A brain cancer stem cell program has been established at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Only a few other centers of this type exist in the U.S., including programs at Stanford University and the University of Michigan.

Operating as part of the UTHSC Department of Neurosurgery in collaboration with Semmes-Murphey Neurologic and Spine Institute and Methodist University Hospital Neuroscience Institute, the program is funded primarily by the Methodist Healthcare Foundation.

Valery Kukekov, PhD, and Tatyana Ignatova, PhD, were recruited from the University of Florida to join the Department of Neurosurgery to lead an effort to combine the fields of tumor cell and stem cell biology.

“This is a major achievement for UTHSC and Methodist and will put us at the forefront of brain cancer research nationally. This research team will unite physicians and scientists of diverse backgrounds and will attempt to answer questions about the role of cancer stem cells in all biological aspects of brain tumors from both children and adults,” said Jon Robertson, MD, head of the UTHSC Department of Neurosurgery. Dr. Robertson is also a physician with Semmes-Murphey, the largest neurosurgery group in the country.

Dr. Christopher Duntsch, a group leader for brain cancer research and development in the UTHSC neurosurgery department, said, “Drs. Kukekov and Ignatova are considered pioneers in the field of stem cell and tumor stem cell research, and we are very fortunate to recruit them to Memphis to start this program.”

Both researchers previously worked at UTHSC and have fond memories.

“We knew that coming here would give us a unique opportunity to initiate a multi-disciplinary program that will integrate two branches of biomedical science: basic and clinical, to study the origins of brain tumors and brain metastases from different primary tumors,” said Dr. Kukekov.

The concept of stem cell biology has changed the paradigm of how healthy tissues develop and how injured tissues regenerate. Similarly, the concept that cancer is a stem cell disease will yield exciting new potential for understanding how cancers arise, spread and resist treatment. The ultimate goal of the Department of Neurosurgery tumor stem cell program is to define the true nature of a cancer stem cell, and then use this information to design novel therapies including a cancer vaccine targeting this unique cell population.

Dr. Kukekov is a pioneer in adult brain stem cell research. In the late 1990s, he collaborated with Dr. Ignatova, an experienced cancer cell biologist, to isolate stem-cell-like cells from human brain tumors. This landmark study was presented at the Annual Neuroscience Society meeting in Los Angeles in 2000, and demonstrated for the first time the existence of cancer stem cells in human brain tumors. During more recent studies at the University of Florida, the researchers, in collaboration with an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Parker Gibbs, similarly isolated cancer stem cells from bone and cartilage tumors, demonstrating that all cancers may be derived from a cancer stem cell.

“In our stem cell model, the bulk of tumor cells are innocent. Only the seeds, or stem cells, are dangerous,” said Dr. Kukekov. “If we can isolate and study these cells, it will be easier to invent therapies and drugs that are more targeted by interfering with the process of tumor growth and with metastasis to the brain.”

Drs. Kukekov and Ignatova will join Dr. Duntsch’s existing tumor research group, and together they will combine stem cell and tumor cell biology research into a new research direction, tumor stem cell research. The unified goal of this effort will be to develop new therapeutic approaches to cure brain cancer.

Over the next few years, they will work to establish this research and solicit public funding from the National Institutes of Health.
I am honored to have the opportunity to share some of my high level goals for the health science center.

As way of background, my goal is to transform the UT Health Science Center from a very good academic health center to a great center.

I believe greatness for us should be reflected in each of our component missions of research, teaching, clinical care and service to the community. This, of course, will be accomplished using the talent and leadership of you — our faculty and staff.

Greatness in research will be accomplished by identifying a smaller number of disease states or conditions that plague the human condition and focusing our energies on becoming world-class in understanding and developing novel therapies for those conditions.

We will not abandon our interest in those areas that are needed to deliver cutting edge care. However, the allocation of extraordinary resources will be provided to those programs that are of special strategic priority.

Greatness in teaching will be accomplished by identifying and rewarding those faculty leaders who are just that — great teachers.

They will be lauded and given the freedom to innovate and focus on teaching, rather than having to juggle teaching with other activities that have been incorrectly valued higher. Great teachers will be venerated like our great scientists.

I see us achieving greatness in clinical care by elevating the doctors and practitioners across the UT Health Science Center.

Like teaching, to nurture and retain great practitioners, we need to recognize and reward them for their achievements, for providing outstanding care of their patients with thoughtfulness and compassion.

Service to the community is increasingly a matter of social justice. If we, the leaders of healthcare in America who reside in the academic health centers, do not use our intellectual capital, financial resources and influence to manage community ills in human health, who will do so?

I believe the mantra of my generation, which is “healthcare from the bench to the bedside,” should be modified to “healthcare from the bench to the curbside.”

To achieve these aims will require collective and coordinated action at the health science center that relies upon vision, communication, accountability, execution and infrastructure.

This will be accomplished in a structured manner with three sequential steps:

• The first will be for me to complete a 100-day environmental assessment of UTHSC by analyzing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

• The second step will be to form individual strategy teams for each of our mission areas of research, teaching, clinical care, service to the community, as well as infrastructure (human talent, buildings and work environment). These teams will be charged with developing a campus-wide vision for each of their areas, strategy statements, objectives and goals.

• Then the third step will be to develop a prioritized implementation plan for the strategies. Our goal is to complete the second phase outlined here by the end of the third quarter and to have the last phase completed by the end of the year.

This is an ambitious plan, and I hope to engage you with each aspect of this process.

Greatness is unique, and we have set a lofty goal. However, as we strive for greatness at UTHSC, we will be transforming ourselves and, in so doing, optimizing the healthcare for our citizens.
Dr. Carlton Horbelt, associate professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health and director of the Arlington Development Center Consulting Clinic, has been named a diplomate of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry with recognized proficiency in the area of dentistry for persons with disabilities.

Dr. Paul Bland, assistant professor in the Department of Periodontology has successfully completed part II of the periodontology board examination and thus has achieved “diplomate” status in the field of periodontology.

Dr. Ann Cashion, chair and associate professor in the College of Nursing’s acute and chronic care department and the director for the Center for Health Evaluation and Lifestyle Promotion, has been chosen as one of 20 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows for 2005 nationwide.

The fellowship is a three year program which includes a directed leadership project at UTHSC that will focus on today’s pressing healthcare issues.

Dr. Donald B. Thomason, associate professor of physiology, has been elected chair of the 41st Annual Biological Transport Meeting to be held June 18 - 21, 2006. The meeting, which will be held at the Lake Cumberland Resort near Jamestown, Ky, is sponsored by the American Physiological Society. The forum allows recent research on biological transport to be presented.

Dr. Yunzhi Yang, a researcher in biomedical engineering, has been presented a $66,000 grant from the Memphis Bioworks Foundation to further his research in tissue-aided bone formation around dental implants.

The grant will be paid in four increments through September 2006, and comes from $200,000 presented to the Bioworks Foundation by the Assisi Foundation of Memphis.

Dr. Alan Lummus, a research scientist in preventive medicine, and Suzy Scott-Williams, research liaison nurse at the Memphis VA Medical Center, were presented with awards of merit at the 52nd AORN Congress in New Orleans for their research poster, “Perioperative Pressure Ulcer Prevention: Evidence-Based Best Practices.”

They also were recognized in the June 2005 edition of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Journal in an article highlighting the awards.

Dr. John N. Fain, Van Vleet Chair of Excellence in Biochemistry, was recently recognized for an address he gave at a symposium on the “Role of Inflammation in the Pathogenesis of Type 2 Diabetes.”

Dr. Fain kicked off the symposium in San Diego on June 11 with a discussion about where inflammatory factors come from.

Dr. Ivan Gerling, associate professor of medicine and a member of the Research Center of Excellence in Genomics and Bioinformatics, has received an innovation award from the American Diabetes Association for a project titled “Serum Peptidome Biosignatures of Islet Graft Destruction.” The two-year project will allow Dr. Gerling and his collaborator Dr. Dominic Desiderio, professor in neurology, to use high-sensitivity mass spectrometry to screen serum for unique biomarkers appearing during the period when transplanted Islet of Langerhans cells are destroyed.

Also, Dr. Gerling has been invited to speak at the annual meeting of the American Electrophoresis Society. The invitation came after an article he had published in the journal Electrophoresis in January sparked interest. The article introduced a new way to use sequential staining to characterize phosphorylation and glycosylation status of protein spots on 2-Dimensional Electrophoresis (2DE) gels, which simplifies an otherwise time consuming process.

On Memoriam

The UTHSC community extends condolences to:

The family and friends of Dr. Andrew Lasslo, former professor and chairman of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy for almost 30 years, who died Tuesday, June 14.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma, and a daughter, Millicent Lasslo Meeks, who both live in Memphis.

Congratulations!

Graduations

Cedrick Durrell Wooten, son of Hattie Wooten, an operatory receptionist in the College of Dentistry, graduated on Sunday, May 8, from the Cecil C. Humphrey’s School of Law at the University of Memphis.

On a Personal Note...

Lt. Christina Kesick Johnson, daughter of Herb Kesick, HVAC supervisor in the physical plant, has been deployed and arrived in Baghdad, Iraq Sunday June 19. She is with the U.S. Army’s 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Ga.

Lt. Johnson is a physician’s assistant with the medical corp, and will be rotating through clinics and a military hospital established in and around Baghdad.
Science Program Gives Real Experience

Dick Peppler, PhD, professor and associate dean of the College of Medicine, contributed to this article.

The Office of Health Career Programs is offering more than 150 undergraduate and high school students real-world science experience this summer.

Faculty of the College of Graduate Health Sciences are opening their laboratories to over 80 students through the Memphis McNair Program.

Directed by Deborah Northcross, the McNair Program is sponsoring 20 first-generation, underrepresented minority students to participate in this graduate school preparation program designed to increase the number of students pursuing a PhD degree.

The Summer Research Scholar Program, supported by faculty and university programs, and the NIH Short-Term Cardiovascular Training Grant for Minority Students, directed by Edward G. Schneider, PhD, professor and associate dean, have 19 students from regional undergraduate institutions who are experiencing the excitement of being a biomedical scientist for the summer.

Eldridge F. Johnson, PhD, professor, who works with historically black regional undergraduate institutions and high schools, has found opportunities for eight college and 19 high school students in research labs as part of his Pre-Science Program. In addition, the Science Outreach program developed by Dr. Johnson and Karen C. Fox, PhD, assistant dean, and supported by the Memphis business community, is sponsoring 14 college students.

The Health Careers Opportunity Program is giving 37 youth a preview of curriculum in a professional school. The Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals is helping 42 black students realize their career goals by offering advice, support and activities, while the Memphis Challenge Program is seeking to inspire 14 youth to be future community leaders.

The July 15 Record will take an in-depth look at these programs.

Tuition Increases

Tuition increases were passed by the University of Tennessee board of trustees Thursday, June 23.

Tuition at the health science center was approved based on the needs of the individual schools.

For first-year medical students, tuition will rise 3 percent. Current students will not see an increase.

In the College of Allied Health Sciences, tuition will increase 8 percent. In nursing, the jump will be 3 percent. In pharmacy, tuition will increase 9 percent for in-state and 3 percent for out-of-state.

In dentistry, tuition will rise 15 percent for those in-state and 10 percent for out-of-state.

Also, an annual $18.50 fee to fund a student-assistance program will be implemented. The program provides 24-hour personal and educational help for students in need.

Compliance Corner

The federal government has provided a source to answer questions about HIPAA privacy; this source currently has 236 questions and answers and can be accessed on the web at www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/privacy.html.

The following is an example of just such a question designed to protect both the university and the employee from violating HIPAA regulations.

**Question:** Must a covered healthcare provider obtain an individual’s authorization to use or disclose protected health information to an interpreter?

**Answer:** No, when a covered healthcare provider uses an interpreter to communicate with an individual, the individual’s authorization is not required when the provider meets the following conditions:

- Covered entities may use and disclose protected health information for treatment, payment and healthcare operations without an individual’s authorization, 45 CFR 164.506(c).
- A covered healthcare provider might use interpreter services to communicate with patients who speak a language other than English or who are deaf or hard of hearing, and provision of interpreter services usually will be a healthcare operations function of the covered entity as defined at 45 CFR 164.501.
- When using interpreter services, a covered entity may use and disclose protected health information regarding an individual without the individual’s authorization as a healthcare operation, in accordance with the privacy rule.

Compliance Training Required

The federal government requires all faculty, staff and students to be trained for Medicare Compliance, HIPAA Privacy and HIPAA Security.

To check your status or take the training, you can access the presentations through ILogin on the UT Home Page at www.utmem.edu.

Select administration and a drop down menu will reveal the lessons assigned to you; then select a lesson and proceed according to instructions provided in the lesson.

If you have already completed the training, the system will not allow you access.

**Your cooperation is necessary to achieve 100 percent compliance. If you have not completed the training, please do so.**
The Office of Equity and Diversity is selling tickets for the Art of the Motorcycle exhibit presented by Wonders of Memphis.

Vouchers are being sold in the 920 Madison building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The price is $10 for adults and $4 for children.

By Laura Moore
Communications Intern

Shopping necessities for faculty, staff, students and fans can be found a short walk away at the University Center Store.

Located in the 920 Madison Avenue building and the Humphrey’s General Education Building (GEB), the University Center Store, better-known-as the Bookstore, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Within the 600-square feet that the store comprises are all the essentials for medical and dental students, as well as UT fans.

Even though there is no discount for students, the Bookstore, which is a non-profit organization that orders in bulk, charges “everyone a fair price on everything we have,” says Bookstore Director Jonas Burnes. And by “everything” he means everything. The University Center Store in the basement of the GEB offers reference books, textbooks and medical and dental supplies.

Crossing the street to the 920 Madison Avenue building, the Rocky Top, the convenience store facet of the University Center Store, provides everything from greeting cards to clothing items representing the seven colleges on campus.

The University Center Store sells its merchandise online, but for human interaction, both divisions of the Bookstore provide wonderful service. “Everyone here is dedicated to serving the public … and goes out of their way to please the customer,” Burnes commented.

For more information call 448-5623 or to place an order online go to www.utmem.edu/bookstore.

By Megan Hefner
Communications Intern

If brown-bagged lunch-leftovers have become a bore, head over to the Plaza Terrace Food Court’s newest restaurant for a taste of Italian.

Isabella’s Pizza, located in the 920 Madison Avenue building, officially opened for business on Monday, June 27. A few lucky pizza lovers were served complimentary slices the week before so that people could get a taste before the doors opened to the masses.

For those patrons who are not pizza lovers, Isabella’s also offers a variety of other Italian favorites, so there is something for everyone.

In fact, the Plaza Terrace Food Court, offers options for every appetite. In addition to Isabella’s, Subway offers fresh sub sandwiches. There is Taco City, for those who crave Mexican food. And don’t forget Tucker’s for good old-fashioned American food; it offers chicken, catfish and more.

For lunch-break convenience, the 920 building also offers a Fisher Optical and Java Coffee; and a First Tennessee Bank, a SunTrust Bank and the UT Federal Credit Union are all available under one roof.

So to spice up lunch while running errands, the Plaza Terrace Food Court is a short walk from anywhere on campus. The only problem will be choosing what to have.
UTHSC Welcomes New Employees Hired in June

Three new faculty members and 15 new staff members were hired during the month of June. UTHSC warmly welcomes these new employees, who joined the ranks of the following departments.

**Faculty**
- Cindy Adymy, MSN, BSN
  Instructor
  Nursing-Academic Programs
- Robert Richardson, III, MD
  Assistant Professor
  Medicine-General Internal Medicine
- William Veazey, DMD
  Assistant Professor
  Restorative Dentistry
- Debbie Holman-Beans
  Clinical Dental Assistant
  Private Practice Dentistry
- Sean Lester
  Death Investigator
  College of Nursing
- Ralph Lorenz
  Coordinator
  Graduate Medical Education
- Phillip Minnifield
  Sr. Power Plant Operator
  Mechanical Services
- Michelle Rice
  Administrative Aide
  Dean’s Office - College of Medicine
- Emily Roguski
  Research Assistant
  Pharmacology
- Vikram Saini
  Research Technician
  Ophthalmology
- Tadarrio Scruggs
  Police Officer
  Campus Police
- Jensina Warmbold
  Sr. Research Technician
  Anatomy & Neurobiology

**Staff**
- Narina Baburyan
  Research Assistant
  Molecular Sciences
- Rodrigues Brown
  Sr. Library Specialist
  Library
- Virginia Calvo
  Research Assistant
  Pediatrics
- Christal Gammage
  Research Assistant
  Medicine-Rheumatology
- Hauzhang Guo
  Research Associate
  Physiology
- Heather Heckman
  Research Technician
  Anatomy & Neurobiology

UTHSC Wins Grant to Extend Rural Patient Access for Cancer Care

Thanks to a $1.5 million three-year grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), rural Mid-South cancer patients can now be treated by leading oncology and hematology specialists with the UT Cancer Institute (UTCi).

The grant allows UTHSC to extend its established telehealth network to include the Technology Exchange for Cancer Health Network (TECH-Net).

The newly launched network will link ten UTCi cancer outreach centers in the tri-state area—Eastern Arkansas, Northern Mississippi and Western Tennessee—with specialists of UTHSC, Methodist Healthcare and UTCi.

“TECH-Net is a major breakthrough for Mid-South cancer patients who need regular, managed cancer care but live a distance from the medical center,” said Karen Fox, PhD, executive director of the telehealth network and assistant dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine.

“For example, a patient in Forrest City, Ark., can go to the UT Cancer Institute there and, via video conference, be examined by a hematologist, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist or behavioral health specialist, whatever is required,” Dr. Fox continued.

The second phase of the project involves creating an electronic medical records database with decision support systems which means the patient can be in any one of the ten outreach centers, and physicians can access his or her record and consult from several locations.

Come to a 401k Information Session

**Friday, July 8 — 9 to 11 a.m., SAC Auditorium**

Employee and organizational development, along with the payroll office, will host the 401k information session. Marty Halpern from Great-West Retirement Services will share information about the 401k program, answer questions and provide helpful tips for investors. Registration for this event is not necessary.
FACULTY SENATE  
May 10, 2005

Call to Order:  
President K.U. Malik called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:  
The minutes of the April 12, 2005 meeting were approved.

Announcements:  
President K.U. Malik presented Senator Syamal Battacharya his award for service as chair of the faculty affairs committee and thanked him for his service in the past year.

Faculty Senate President's Annual Report:  
President Malik began by thanking the faculty senate for the opportunity to serve.

In his closing address as president, he outlined a number of the challenges, as well as the triumphs UTHSC has faced in the past year. The three major tasks the Faculty Senate took on this year were to revise the faculty by-laws, the Faculty Senate Procedure Manual and the Faculty Handbook.

He also updated senators on the progress of the various committees within the senate. The complete text of the message is posted online under the July 1 edition of The Record at http://www.utmem.edu/record/.

The Passing of the Gavel of the UTHSC Faculty Senate:  
At the conclusion of President Malik’s message, he introduced President-Elect Lawrence M. Pfeffer, who became Faculty Senate President with the passing of the gavel.

President Pfeffer presented the presidential plaque to Past-President Malik and thanked him for his service as president this year.

President Pfeffer also thanked the senate for the opportunity to serve as president in the year to come. He thanked Chancellor William F. (Bill) Owen, Jr., for beginning a very open administration, and he indicated that Chancellor Owen plans to meet with the faculty once each quarter. The chancellor has made it clear that he wants faculty input.

President Pfeffer announced that Senator George Cook had been nominated by the FSEC as a candidate for President-Elect and that Senator David Nutting had been nominated by the FSEC as a candidate for secretary-treasurer.

He then asked for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Eldridge Johnson was nominated for president-elect and his nomination was seconded. There were no additional nominations for the position of secretary-treasurer.

Senator Parker Suttle and Past-President Larry Hak were appointed tellers. They distributed ballots, collected them after senators had voted and counted the ballots. The results were: Senator Cook was elected president-elect and Senator Nutting was elected secretary-treasurer.

Beginning in June we will have an administrator come each month and make a presentation on his or her area and take questions. Next month will be from business and finance.

After meeting in June, the Faculty Senate will take off the months of July and August and begin regular meetings in September. All meetings will begin promptly at 4 p.m. We will not have committee reports at each meeting.

President Pfeffer asked if there were any questions. A question was asked on what constituted a quorum. It was stated that 20 senators are needed for a quorum. Senator Allan Edmonson has served this year as parliamentarian for the past year. Senator Parker Suttle was appointed by President Pfeffer to serve as parliamentarian beginning in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be June 14 at 4 p.m.
## July 2005

### 7

**“ANGELS High Risk OB Conference: Domestic Violence in Pregnancy”**  
*Curtis Lowery, MD, MFM*  
7-8 a.m., Le Bonheur POB 2nd Floor Conference Room (P210)  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu

### 12

**“The High-Functioning Bipolar Patient: Raising Expectations”**  
*John M. Zajecka, MD, & Charles L. Bowden, MD*  
11 a.m. - Noon, Location TBA  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu or call 448-1474

### 13

**Open House**  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s General Clinical Research Center  
All faculty and staff are welcome.  
3 - 5 p.m., 8th floor - East Wing  
Methodist University Hospital  
Stop by for refreshments and a tour.

“Unscrambling the Viral Exanthems and Enanthems”  
*Robert E. Morrison, MD*  
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium  
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

### 14

**“The 23rd National Conference on Health Education and Health Promotion: Voices from the Leading Edge”**  
*Various speakers*  
1 - 2:30 p.m., Location TBA  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu or call 448-1474

### 19

**“National Telehealth Grand Rounds: Statewide and Interstate Collaboration in Telehealth”**  
*Dale C. Alverson, MD, medical director, University of New Mexico HSC, Center for Telehealth*  
2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Location TBA  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu or call 448-1474

### 20

**“Advances in Adjuvant Systemic Therapy of Breast Cancer”**  
*Mohammad Jahanzeb, MD*  
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium  
More info: bedman@utmem.edu

### 21

**“Confronting Elder Abuse and Neglect”**  
*Elinor F. Reed Distinguished Visiting Professorship*  
*Linda Phillips, PhD, RN, FAAN*  
10 - 11:30 a.m., A102 GEB  
More info: mmrobinson@utmem.edu

### 22

**“2nd Annual Forensic Nursing Conference: How Communities Address Elder Abuse”**  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., A102 GEB  
More info: http://nursingnet.utmem.edu/forensicconference/

### 28

**“CDC Satellite Conference: Immunization Update”**  
*Various speakers*  
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Location TBA  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu or call 448-1474

### 29

**“Domestic Violence and Children: Ideology, Impact and Treatment Approaches”**  
10 a.m. - Noon,  
Memphis Public Library, 3030 Poplar  
Free to general public, $5 registration fee for attorneys.  
To register: cmills8@utmem.edu or call 448-1845