in August.

Congratulations!

In August, Florine Burch, senior administrative services assistant in the College of Nursing, graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor of professional studies degree.
News Bites

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration recently released grants totaling more than $16 million to support Centers of Excellence (COE) programs at 11 universities. As part of the program, UTHSC received a grant totalling $688,084.

On October 16-17, UT’s TriStar Enterprises, Inc., the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation, the FedEx Institute of Technology, the Memphis Area Technology Council, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory will sponsor a conference on grants and contracts available from federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programs at the Fed Ex Institute on the University of Memphis campus.

The conference will include a half-day of briefings by SBIR program managers on specific areas of research of interest to their agency, and a full day of training on how to write a winning SBIR proposal. Other benefits include question-and-answer sessions, a complete SBIR program proposal writing workbook and the opportunity to have a proposal critiqued by Greenwood Consulting Inc. anytime within one year of attending the conference. The cost of attending the conference is $75.

Visit http://public.ornl.gov/sbir for more information, or call Gary Kiemele with TriStar Enterprises, Inc., at 448-3033.

TriStar Enterprises, Inc. is a nonprofit company through which UT facilitates the creation and commercialization of new bioscience technologies and fosters their development into successful business and venture activities. Visit www.tristarenterprises.org

UTHSC Upgrades Blackboard System

Recently, UTHSC upgraded its course management software, Blackboard, to version six and moved to new servers that are faster and provide more space to store content. Version six offers new and different features in all areas of the software. Faculty can review these changes at www.utmem.edu/bb/whatsnew.pdf

Blackboard is a course management system that allows instructors to use the Internet as a powerful tool in the classroom, or in some cases, replace the physical classroom altogether. It can deliver content ranging from announcements, to lecture notes, to assignments. It also facilitates communication between instructors and students through tools such as e-mail, chat and the virtual classroom. Additionally, it allows instructors to give examinations and record grades. All of this occurs within a web interface that is intuitive and manipulable. It can be accessed anywhere there is a computer and an Internet connection. With the objectives of “increasing instructor productivity and measuring and improving student performance,” Blackboard has the ability to enhance both the teaching and learning experience.

Vikki N. Mercer is the new Blackboard support specialist for UTHSC. She enjoys working with users and invites them to contact her for troubleshooting, training or to voice suggestions. She can be reached at bb@utmem.edu

Campus Recreation Construction Update

The Campus Recreation Center is still under construction; however, many of its services are still being offered. Members may continue to use the old and new aerobic/martial arts studios, gymnasium, climbing wall, racquetball courts and cardiovascular room. In addition, kickboxing, karate, yoga, and ballroom dancing classes are available, as well as kayaking and hiking trips.

Currently, individuals do not have access to the swimming pool or locker rooms.

Hours of operation are: Monday through Thursday - 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday - 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday - 4 to 8 p.m.

For updates, visit the website at www.utmem.edu/campusrecc

UTHSC Offers Student Insurance Plan

Nearly 50 percent of students enrolled at UTHSC take advantage of the university’s student health insurance program. The University of Tennessee requires that all students maintain adequate health insurance throughout their career as a student.

All actively enrolled students and their dependents are eligible for the plan. The premium for student coverage is $614.00 semi-annually. The charge is added to each student’s semester fee sheet. For those students who have other coverage and wish to waive the student insurance fee, a waiver must be completed and returned to the office of student affairs at 910 Madison Ave., suite 600, in advance of registration each semester. The waivers are available online at the UHS website, www.utmem.edu/univheal under UT student services, UT student health insurance. Additional information is available by contacting the Holland Insurance Agency at 662-393-9474 or toll free 888-393-9500. Send e-mail to gholland@geraldhollandinsurance.com

Connect to the Web anywhere in the library—without wires!

Two Apple laptops are available for checkout at the library’s circulation desk. The computers have Internet browsers, PowerPoint, word processing and graphics applications.

Library visitors can use the laptops for around three hours each visit. The laptops are available to UT students, faculty and staff for use within the library.
September

17  Ninth Annual Emmett Manley PARscription Golf Tournament
    Academy of Students of Pharmacy
    For more info: Dr. Stephanie Phelps, 448-1215 or sphelps@utmem.edu
    “West Nile Virus”
    Dr. Michael S. Gelfand
    8 a.m., North Auditorium, Coleman

18  “Attacking Alzheimer’s Disease with Ockham’s Razor”
    Dr. Joseph A. Bobich
    3:30 p.m., Room 516, Nash
    “Promoting Healthy Weight for Children and Youth: A Community Discussion”
    8 a.m., Le Bonheur Auditorium

19  “Cancer Metastasis Suppressor CD82”
    Dr. Xin Zhang
    3:30 p.m., South Auditorium, Coleman

22  Coagulation Conference
    Dr. Carol Chesney and Dr. Marion Dugdale
    Noon, Room G312, Coleman.
    “Analysis of Transcriptional Coactivators In Vivo”
    Dr. Paul Brindle
    4 p.m., Link Auditorium

23  Neuroscience Seminar, title TBA
    Dr. Michael Miles
    Noon, Link Auditorium

24  “Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia: The Dawn of the Molecular Therapeutic Age in Oncology”
    Dr. Harvey B. Neill
    8 a.m., North Auditorium, Coleman
    “Impact of System/Network Membership on Hospital Financial Performance”
    Dr. Teresa Waters
    “Event Classification in Patient Safety Reporting Systems”
    Dr. Michal Tamuz
    10 a.m., Room 600, Pauline
    “Presynaptic Actions of Alcohol and Neurosteroids”
    Dr. Fernando Valenzuela
    12:30 p.m., Link Auditorium

25  College of Medicine New Faculty Orientation
    4 p.m., Methodist Hospital, Medical Staff Auditorium
    “The Role of Protein Phosphatase 2A in Cardiac Function”
    Mr. Qinghang Liu
    3:30 p.m., Room 516, Nash

October

1   “Apo2L/TRAIL: Anticancer Activity & Preclinical Development”
    Dr. Ralph Schwall
    12:30 p.m., Link Auditorium

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

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

7   “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

8   “Proteome and Transcriptome Studies in Rodent Models of Heart Failure and Diabetes”
    Dr. Ivan Gerling
    Noon, Link Auditorium
    “Toll-like Receptors and Dendritic Cells Activation: Functional and Structural Studies”
    Dr. Fabio Re
    Noon, Room A302, GEB

13  “Structural Insights into Ubiquitin-like Protein Transfer Cascade”
    Dr. Brenda Schulman
    4 p.m., Link Auditorium
Minutes/Policies

September 15, 2003

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Roundup

FACULTY SENATE - June 10, 2003


President Mansbach called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 6, 2003 minutes without revisions or corrections.

Announcements

President Mansbach reminded the senate that there would not be any Faculty Senate meetings in July or August. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2003.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Committee Reports

Budget and Benefits

Senator Albritton stated that the committee went over their goals and priorities and re-set some of the priorities. The top priority now is the issue of salary compensation. We want to find out if this is applied consistently across the campus, according to the policies that are published. We have had one meeting with President Mansbach, Senator Bhattacharya, who is chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and has the same charge. From this meeting a letter was written and sent to Mike Docktor requesting his assistance in this effort. Mike Docktor responded via telephone and had a brief meeting. We have another meeting scheduled later this month. Our efforts, we hope, is to have this matter cleared up by the time the appointment letters come out.

Computing and Telecommunications

Chairman Cindy Russell reported that one of the major things the C&T committee would be doing this year is to look into developing and implementing some sort of a functional campus model for the ongoing identification prioritization and implantation of information technology needs for education, service, research, and administration on our campus.

Chairman Russell presented the Resolution, which had been reviewed by the Executive Committee. Discussions, comments, and input to clarify the Resolution, i.e., specifics
need to be specifically recommended (see page two, paragraph’s one and five). Senator Albritton made a motion to vote on the Resolution with the small changes that were suggested. The motion was seconded and approved with one abstention.

Senator Richard Nollan, Chairman of the Intellectual Property Ad Hoc Committee, Sub-Committee of the C&T Committee, submitted the following report:

The UT Intellectual Property Policy that has been the topic of three (3) committees over the past four (4) years appears to be reaching at least a partially successful conclusion. This morning Bob Levy, Associate Vice-President, announced to his system-wide committee that the president’s staff has approved the final IP draft, and that it will go to the UT Board of Trustees during their meeting on June 18th and 19th.

As reported a few months ago, this draft only addresses the issues pertaining to copyright ownership of materials created for credit or non-credit instruction, with the usual exception to works stemming either from the substantial use of university resources or from sponsored works. This document preserves the traditional expectation of faculty members to own their course materials, and it expands the definition to include mediated materials, e.g., movies, images, audio, and so on.

While this document does address copyright issues, it does not include any changes regarding patents. With the development of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation, there is still plenty of work to do in significantly updating the patent portion of the policy. This work will not be done by the committee chaired by Bob Levy, but by a group closer to the UTRF.

Educational Policy

Senator Suttle reported that his committee had met and discussed the goals for the year. If there are any issues anyone feels needs to be addressed, please contact him. A full report will be given at the September meeting.

Faculty Affairs

Senator Bhattacharya stated that his committee has begun working on their goals. A meeting was held with Dr. Dino Palazzolo concerning the current policy about the existing faculty incentive bonuses. This is also one of the issues Senator Albritton’s committee is working on.

A meeting was also held with Dr. Palazzolo concerning a Sabbatical Policy. The UTK campus has one and we feel we should also have one for the Memphis campus. Although Dr. Palazzolo stated he would obtain a copy of the policy for review, to date it has not been received.

Faculty Communications

Senator Nutting reported that the first goal for the Faculty Communications Committee was to get the current composition and list of chairs of the various committees published and updated on the website as well as a list of all senate members and the new composition of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Faculty Research

Senator Cook stated that the Research Space Policy worked on last year has been approved but as to date has not been posted on the web or in The Record. It was suggested the policy be put on the Senate Website.

Legislature Resource Group

None