Cardiologist Speaks on Health Disparities

Levi Watkins, Jr., MD, guest lecturer for the Annual Bluff City Memorial Lecture, hoped to open the eyes of future physicians to cardiovascular health disparities as he spoke to a campus forum April 26.

The Bluff City Medical Society, which was founded in 1885 by a group of black physicians and is a branch of the National Medical Association, in partnership with the University of Tennessee Center on Health Disparities, invited Dr. Watkins to Memphis.

Dr. Watkins, a cardiac surgeon as well as a professor and associate dean of the College of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, emphasized the importance of bringing awareness by informing others about what is already known about disparities.

Noting that 120,000 blacks and other minorities die each year because of disparities, Dr. Watkins said there are well-known solutions that are printed and talked about, but ignored.

Because sudden death is an increasing problem among blacks, Dr. Watkins talked about his own groundbreaking research in the automatic implantable defibrillator. He performed the world’s first human implantation of the automatic implantable defibrillator in February 1980 at Johns Hopkins, and he was the first black admitted to the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

As he reflected on his own career, Dr. Watkins encouraged others to look for opportunities to advance their situations and the lives of others.

Outreach Center Hosts Competition

The Outreach Center at UTHSC, in conjunction with the Memphis Chapter of the NAACP, hosted the science portion of the annual Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics in April.

The ACT-SO, a year-long scholastic program, brought students from Memphis and Shelby County schools to campus where they submitted science projects for the competition.

Local chapters of the NAACP from across the nation hold the competition for students in grades 9 to 12.

Charlotte Butler of Ridgeway High won the competition and will be one of 15 Memphis students to compete on the national level this summer.

UTHSC’s Outreach Center is aimed at maximizing the use of technology to meet the healthcare needs of Mid-Southerners.

SGA & Faculty Senate Awards

The 7th Annual SGA & Faculty Senate Awards Banquet was held April 26 on campus. Awards included:

**SGA Excellence in Teaching**

Allied Health  
Kitty L. Harkleroad  
Leilani Collins

**Dentistry**

Kenneth A. King, DDS  
Lawson L. Schroeder, DDS

**Graduate Health**

M. Waleed Gaber, PhD  
Bernd Meibohm, PhD, FCP

**Medicine**

A. Lloyd Finks, MD  
Mark A. Miller, PhD

**Nursing**

Michael A. Carter, DNSc  
R. Craig Stotts, PharmD

**Pharmacy**

Stephan L. Foster, PharmD  
Theodore “Ted” H. Morton, PharmD

**Social Work**

Toni K. Johnson

**Imhotep Award**  
(presented for service to students)  
Peggy I. Veeser, EdD

**Phil Webb Award**  
(presented for contributions in campus recreation)  
Ashleigh Dalton

**Administrator of the Year**

Odell Horton, Jr., JD,  
Vice Chancellor University Relations

**Faculty Senator of the Year**

David Nutting, PhD

**Emeritiory Achievement Award**

Dianne Asher
Responsibility for The Record is being passed to new hands. Rebecca Ennis, who recently was hired as the new publications specialist in the communications and marketing department, is taking over as editor.

She has a bachelor’s degree in communication from Mississippi University for Women. Before coming to UTHSC, she worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper in Columbus, Miss.

To ensure that The Record continues to be a vital publication, story ideas can be sent to rennis1@utmem.edu.

Brian Wiuff, former editor, has been named as the publications writer and will continue to work in the communications and marketing department.

The UT National Alumni Association has named its 2005 Outstanding Teachers and Public Service Award Recipient.

L. Brian Cross, PharmD, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Family Medicine, and Laura Read Sprabery, MD, an assistant professor of internal medicine, were selected for the National Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award by students in their colleges.

Dr. Ann Nolen, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, was nominated for the National Alumni Association Public Service Award by faculty campus wide.

Dr. Cross received his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University and then completed a residency in pharmacy practice at the New England Medical Center in Boston. He received his PharmD from UT and completed a residency in primary care at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis.

Dr. Sprabery received her bachelor’s degree in molecular biology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville and her medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson, Miss. She completed her internship and residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

Dr. Ann Nolen, a native Tennessean, received her bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from the University of Florida and holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Forest Institute in Hawaii.

The Record passes to new hands

UTNAA Spotlight Faculty

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Medicine Magazine wins Vox Award

UTHSC’s communication and marketing department brought home a Vox award in April from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for its College of Medicine Magazine.

The College of Medicine Magazine, which is published two times a year for graduates of UT College of Medicine, won in the print media category.

Judging criteria included: strategy and planning, effective use of available resources, execution and evaluation process. Entries were judged by PR professionals from across the Southeastern United States.

Faculty Town Hall Meeting

with Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD

Thursday, May 5 • 2-3:30 p.m. • GEB A-104
People

UTHSC Student Employee of the Year

Michelle Lee’s ability to work under pressure has won her the title of Student Employee of the Year.

Lee, a pharmacy student and class president in the Health Information Management program, has served in the College of Nursing’s UT HELP Center in the 920 Madison Building this year.

Her ability “...to take on multiple tasks simultaneously and produce quality results despite deadline pressure” is what motivated Monique Johnson-Dailey, business manager, along with Patricia A Cowan, PhD, to nominate Lee for the award.

**Raoul A. Arreola, PhD**, director of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning for UTHSC, has won the Relating Research to Practice Award—Interpretive Scholarship by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Dr. Arreola was presented with the award earlier this month at the AERA’s 86th Annual Meeting.

Dr. Arreola was recognized for developing a Meta-Profession Project which colleagues describe as providing “the DNA structure” of faculty work.

The Meta-Profession Project identifies over 20 skill sets beyond content expertise required by college professors to do their jobs.

**Harry W. Jarrett, PhD**, molecular sciences professor, was awarded two grants to study muscular dystrophy and the regulation of genes. The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) awarded Dr. Jarrett a three-year $270,000 grant and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded him for a five-year $1 million grant.

The College of Nursing recognized two exceptional alumnae at its April 22 Alumni Awards and Reunion Luncheon. **Virginia Trotter Betts, MSN, JD, RN, FAAN**, who serves on Governor Phil Bredesen’s cabinet, received the 2005 Outstanding Alumna Award. **Brenda C. Mills, PhD**, a retired faculty member, was presented with the 2005 Most Supportive Alumna Award.

Fred Rawlinson, a former UT employee in graphic arts, was featured at the UT Retiree Association in March where he produced a watercolor landscape and presented it to benefit the association.

The painting will be sold through a silent auction with a minimum bid of $400. It will be displayed in the Plaza Building lobby through June 8 with bids being accepted until noon on June 9. The bid sheet will be in the gift shop.

**Congratulations!**

**Graduations**

Erica Denise Martin, daughter of **Emma Denise Ross**, a senior dental assistant in the Dunn Dental Building, will graduate with a degree in elementary education from the University of Memphis May 7. Erica also is engaged to be married to James Herndon of Memphis on Aug. 13.

**Lakisha Fulton**, senior administrative services assistant in the development office, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in information technology from the University of Memphis May 7 at 3 p.m. at the FedEx Forum.

**Robin Lord**, daughter of **Carol Lord**, principal secretary at UT Family Practice Center at St. Francis, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood development from East Tennessee State University May 7.

**Ragan Blanchard**, daughter of **Terri Blanchard**, administrative secretary at UT Family Practice Center at St. Francis, will graduate from Munford High School May 24 and is ranked third in her class.

**Andrea Mechelle Lawson**, the daughter of **Laura Wiggins**, senior data integrity clerk at UT Family Practice Center at St. Francis, will graduate May 28 from Millington Central High School with a major in autobody repair.

On Memoriam

The UTHSC community extends condolences to:

The family and friends of, **Dr. Michael L. Gompertz**, 92, a, former UTHSC professor of medicine and retired chief of gastroenterology for Memphis Veterans Medical Center, who died April 14.

**Cassandra Thompson Stewart**, accounting supervisor in the Department of Molecular Sciences, on the loss of her grandmother, Eula Parker.

**Michael Rivers**, in the College of Dentistry, on the death of his mother, Forestine Rivers, on April 17.
Operational Compliance

Operational compliance is embedded in day-to-day operations. Once organizations understand the regulations they need to enforce, they can turn to procedural efforts. Operational compliance revolves around a few basic processes. Relevant policies have to be in place, accessible, and clear. Procedures have to be documented. Compliance tasks and procedures have to be in place and be documented, and companies must audit or measure processes for effectiveness.

Regulatory Compliance

Regulatory compliance is the functional area where organizations track proposed and newly enacted laws and regulations and the impact of these laws/regulations on their businesses. The Federal Registry records all of the regulations the federal government imposes on businesses.

Excluded Individuals and Entities

It is important to ensure that no employee or vendor is identified on the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities List.

- A section of the Balanced Budget Act authorizes the government to impose civil-monetary penalties (CMPs) on providers and entities that employ or contract with excluded individuals or entities to provide items or services to federal healthcare beneficiaries.
- Under the provisions, providers face CMPs for submitting claims to the government for items or services provided directly or indirectly by excluded individuals or entities.
- In addition to CMPs, facilities face a fine of up to three times the amount claimed, plus possible program exclusion.

For more information on privacy compliance call: 448-1672.
2  
"Nucleotide Modification by tRNA-Guanine Transglycosylase: A Tale of Three Aspartates”  
Dr. George A. Garcia  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
More info: jkatze@utmem.edu

3  
“Mapping Pathways of Neuronal Migration with RNAi”  
Dr. Joseph Loturco  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu

5  
“First, Do No Harm” (Chancellor’s Hours Activity)  
Film Series on Patient Safety  
Part 1: A Case Study of Systems Failure  
Noon -2 p.m., A-102 GEB  
More info: mmrobinson@utmem.edu

9  
Title TBA  
Dr. Janet Partridge  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
More info: mradic@utmem.edu

10  
Title TBA  
Dr. James West  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu

12  
“First, Do No Harm” (Chancellor’s Hours Activity)  
Film Series on Patient Safety  
Part 2: Taking the Lead  
Noon -2 p.m., A-103 GEB  
More info: mmrobinson@utmem.edu

16  
“New Lessons on Virus Entry from Studies of Retroviruses and Ebola Virus”  
Dr. Judith M. White  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
more info: cmire@utmem.edu

17  
Title TBA  
Dr. Charles Wilson  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu

19  
“First, Do No Harm” (Chancellor’s Hours Activity)  
Film Series on Patient Safety  
Part 3: Healing Lives, Changing Cultures  
Noon -2 p.m., A 102 GEB  
More info: mmrobinson@utmem.edu

23  
“Lysosphospholipid growth factors: from bench to the clinic”  
Dr. Gabor Tigyi  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
More info: mradic@utmem.edu

24  
“Amyloidogenic processing of Alzheimer’s disease amyloid precursor protein in lipid raft microdomains”  
Dr. Gopal Thinakaran  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu

31  
“Bioterrorism Update”  
Dr. Michael Gelfand  
Noon, Coleman North Auditorium  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu