HEALTH SYSTEM AFFAIRS: BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE STATE

Since September 2005, Michael R. Caudle, MD, has crisscrossed the Volunteer State, serving as the vice chancellor for Health System Affairs, a new position created by Chancellor William Owen shortly after his arrival.

From his earliest introduction to the Health Science Center, Chancellor Owen recognized the potential for UTHSC to extend its already considerable reach across the state. “Clearly, our organization needed someone who could identify and coordinate existing programs across the various colleges of the Health Science Center,” the Chancellor stated. “That coordination improves the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization, and positively affects every tier of our mission, as we educate students, care for patients, pursue scientific research, and reach out through public service initiatives.”

With 30 years of clinical care experience as an obstetrician and gynecologist, plus 22 years at the Knoxville UTHSC campus, first as department chair and then dean, Dr. Caudle accepts the challenge to help shape a world class statewide academic health care system for the University of Tennessee.

“Having served as dean of the Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville and as interim executive dean of the UT College of Medicine gave me a perspective on the

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COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY LEADS PAPERLESS RECORDS TREND

“The dental office of the future will be paperless and our students must be prepared to handle it,” said Russell Gilpatrick, DDS, when he assumed the reins as dean of the UTHSC College of Dentistry COD four years ago.

Today the COD is leading the way to the dental profession’s paperless future. It is one of three dental schools in the country to convert all of its patient records to electronic files. As a result, all third- and fourth-year students are learning to use the electronic patient record. In the future all first- and second-year students will begin to learn to use the electronic record when applicable.

According to Lloyd George, DDS, associate dean for Clinical Affairs, “We started by visiting with schools that were using the clinic management systems that included an electronic patient record.” He pointed out that, “Most were using it primarily for managing financial processes and for scheduling patients. It was deemed important to have a company’s support when problems are encountered. One of our questions was whether they were pleased with a particular company’s responsiveness to problems encountered when using the program. The College of Dentistry is clearly one of the dental

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challenges our campuses face individually and collectively,” he states. “I also work to help fulfill the UT Health Science Center mission by coordinating other elements of the University of Tennessee with HSC initiatives.” For example, Dr. Caudle is working to synchronize activities of the University of Tennessee’s Extension Agency with initiatives of the College of Medicine in diabetes, and to align and orchestrate similar allied health programs on the various UT campuses.

“In addition, I work with government agencies and other institutions of higher learning throughout the state and region to enhance our mission,” Dr. Caudle said. He helped facilitate the recent prenatal care grant awarded to the UTHSC Memphis faculty who work in the prenatal clinics of the Memphis Medical Center loop.

“One of the greatest challenges with this job is geographical with the job requiring considerable travel each week to Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga or elsewhere,” Dr. Caudle observed. “The geography can also make it more difficult for people who work for the university across the state to coordinate their efforts. Our office works to bridge the distance and bring teams together to collaborate regardless of the distance or other perceived barriers.”

In addition to Dr. Caudle, the Health System Affairs office includes Emma Anderson, a senior administrative services assistant with 14 years of experience at the Health Science Center, and Richard Washington, director, formerly a director of Human Resources who is a 28 year veteran of UTHSC.

Dr. Caudle received his medical training from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and from Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, N.C. He subsequently received specialty training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and completed a research fellowship at the University of Utah Medical Center.

“What I enjoy the most about this opportunity is having a job focused on improving the education and welfare of people of our state and region,” Dr. Caudle stressed. “Working with our people here and across the state who share this vision is incredibly exciting and gratifying.”

BIOIMAGING SYMPOSIUM PUTS MEMPHIS ON THE BIOTECH MAP

The Third Annual Memphis BioImaging Symposium (MemBIS) attracted more than 170 scientists, engineers, physicians, business leaders and students to the Fogelman Executive Center on October 26 and 27. Attendees heard concentrated reviews covering the technology, clinical applications, and latest research in the fields of MRI, CT, Ultrasound, Nuclear, Optical and Molecular Imaging plus special topics of Digital Mammography and Imaging in Radiotherapy. Dr. Martin Yaffe from the University of Toronto, who pioneered digital mammography, led a roster of world renowned speakers from Stanford, University of Wisconsin, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of California Davis, Baylor and UT Knoxville. A pre-conference reception on Thursday evening featured descriptions of funding opportunities for bioimaging research presented by directors from NIH and NSF, as well as scientific and clinical posters prepared by student and professional participants.

“MemBIS is quickly becoming established as the premier bioimaging conference in the Mid South,” said Gary Keyes, PhD, who serves as Symposium Chair and is professor and interim chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging at UTHSC. “We’re particularly grateful to our co-hosts, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Memphis BioWorks Foundation, and also to our commercial sponsors and the MemBIS organizing committee for making this event possible.”

Luminex Corporation, a Memphis startup company founded by former UTHSC professor Dr. Herbert Zeman, leads a group of international sponsors that also includes Siemens Medical Solutions, MedImage Systems, Boston Scientific, Planar Systems, Hologic, Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Smith & Nephew, and Butler, Snow, O’Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC.

Planning is already under way for next year’s symposium which is scheduled for November 1 and 2 at the same location.
Earning college accreditation is not for the faint of heart. Months of preparation precede a grueling three- to four-day site visit by experts in the college’s field. As the UTHSC College of Nursing experience, reported in the June 2006 Record, attests, self study and comprehensive written reports are deriguer for the process. The reward is accreditation for a five-year period, at which time it has to go through the process all over again.

After beginning the self evaluation in January 2005, the College of Nursing received official word this past October from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that their baccalaureate program met all four accreditation standards. “The evaluators confirmed that our program is extremely high quality and our faculty and staff exceptional,” said Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN, professor and executive associate dean and self study coordinator.

The College of Medicine COM has just finished the site visit phase of its accreditation process with the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) in November. Over 160 COM faculty, staff and students began collecting information in May 2005 about their educational program leading to the MD degree. The LCME accredits all medical schools in the United States and Canada.

This long preparatory process resulted in a database submitted three months in advance of the visit, as well as a comprehensive self-study report. The LCME team of six medical school executives from across the country met with more than 140 UTHSC students, staff and faculty between November 12 and 15. The team presented a preliminary report to the Executive Dean of the College of Medicine Steve Schwab, MD, and Chancellor William Owen, MD, on November 15. The next step is a review of the document by more than 75 individuals nationally. This group will recommend the college’s level of compliance with the standards and its accreditation status to the LCME.

“The LCME site visit is like a big exam, our licensing boards,” said Pat Wall, MD, interim dean of the College of Medicine. “As noted, our preparation began for the ‘board’ 18 months before the ‘exam.’ In this case, the entire College of Medicine – our students, staff, faculty and the college’s administration – prepared for the big visit under the leadership of Dr. Bob Shreve, assistant dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs. Bob did an excellent job in mobilizing the entire college for this effort.”

The preliminary report cited the College with six commendations. Of particular mention was their note of enthusiastic, well prepared, and high performing medical students. The faculty, staff and students will now work on five areas of concern cited by the team’s report. A final report will be sent from the LCME to UT President John Petersen in March. Full accreditation is expected.

College Accreditation: A Major Operation
College of Nursing Granted Accreditation; College of Medicine Clears First Hurdle

Dr. Petersen stated, “Chancellor Owen and his team have done a very effective job taking the Health Science Center statewide. The three biggest issues in this state are energy; the environment and health care delivery. UT is moving forward with initiatives that address all three.”

Chancellor Owen closed the luncheon meeting with special thanks to Jerry N. Treece, DPh, who served as President of the Chancellor’s Roundtable for a one year term. Dr. Treece is a former president and CEO of Super D Drugs and Third Party Solutions, as well as a member of the UT Development Council. He and his wife Barbara established an eponymously named endowment to provide scholarships for pharmacy students.

The Chancellor also took the opportunity to introduce Nancye Hines, President-elect of the Chancellor’s Roundtable and first woman to serve in the role. Hines has been a member of the Shelby County Election Commission Board since 2002. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Republican Women. Educated at UT, Knoxville, Hines was formerly a registered nurse at Fort Sanders Presbyterian Hospital in Knoxville and has served on the UT National Alumni Association Board of Governors and Women’s Council. She has also served on the UT Athletics Board, the UTHSC Chancellor’s Roundtable, Executive Committee, and the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee.

ROUNDTABLE Continued from page 1

development components of the plan. It has the ability to develop our enterprise by undertaking creative intellectual activities that are important in achieving business growth that includes obtaining patents and building relationships with strategic business partners,” he added.

“This state and region are nationally challenged in graduating people from college,” Dr. Petersen observed. “That lack of education leaves billions of dollars on the table. Our Strategic Plan takes a statewide approach to higher education, targeting non traditional students and adult learners. If we can haccalaureate train the 68,000 people who are less than 45 years of age who have partial degrees – if we can engage them, that’s a huge pipeline.”
In addition to preparing students to better manage their offices in the future, paperless patient records have many advantages over the former blob of manila folders.

Patient safety is one major benefit. In the paper world, a medical alert took the form of a red flag, which was sometimes lost or buried in the file. Electronic medical alerts are built into the College of Dentistry’s electronic patient record, so everyone authorized to access the file sees the “red flag” medical alert immediately.

Monitoring the progress of caries and periodontal disease, the two primary chronic diseases treated by dentists, is also easier. The changes over time can be displayed graphically as well as in written form. Documentation is dramatically improved and always legible, a persistent problem with paper record systems.

Before, duplication of information within the paper record could cause important patient information to be overlooked or missed by providers. With the new system, for example, a patient’s medical history is updated automatically in one document for each provider to see. One doesn’t have to go through several pages looking for the most recent medical history potentially missing important patient information. Another advantage is the accounting process will be streamlined. Because fewer pieces of paper with accounting information are “handled” by fewer people, errors are reduced and the business office has an increased ability to track and find errors and/or omissions. Forgery is more difficult, if not impossible, because of the secure log in process. The ability to track by date and time when record entries are made as well as when anyone logs in to the program adds security to the electronic record.

“Cost savings in terms of time, money and accuracy should, in the long run, pay for the system,” observed Dr. George.

Converting to an entirely paperless electronic patient record also meant changing to digital X rays, which can be viewed in each clinic area in the College of Dentistry. For example, if a primary care dentist refers a patient to a specialist, the X rays can be “sent” ahead for evaluation. They can also be sent electronically to any private dental office with the ability to receive the digital radiographs.

“In the past, we had to send copies of X rays. Often they were not adequate to render a good diagnosis when compared to an original, so radiographs were often retaken adding additional patient exposure to ionizing radiation as well as another fee for the patient for the second set,” commented Dr. George. “The quality of each digital X ray is just like an original, and each radiograph is as diagnostic as the original. So, patients have reduced exposure to radiation and can save money as well with the use of digital radiographs.”

The conversion process started last January and the “go-live” date was August 28. “This was a massive undertaking but well worth the effort,” said Dr. George who noted that a variety of colleagues were required to set up, install and manage the system, most particularly Michael Barbieri, Diane Wöber, Frank Pancherz and Dr. Mark Patters. Others involved were Dr. Simpson Evans, Dr. Jane Anne Blankenship, Dr. Scott Hollis, Dr. Brad Hudson, Taylor Strickland, Charlie Brooks, Lisa Atikin, Karlene Hopkins, Cindy Pham, Peter Fox and Jenny Butler.

“On the horizon, we can see the federal government mandating electronic patient records for all patient care in the United States. Our students will be prepared for it,” Dr. George concluded.

DENTAL PRACTICE CLINIC OFFERS VARIETY OF QUALITY SERVICES

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry operates a dental practice clinic to provide high quality dental care using state-of-the-art technology. Twenty percent discounts are available for UTHSC employees, spouses and most dependents on services that include:

- Advanced techniques and materials in esthetic dentistry; computer-generated restorations and implant dentistry - both placement and restoration.
- General dentistry procedures performed primarily by undergraduate third and fourth year dental students under the supervision of licensed dentist faculty members.
- Emergency or urgent care provided most mornings and afternoons on a first come - first served basis throughout the year, even during semester breaks.
- Dental specialty care in periodontics (‘gum’ specialists), prosthodontics (removable or denture specialists), oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and pediatric dentistry (children’s dentistry). Specialty care is provided by residents under the supervision of the respective dental specialist faculty.

Except for holidays and when students are not scheduled, the student dental clinics in the Dunn Dental Building at 835 Union Avenue are open 9-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Please call 448 6241 for a screening appointment.

The University Dental Practice, comprised of College of Dentistry faculty, also provides dental care in most areas of dentistry. Please call 448 6476 for an appointment in the University Dental Practice clinic, located at 910 Madison Avenue, Suite 608.

schools in the forefront of the trend to using paperless records. I believe that fewer than 10 percent of American dental schools are using paperless record systems for patient care.”

The College of Dentistry gives paperless as students receive training on using patients’ files electronically.
The first two years of medical school will now be more focused on patients thanks to the Clinical Teaching Academy (CTA). Organized by Owen Phillips, MD, assistant dean of Student Affairs, the Academy is an effort to promote patient-centered education in the preclinical years. This effort reflects a national trend, one that was recently delineated in a report by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) on increasing the quality of medical student education.

The founding members of the CTA are clinical faculty members. They were recommended by their chairs, who will allow these clinical faculty members time for the Academy’s activities. Members will serve a term of two years and must commit to faculty development sessions and teaching sessions. In the future, the CTA will take self-nominations, as well as nominations by chairs or departmental clerkship directors. Members are awarded a certificate of appreciation and a stipend from an established College of Medicine endowed fund. In addition to Dr. Phillips, other instructors participating in the faculty development sessions with CTA members are Dr. Stephanie Connelly, Dr. Suzie Satterfield and Dr. Bill Brescia.

Currently CTA members are facilitating small groups of M1s and M2s in the course, “Prevention, Community and Culture.” In the future, members hope to assist in the educational processes of other basic science courses by helping with clinical correlations and writing case-based test questions, similar to those that students will see on the Step 1 boards. In addition to creating a clinically oriented environment for education in the first two years, the hope is that members will be a resource to colleagues in their respective departments through CTA-sponsored faculty development sessions. The Academy plans to document these efforts for the purpose of promotion and tenure for members and will provide support for research on curricular innovations.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Phillips at ophillips@utmem.edu or phone 448-8482.
Louis Patterson, material control foreman in the Bookstore, fought back tears of gratitude as he stepped forward to receive the Thomas C. Lichterman Employee of the Year Award. "A lot of people don't know what to say when they get in this type of situation," said Patterson as he stood at the podium and struggled to gain control of his emotions. "But I do know what to say — I'm thankful. This is humongous to me. I'm grateful for all the finalists. We have a great family here at UT. I can't explain how wonderful this is to me."

The employee of the year award was just one of the many presentations made during the luncheon at the Student Alumni Center where an additional 48 employees were also recognized for their 25 plus years of service to the Health Science Center.

To honor the memory of Tommy Lichterman — who was a messenger at UTMG and the UT Health Science Center for 15 years and in celebration of his dedicated service, the Lichterman family and many friends established the award. Each year one UTHSC or UTMG non-exempt employee who demonstrates high standards and a commitment to excellence is recognized with a plaque, as well as $1,500.

As John Lichterman, Tommy's brother, acknowledged the five finalists, he reminisced about frequent visits to UT to have lunch with his brother. "This was Tommy's favorite room," said John, referring to the O.D. Larry Dining Room where the recognition program was held, which was originally the cafeteria. "He loved to eat. I would come join him for lunch, and he would introduce me to his friends. He was so proud of UT.

"Every year in these finalists I see a lot of Tommy. These finalists are wonderful people, and I know Tommy would be proud to have them stand up beside him."

In addition to the Lichterman finalists, the luncheon included recognition for employees who have been with the Health Science Center for 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years. Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD, expressed a heartfelt appreciation for their years of service and put their dedication into perspective as he explained that average tenure at organizations like UTHSC is currently between four to five years. At this service recognition luncheon, the UT Health Science Center lauded almost 50 people who have been here for more than 25 years.

Testimonials were offered as to the commitment of various employees through a video production. While employees and guests enjoyed lunch, they watched as others used words and phrases such as "dedication," "on a mission," "like family," and "resource" to describe how they felt about their fellow employees and the service they have provided throughout the years.

Below is a list of all the team members who were acknowledged at the Employee Service Recognition Program and Thomas C. Lichterman Employee of the Year Award:

**FINALISTS FOR THE LICHTERMAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

Bettye L. Court  
Sr. Administrative Services Assistant  
Medicine — Internal Medicine

Dennis W. Martin  
Sr. Design Technician  
Biomedical Instrumentation

Michaél A. Nguyen  
Sr. Design Technician  
Biomedical Instrumentation

Louis Patterson  
Material Control Foreman  
Bookstore

Neal Smith  
Sr. Design Technician  
Educational Development

**SERVICE AWARDS**

- **25 Years**
  - Syamal K. Bhattacharya, MD  
    Professor  
    Surgery General
  - Steve D. Butler  
    Communication Specialist  
    Educational Development
  - Marsha S. Chorice  
    Assistant Director  
    Nursing — Academic Program
  - John S. Covington, DDS  
    Professor & Chair  
    Biologic & Diagnostic
  - Michael A. Disney  
    Clinical Specialist II  
    Operatory
  - Mary D. Douglas Sr.  
    Administrative Services Assistant  
    Ophthalmology
  - Jeffrey H. Gill  
    Director  
    Physical Therapy
  - Stephen S. Hawkins, MD  
    Assistant Professor  
    College of Medicine  
    Chattanooga

**COMPLIANCE CORNER** by Carolyn Moffitt

**CLINICAL PRACTICES COMPLIANCE/PRIVACY OFFICER**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has begun to implement its comprehensive Medicaid Integrity plan developed to comply with the new requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA).

The DRA created the Medicaid Integrity Program with 100 new full time positions to strengthen the prevention and detection of fraud, provide oversight and assistance to state programs, and develop and disseminate innovative methods and best practices to keep state and federal officials informed of changes in the field. The DRA provides $30 million in funding in each of the first two fiscal years and $75 million per year thereafter. One goal of the program is to increase the recoupment of overpayments, increasing the return on the government’s investment in program integrity.

**EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT CODES (E&M)**

Prompted by high state and national error rates, CMS carriers nationwide are auditing subsequent hospital E&M services to ensure they are medically necessary and
properly coded. This resulted after an ongoing national probe-audit revealed a widespread problem of high utilization due to incorrect coding and medically unnecessary services. Insufficient documentation is often the reason for incorrect coding.

Carriers claim:
• The level of service should decrease over multiple visits.
• It doesn't make sense for a patient to need the highest level of subsequent hospital E&M care each day.
• The patient should not be discharged at a level three status.
• Hospital Admission Orders
• Inpatient admissions should be well documented to be medically necessary.
• Discharge Summaries

Physicians should document how long the discharge process took. If a discharge takes longer than 30 minutes, the physician can bill a higher level of service code but only if the time is documented. If a resident helped with the dismissal, ensure his or her time is documented. You can add that time to the amount the physician spent with the patient face to face.
KLESGES SUPPORTS GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

When The Commercial Appeal asked Robert Klesges, PhD, to host a blog on smoking cessation as part of its November 16 Great American Smokeout effort, he enthusiastically accepted. Readers were invited to participate in an online conversation with Dr. Klesges, post questions about smoking or share tips about quitting. “It was actually kind of fun,” he reported. “It was sort of like a permanent chat room, or post it notes on the Internet.”

In return for his efforts, The Commercial Appeal promoted two of UTHSC’s smoking cessation research studies, CHANGE and STEP, to help recruit participants.

But the main reason, Dr. Klesges took the time, as he put it, “It always feels nice to be helping people.”

UTHSC REGIONAL BIOCONTAINMENT LAB SQUARING OFF AGAINST INFECTIONOUS DISEASE

The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), an agency within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is determined to protect the general population from infectious diseases and bioterrorism. After meeting in 2002, NIAID, in consultation with a Blue Ribbon Panel, developed a strategic plan for biodefense research. Examining the nation’s research infrastructure, they concluded that a critical need existed for facilities in which research can be conducted on new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics. To develop the infrastructure, they funded 13 regional biocontainment labs (RBL) at research institutions across the United States. The UT Health Science Center was selected to build one of them under the leadership of Dr. Gerry Byrne, who will be the director.

This winter, on the site of the old Baptist Hospital adjacent to the UTHSC campus, ground will be broken for the UTHSC RBL, one of the first buildings to anchor the highly touted UT-Baptist Research Park. The dream of Memphis business leaders and UTHSC faculty, the research park will offer 1.4 million square feet of lab research, education and business development space, and the RBL facilities will be a major draw to new biotech businesses.

Dr. Byrne points out, “Safety and security are our top priorities in the RBL. The labs are designed to not only protect researchers from contamination, but also to prevent microorganisms from entering the environment. Researchers will be required to pass through several card entry and keypad checkpoints before they enter the heavy metal doors sealing the facility. And of course, access will be highly restricted, much as it is at airports and federal buildings.”

“Potentially, the RBL will create endless opportunity for breakthroughs in research on vaccines for infectious diseases that pose a serious health threat to humanity,” noted William F. Owen, Jr., MD, UTHSC chancellor. “Investigators from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center in Memphis will join UT Health Science Center researchers to advance biomedical research more effectively and efficiently than ever before, and the Memphis Bioworks Foundation will be able to attract new biotech companies to our city.”

BAPTIST MUSCULOSKELETAL BIOLOGICS LABORATORY OPENS IN JANUARY

Baptist Memorial Health Care purchased the naming rights for one of InMotion Musculoskeletal Institute’s interim laboratories, which will open January 2007 as Baptist Musculoskeletal Biologics Laboratory. The $300,000 naming rights will carry over to the permanent facility, which will be located in the UT Baptist Research Park and which is scheduled for completion in 2009.

In the immediate future, InMotion plans to sell naming rights to its second existing laboratory, which has a biomechanics focus. InMotion plans to sell naming rights to three other planned laboratories to be built and open at its current location, 20 South Dudley. In each case, the naming rights will carry over to InMotion’s permanent laboratories in the UT Baptist Research Park.

Along with opening its first laboratory space in January, 2007, InMotion is recruiting clinician scientists through a joint appointment with the UTHSC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Campbell Clinic. Under a similar partnership, InMotion is recruiting a Director of Biomechanics with the University of Memphis Department of Biomedical Engineering.
According to a University of Tennessee Health Science Center-led study published in Annals of Internal Medicine, individualized interventions can significantly ease the burden, improve quality of life and reduce the likelihood of clinical depression in the caregiver. The study is the first randomized, controlled trial to look at the effectiveness of a multi-component caregiver intervention on quality of life across a racially and ethnically diverse population.

Robert Burns, MD, Jennifer Martindale-Adams, EdD, and Linda Nichols, PhD, UTHSC and VA Medical Center, Memphis, investigators on the study, said the findings are significant. They point out that not only is caring for a loved one with dementia extremely stressful, the experience can contribute to the development of psychiatric and physical illnesses and increased risk for death. Approximately 4.5 million Americans with Alzheimer’s disease live at home with 75 percent being cared for by family members, making caregiver health a matter of significant interest and importance.

The researchers found that, overall, the intervention was effective across racial and ethnic groups, with the most significant improvements among Hispanic and white caregivers. “The caregiver’s quality of life diminishes immensely when loved ones are suffering from dementia,” said Robert Burns, MD, professor of preventive and internal medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and principal, Geriatrics Group of Memphis.

Dr. Burns, the study’s principal investigator, explained, “For the millions of Americans who care for a loved one at home, an intervention can make meaningful differences in their ability to better care for both themselves and the patient by lessening the burden of caregiving.”

The current research, titled REACH II, was a $1.2 million study funded by the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Nursing Research. Both groups are components of the National Institutes of Health.

**UTHSC graduates to meet statewide health care needs**

On Friday, December 1, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center UTHSC graduated 163 students, approximately 60 percent of whom will fill much-needed health care positions across the state. The graduation ceremony was held at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts in the Cook Convention Center.

Dr. Jeanette Lancaster, Sadie Heath Cabaniss Professor of Nursing and dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing, gave the charge to the graduates. An alumnus of UTHSC, she is also the current president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the national voice for university and four year college education programs in nursing. The organization represents more than 590 member schools of nursing at public and private institutions nationwide.

UTHSC Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD, presided over the event, while University of Tennessee President John Petersen conferred the degrees.

Of the 163 graduates, 24 were from the College of Graduate Health Sciences, 118 from the College of Nursing, and 21 from the College of Allied Health Sciences. Widely reported shortages in nurses, and physical and occupational therapists will be met in part by these graduates.

**Undergraduate Nursing Poster Program**

As undergraduate nursing students prepared for graduation in December, they were given the opportunity to display a poster presentation on an area of study that interested them. Thirty two of the then candidates for graduation presented posters at the Methodist Wilson Hall Building in October. The public was invited to the event and allowed to vote on the best poster.
UTMG Commits to Growth Under Dr. Steve Schwab’s Leadership

Steve J. Schwab, MD, Executive Dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine and UTMG Board Chair, has never been one to move slowly. Within a few short months of his August arrival in Memphis, he is guiding UT Medical Group as they lay the groundwork for future development and growth. With Dr. Schwab’s arrival, the organization is eagerly pushing forward with a strong vision to serve the health care needs of Memphis and the region.

“Dr. Schwab brings experience from outside UT and UTMG that is pertinent to our plans for growth in the future,” says Chief Operating Officer Richard Baer. “He has worked with other faculty medical groups at Medical College of Georgia and Duke University, so he has an openness to change that will help to stimulate our own activities here in Memphis.”

A nephrologist by specialty, Dr. Schwab came to UTMG this summer with a background in organizational management at academic medical centers, and private and public institutions. Consequently, he is well versed in the challenges that face not-for-profit clinical practices like UT Medical Group, and he is enthusiastic about the opportunities for change.

“UTMG is a huge asset, and we must use it well,” he says. “We need to define our mission and move forward. Our job is patient care, and our goal is to bring the best physicians to the market and make needed services available to the public.”

A Plan for Growth

In order for UTMG to grow, says Dr. Schwab, we have to expand our size dramatically over the next few years, capitalizing on our ability to practice medicine in multiple locations and fully utilizing our available space.

“We have to offer more services and grow in total dollar value,” he explains. “The Germantown facility will be one of the primary mechanisms by which new patients enter our market, and we also have to have a strong profile in the private hospitals. We have a crucial role at The MED and always need to provide care to patients regardless of ability to pay. But our growth opportunity will be heavily based at Methodist and Le Bonheur.”

Already, Dr. Schwab has set a goal for UTMG to be responsible for 50 percent of admissions to Methodist University Hospital within five years. To achieve that objective, UTMG President and Chief Executive Officer Steve Burkett says we must look at the way our clinical programs relate to each other and develop those services along lines that have logical relationships. For example, he points out that UTMG’s new renal and gastroenterology services that are scheduled to debut at Methodist in January will complement each other and will also be enhanced by the recent recruitment of colorectal surgeon Dr. Alexander Mathew and vascular/endovascular surgeon Dr. Michael Rohrer.

In the same way, UTMG’s administrative support structure must also support that model of development, says Mr. Burkett.

“Traditionally, our administrative support system has aligned itself along departmental lines, but the outside world doesn’t really see us as a series of departments. So we are organizing our administrative structure along the lines of delivery systems in three spheres.”

“Tim Mashburn is operationally responsible for services at Methodist University Hospital and Germantown, Richard Baer manages our relationship with The MED, and Lexanne Horton is the administrator for our child health services at Le Bonheur and St. Jude. It’s only natural that we organize and develop practices in this way.”

Campus Call Boxes Offer Assistance in Emergency

Thanks to emergency call boxes strategically located throughout campus, UT Health Science Center police officers are just a phone call away — no matter where they are needed on campus.

With 21 phones set to immediately dial the dispatcher, at the push of a button, Health Science Center employees and students can receive the help they need during emergency situations.

As daylight saving time has ended, the Campus Police Department wants to remind everyone to take extra precautions in the coming weeks and months.

“While out on campus, I would like to encourage our students, faculty and staff to make a visual check for these emergency phone locations,” said Luc Ida Walls-Upchurch, MA, ThD, chief of police and director of parking services. “While walking to and from buildings, be watchful and know your surroundings.”

The first campus emergency phones were installed in 1999. Since that time, the Campus Police Department has continued to expand the number and location of the phones. Two additional phones will soon be installed near the new Clinical Research Building. (A complete list of emergency call box locations can be found at the end of this article.

In addition to the emergency call boxes, campus officers will become more visible by standing outside and observing employees as they leave for the day. “Stop and speak with these officers. Get to know them,” Chief Walls-Upchurch encourages.

Another tool the Campus Police Department provides to help employees and students stay well informed of incidents on campus is the posting of police reports to the online bulletin board. The bulletin board can be accessed at “UTHSC bbs” under Quick Links on the UTHSC homepage.
CUSTOMER SERVICE

As the entry point for patients, UTMG’s front line employees are “incredibly important” in the development of a growing medical practice.

“It’s all about customer service,” says Dr. Schwab. “If the best physicians aren’t user-friendly to get to, they won’t be used. How easy is it to get an appointment?

“Is the front desk pleasant? Are patients angry about bills they can’t understand? Our staff are the gateway to our doctors.”

Good customer service isn’t just for patients, though, he stresses.

“We must be incredibly responsive to the needs of our referring physicians, and that includes establishing guidelines for patient referrals and setting timelines to get patients into the system. This is the only way we’re going to be able to compete for private patients. Our own doctors need to refer internally because we provide outstanding service.

“If we don’t provide good service, we have met the enemy, and it is us. We have to fix our ship and make our service responsive.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Dr. Schwab says he wanted to come to Memphis because he saw the ability here to effect change, and he has challenged UTMG to move forward boldly into its 33rd year. Such growth will undoubtedly bring its own challenges, but UTMG leaders are confident the changes will only make us stronger organizationally and financially.

“I’m very excited about Dr. Schwab’s clinical leadership and where it is taking us,” says Mr. Burkett. “It means a change in the way everybody works—pay for performance, benchmarks, and achieving goals will become part of our culture as we move forward. But we all need to be on the same wavelength with the organization’s mission and vision in order to successfully grow the practice.” In the coming months, UTMG will examine the organization’s current mission and vision statements as part of our overall review of the organization.

Reprinted with permission from LINK, the UT Medical Group employee newsletter.

www.utmem.edu. Once inside the bulletin board, a summary of the latest incidents on campus can be viewed by clicking on the topic “Campus Police Reports.” Chief Walls Upchurch recommends checking this at least twice a week.

Emergency Call Box Locations:

• J Lot (Handicapped)
• Forrest Park West
• Fitness Center South
• Mooney West
• Goodman Dorm South
• Lamar / GEB
• M Lot (Front)
• Spare in Battery Room (W as S Lot)
• Doc's Field (West)
• R Lot North
• Randolf N. Garage
• Johnson North
• L Lot
• Dunn Building South
• I Lot
• F LOT
• North Coleman
• Forrest Park East
• M Lot (Rear)
• Randolf / SAC Plaza
• R Lot South

UT MEDICAL GROUP WELCOMES NEW PHYSICIANS

UT Medical Group, Inc., recently appointed the following physicians to its medical staff:

Dr. Alexander Mathew joined the department of surgery as a specialist in colorectal surgery with an interest in endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures such as transanal endoscopic microsurgery for early rectal lesions.

Neuro-ophthalmologist Dr. Thomas J. O'Donnell joined the department of ophthalmology as a specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of optic nerve disease and disorders of the brain affecting the visual system.

Dr. Michael J. Rohrer joined the department of surgery as a specialist in endovascular and vascular surgery with expertise in abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, thoracic aortic disease, angiography, and intervention for peripheral vascular occlusive disease.

Other recent appointments include:

Dr. Ursula N. Carter, obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. Stephen P. Fulton, general pediatrics; Dr. Lynda Gioia, obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. Betty W.S. Hou, general surgery; Dr. Zeynel A. Karcioğlu, ophthalmology; Dr. Ranjit I. Kylathu, neonatology; Dr. Cesar H. Magsino, Jr., endocrinology; Dr. Yamin Menon, rheumatology; Dr. Satheesh Nair, hepatology; Dr. Peggy A. O’Cain, pediatric critical care; Dr. Jose C. Yataco, pulmonology; and Dr. Ben L. Zarzaur Jr., trauma surgery.

UT Medical Group is the private practice arm of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty.

For inquiries of any kind, contact the Campus Police Department at 448-4444 or via e-mail at uthscpolice@utmem.edu, uthscpolice@tennessee.edu, or police@utmem.edu.
The UTHSC Department of Family Medicine is working closely with the Rural Health Association of Tennessee. On a mission to improve the health of Tennesseans who live in rural areas, faculty members are conducting research and recruiting physicians to work in these locations, as well as serving in newly elected positions within the association.

At the organization’s 12th Annual Meeting held in Gatlinburg on November 15 – 17, John Midtling, MD, professor of family medicine, was elected to the board of directors for the Rural Health Association of Tennessee. Frank Williams, MEd, administrative director of the department’s predoctoral division, was also elected to serve the organization as treasurer.

During the meeting, Angela Potter, MD, assistant professor of family medicine, won first prize for the best scientific poster. Her poster presentation, titled “A Study of Teen Obesity in Rural Medicine,” displayed the results of research conducted in Tipton County with Neil Jain, M4, who completed a summer research assistant program project sponsored by the department.

The study examined the prevalence of teen obesity in a rural community and compared it with national data. The study also identified and analyzed contributing factors. Their research helps identify at-risk populations and design intervention strategies.

The department has also been involved in the development of the Tennessee Rural Health Recruitment and Retention Center TRHRRC. The center is a collaborative effort of the medical schools in the state to recruit and retain physicians for rural underserved areas. Funding for the center is provided through the state of Tennessee. Dr. Midtling, Tim Linder, MD, clinical assistant professor of family medicine in Selmer, Tenn., and Ryan Bartz, MD, PGY3 at the Jackson Family Medicine Residency Program, presented a special session sponsored by the TRHRRC titled “Education for Rural Recruitment and Retention.” Dr. Linder was also the keynote speaker at a dinner meeting, which was hosted by the newly formed center, for residents and medical students from across the state.

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee is an organization committed to improving the health of rural Tennesseans by providing leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communication and education. Its vision is to effect a positive change in the health and well being of all rural people in Tennessee through the proactive involvement of members, other organizations and policy makers in identifying and resolving rural health care concerns.

“Having someone with the expertise and enthusiasm that Espi has makes it very easy to effect,” Dr. Peppler stated.

The program was developed by Kaiser Permanente in California and consisted of 30 class hours presented over a 10 week period. The goals and objectives of the program were to build linguistically and culturally competent communicators to serve the Hispanic community in health care settings. Two fourth year and two third-year medical students – Ashwin Krishna, Tom Lemond, Kiffany Peggs and Caleb Trent completed the course and received credit for a half time elective in the educational program.

Many U.S. medical residents receive little or no training when it comes to assessing patients’ linguistic needs or delivery care via medical interpreters, but the UTHSC College of Medicine hopes to change this and has initiated a pilot program to do so.

Medical residency programs want to offer more training on the delivery of culturally competent care and on residents’ access to professional interpreters. In an effort to provide these skills to graduating students who will enter residency programs in 2007, the College of Medicine initiated a pilot program this past semester whereby four medical students participated in a Healthcare Interpreter Certificate Course directed by Espi Ralston, MA.

“The training is invaluable to physicians practicing in the 21st Century,” indicated Dick Peppler, PhD, executive associate dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs in the College of Medicine. “We hope to add this type of program, along with a medical Spanish class, within our educational program in the future.
The University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville is the first in its region to earn the prestigious Primary Stroke Center Certification from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

The accolade, recognized as the Gold Seal of Approval™ for stroke care, comes after an on-site review by JCAHO, the nation’s predominant standards setting and accrediting body in health care.

“The University of Tennessee Medical Center’s commitment to offering the highest level of stroke care is demonstrated by achieving Joint Commission certification,” said Joseph R. Landsman, Jr., President and CEO of the University of Tennessee Medical Center. “The achievement of this certification status reinforces the commitment of our physicians and staff to comply with demonstrated standards that have been proven to improve outcomes for stroke patients.”

JCAHO primary stroke center certification, a new classification, recognizes centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care. “In order to achieve this designation, the medical center organized a multidisciplinary stroke team of physicians, nurses and therapists to plan, implement, monitor and improve the care of patients who suffer from stroke,” said Dr. Kent Hutson, medical director of the Stroke Center.

On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds in America. Someone dies from a stroke every 3 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long term disability in the United States, with nearly 5 million stroke survivors alive today.

“Nearly 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke each year in the United States,” said Ann Griffin, vice president of the Brain and Spine Institute at UT Medical Center. “Stroke is the nation’s third leading cause of death, which means we must ensure that our stroke care, prevention measures and education at the medical center are superior.”

Currently, only four other hospitals in the state of Tennessee have earned this certification.

More than 300 Memphis and Mid-South women who participated in the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) found out what they helped researchers discover as they gathered for the presentation, “An Update from WHI Clinical Trials and Observational Study—What We Have Learned.”

Among the WHI outcomes discussed by Dr. Johnson was that treatment with estrogen plus progestin for up to five years is not beneficial overall; there is early and continuing harm for cardiovascular disease, continuing harm for stroke and blood clots, and increasing harm for breast cancer and dementia in women aged 65 and older.

The Women’s Health Initiative represents a landmark in women’s health research, which was mandated by Congress in 1991 and was launched operationally in 1992. WHI is the largest, most definitive long-term study of postmenopausal women’s health ever undertaken in the United States. WHI is a multi-million dollar, 15 year project, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Some of the participants attending the Participant Appreciation Event included Jimmie Pidgeon, Florence Boyd, and Beverly Goodwin Sousoulas. Ms. Sousoulas was the first woman in the entire country to be randomized into the WHI; she also coined the phrase “Be Part of the Answer,” adopted as the WHI national slogan by the NIH.
PEOPLE

William R. Frey, PhD, professor and interim dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, was elected president-elect of the Alpha Eta National Honor Society, the only national scholastic honor society for allied health professions. The society has 65 local chapters located across the country. The UTHSC chapter was established in 1975.

2004 to honor its namesake, a world renowned physician, scientist and teacher with whom Dr. Dale began his academic career in 1977.

As chief of infectious diseases at UTHSC and associate chief of staff for education at the VA Medical Center, Dr. Dale is working on two concurrent National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants to study group A streptococcal infections and rheumatic fever.

Dan Goldowitz, PhD, professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology was recently elected as the president elect for the International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society.

James Gibb, Johnson, MD, FACP, former UTHSC interim chancellor, recently received the 2006 Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians, Tennessee Chapter. The Laureate Award honors those Fellows or Masters of the College who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and in service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Johnson received his BA degree from UT in Knoxville and his MD degree from the UTHSC College of Medicine.

Ann Cashion, PhD, associate professor and chair of the Acute and Chronic Care Department in the College of Nursing, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as one of the 2006 new Fellows. She was nominated for this honor by two current Academy Fellows and was selected by a fifteen-member Fellow Selection Committee for her outstanding achievements in the nursing profession. Dr. Cashion was formally inducted as a Fellow with 54 other nurse leaders during the Academy’s Annual Awards Ceremony and Induction Banquet in Miami.

Vivian Loveless, PharmD, associate professor in the College of Pharmacy, has been elected to a member at large position on the executive committee of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management. She will represent the nuclear pharmacy practice section. The APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management is dedicated to assisting members in enhancing the profession of pharmacy, improving medication use, and advancing patient care.

College of Pharmacy Dean Dick Gourley, PharmD, and Timothy L. Tucker, PharmD, a 1988 graduate of the college, were both elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). Tucker, a community pharmacist in Huntingdon, Tenn., was also elected presid tent elect.

Dean Gourley and Tucker will be installed on the board in March during the APhA 155th Annual Meeting in Atlanta. They will serve on the Board of Trustees for three-year terms through April 15, 2010. Tucker will succeed to the office of president in March 2008, at the conclusion of the APhA Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Dominic M. Desiderio, PhD, professor in the Department of Neurology, presented a plenary lecture titled “Proteomics: A General Overview and Applications on the Study of Reactive Oxygen Species ROS and Reactive Nitrogen Species RNS in the Human Brain” on October 31, 2006, at the 4th MS Pharmaday, which is a meeting focused on all topics related to mass spectrometry application in the pharmaceutical field. The meeting was held in Parma, Italy. Dr. Desiderio also presented invited lectures at the University of Siena on November 2 and the University of Florence on November 6.

Vickie Baselski, PhD, professor in the Department of Pathology, has been selected to receive the 2007 bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). The award recognizes a distinguished microbiologist for the promotion of innovation in clinical laboratory science, dedication to ASM, and the advancement of clinical microbiology as a profession. The award will be presented at the ASM General Meeting Awards Dinner on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, in Toronto, Canada.

Barbara Connolly, EdD, PT, professor of physical therapy and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy in the College of Allied Health Sciences, was named to Therapy Times’s list of its 25 Most Influential in the therapy field.

“The Therapy Times Most Influential issue is significant because it recognizes the top 25 powerful people going above and beyond the call of their profession’s duty, inspiring others and advancing their discipline,” said Therapy Times Publisher Heather Brennan Koitzsch, RD For additional information, please visit www.TherapyTimes.com.

Lataschia Bond, senior admitting clerk, was selected Employee of the Year at the UT Jackson Family Medicine Center in Jackson. She was nominated by fellow staff members and was selected based on the comments in the nomination and her daily contributions to the UT Jackson Family Medicine Center.
Kaye Borgognoni, BSN, RN, FNP, at UT St. Francis Family Medicine, recently achieved her nurse practitioner license.

UTHSC alum James Soldano, MD, received an “Award for Caring” from Heritage Day Health Centers in Columbus, Ohio. The award recognized Dr. Soldano for 20 years of dedicated service to the practice of family medicine and the care of elderly patients. Created to honor those, particularly the elderly, who demonstrate their commitment to the community, the award is bestowed on individuals who carry out the values of the Heritage Day Health Centers HDHC.

Graduating from UTHSC in 1975 with a doctorate in Medicine, Dr. Soldano moved to Columbus and began practicing family medicine in 1978.

Susan B. Patton, DNSc, APRN, BC, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, received the 2006 John W. Runyan Community Nursing Award.

The award is named in honor of Dr. John W. Runyan, Jr., University Distinguished Professor Emeritus in UTHSC’s Department of Preventive Medicine. The award, established in 1979, is designed to recognize a currently practicing nurse who has made significant contributions to the development and promotion of community health nursing. Dr. Patton was presented her award at the Tennessee Nurses Association Awards Luncheon on October 13, 2006.

Surya Shah, PhD, OTD, professor of occupational therapy, was recently bestowed with the title Kentucky Colonel by the governor of Kentucky for his work with the Kentucky OT Association. For the past two years, Dr. Shah has presented a four hour workshop for the organization.

Dr. Shah also launched The Science Confection column for the publication OT Practice. His article “Making an Impact, Internationally” ran in the September 25, 2006 edition.

Kenneth M. Sakauye, MD, professor in the Department of Psychiatry, made a presentation, titled “Katrina Brain & Acute Cognitive Impairment,” at the U.S. Psychiatric Congress. His presentation garnered interest from a reporter at New Scientist magazine, based in London, England, who has since contacted him to obtain additional insight on psychological first aid for an article on disaster mental health issues.

R. Phillip Burns, MD, professor and chair in the Department of Surgery at UTHSC in Chattanooga, has been named the president of the prestigious Southern Surgical Association (SSA) by the University Surgical Associates (USA). Dr. Burns, who was also named president of the Southern Surgical Congress SESC earlier this year, the largest regional general surgical society in the U.S., becomes the first surgeon since 1944 to serve as president of both groups simultaneously, and the only Chattanooga surgeon every to serve the SSA as its president.

On Monday, November 27, John Chris Graves, MD, associate program director and predoctoral director at the UT Chattanooga Department of Family Practice, was involved in a fatal car accident. A native of East Tennessee, Dr. Graves graduated in 1992 from the UTHSC College of Medicine in Memphis. Dr. Graves was an intern at the University of Tennessee Family Medicine Residency at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis and then completed a Family Practice Residency in the United States Navy at the Naval Hospital on Camp Pendleton, California. Following his residency, Dr. Graves spent three years as a department head and staff Family Physician at the Naval Ambulatory Care Center in Port Hueneme.

In August of 1998 Dr. Graves moved to Chattanooga to join the UT Family Practice Center as a faculty member. He most recently served as the Department’s Predoctoral Director responsible for coordination of all medical student rotations. Dr. Graves also assisted in the procedural portions of the curriculum and was a key individual in resident recruitment efforts for Family Medicine. Dr. Graves was an officer in the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians and a member of The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. He had a particular interest in Maternal Fetal Medicine and technology applied in practice.
## GRANTS

Congratulations to the following UTHSC team members who have recently received grants totaling more than $5,000.

### Adebowale Adebiyi, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "Regulation of the Cerebral Artery Myogenic Response by Caveolin 1"  
    $75,000

### Ronald Adkins, PhD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Correlation of Birth Weight with Leptin and Adiponectin"  
    $20,000

### Suleiman Bahouth, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "Role of PDZ-targeted PKA in Recycling and Reasensitization of the Human Beta-1 Adrenergic Receptor"  
    $144,000

### James Bailey, MD
- **Novo Nordisk**
  - Healthy Memphis Data Center  
    $10,000

### Martin Blakey, MD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Bea Gerber Award**
  - "Treatment of Ruptured Appendix in Children"  
    $20,000

### Jeri Bryant
- **American Psychological Association Fellowship**  
  - $20,072

### Gerald Byrne, PhD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program**
  - "Mouse Model of Chronic Chlamydial Lung Infection"  
    $15,000

### Marshall Elam, MD, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "Molecular Mechanisms by Which Insulin and Cyclic-AMP Regulate SREBP Sc Processing"  
    $114,000

### Boyce Keith English, MD
- **Morgan Foundation**
  - "Mechanisms of Cholangiocyte Activation by Bacterial Products"  
    $64,437

### Noel Delos Santos, MD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Oxidative Stress and Podocyte Monolayer Barrier Function"  
    $20,000

### Noel Delos Santos, MD
- **Children's Foundation Research Center**
  - "Podocyte Proteomic Consequences of Oxidative Stress"  
    $10,000

### Amado Freire, MD, MPH, FACP, FCCP
- **Eli Lilly Company**
  - Third Annual Memphis Fellows Conference  
    $12,000

### Yuко Fujiwara, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "Characterization of LPA4: A Novel Lysophospholipid Receptor"  
    $75,000

### Dan Goldowitz, PhD
- **High Q Foundation**
  - "Need for Huntingtin in the Mature CNS"  
    $148,750

### Kirk Hevener
- **American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education**
  - Pre-doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences  
    $6,000

### Polly Hofmann, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "Protein Phosphatase 2a in the Heart"  
    $154,000

### Hae Jong Kim, PhD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Effects of TLR Ligands on Cholangiocyte Activation"  
    $20,000

### Narendra Kumar, PhD
- **Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award**  
  - $25,000

### Yi Lu, PhD
- **National Institute of Health**
  - "Inhibition of VEGF Signaling Pathway and Metastasis"  
    $194,180

### Katherine Marks, PharmD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Vancomycin and Aminoglycoside-induced Nephrotoxicity"  
    $6,500

### Belinda Mandrell, RN, MS, PNP
- **American Cancer Society, Doctoral Scholarship in Cancer Nursing: Molecular Profile of Secondary Breast Cancer**  
  - $125,000

### Christie Michael, MD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Allergic Asthma Model"  
    $20,000

### Anjaparavanda Naren, PhD
- **American Lung Association**
  - ALA Career Investigator Award  
    $60,000

### Hiroko Nishimura, MD
- **NSF**
  - "Does Prenatal Undernutrition Impair Body Fluid Homeostasis in Birds? Role of Aquaporin 2"  
    $212,446

### Jeoung Eun-Park, PhD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program**
  - "Role of PKD1 in CpG DNA-mediated Macrophages Activation"  
    $15,000

### Richard Peppler, PhD
- **Dorothee Snider Foundation**
  - Student Scholarships  
    $96,000

### Renate Rosenthal, PhD
- **Eli Lilly Company**
  - Distinguished Visiting Speakers Series  
    $10,000

### Anjali Singh, MD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program, Accredo Pediatric Scientist Award**
  - "Host Inflammatory Responses to Antibiotic-killed GBS"  
    $20,000

### Robert Schoumacher, MD
- **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
  - "Multicenter Epidemiologic Registry of Cystic Fibrosis: A Longitudinal Follow up Study"  
    $64,837

### Scott. E. Sinclair, MD
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
  - $38,500 grant

### Anjali Singh, MD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program**
  - "Pain Protocol for Orthopedic Injuries in the ED"  
    $4,525

### Bryan Williams, PhD
- **Le Bonheur Small Grants Program**
  - "Biomonitoring of Maternal and Infant Exposure to Arsenic, Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury in Shelby County, TN"  
    $15,000

### Yunzhi Yang, PhD
- **March of Dimes**
  - "Fabrication of Bone inductive Calcium Phosphate Scaffolds to Repair Bony Birth Defects"  
    $203,253

### Ae-Kyung Yi, PhD
- **High Q Foundation**
  - "Effects of Pathogen-associated Molecular Patterns on Cholangiocyte Activation"  
    $62,400

### Janice Zawaski, PhD
- **American Heart Association**
  - "A Rat Brain Tumor Model to Study the Combined Side Effects of Tumor and Radiotherapy on Blood Brain Barrier Integrity"  
    $18,000
AGE DIDN’T STOP SCATES FROM GETTING DEGREE

Age might stop some people from pursuing a college degree, but don’t tell that to Sue Scates, who works in the Office of Human Resources at the Health Science Center. The 68-year-old Marion, Ark., resident crossed the stage with the more than 400 graduates during the University of Tennessee at Martin December commencement.

“When I began this process, I was not sure I would ever complete it, but here I am and, even at my age, I accomplished it,” said Scates. “I considered not walking in graduation, but my family and co workers encouraged me to be a part of this ceremony because they were all proud of me. So I decided to walk.”

Scates, who received a bachelor of university studies degree via UT Martin’s New College online degree program, has been employed at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis since 1986, holding several different positions within the Office of Human Resources. Currently, she is responsible for the retirement programs, the Educational Assistance Program that helped her achieve her goal and for assisting employees with questions regarding policy and procedures.

After graduating from North Miami (Fla.) High School in 1956, she attended Florida Christian College, Temple Terrace, Fla., for one semester, taking secretarial courses. Like so many other women of her generation, post secondary education was put aside when she married and raised three daughters, Emily Barnes and Ramona Pierce, both of Marion; and T wyla Sherland, Cleveland, Ga. Additional education also was hampered by the distance she lived from the nearest college campus.

Later, when Scates took a job at Hinds Junior College, Raymond, Miss., she became involved in a campus choral group. Through that pursuit, she was encouraged to re-enter college and use the education benefits afforded by the state to college employees.

“I began by taking general required courses until I moved to McGehee, Ark., in 1974,” she said. After moving to Memphis, she completed an associate degree in accounting in 1990 at the State Technical Institute, again taking advantage of the educational assistance program as an employee of UT Health Science Center.

“Two things prompted me to pursue a degree. I was talking to a lady who works at a community college in West Memphis about their positions at the college, and she informed me that they never hired anyone at their college without a degree,” she said. “I had been thinking about trying the New College Program, since it was all online . . . , but had put it off till this comment was made, and I thought, ‘ . . . I don’t have a degree, but my experience has made me just as smart.’ ”

Another selling point was the fact that UT would pay for her classes up to nine hours per semester.

Scates will not say that it was all easy for her. When she began at New College, she lacked 59 undergraduate hours. “I found out in a couple of my classes that it was more difficult to learn and retain scientific terms, chemicals and biological information.” She added, “Even though it takes a certain determination to remain committed to this type of program, . . . the structure of the program being online was very beneficial to me. I never had to drive to campus. I could do my homework, research, etc., from my home at whatever time of day or night I wanted to.” She added, “I know this was the reason I have completed this degree. It would never have happened any other way.”

It took Scates three years or nine semesters to complete 50 hours of classes. The remaining nine hours were obtained by taking a class on portfolio development, completing the portfolio and submitting the portfolio for life experience credit. The committee, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications, determined she would receive nine hours in communications.

As she prepared to participate in commencement, Scates said several thoughts came to mind and she focused on the people who encouraged and assisted her in the process. “One thing that kept me going at one or two points was that my cousin told me how proud he was of me and how he bragged on me to everyone,” she said. “It is amazing to me how sometimes the least little thing that is said seems insignificant to those who are expressing it and yet it creates a lasting memory. I treasure each thought expressed by my family and co-workers that encouraged me to finish this degree program by walking in the graduation ceremony.”

Attending the ceremony were her three daughters, a son in law, grandchildren, that special cousin, Dewight Lanham, and others. Scates said several others could not attend, but were there “in spirit,” including her current and former directors and supervisor at UT Health Science Center.

“I wish my mom and dad could have been present, but they are no longer with us. They adopted me when I was nine months old and raised me in a wonderful Christian home. Dad always told me that I could do anything that I set my mind to and was willing to work for. In this instance, he was right.”
CAMPAUS CALENDAR

JANUARY 18
"Aquaporin 2 During Development: Possible Role in Fetal Programming for Adult Fluid Homeostasis"
Physiology Research Seminar
Hiroko Nishimura, DMSc, MD, UTHSC Dept. of Physiology
3:30 p.m., 516 Nash
More info: dnutting@physio1.utmem.edu

JANUARY 22
"High Throughput Technologies in Nuclear Hormone Receptor Signaling"
Taosheng Chen, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: rhori@utmem.edu

JANUARY 24
"The Role of Apolipoprotein A-IV in Intestinal Lipid Transport"
Dennis Black, MD, UTHSC Dept. of Pediatrics
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

JANUARY 29
"Tetraspanins and Cell Migration"
Xin Zhang, PhD, MD, UT Cancer Institute and UTHSC Department of Medicine
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: tpourmotabbe@utmem.edu

JANUARY 31
"Title TBA"
David Brandl, PhD, UTHSC Dept. of Rheumatology
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

FEBRUARY 12
"Signaling Through the p53 Tumor Suppressor Pathway"
Gerry P Zambetti, PhD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: rhori@utmem.edu

FEBRUARY 26
"Title TBA"
Susan Gottesman, PhD, Chief, Biochemical Genetics Section Laboratory of Molecular Biology, National Institutes of Health
4 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: yabdelra@gmail.com or gm_vasser@msn.com

FEBRUARY 28
"Title TBA"
Dr. Hanjoong Jo, Emory University
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

MARCH 7
"Title TBA"
Dr. Paul Vezina, The University of Chicago
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

MARCH 14
"Title TBA"
Dr. Linda Porrino, Wake Forest Univ. School of Medicine
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

MARCH 28
"Title TBA"
Dr. John C. McGiff, New York Medical College
12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Link Auditorium
More info: ejenkin2@utmem.edu

GRADUATE SELECTED AS A CHIEF INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT AT UVa

In November, Clay Cauthen, MD, a 2005 graduate of the College of Medicine in Memphis, sent e-mail greetings to Pat Wall, interim dean of the COM on the main campus. Dr. Cauthen's salutations from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville included some exciting news. Now in his second year of residency at UVa, Dr. Cauthen was chosen as one of the four chief internal medicine residents.

“One of the major reasons that I was selected was due to the fantastic training I received as a medical student at UT,” he stated. “As an intern, I had very few problems with the patient loads, procedures and patient care, or with establishing management plans. There was very little that I hadn't seen thanks to the MED and the VA.”

In addition to relaying his own good news, the young resident reported on the progress of other UTHSC COM graduates who are attending UVa. “As for the other alums here, Lauren Taylor (2005) is a prominent figure in the emergency department, tackling the trauma codes with ease. Rodney Snow 2005 is a certain leader in the internal medicine department and is currently applying for an endocrinology fellowship. Matt Graham 2006 is a rising young star in internal medicine. Plus our radiology crew – Asim Choudhri (2004), Trey Carr (2004) and Matt Whitehead (2004) are all demonstrating tremendous skill in the film rooms.”
NEWS BITES

NEW U.S. PASSPORT RULE

Effective January 8, 2007, U.S. citizens traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda must present a valid U.S. passport when crossing the border.

If you do not already have a valid U.S. passport, now is the time to apply. For more information and application forms, go to http://travel.state.gov

STUDENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you are a student in need of assistance, UT Health Science Center can help. The Student Assistance Program is available to provide short term counseling and life enhancement services for personal concerns. For help, call 800 327 2255. Behavioral health providers offer the services through the College of Nursing and a community network that includes UTMG.

ORIENTATION VIDEO

A five-minute video (originally prepared for orientation) that provides an overview of the UT Health Science Center gained much attention after it was shown at the system wide FUTURE celebration in September. After the meetings, several colleagues requested copies of the video. The video is now available online at www.utmem.edu/orientation. You must enter your Net ID and Password to access the material. You will have the option of viewing the video or saving it to your desktop.

If you have any questions about the information, please feel free to contact Communications and Marketing at 448 5444.

DISABLED PARKING

The State of Tennessee has increased the fine for parking in spaces designated for disabled persons from $100 to $250. To view this Senate/House Bill please go to: http://www.legislature.state.tn.us

CORRECTION:

The UT Health Science Center aims to improve human health through education, research, clinical care and public service. The UT Health Science Center campuses include colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Patient care, professional education and research are carried out at hospitals and other clinical sites across Tennessee. Endowed professorships, Research Centers of Excellence, and continuing relationships with research and healthcare facilities across Tennessee ensure that both basic science and applied research stay focused on contemporary health topics.

MISSION STATEMENT REVISED

The UT Board of Trustees recently approved a revised mission statement for the UT Health Science Center. The changes better align the mission statement with our:
1. substantial commitments to the clinical care of Tennesseans,
2. statewide presence as an educational, clinical care and research institution,
3. extensive network of clinical and research partnerships in Shelby County and across Tennessee.

The revised mission has been widely vetted and has strong support from the faculty senate, deans, vice chancellors, non-exempt faculty representatives and faculty leaders. The UTHSC revised mission statement follows:

The Health Science Center aims to improve human health through education, research, clinical care and public service. The UT Health Science Center campuses include colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. Patient care, professional education and research are carried out at hospitals and other clinical sites across Tennessee. Endowed professorships, Research Centers of Excellence, and continuing relationships with research and healthcare facilities across Tennessee ensure that both basic science and applied research stay focused on contemporary health topics.

UTNAA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Public Service Award. The award recognizes a full-time faculty or professional-exempt staff member who has made significant contributions to the university’s public service role and includes a $2,000 stipend.

Submission Deadline:
January 31, 2007

Nominations should be made to:
UT Office of Alumni Affairs
520 Hyman
or
bmcadams@utmem.edu

For more information contact:
Barbara McAdams
448-5516

The chancellor and deans are not eligible.
John Yarbrough, right, executive director of the West Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, presented a $300,000 check for the new occupational therapy lab to Ann Nolen, left, chairman of the Occupational Therapy Department at the Ribbon Cutting for the state-of-the-art facility.

The $300,000 donation from West Tennessee Healthcare, one of the top ten public, not-for-profit healthcare systems in the country, enabled the UTHSC College of Allied Health Sciences to develop an occupational therapy lab, which will help meet a growing national shortage of professionals. The lab provides opportunities for hands-on learning by graduate students. These students will now be able to work with patients in one of four new labs, which feature:

- **Lab 1**: Equipment for measuring range of motion, muscle strength, sensory ability, as well as coordination of impaired limb functioning.
- **Lab 2**: Kitchen and laundry equipment to help disabled people become independent in their homes.
- **Lab 3**: Fabrication, construction and testing of prosthetic devices, such as artificial limbs.
- **Lab 4**: A therapeutic bathroom where students learn to maneuver wheelchairs and help patients maximize independence.

The following is a list of door prizes and winners at the campus party:

- **Illuminated Relaxation Fountain**
  - Jeri Bryant
  - Alice Shields
- **9 Piece T-Fal Set**
  - Snigdha Roy
  - Anlong Li
- **3 Piece CD Player w/ Radio Cassette**
  - Ronald Davis
  - Carol Warren
- **4 Piece Pyrex Set**
  - Grace Poston
- **5 Piece Pyrex Set**
  - Sujoy Bhattacharya
- **HP All InOne Scanner, Copier and Color Printer**
  - Dorthea LeSure
  - Easter Jenkins
- **DVD Theater System**
  - Latasha Ford
  - Katie Epps

Again in 2006, pharmacy students administered influenza vaccinations to faculty, staff and fellow students on the UTHSC campus. Sponsored by University Health Services and Student Affairs, pharmacy students gave over 2,000 shots.

In the photo, P2 student Aaron Wise gets his shot.