Due to increased budget constraints, UTHSC announces a reduction in workforce effective October 6, 2004.

The headcount of 120 includes 81 unfilled positions and 39 positions that are currently filled. This is out of almost 3,000 faculty and staff employed by the Health Science Center. Overall, the dollar amount totals a reduction of $3.4 million for the 2005 fiscal year.

Chancellor Bill Rice stated, “Although difficult, this workforce reduction is necessary in order to balance the budget for the 2005 fiscal year that began on July 1, 2004. The combination of a 9 percent reduction in state appropriations last year and increases in operating costs in the coming year are the primary causes of our budget difficulties.”

“Of the 39 filled positions that are being eliminated, 20 are occupied by employees who have either been placed in other jobs at the university or who are making other arrangements. We will make every effort to find positions for the remaining 19 employees before their jobs end on October 6. By no means does this action reflect on the quality of work produced by these individuals who are impacted,” Rice commented.

According to director of human resources, Richard Washington, his department will assist the employees with training and placement assistance. He commented, “These employees will have first priority in being considered for university positions for which they are qualified. Also, we’ll provide resume development and interview skills training, as well as work with the computer center to offer computer-based training to assist in honing their job skills.”

The Human Resources Department is also coordinating with Tennessee Workforce Development to hold on-campus sessions, where assistance will be as accessible as possible. “Obviously, this is a difficult time for all of us, and we want to make this transition as painless as possible,” Washington said.

Rice stated, “Eighty-one of the positions to be eliminated are currently vacant as the result of a hiring freeze that has been in effect since last fall. Twenty-five of the vacancies are in faculty positions, and 56 are in non-faculty positions. All of the 39 currently-filled positions to be eliminated are non-faculty slots.”

“At this time, we do not expect the personnel reduction to affect the quality of academic programs; however, we hope this is the last year we have to do this, because we cannot continue to operate at this level for a long period of time. I appreciate all of our faculty and staff for bearing with us as we go through these difficult times,” Rice stated.

Jackson Practice Expands

On June 25, staff members at the UT Family Practice in Jackson held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to celebrate their newly renovated and expanded facility.

By increasing the building’s size by 10,000 square feet, the practice will be able to properly accommodate their volume of patients. A fast track area has also been added for patients requiring attention within 24 to 48 hours.
**Boling Center Expands Nutrition Program**

The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD)’s Department of Nutrition recently received funds to expand its nutrition education programs. In collaboration with UT Telemedicine, the Boling Center joins with the West Tennessee Area Health Education Center; UT Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; UT Preventive Medicine; and UT Martin to form the Cooperative Nutrition Network. This grant, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture to the state of Tennessee, promotes increased nutrition education targeted toward persons with low income and those who use, or are eligible for, the Food Stamp Program.

The Boling Center’s arm of the program, titled “Positive Lifestyle Changes for Persons with Special Needs,” will take the normally performed onsite nutrition education into the Memphis area community. The universal goal of the project is to provide community educational opportunities to low-income families and those who have, or are at risk for, developmental disabilities. This should increase the likelihood of positive lifestyle changes including preventing and/or reducing overweight and improving diet quality consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The educational sessions will be comprised of workshops held within the community, as well as presentations and brief educational contacts at area health fairs.

The goals of the Boling Center project are as follows: to increase healthful food choices and positive lifestyle changes; to increase knowledge about the procedure on applying for non-emergency food assistance available in the area; to increase knowledge of basic food safety; and to improve management of food resources.

The Boling Center is one of 61 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in the United States established by the federal government to develop interdisciplinary training, service, and applied research related to developmental disabilities. Initially a small diagnostic clinic, the Boling Center began in 1957 with federal support from the Children’s Bureau. The BCDD is now one of the most comprehensive facilities in the nation dedicated to improving quality of life for people of all ages with developmental disabilities and their families. The BCDD also focuses on prevention of developmental disabilities through programs for mothers and children who have, or are at risk for having, special healthcare needs.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Bishop at ebishop@utmem.edu or by phone at 888-572-2249.
Dr. Shelley White-Means Appointed Pharmaceutical Sciences Vice-Chair

Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology at UTHSC, has been elected to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Tigyi was among seven distinguished scientists in the USA who received the honor to become a foreign member of the academy.

The academy was established in 1848 and has been the top forum of Hungarian intellectuals, which fulfills an important advisory role in shaping science and cultural policy. Hungarians pride themselves in having the highest number of Nobel prize winners per capita. The small country of 11 million has produced 13 Nobel laureates. The membership in the academy is limited to only 200 members, each elected by secret ballot, based on the nomination of at least two members.

One of Dr. Tigyi’s nominators, Tibor Farkas, a world-renowned lipid biochemist, also a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, praised Dr. Tigyi’s groundbreaking discoveries concerning phospholipid growth factors, a group of natural substances he discovered in blood serum that are now being developed for the treatment of a wide variety of diseases such as organ rejection, autoimmunity and cancer metastasis.

Dr. Tigyi was also honored for his service on committees that promote scientific exchange and collaboration between the U.S. and developing countries, including those of the former Eastern block.

Shelley I. White-Means, PhD

She earned her BA degree in economics at Grinnell College in Iowa, and both her master’s and doctoral degrees in economics at Northwestern University. She has also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine in the UT College of Medicine since 1994. Before her tenure at the University of Memphis, she was a lecturer and assistant professor at Cornell University.

A native Memphian, White-Means is a graduate of Hamilton High School. She has also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine in the UT College of Medicine since 1994. Before her tenure at the University of Memphis, she was a lecturer and assistant professor at Cornell University.

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Dick R. Gourley, PharmD, dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Duane D. Miller, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, recently announced the appointment of Shelley I. White-Means, PhD, as professor and vice-chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. White-Means will lead the health science administration division of the department.

Dr. White-Means comes to UTHSC from the University of Memphis, where she had been a faculty member in the Department of Economics since 1988. She has also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine in the UT College of Medicine since 1994. Before her tenure at the University of Memphis, she was a lecturer and assistant professor at Cornell University.

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UT Medical Group Celebrates 30 Years of Service

This month, UT Medical Group (UTMG) celebrates 30 years as a leader in patient care, medical education, and clinical research in the Mid-South.

The largest multispecialty physician practice in the region, UTMG was originally formed in 1974 as Faculty Medical Practice Corporation. FMPC was the vehicle through which physicians on the staff of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine cared for patients and taught medical students. In 1983, FMPC became a tax-exempt entity and changed its name to University Physicians Foundation. The organization’s name was officially changed to UT Medical Group, Inc. (UTMG) in 1990 to reflect more accurately its relationship with the University of Tennessee.

Throughout its history, UTMG has made enormous contributions to healthcare in the Mid-South and beyond. The physicians are leaders in their fields and have performed many groundbreaking procedures, including the area’s first kidney transplant, first successful in vitro fertilization and first laparoscopic gastric bypass surgery. UTMG doctors introduced laparoscopic surgery to the Mid-South, founded the area’s first organ transplant program and spearheaded the creation of the Newborn and Trauma Centers at The Regional Medical Center (The MED). UTMG also brought the first 4-D ultrasound capability to the Memphis area.

UTMG doctors continue to be on the forefront of healthcare technology today. UTMG is a local pioneer in the use of hand-held computer technology in the clinical office. The physicians also are leading the way in the field of telemedicine, which enables a doctor to examine a patient in another office miles away.

UTMG celebrates 30 years of achievement and salutes their physicians, nurses, healthcare professionals, and support staff for their commitment and dedication to the organization, to the university, and to their patients.

New parking meters have been installed on the drive adjacent to the SAC. The meters will be strictly enforced during business hours.

Computing and Telecommunications reminds UTHSC personnel of their collaboration with Digital Media Services at UT Knoxville.

Digital Media Services can digitize text, images, video and sound; assist in securing copyright permissions, offer referrals to related media production and technology services; and provide CD and DVD duplication.

Services for instructional materials are provided at no cost to faculty members except for related shipping costs.

Contact Brad Terhune at 448-2851 or via e-mail at bterhune@utmem.edu for more information.

Even though many of the services currently being provided at UT Bowld are transitioning over to Methodist University Hospital, certain services will continue to be offered after Aug. 1, 2004 through The MED in the Dobbs complex.

Physicians will continue to receive their results through Meditech. Also, nothing will change in regard to scheduling tests, only the telephone numbers, which will change as of August 1.

The MED Diagnostic Services locations, as well as phone numbers for testing and departments after August 1 are as follows:

Nuclear Medicine, Basement
545-8804 (Testing)
545-8845 (Department)

Fluoroscopy, Ground floor
545-8839 (Testing)
545-8847 (Department)

Non-invasive Cardiology, Third floor
545-8841 (Testing)
545-8843 (Department)

Dialysis, Sixth floor
545-8842 (Department)

Any questions may be directed to Jeff Brandon or Sandy Snell at The MED at 545-7117.

State Sen. Steve Cohen presents a certificate from Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen designating July 1, 2004 as a “Day of Recognition” in honor of UT Medical Group’s 30th anniversary. Pictured, from left to right: Henry G. Herrod, MD, chairman, UTMG Board of Directors; Steve Burkett, president and CEO, UTMG; Senator Steve Cohen; Brenda Jeter, chief financial officer, UTMG; Jeffery Woodside, MD, vice-president and chief medical officer, UTMG.
17 Obesity Surgery Seminar  
*Dr. Atul Madan*  
10 a.m., UTMG Germantown office  
More info: kimberly.turman@utmg.org

26 Coagulation Conference  
*Drs. Marion Dugdale and Carolyn Chesney*  
Noon, Coleman G312  
More info: lpitts@utmem.edu

28 “Access: the Achilles’ Heel of Dialysis”  
*Dr. Brad Canada*  
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium  
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

10 “Pregnancy Loss-Reducing the Risk”  
*Dr. William H. Kutteh*  
6 p.m., 80 Humphreys Center, Suite 307  
More info: www.fertilitymemphis.com