Town Hall Meeting Introduces Development of Strategic Plan

At the town hall meeting in June, Chancellor Hershel P. Wall, MD, announced a new strategy for the UTHSC to achieve its missions and restore operational and financial health. This effort includes public relations and the development of a new strategic plan.

“Share the good news”

The chancellor began the town hall meeting discussing recent media articles he has appeared in since the removal of his interim title, including The Tennessean and Memphis Business Journal. He expressed the value of public relations and the need to become more recognized in the community to gain support and funding. “I never turn down an invitation to talk about the Health Science Center. It’s important to share the good news and make ourselves known for what we are worth.”

Those efforts continued with an unprecedented speech to the Memphis Rotary Club. “I realized that there are very important people in the city and state that don’t know what the UTHSC has been doing for almost 100 years. The fact that we contribute 2 billion dollars a year to this economy is important,” expressed the chancellor.

“With every challenge comes a wonderful opportunity”

Dr. Wall noted that sharing the good news also provides an opportunity to communicate the challenges UTHSC faces.

See TOWN HALL, pg. 4

ORNL, UTHSC Scientists Collaborate

In June, ties between research and development were strengthened when scientists from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) met for the second time to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

The first meeting was held earlier in the year on the ORNL campus. “Both groups offer different environments and opportunity for one another,” explained Leonard “Rusty” Johnson, PhD, UTHSC vice chancellor of Research.

Combined efforts could have major significance for advancing research at both organizations. The ORNL is managed by a UT-Battelle partnership for the U.S. Department of Energy, with UT also the lab’s largest research partner. This unique relationship

See COLLABORATION, pg. 4

Congressman Cohen Visits UTHSC

Congressman Steve Cohen toured the new UTHSC Cancer Research Building on June 30 to learn how university research intersects with the clinical care of veterans. Following the tour, Ithaar Derweesh, MD, chief of Urology at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, provided a presentation to explain the synergies between UTHSC and urological oncology research performed at the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The tour was led by: Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Muirhead Professor, vice chairman, Department of Pathology and director, UTHSC Center for Cancer Research; Robert Wake, MD, chairman, Department of Urology; and Anthony Patterson, MD, chief of Urology, Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The new $25.2 million facility contains 32 research laboratories within 90,000 square feet. It supports experimental research to treat adult cancer and houses the Molecular Research Center, which explores the molecular bases of disease.

See TOWN HALL, pg. 4

MISSION STATEMENT

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.
Airbags and Seatbelts Reduce Fatality, Lower Medical Costs: UTHSC Study in the Headlines

The UT Health Science Center Department of Surgery recently conducted a study that evaluated how wearing seatbelts and activating airbags affect injuries and trauma center resources. Published in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, the results are being reported around the world and dispelling myths about airbags.

Regan Williams, MD, a UTHSC resident in general surgery, conducted the study to determine if there were connections between injuries and restraint use. "Working at the trauma center, you often wonder what the difference is between patients with severe injuries following a motor vehicle collision and those with none. These observations can be used to improve care and aid in prevention," explained Dr. Williams.

The department evaluated data from 14,390 motor vehicle collision victims admitted to Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center, the Level 1 trauma center at The MED, during an 11-year period. Dr. Williams categorized and reviewed the data working under the guidance of Timothy Fabian, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at UTHSC and trauma surgeon at The MED, and Martin Croce, MD, director of Trauma at The MED, and Professor of Surgery at the Health Science Center.

Records were grouped and analyzed by restraint use type: airbag only, seatbelt only, airbag and seatbelt, or no restraint. The results showed that the use of airbags, especially when combined with seatbelts, had the highest rate of reducing fatality and severe injury. In addition, the combined use of airbags and seatbelts dramatically reduced time spent in the hospital, lessened medical costs and reduced the patient’s needs for medical resources.

See AIRBAGS, pg. 4

Centennial Seal Unveiled

In 2011, UTHSC will mark its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this historic event, the Communications and Marketing Department recently developed an official centennial seal. The emblem will be featured in campus publications, advertising and other marketing materials during the next few years.

“We created the seal to highlight the history of UTHSC, to promote our importance to the city of Memphis, and to publicize our pivotal role in health care across the state,” said Sheila Champlin, director of Communications and Marketing for UTHSC. To accomplish these goals, the design had to reflect an image that Memphians would recognize and ascribe to the university, while being flexible enough to include the other major campus locations.

The Union Avenue arches were identified as the most powerful and well-known imagery on the main campus. “Pairing the emblem with the UTHSC slogan, which has been used in marketing for more than a year, will allow the Health Science Center to reinforce our identity and the FUTURE branding to a variety of important audiences,” Champlin stated.

Three versions of the centennial seal are available for use with local (Memphis), state and universal audiences. As we commemorate our 100th year, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to use the centennial emblem. As when using the UT logos, graphic standards and review procedures must be followed. To review the standards and review procedures or to download the seals, please visit www.utmem.edu/centennalseal. For more information, please contact Communications and Marketing at (901) 448-5544.

Five-Year Employee Service Recognition

In June, the Office of Equity and Diversity recognized 69 employees who have worked at the Health Science Center for the last five years. A Five-Year Employee Service Recognition was held in their honor to acknowledge and express gratitude for their dedication and service to UTHSC.

Chancellor Hershel P. Wall, MD; Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD; and Michael Alston, director of Equity and Diversity spoke at the reception.

Emile David, from the Office of Architecture and Planning, pictured here with Chancellor Hershel P. Wall, MD, and Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, was one of 69 employees recognized for five years of service.
Senator Corker Leads Discussion with Local Health Care Officials

On May 29, U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) held a roundtable at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center with leading health care officials from Memphis to discuss pending legislation for health care reform.

Sen. Corker has dealt with the issue of health insurance as a businessman, as mayor of Chattanooga and as Tennessee’s commissioner of Finance and Administration, and is now working in the senate to reform the country’s health care system.

Sen. Corker is a cosponsor of two bills, The Every American Insured Health Act (S.1886) and The Healthy Americans Act (S. 334), that would allow all Americans to purchase their own private health care coverage.

The Every American Insured Health Act, co-authored by Sen. Corker and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), would provide every American a tax credit to purchase health insurance. The act would also provide states with a tax credit to purchase health insurance, encourages states to reform medical liability laws, and strengthens the focus on wellness and preventive care rather than insuring people only when they are sick.

“I am committed to working toward health care reform that ensures all Americans have access to affordable, quality health insurance that is deeply rooted in the private market and does not add to the federal deficit,” said Sen. Corker. “The only way this change can happen is by both sides coming together – Republicans and Democrats alike – and I have a strong hope that this time has finally come.”

Corker was joined at the roundtable by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare CEO Gary Shorb, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center CEO Meri Armour, Le Bonheur Emergency Services Medical Director Dr. Barry Gilmore, Memphis Health Center CEO William Jackson, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Executive VP Mark Barnes, St. Francis CEO David Archer, UT Health Science Center Vice Chancellor of Health System Affairs Michael Caudle, MD, Methodist Le Bonheur Center for Healthcare Economics Director Cyril Chang, PhD, and Southwest Tennessee Community College Provost Joanne Bassett, PhD. The roundtable was moderated by Cat Johnson, senior vice president of Corporate Affairs at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

Executive VC Helps Children Find Enjoyment in Education

In the spring, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, visited with the Pre-K class at Idlewild Elementary School. He read to the class to encourage their enjoyment of books and participation in reading programs.
Injury Patterns, Infectious Morbidity, and Airbags on a Level 1 Trauma Center: For more information on the study “Impact of Airbags on a Level 1 Trauma Center: Injury Patterns, Infectious Morbidity, and Hospital Costs” or for a list of media coverage, please contact the UTHSC Communications and Marketing Department at (901) 448-5544.

Some of the findings were somewhat of a surprise to the team. “We initially looked at the association of chest injuries and airbag use, assuming airbag deployment would increase injuries to the chest; however, we found that they not only decreased chest trauma, but also decreased injuries to every area of the body other than the extremities,” observed Dr. Williams.

Several misperceptions about airbags have been shaped by problems associated with first-generation models. Revisions in design coupled with updated safety mandates have led to vast improvements in current airbag technology. “The results are a good thing for the public to see,” stated Dr. Williams. “At our initial presentation of this data at a regional conference, a professor noted that there is a huge problem in his state with people deactivating airbags.”

Media coverage of Dr. Williams’ study could play a major role in changing popular beliefs. The study has been cited in several medical and mainstream news reports, online outlets and publications, reaching an audience of millions around the world. Headlines such as “Airbags Save Lives, Reduce Hospital Costs,” and “Buying a Car? Then Get One With Airbags” have been prominently displayed in U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post, Forbes, Reuters Health, and United Press International. College radio stations and online outlets and publications, reaching an audience of millions around the world.

Another educational assistance benefit is the spouse/dependent tuition fee waiver. Regular full-time employees can receive immediately up to 50 percent of the in-state maintenance fee cost per semester for college credit; this applies for undergraduate courses only. Regular part-time employees (at least 50 percent effort) are eligible for this benefit after one year of service.

Those interested in taking advantage of this benefit should visit the above-mentioned Web site or phone the Human Resources Benefits Office at 448-5601.

**Town Hall continued from page 1**

“With every challenge comes a wonderful opportunity, and that is the attitude that our campus leadership has taken.”

The biggest hurdle is the state’s $600 million shortfall, which has had a major effect on higher education. Dr. Wall recognized UT President John Petersen’s efforts in Nashville by protecting the UTHSC from budget cuts that could have been much worse. Of the UT system’s $22 million cut in funding, UTHSC suffered a 2 percent cut, while the Martin, Chattanooga and Knoxville campuses suffered a 5.7 percent cut.

**The Strategic Plan**

During meetings with community leadership, Chancellor Wall and campus leaders were advised to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to help attract public and private funds. With guidance from community leaders, a plan is in development.

An executive summary of Part One of the UTHSC Strategic Plan was distributed to attendees of the town hall meeting for review and feedback. Dr. Wall gave an overview, which included the revised vision and mission statements, and immediate strategic and tactical actions with an emphasis on repairing campus infrastructure through renovation, demolition and new construction.

The goals of the plan are:

- To build credibility with both internal and external stakeholders that current leadership is taking the bold moves necessary to restore the fiscal, physical and organizational health of UTHSC. Utilize a public, transparent process in undertaking the accomplishment of this goal.
- Re-establish, or in some cases develop, new relationships needed to anchor the operation of UTHSC within the environments of critical constituents in the political, economic and health care delivery arenas.
- Begin creating a culture that values talent in order to improve retention and future recruitment.
- The social and economic paradigm within which higher education, and more specifically, health sciences education, must function has changed. In order to conduct valid planning for the future, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center first requires an honest assessment of the impact of these changes on the vision and mission of the institution.

For a copy of the Executive Summary of Part One of the Strategic Plan Development Overview, please contact the UTHSC Communications and Marketing Department at (901) 448-5544.

A recording of the town hall meeting is available online at http://www.utmem.edu/telemedicine/viewmovie.php?moviename=townhall061208.rm.

A copy of Chancellor Wall’s speech to the Memphis Rotary Club is available online at http://www.utmem.edu/record/ (Click on May – June 2008 link).
Two outstanding teachers and a faculty member devoted to public service recently received recognition from the UT Alumni Association.

Deborah Nelson, MD, associate professor of Pediatrics, and Andrea Franks, PharmD, associate professor of Clinical Pharmacy, were dubbed “Outstanding Teachers,” while Waletha Wasson, DDS, MPA, MS, claimed the public service award at the 10th Annual Student Government Association Executive Council & Faculty Senate Awards Banquet in April.

Students in their respective colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy selected Drs. Nelson and Franks as Outstanding Teachers.

Dr. Nelson, a 1990 graduate of the College of Medicine, is certified with the American Board of Pediatrics. Dr. Nelson completed a residency in Pediatrics at UT, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Serving a dual role on staff at Le Bonheur and educator at UT, Dr. Nelson has received numerous teaching awards from both organizations. Dr. Nelson has also been named on the Best Doctors in America list from 2001 to 2008.

Dr. Franks, who is a Pharmacy faculty member on the Knoxville campus, serves as the director of education there. Dr. Franks, a UT graduate, practices in inpatient and outpatient family medicine with University Family Physicians at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville. She also teaches throughout the PharmD curriculum, and has received numerous teaching awards. Her practice and research interests include primary care, women’s health, tobacco cessation, interdisciplinary practice and education, and the scholarship of teaching.

Dr. Wasson, who graduated from the UT College of Dentistry in 1979, worked in private practice for almost ten years before she changed her career path to teaching. Since 1988, she has been extremely active in teaching, patient care, research development, and community and civic activities. Locally, she has given her time and expertise to numerous community committees for the disadvantaged and medically underserved. She also has extended her good will in the form of community service presentations, discussing topics such as goal setting, mentoring and professional ethics.

The UTAA Public Service Award winner is selected by a UTHSC campus-wide faculty committee to honor those whose contributions go beyond the scope of his/her duties.

Sisterhood Showcase Offers Opportunity to Promote UTHSC

The UT Health Science Center stood out at the 13th Annual Sisterhood Outreach Summit and Showcase as representatives from five of our six colleges offered health education and health care services.

Held in June at the Cook Convention Center, the largest women’s event in the Mid-South saw a record number of more than 30,000 in attendance. UTHSC colleges and student organizations from Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Medicine, and Pharmacy were involved in nearly 1,000 screenings at the event. In addition, the colleges were on hand to provide information and discuss health care career options with potential students.

Left: Dr. Darton Taylor, a part-time assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, screens an attendee at the 13th Annual Sisterhood Showcase. A total of 538 citizens were screened by dentistry. Each attendee also received dental literature, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss, as well as literature for those interested in pursuing dentistry as a career.
The Department of Safety Affairs is on the lookout for safe labs on campus, and officials have found what they have been searching for through a program called “We Caught You Being Safe.”

The program, which highlights the good practices of faculty, staff and students, is designed to motivate lab workers to “Think Safety and Act Safely.” The most recent recognition for such efforts goes to Olaimatu Mahdi, PhD, assistant professor of Molecular Sciences.

As part of their duties, Safety Affairs staff members conduct annual laboratory inspections and occasional walk-throughs across the UTHSC campus. During these inspections, they check for; Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP), proper sign posting, emergency response information, safety procedures, trained or untrained staff, and a chemical inventory list. Safety Affairs also provides laboratory facilities with information that can best serve their particular lab.

Through these inspections, Safety Affairs captures employees and students who implement safe practices in the labs where they work. The “We Caught You Being Safe” program recently identified the laboratory of Gerald Byrne, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Sciences, as one of those safe areas and is specifically highlighting Dr. Mahdi for her efforts in this accomplishment. Dr. Mahdi has worked with the university for more than five years and has the responsibilities of providing expertise in managing and operating Principal Investigator Dr. Byrne’s molecular sciences lab. She provides senior oversight for all lab members. Among other duties, Dr. Mahdi safely trains lab workers and maintains the CHP and MSDS books. Dr. Mahdi says that her primary goal for complying with safety regulations is to make sure everyone in the lab is safe and always thinks about their colleagues. She believes that one weak link can result in a potential exposure for everyone.

Safety Affairs staff members are continuing to look for safe labs throughout campus; hopefully, they will catch you being safe. For assistance with developing lab safety programs and procedures, contact the Department of Safety Affairs at 448-6114. Staff members also are available to respond to all your safety needs and questions.

In June, Walter Diggs, the son of Dr. Lemuel W. Diggs, donated nine matted boards containing a total of 57 blood cell paintings by the Memphis artist, Dorothy Sturm. The individual paintings on paper depict blood cells in various forms including erythrocytes, granulocytes, plasmocytes, monocytes, and neutrophils, along with a series on infectious mononucleosis.

Dorothy Sturm is a well-known artist with a national reputation, who became interested in medical illustration. She was trained as an artist, and was fascinated in the boundless combinations of shapes, colors and textures that were revealed by the microscope. She established her reputation at a time when the graphic technology of the day was not up to the task of producing the quality images suitable for educational use. Dr. Diggs, a UT professor, commissioned these images as a teaching tool for faculty and students.

Sturm (1910-1988) was born in Memphis. She is known for her watercolors and enamels, and for her pioneering work on illustrating human blood cells. In addition to the images in this series, she also produced images that were published in the internationally acclaimed “The Morphology of Human Blood Cells” authored by Dr. Diggs and Ann Bell.

The paintings will be housed in the library’s Health Sciences Historical Collections as part of the Dorothy Sturm Collection.
A 2007 national survey by the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) ranks the UTHSC Department of Physiology seventh in research grant funding ($11,529,686) and 13th in total funding ($11,529,686) among all similar departments. The ACDP survey also listed the UTHSC department as 11th in research dollars per faculty member ($390,576).

“We are thrilled to be in the top 10!” enthused Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, Harriet Van Vleet professor and chair, Department of Physiology. “I congratulate all of my colleagues and wish every one of them continued success.”

“Congratulations to you, Gabor, and to all the physiology faculty for this singular accomplishment!” Chancellor Hershel P. Wall said. “Thanks for sharing this great news. We are very proud of your leadership and the accomplishments of the faculty.”

One of the biggest additional benefits is the emotional support these women receive. Although they are all UTHSC employees who live in the Bartlett area, they did not know one another before they began carpooling. Now they support one another in the drive to and from work.

For those who wonder about logistics, the ladies meet at a central location and then drive in together. The driver for the week drops off and picks up everyone in front of the building in which they work. This process takes about ten extra minutes for the driver, so carpool participants leave for work a little earlier than they previously did and get home a few minutes later. But these extra details do not bother those who participate in this carpool.

“Carpooling has made me a better employee in that I get here early every morning, instead of a few minutes before 8 a.m.” said Salvaggio, who parks about a block and a half down the street from Le Bonheur. “I find myself very happy these days riding with these folks as I’m not stressed from driving, parking and walking to the building – trying to make it to my desk at 8 a.m.”

The carpoolers still maintain their parking spaces, so they have convenient access on the weeks that they do drive. They also are flexible and work with each other on days that someone may not be able to carpool. Any errands that need to be made are done after they get back to their own vehicles, but working out these logistics of carpooling is only a slight detail for those who are enjoying the benefits of carpooling.

“The benefits far outweigh the minor inconveniences,” stated Pleasants.

To find out more about the Carpool Connection, visit the main UTHSC Web page at www.utmem.edu and look for the Bulletin Board link on the lower left side of the page.
The UT Campus Police force is committed to maintaining security and acting as a deterrent to crime. Equally important is their readiness and ability to respond to dangerous situations with swift, well-planned action. In June, UT police responded to three incidents of campus crime, working to protect both people and property.

In the first incident, a visiting researcher was trying to enter the Crowe building when two suspects approached, demanding a cell phone and car keys. The researcher ran and called Campus Police. Both suspects were apprehended, positively identified and placed under arrest. Later that same day, a suspect was reported carrying stereo equipment from a car that had been broken into on the T-Lot. Campus officers responded to the report and approached two suspects in a vehicle. The suspects fled the area, eventually abandoning their car to escape on foot. Upon checking the vehicle, campus officers located equipment and several items taken in another auto burglary earlier in the day. The car was also reported stolen. The case is still under investigation.

In the third incident, a campus police dispatcher received several prank calls from the help phone on R-Lot. Campus officers located and detained the suspected caller. A check with local authorities revealed that the juvenile male had seven outstanding warrants ranging from assault to harassment. He was placed under arrest and turned over to the authorities.

If you observe a person or a situation on or near the UTHSC campus that looks suspicious, please contact Campus Police immediately at 448-4444. UT police officers are trained and ready to respond.

### Plans to Resubmit CTSI Application Under Way

Plans to resubmit the Clinical and Translational Science Award proposal are under way with October 21 set as the date to resend the grant application.

Earlier this year, the UTHSC Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) submitted a $30 million grant application in response to an NIH RFA for an Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award. Although the grant proposal did not receive a fundable score in that round, UTHSC’s efforts pulled together faculty from all of our campus colleges, the University of Memphis, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and leaders in community health organizations.

Early efforts on the application solidified UTHSC’s commitment to the development of a CTSI, which aims to translate scientific discoveries into clinical application. Educate a cadre of professionals in all aspects of translational and clinical science, and serve as a local, regional, state and national resource for advancing scientific discoveries from bench to bedside to practice.

This commitment to a CTSI was evident in the grant application and was noted as one of UTHSC’s strong points. The summary indicated that the strengths of this application include the excellence achieved by the institution in several areas of research, including neurosciences, genomics, and infectious diseases; the institutional commitment towards the proposed CTSI, including support for recruitment of new faculty members; and the potential for establishing fruitful research relationships with the local community health organizations.

However, it was also noted “The primary weakness of the application is the lack of evidence that the many connections have been developed, or are ready to be implemented [between partnering institutions and within units].”

Since submitting the first application to the NIH, leaders have made considerable progress in implementing key functions of the CTSI.

- The governance and leadership are established.
- The CTSI Web site has been developed.
- Working relationships with UTHSC partners have continued to expand.
- The CTSI Pilot Projects Program has been implemented and the first awards will be made in mid-July.
- The CTSI Education Unit has received applications for the new institutional CTSI K12 Faculty Career Development Awards and T32 Training Awards.
- Leaders continue to integrate the GCRC and other major clinical research facilities into the clinical research unit of the CTSI.

On June 16, approximately 60 clinical, research and administrative leaders from all UTHSC colleges, the University of Memphis and St. Jude met to discuss strategies to address the concerns expressed in the NIH critiques. After a four-hour session, the group agreed that the criticisms were addressable and a number of potentially useful strategies were identified. Many of the criticisms will be addressed by the progress that has been made to date. The CTSA proposal will be ready to resubmit in October.

### Clinical Research Certificates Awarded to Nine

The Certificate in Clinical Research program, launched in fall 2007 at UT Health Science Center, awarded certificates in June 2008 to its first group of graduates:

- Anita Airee, PharmD
- Jeffrey Allen, MD
- Virginia Calvo-Torres, BS
- Betty Hou, MD
- Joanna Hudson, PharmD
- Patricia Simpson, MS
- Ashok Srinivasan, MD
- Janelle Turner, BSN, RN
- Kelly Wright, MD

Supported by K30-grant funding from the National Institutes of Health, this program offers online, introductory graduate courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical research design, ethics, and other disciplines related to the effective, efficient conduct of clinical research.

In August, the program will welcome its next group of participants, including several UT assistant professors, resident physicians, and research associates from varied disciplines such as pharmacology, pediatrics, cardiology, surgery, psychiatry and preventive medicine. More details about this program are available at http://www.utmem.edu/premed (link to the Certificate in Clinical Research program).
Public Health Nursing: Serving Students, Agencies, Community

The College of Nursing Public Health Nursing (PHN) Option is a community-focused program that addresses disparities and populations with special needs. During their clinical training, PHN students help address these issues through partnerships with public health agencies.

One such partnership is with First STEPS, a program within the Exchange Club Family Center (ECFC), which is dedicated to assisting disadvantaged, first-time mothers. The 2009 DNP PHN class planned and executed a report that updated ECFC policies and procedures for responding to critical incidents that have the potential to disrupt the safety and integrity of the agency’s operation. Such events may include a natural disaster, media relations, and public virus outbreaks.

Patricia M. Speck, DNSc, FNP-BC, FAAN, and public health nurse Tara Dunn, FNP-C, conducted the research. They presented a report that updated ECFC policies and procedures for responding to critical incidents that have the potential to disrupt the safety and integrity of the agency’s operation. Such events may include a natural disaster, media relations, and public virus outbreaks.

According to Erma L. Simpson, MA, MFT, marriage and family therapist and family services coordinator of First Steps, Sylvia Watt, a 2008 DNP PHN option student, located a center that provided services to the mother at the Children’s Center. The program provided an invaluable service to the agency for a common problem that exists. “Most of our clients in need receive prenatal care late in their pregnancies and often not at all. Now it’s great to know where our clients can at least get an initial examination.”

Sylvia Watt, a 2008 DNP PHN option student, located a center that provided services to the mother at the Children’s Center. The program provided an invaluable service to the agency for a common problem that exists. “Most of our clients in need receive prenatal care late in their pregnancies and often not at all. Now it’s great to know where our clients can at least get an initial examination.”

The three-year accreditation was announced by the Accreditation Council for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) recently awarded University Health Services an initial three-year term of accreditation (2008-2011).

Under the leadership of Judith Ammons, FNP, UHS has been working on this voluntary process for several years. “We are proud of the effort of each employee who contributed to the successful process,” said Peggy I. Veeser, EdD, director of UHS.

UTHSC faculty, staff and students can take advantage of these health services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 4:30 p.m. on Friday. (Hours may vary during the summer.)

University Health Services Offers Accredited Care

The staff of the newly accredited UTHSC University Health Services is ready to serve and will do so with performances that have been measured against nationally recognized standards. The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) recently awarded University Health Services an initial three-year term of accreditation (2008-2011).

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UTHSC Vascular Neurology Fellowship Receives Accreditation from ACGME

As of July 1, the UTHSC Vascular Neurology Fellowship was accredited to train two physicians in this area of specialty, and as a result, leaders hope this new program will help to improve stroke care in the Mid-South.

The first two selected fellows are Caryn Dellinger, MD, from Baylor University, and Victor Diaz, MD from University of Wisconsin Madison. The program will take one year to complete and will admit two fellows per year for training at the Regional Medical Center (The MED) and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Memphis.

The three-year accreditation was announced by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Residency Review Committees for Neurology meeting in May, now making it one of 42 accredited programs in the country. The program director is Elias A. Giraldo, MD, assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery, and a fellow of the American Stroke Association.

Receiving this accreditation is an important component of the commitment the UTHSC Department of Neurology, The MED and the VAMC-Memphis have to improve graduate medical education and stroke care for the city of Memphis, and nearby communities in Arkansas and Mississippi, located in what constitutes the buckle of the “stroke belt,” the U.S. geographical area that has the highest stroke mortality.

Vascular neurology is an area of medicine in which selected neurological disorders involving the central nervous system due to ischemia or hemorrhage are prevented, assessed, monitored, and treated using a combination of clinical evaluation, imaging, interventional techniques, and medications. Specialists in vascular neurology participate in an interdisciplinary care of patients with cerebral vascular disease that incorporates aspects of epidemiology, basic science, clinical neurology, neuroimaging, critical care, endovascular surgical neuroangiography, vascular neurosurgery, neurosonology, and neurorehabilitation.
Office of Medical Education Well Represented at AAMC’s Southern Group on Educational Affairs Conference

Co-hosted by the University of Tennessee’s College of Medicine, Vanderbilt University’s School of Medicine, and the Meharry Medical College’s School of Medicine, the 2008 meeting of the Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA) was recently held in Nashville.

The SGEA, which comprises all medical schools in the South/Southeastern region of the United States that hold membership in the American Association of Medical Colleges, is dedicated to the improvement of teaching and learning in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education. At the Nashville meeting, UTHSC’s Office of Medical Education (OME) and affiliated faculty conducted demonstrations and presented posters on a variety of areas, including instructional technology, clerkship evaluations, and electronic testing. According to Robert Shreve, EdD, associate dean for medical education, “We were pleased to co-host the SGEA conference and were very well represented in terms of the number of sessions and posters presented. The OME is developing a solid educational research program and was excited about sharing some of our ongoing projects with educators from other medical schools.”

The theme of this year’s SGEA conference was “Medical Education: Balancing Learning Strategies and Technologies,” with a special display area called “Techville” showcasing new technologies now being implemented in medical school settings.

OME Director of Technology William Brescia, PhD, demonstrated the use of an Audience Response System (ARS), small handheld devices provided to students that instructors can use to gain immediate feedback on student learning in a large classroom. Dr. Brescia also demonstrated features of the electronic testing system, ParTEST, now used by the College of Medicine. In another Techville module, Susan Brewer, MD, associate professor of internal medicine and assistant dean for clinical curriculum in the OME, demonstrated how application of the principles of instructional design can improve the presentation of visual information and thus improve student learning.

For their poster presentations, Medical Educator Kimberlee Norwood presented the results of a pilot study on student perceptions of podcast use in a pharmacology course, and Data Analyst Heidi Kenaga, PhD, presented a statistical analysis of negatively worded test items on M2 basic-science examinations.

Other UTHSC staff participated in the SGEA meeting. Eldridge Johnson, PhD, professor of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology; Kathy Gibbs, director of Student Academic Support Services (SASS); and Becky Saulters, educational specialist in the SASS, conducted a workshop on how use of 3-D anatomy software in and outside of the lab can encourage active participation by accommodating students’ various learning styles. At Techville, Brenda Green, associate professor and coordinator of instructional technology, collaborated with library faculty at UT Knoxville to demonstrate how evidence-based drug information can be located via the Internet. A special highlight of the meeting was the engaging and well-received talk by Cynthia Russell, PhD, professor of nursing, as part of a plenary session on Technology in Health Care – Across the Continuum. Dr. Russell discussed “Enhancing Learning Outcomes with Online Activities and Virtual Worlds.”

The April 2009 meeting of the SGEA will be held in New Orleans, with Tulane University School of Medicine acting as host.

Distribution of UTHSC Workshops, Lectures and Seminars to Health Care Partners Now Available

Communications and Marketing has arranged for distribution of information regarding UTHSC workshops, lectures and seminars to our local health care partners. Please submit any such announcements each week, no later than noon on Thursday, to Brad Anderson, banner26@utmem.edu.

Make certain your submission includes all necessary information: type of event, title, date, time, location, cost (if any), and a UTHSC contact person with e-mail or phone number in case there are questions. Each Friday we will distribute the list of upcoming events to our partners via e-mail. These partners include the VA, The MED, Methodist-Le Bonheur, St. Jude, Baptist and Saint Francis, among others.

A campus map will be included to encourage and assist participants who are interested in coming to our campus.

If you have any questions about this distribution to health care partners, please contact Communications and Marketing at (901) 448-5544.

Family News

Byra M. Jones, daughter of LaVerne Jones in the Office of Experiential Education, has graduated with honors from White Station High School. She was on the Distinguished Honor Roll for maintaining a 4.0 average all throughout her senior year. She also received an honors diploma.
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Provides an Introduction and Assistance to Asian Culture

Not only did the Health Science Center learn more about other cultures during the Asian Pacific American Heritage (APAH) month in May, but employees and students stepped in to help by donating $3,000 to assist earthquake victims in China.

When the Sichuan earthquake and its aftershocks devastated China in May, Health Science Center leaders used the already planned APAH capstone event as a venue for the Chinese Student Association to make a presentation and accept donation for relief.

The capstone event – an Asian Pacific American Heritage mixer – was held on May 22 in the Student-Alumni Center. Hsiang-te Kung, PhD, who is the director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis, was the featured guest speaker. Dr. Kung is a 75th-generation descendent of Confucius. Attendees also had the opportunity to sample Asian cuisine (e.g., sushi, fried rice, jasmine rice, veggie snacks) and desserts (e.g., carrot cake, haupia cake), in addition to mingling and observing various Asian cultural pieces on display.

Earlier in the month, the Health Science Center celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which originated from a congressional bill and was initially celebrated during the first week of May, with many other events. Organizers began by sharing a brief history of the celebration: In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the term “Asian” refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent (for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam). Asian groups are not limited to nationalities, but include ethnic terms, as well.

The Health Science Center has team members with distinct perspectives and individual talents and this was an effort to recognize and celebrate those differences. Activities for the month included demonstrations on:

- Tai Chi by Veronica Engle, PhD, RN, GNP, FAAN, professor in the College of Nursing.
- Yoga by Fonda Fracchia, MS, fitness and wellness coordinator in Campus Recreation.
- Aikido by Robert Kores, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry in the College of Medicine.

In addition students, faculty and staff received discounts to “A Taste of Asia on Friday” at local Asian restaurants near the Health Science Center and the Belz Asian-Judaic Museum.

On a weekly basis, Asian team members, who serve in a leading capacity integral to the Health Science Center, were spotlighted. They were as follows:

- Chanchai Singhchanayok McDonald, PhD, assistant vice chancellor for institutional research and educational technology
- Mukta Panda, MD, FACP, interim chair of internal medicine and transitional year program director at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga (UT COMC).
- Kenneth Sakauye, MD, co-chair and professor in Department of Psychiatry
- Syamal K. Bhattacharya, PhD, professor of surgery and member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee representing clinical sciences

The overall goal was to encourage dialogue between different constituencies, provide an introduction to Asian culture, and highlight shared interests to gain a better understanding of the Asian culture and erase preconceptions. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was co-sponsored by the Office of Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Office of Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs, the College of Graduate Health Sciences, Human Resources, and the Office of Equity and Diversity. The planning committee members were Chanchai McDonald, PhD, Beverly Sakauye, Sarah Cheon, Bill Yang, Nathan Naruponjirakul, William Lono IV, Karen Weatherly, Paramjeet ‘Pammi’ Cheema, Lindsay Brassel, and Cynthia Tooley.

See GRANTS, pg. 13
Bobbie Baldwin was named manager of the UTHSC Bookstore effective July 1. She previously was assistant bookstore manager at The University of Memphis.

Vickie Baselski, PhD, professor of Pathology, recently received the 2008 American Society for Microbiology (ASM) TREK Diagnostic American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM)/American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunology (ABMLI) Professional Recognition Award. This award recognizes a diplomate of the ABMM or the ABMLI for outstanding contributions to the professional recognition of clinical microbiologists and/or immunologists.

Dr. Baselski is a national leader in the areas of laboratory reimbursement and coding of diagnostic tests. She has consistently reached outside of the ASM to open lines of communication and put the spotlight on clinical microbiologists in venues that had been previously overlooked and acted as an ambassador in the realm of policymaking.

Emile David, a registered architect in the Office of Architecture and Planning, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Kahlil Gibran Centennial Memorial Foundation. The foundation oversees funding to maintain and renovate the memorial that is stationed in Washington DC.

Michael Dyer, PhD, of UTHSC, has been granted a $60,000 RPB Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award by Research to Prevent Blindness. Established in 1995, the RPB Lew R. Wasserman Merit Awards provide unrestricted support to mid-career MD and PhD scientists who hold primary positions within departments of ophthalmology and who are actively engaged in eye research at medical institutions in the United States. Dr. Dyer is one of 97 scientists at 41 institutions who have been honored with the award.

Zheng Fan, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology, recently had a study published in Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology, which garnered the recognition of “Editor’s Picks.”

The paper, titled “Molecular and Clinical Characterization of a Novel SCN5A Mutation Associated With Atrioventricular Block and Dilated Cardiomyopathy,” ran in June with an accompanying editorial article, titled “Dilated Cardiomyopathy due to Sodium Channel Dysfunction: What Is the Connection?” For more information about the articles, visit http://circcep.ahajournals.org.

Linda Moon Gregory, director of administration for the College of Medicine, was recently elected to serve as the Southern Seaboard Region Trustee of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. This organization is the only national, grief-support organization in the country that works with the surviving families of America’s fallen law enforcement officers to help them rebuild their shattered lives.

As the Southern Seaboard Region Trustee, Linda Gregory will be responsible for working with the surviving families and law enforcement agencies in the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Robert Klesges, PhD, professor of Preventive Medicine, was recently honored by his alma mater, the University of Wyoming College of Arts and Sciences, as an outstanding alum.

Klesges is recognized as a leading authority in two areas of research, tobacco use and weight control. He taught and conducted research at the University of Memphis for more than 20 years. In 2004, Klesges joined the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine faculty where he also served as a consultant at the clinic’s Cancer Center. He is now a faculty member at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and UTHSC.

Veronica Mallett, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was recently recognized by Black Enterprise magazine in its survey of 140 leading physicians in the United States.

The magazine devoted its May issue to medical research achievements and health care issues affecting African-Americans, including rising health care costs, access to care, and relatively low numbers of black doctors.

“The exceptional black physicians we highlight uniquely understand the medical issues that confront African-Americans,” the magazine’s founder and publisher Earl G. Graves Sr. said in a statement.

Kimberlee Norwood, medical educator in the COM Office of Medical Education, recently chaired a session at the Society for Applied Anthropology’s (SfAA) 68th Annual Meeting in Memphis, held from March 25 to 29. Participants included

John W. McCall, associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine, and Virginia Falvey, a first-year medical student and certified medical interpreter.

The session, titled “Emerging Roles in Medical Education and University Research,” addressed how anthropologists might be engaged to foster cultural competence in medical education and thus help ameliorate cultural gaps between practitioners and patients. Participants also addressed racial disparities in health care, with a focus on strategies to increase minority representation in research initiatives.

Dr. McCall discussed his experiences with the M1 course The Healer’s Art, a 15-hour elective that focused on the increasing loss of commitment experienced by many physicians nationwide under the stress of the contemporary U.S. health care system.

Ms. Falvey discussed the crucial role of interpreters for a growing segment of the patient population in the United States whose primary language is not English. The response from session attendees would indicate that medical colleges across the country are facing similar challenges.

In addition to chairing this session, Kimberlee Norwood, was part of the SfAA Podcast Project and Team. The SfAA Podcast project is an effort to make conference sessions accessible to students and others who cannot travel to the sessions, to attendees that miss conflicting sessions, to make some sessions accessible to the public and as a way to archive a portion of the annual meetings to be used as an educational tool. In addition the podcasts have opened up the SfAA to a broader audience interested in learning more about applied anthropology and its many uses. A “podcast” is simply an audio file (MP3) made available via the Internet. You may listen at www.sfaapodcasts.net.

Jena J. Steinel, PhD, assistant professor in Ophthalmology, has received the William & Mary Greve Scholar Award in the amount of $60,000 from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases. The award is part of the RPB’s Special Scholar program designed to support outstanding young scientists who are conducting research of unusual significance and promise.

Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, Harriet Van Vleet Professor and chair of the Department of Physiology at UTHSC, presented one of two keynote addresses at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Japanese Lipid Biochemical Society in Tokushima, Japan.
A Special Practice for Special People

The last 10 years of Elbert “Bud” Baker’s, DDS, (1956) nearly 50-year dental practice in Nashville have been the most rewarding. The reason? More than half of his current practice is caring for mentally challenged adults. “Ten years ago, I would never have thought this was for me; but today, I don’t even think about retiring because I’d have to give up these people,” Dr. Baker said.

Special-needs adults require special attention when it comes to having dental work done. “These people need more than equal treatment,” explained Dr. Baker. “Many cannot tolerate having someone work in their mouth; more than half have to be sedated.”

Because many have been abused in the past, they are uneasy around a person they don’t know, which doubles the anxiety felt by the average patient. But Dr. Baker said his whole staff is geared for the special-needs patients.

He illustrated the point with a story about one of his very first special-needs pa- tients. “The young lady was finally settling into the dental chair when my assistant gently laid her hand on the patient’s arm. ‘Don’t touch me!’ she snapped, taking us both back a bit,” he recalled. Dr. Baker and his support staff persisted with caring words of encouragement and warm smiles. Every time the patient came in after that, she greeted them with hugs and kisses.

A number of patients come to him under a state of Tennessee program. Some live in group homes. Others have their own apartments, or still live with their families. “The state is phasing out institutional living for mentally challenged adults,” said Dr. Baker, “and it’s making a huge difference in their lives. It’s amazing to see the change that loving treatment can make in people.”

During a recent alumni event in Nashville, one observer said, “Dr. Baker literally glows when he talks about his patients. It’s clear he must be making a tremendous impact on his patients’ lives.”

Still working three full days a week, Dr. Baker has no intention of retiring because, as he put it, “These people mean so much to me. I could tell great stories all day; but I fear I would bore everyone. For the first time in my life, I feel I am doing something special.”

Haik Receives Vision Award

At the recent Sight Night at the Pink Palace Museum, Barrett Haik, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, was awarded the 2nd Freeman Vision Award by Dr. Jerre Freeman, founding director of the World Cataract Foundation. Dr. Ralph Hamilton, the first recipient of this award in 2007, introduced Dr. Haik, describing him as the person responsible for the renaiss- ance in developing the University of Tennessee Department of Ophthalmology into an outstanding ophthalmic research and clinical center. Nationally, it is now rated among the top ten clinical ophthal- mic programs in the country. Dr. Hamil- ton stated that Dr. Haik is a person with tremendous interpersonal skills and a significant work ethic, which attracted not only a wonderful and productive clinical, research, academic and teaching staff but also a local and national network of supporters to initiate and sustain the growth necessary for ophthalmology in the Mid-South.

One of Dr. Haik’s major interests is tumors of the eye and orbit, especially the retinoblastoma (retinal tumors) seen primarily in young children. As a result of Dr. Haik’s study of this disease with colleagues at St. Jude Children’s Re- search Hospital and in the Hamilton Eye Institute, unique charac- teristics associated with human cancer have been identified. These new insights into tumor biology and response to therapy will have a significant impact on other cancers in children and adults. Due to Dr. Haik’s work in this field, now if a child is diagnosed early enough with retinoblastoma, not only can the life of the child be saved, but often sight in the affected eye can be saved while also destroying the tumor.

Dr. Haik was very appreciative of the recognition of his work here at the UT Department of Ophthalmology and the recognition of his entire staff and supporters.

The Freeman Vision Award is given annually to a person, persons or group making significant contributions in the advancement of sight through aca- demia, research, surgery, philanthropy or any combination of these.

GRANTS cont. from pg. 11

Frederick Palmer, MD
Department of Health & Human Services $520,000
Boiling Center for Developmental Disabilities

Yan Cul
American Heart Association - National Center $308,000
“Gene Expression Networks and Virulence Regulation in Toxoplasma Gondii”

Hongwei Dong
National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders $73,000
“The Role of Pkd 1 in Mouse Hair Cell Mechanotransduction Channels”

Katherine A. Steigelman
National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders $28,690
“Activity-Dependent Plasticity of Sensory Synapses in the Olfactory Bulb”

Ben Zarzaur, MD
National Institute of General Medical Sciences $129,100
“Socioeconomic Status and Post-Injury Quality of Life and Functional Ability”

Jeffery Steketee, PhD
National Institute of Drug Abuse $294,000
“Cortical Mechanisms of Cocaine Sensitization”

Gerald Byrne, PhD
Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) $236,367
“The UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Laboratory Equipment Request”

Shadab Siddiqi, PhD
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease $294,000
“A Cell Biological Approach to Hepatic Lipid Metabolism”

The Neuroscience Institute announced funding for the following Pilot Clinical Research Grant:

Alexander P. Auchus, MD
Department of Neurology
“Imaging Degenerative and Vascular Contributions to Dementia” $50,000

Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB) has awarded a grant of $110,000 to the Depart- ment of Ophthalmology to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of blinding diseases. The research will be directed by Barrett G. Haik, MD, FACS, chair of the department. RPB is the world's leading voluntary organization supporting eye research. To date, the organization has awarded grants totaling $1,640,000 to UTHSC.
Mona Wicks, PhD, Named a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow

A national fellowship focused on leading the country’s health care system into the 21st century has been awarded to Mona N. Wicks, PhD, RN, associate dean for research at the UTHSC College of Nursing. Dr. Wicks is one of 20 nurses in executive leadership roles nationwide selected as a 2008 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

Now in its 11th year, the three-year fellowship program is designed to strategically position the voice of nursing across many sectors of the economy in a health care system undergoing unprecedented change and challenges.

“Nurses must play a pivotal role in leading the redesign and success of health care now and into the future,” said Dr. Wicks. “The Executive Nurse Fellowship is an intensive opportunity to develop critical leadership skills, work with a nationally recognized team of coaches and instructors from within the health care industry, as well as from other sectors of the economy, and benefit from collaboration with nursing and health care leaders throughout the country. I am honored and excited to be selected as a participant.”

“Dr. Wicks has made her mark in nursing as a scientific investigator and an educator,” commented UTHSC College of Nursing Dean Donna Hathaway. “Without a doubt, she deserves to be among the elite chosen for the Robert Wood Johnson fellowship.”

As part of the fellowship, Dr. Wicks will have an opportunity to undertake a leadership project to benefit the UT Health Science Center with funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and matching funds from UTHSC. Her leadership project entails working with the newly established UTHSC Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). With a goal of enhancing health outcomes in diverse populations, she will work with the CTSI to build effective and lasting partnerships between the university, community agencies and organizations that facilitate the conduct of clinical research.

Dr. Wicks is a widely published researcher and lecturer and has received numerous awards including the Chancellor’s Distinguished Educator Award (UTHSC), the Professional Achievement in Education Award from Women of Color in Health, Science and Education, and the Student Government Association Executive Council Excellence in Teaching Award. She is listed in four different Who’s Who directories: the ones spotlighting American women, Americans, nursing professionals, and America’s teachers. After obtaining her master’s degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing, she completed her doctorate at Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 35 years the foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. By helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org.
UT Medical Group Physicians Named Among America’s Top Doctors®

A national survey of physicians and medical leadership of leading hospitals has recognized 18 physicians from UT Medical Group, Inc. as top doctors in their fields.

The survey was conducted by a physician-led team from the independent research firm, Castle Connolly Medical Limited, which publishes a number of regional and national guides to help consumers locate leading doctors in their communities. Using mail and telephone surveys, and electronic ballots, the firm asked physicians and the medical leadership of leading hospitals to identify highly skilled, exceptional doctors. Careful screening of doctors’ educational and professional experience was performed before final selection was made among those physicians most highly regarded by their peers.

Physicians cannot pay to be included in the guides. Doctors selected for inclusion on the America’s Top Doctors® list may also appear as regional top doctors online at www.castleconnolly.com or in one of Castle Connolly’s national top doctors guides.

The following UT Medical Group physicians, listed by specialty, are included in the Top Doctors 2008 list:

- **Cardiovascular Disease**
  - Judith Soberman
  - Karl Weber

- **Child Neurology**
  - James Wheless

- **Endocrinology/Diabetes/Metabolism**
  - Beverly Williams-Cleaves

- **Gastroenterology**
  - Rene Davila
  - Jaquelyn Fleckenstein

- **Internal Medicine**
  - James Bailey
  - Robert Morrison

- **Neurology**
  - Mark S. LeDoux

- **OB/GYN**
  - Veronica Maillet
  - Owen Phillips

- **Ophthalmology**
  - Matthew Wilson

- **Pediatric Nephrology**
  - Robert Wyatt

- **Surgery**
  - Stephen W. Behrman
  - Guy R. Voeller

- **Thoracic Surgery**
  - Mathew Ninan

- **Urology**
  - Anthony Lynn Patterson
  - Robert Wake

UT Medical Group is the private group practice affiliated with the UT Health Science Center College of Medicine faculty. A not-for-profit, non-tax-supported group practice, UTMG is dedicated to quality patient care, medical education, and medical research. For more information, visit www.utmegroup.com.

New State Law Targets Music Piracy

Because of a new Tennessee state law, UTHSC is now required to reasonably attempt to prevent copyright infringement over its computer and network resources. Preventing copyright abuse is not new here at UTHSC. It has long been against the UTHSC and UT System “Acceptable Use” policies to illegally download or share music over the network (see http://www.utmeme.edu/policies).

This new law reflects the continuing fight of the music industry against those who would engage in music piracy. The Recording Industry Association of America uses an agent who actively looks for computers that advertise songs to share, not just songs downloaded. Perhaps because of the new law, UTHSC has seen a tripling of copyright violation complaints from the RIAA over the past month.

Now is a good time to remove software such as Limewire, Gnutella or Kazaa from your computer. Take note that these programs will run silently in the background advertising that you will share music. You do not have to be actively using the program to be in violation. So remember, if you are sharing music, they are looking for you!

5th Annual Memphis Biol Imaging Symposium Set

The 5th Annual Biol Imaging Symposium (MemBIS) will be held at the Fogelman Executive Conference Center at the University of Memphis on November 6 - 7. In previous years, the event has attracted more than 170 scientists, engineers, physicians, business leaders and students to hear concentrated reviews from world-renowned speakers.

Thaddeus A. Wilson, PhD, associate professor in the UTHSC Department of Radiology, serves as chair of the 2008 MemBIS event. Steve J. Bares, PhD, president and executive director of the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, serves as co-chair. Hosts for the symposium include UTHSC, Memphis Bioworks Foundation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the University of Memphis.

These internationally recognized experts will review five major fields of bioimaging – CT, MRI, Imaging Informatics, Ultrasound and Molecular Imaging:

- Norbert Pelc, ScD, Stanford University
- Charles Mistrgetta, PhD, University of Wisconsin
- Robert Mattrey, MD, University of California San Diego
- Katherine Andriole, PhD, Harvard/Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Eva Sevick, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine

This year’s special topic – Cancer Imaging – will be highlighted with three talks from specialists who primarily focus on pre-clinical imaging and molecular imaging in drug discovery and development:

- John Gore, PhD, Vanderbilt University
- David Geho, MD, PhD, Merck & Co. Inc.
- Timothy J. McCarthy, PhD, Pfizer Global R&D

Early registration (by October 24) is $150 for professionals and $25 for students, residents and postdoctoral fellows. After October 24, fees increase to $200 for professionals and to $35 for other participants. Registration forms, a detailed agenda, and information about the free pre-conference (Wednesday, November 5) scientific review and student presentations can be found at www.membis.org.

MemBIS sponsors include:
Dennis D. Black, MD, Appointed Buckman Chair at UTHSC

The UTHSC College of Medicine has appointed Dennis D. Black, MD, to the John Dustin Buckman Endowed Professorship in Pediatric Gastroenterology. Since 1998, Dr. Black, a professor of pediatrics, has been the scientific director of the Children’s Foundation Research Center (CFRC) located at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center of Memphis. The CFRC represents a unique partnership between Le Bonheur, the Children’s Foundation of Memphis and UTHSC. The professorship is earmarked to support the scientific director of the CFRC. Dr. Black is also a professor of physiology at UTHSC and associate director of the CFRC Clinical and Translational Science Institute. As vice president for Research at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, he is also a member of the hospital’s Senior Leadership Council.

The CFRC was created in 1995 to promote the health and well-being of children in the Memphis area. Under Dr. Black’s direction since 1998, the CFRC has grown from a dozen investigators to 30 full-time scientists whose discoveries are focused on children’s health and well-being. Supported by more than 75 research technicians, post-doc-toral fellows, research nurses and study coordinators, CFRC pediatric investigators are breaking ground in all three types of research: basic, clinical and translational (bench to bedside to community).

His lab was the first to prove that an important role of a protein called apolipoprotein A-IV is to enhance fat absorption in a newborn’s small intestine. In his 19th year of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, Dr. Black’s ultimate goal is to understand what type of fat is best handled by the apo A-IV system and how the apo A-IV gene is regulated in a newborn’s intestine. This may lead to therapeutic strategies for up-regulating the gene to improve fat absorption in sick infants and possibly down-regulating the gene in older children and adults who are obese.

Dr. Black has been nationally recognized throughout his career. He has served on the executive councils of the Society for Pediatric Research and the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). While serving as chair of the NASPGHAN Research Committee, he received the Award of Appreciation from Mead Johnson Nutritionals for serving as director of the Annual North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition/Mead Johnson Research Forum for Pediatric Gastroenterologists. He has been listed in Woodward/White’s Best Doctors in America from 1998 through the present. In 2005, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mid-South Chapter of the American Liver Foundation. He has served on numerous NIH review panels and is currently a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. Most recently, he was appointed as merit professor of Beijing Children’s Hospital and Capital Medical University, Beijing, China.

A 1978 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, Dr. Black completed his pediatric residency and a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology and hepatology at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. He is an active member in a wide variety of professional organizations including the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, the Southern Society for Pediatric Research, the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and the American Pediatric Society.

Standards of Attendance

Code of Conduct: HR Policy 0580

According to policy, the university depends upon its employees to carry out the work of the institution; therefore, reliable, consistent attendance is an important requirement of all positions. Behaviors addressed are unexcused absences, repeated tardiness, and the employee’s failure to communicate with the supervisor. Some specific examples that have been addressed at the Health Science Center are late arrivals, early departures, disappearing acts, being absent on a Monday or Friday before or after holidays, leave that falls in the category of “burn-as-earn”, and unsupported sick absences. As a result it is the management’s responsibility to communicate policy and procedures, ensure proper use of leave, avoid conflicts with workload, approve and disapprove requests, avoid leave forfeiture, and address misuse and abuse. Overall, the key to solving attendance concerns is to deal with the problems directly with that staff or faculty member instead of avoiding the entire situation.

UTHSC Postdoctoral Association Receives Award

The UT Health Science Center Postdoctoral Association received an award from the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) as the best new postdoctoral association during the Sixth Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass. The UT postdoctoral association was among three schools being recognized during the poster sessions showcasing postdoctoral association activities and introducing new committees, including Wake Forest School of Medicine, for most innovative program, and Harvard School of Public Health for best overall presentation.

Since its existence in 2007, the UTHSC association has held various social events and career-guidance seminars to inform postdocs on new initiatives within their field. Above average attendance and participation are the key to the growth and recognition of the UT association. “Often I get messages from the postdocs, asking questions or giving suggestions, so we know people are paying attention,” stated Ian M. Brooks, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, president of the UTHSC Postdoctoral Association.

The UTHSC PDA (Postdoctoral Association) was formed under the guidance of Dr. Dianna Johnson, PhD, associate vice chancellor for faculty affairs, who attended the 5th Annual NPA conference to learn more about its existence and the need for postdocs to be represented more on campus. After representatives were nominated for the steering committee, the UTHSC postdoc office has seen tremendous growth in the efforts of pushing its mission forward and receiving individual health insurance. The National Postdoctoral Association serves as a national platform and voice for postdocs throughout the country, by actively lobbying Congress, NIH (National Institute of Health), NSF (National Science Foundation), and driving increases in postdoc stipends. For more information on the UTHSC National Postdoctoral Association award, please visit http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/atf/cf/{89152E81-F26B-430C-B154-49D071AEB33E}/POST-Docket_Spring08.pdf.

Listserv Distribution Revamped

In order to improve service and reduce the number of daily campus-wide e-mails, Computing Systems has made changes to the posting process. Posts to [campus], [staff] and [students] lists are now combined within a single daily post (digest) and delivered at noon each day. Postings after 11:30 a.m. may be processed the following day.

Messages are still approved individually by list moderators and critical messages may be delivered early, when required.

These changes are for the [campus], [staff], and [students] lists only and will reduce the impact on mailboxes and mail delivery.
Team Captains Get Geared Up for Heart Walk

In June, team captains gathered to get organized for this year’s American Heart Association’s Start! Heart Walk, which will be held Saturday, October 11 at Shelby Farms. Now team captains are busy looking for walkers.

This year UTHSC has set a goal of $25,000 and hopes to have more than 300 staff members and students participate as fundraisers.

To begin coordinating your fundraising efforts, please register online through UTHSC’s company webpage at www.americanheart.org/memphiswalk.

Dan Houlden, director of campus rec, is coordinating UTHSC’s participation and he will continually keep the campus updated on UTHSC’s progress.

The AHA gives an extraordinary amount of support to UTHSC through many funding venues. This year alone 12 investigators have received almost $1.2 million through numerous AHA grants. To date, the AHA has awarded more than $20 million in funding to our institution. For this reason, UTHSC looks forward to having an opportunity to give back to this wonderful partner. Please take time to participate at some level in this exciting event!

Nominations Sought for 2008 Lichterman Employee of the Year

Nominations for the 22nd annual Thomas A. Connell Lichterman Outstanding Employee Award will be accepted online at http://www.utmem.edu/lichterman_award beginning July 1. Any UT or UTMG employee may submit a nomination. The deadline for submission of nominations is August 15.

The award was established by friends and family of the late Tommy Lichterman, who was an UTMG employee for 11 years. Tommy refused to be limited by health problems and reached beyond the scope of his job duties to achieve excellence. As a memorial to Tommy’s dedicated and loyal service, this award honors superior performance by a non-exempt employee.

Employees eligible for nomination must be:
- Non-exempt, full-time employees of the UT Health Science Center, which also includes employees at St. Francis Hospital, the Jackson, Tenn., site or UTMG.
- Employees with three years of continuous service prior to the nomination.
- Self-nominations, anonymous information, and previous winners are not eligible.

By placing a nomination, you can give recognition to someone who deserves special esteem for a job well done and whose efforts have made the university a better institution.

The Lichterman Outstanding Employee will be announced in December during the Employee Service Recognition Luncheon and Thomas C. Lichterman Employee of the Year Award Program, and the recipient will be presented with a $1,500 check and a plaque.

For additional information or if you do not have Internet access, please call 448-8211.

In Memoriam

The UTHSC family extends condolences to the family and friends of:

- Carole Werner, who worked as administrative services assistant for Drs. Elam and Heimberg for several years in the College of Medicine Department of Pharmacology.
- Dr. James E. Emens, 74, of Memphis, a retired professor of Dentistry, who passed away on May 26.
- Stanley B. Kaplan, MD, professor of Rheumatology in the UTHSC College of Medicine, who passed away in May.
- Sophronia Henderson, mother of Patsy Campbell who has been an employee at UTHSC for 13 years, passed away on May 9 suddenly at Methodist Central. She was 86 years old and the mother of seven children with one daughter (Dorothy Broom) preceding her in death. Campbell wrote of mother, “After our father passed away, momma was both mother and father to us. We will miss momma.”
- Susan Selig, who was a librarian at the Stollerern Clinical Branch Library and associate director of the Health Sciences Library from the early 1970s to 2005. She passed away on May 26 in Conway, Ark.
STUDENTS

Student National Medical Association Earns Recognition

On May 6, the American Psychiatric Foundation (APF) announced the recipients of its 2008 Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health, recognizing four organizations with an Honorable Mention. The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center campus in Memphis was one of the groups selected for Honorable Mention. The local SNMA was honored for its “dedication to the recruitment and retention of minority medical students; the development of culturally competent and clinically excellent physicians; and the delivery of healthcare in the underserved populations.”

The SNMA is the nation’s oldest and largest independent, student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. Membership includes more than 7,000 medical students, pre-medical students, residents and physicians. Established in 1964 by medical students from Howard University School of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, SNMA boasts more than 40 years of service to underserved communities and medical students.

The SNMA chapter on the UT Health Science Center Memphis campus has more than 80 members who provide services to the community through health fairs and educational outreach. SNMA is dedicated both to ensuring culturally sensitive medical education and services, as well as increasing the number of African-American, Latino and other students of color entering and completing medical school.

The APF awards honor psychiatrists and mental health programs that are undertaking special efforts to increase public awareness of mental health care, increasing access to mental health services, and enhancing the quality of care for underserved minorities, especially those who suffer from severe mental illness. The APF is the philanthropic and educational arm of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dental Students Win Hinman Scholarships

U of Texas Health Science Center dental students – Jason A. Blair and Katherine R. Bodford – have been awarded scholarships from the Hinman Dental Society. The awards were announced recently at the 96th Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta.

This year, the society provided scholarships and gifts totaling more than $250,000 to 89 dental, dental hygiene, laboratory technician and dental assisting students at 36 Southeastern colleges and universities, as well as dental education groups and clinics. Hinman scholarship recipient schools are located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Recipients of the scholarships are selected by the dean or director of each school. They also must be junior student members of the American Dental Association (ADA), as well as in the top 10 percent of their class.

Student recipients of the scholarships are known as “Hinman Scholars.” In addition to receiving scholarship money, Hinman Scholars were invited to attend the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta March 13 to 15.  

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Marcus Darrell Jennings Earns AMA Award

In mid-May, the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation selected UTHSC medical student Marcus Darrell Jennings as a recipient of the 2008 AMA Foundation Minority Scholars Award.

The prestigious award includes a $10,000 grant in tuition assistance and an all-expenses-paid trip to the AMA Annual Meeting. Jennings, who will begin his second year of medical school in the fall, was nominated for the award by Robert Shreve, EdD, associate dean for medical education in the College of Medicine. Arthur Geller, PhD, professor in the Department of Molecular Biology, also submitted information to support the nomination.

Since 2005, the AMA Foundation has awarded 10 or 11 Minority Scholars Awards each year. This year, the foundation selected a dozen award recipients.

“The award winners are selected based on a combination of factors,” said Jessica L. Kewin, a spokesperson for the AMA Foundation. “Each institution can only nominate two students so they have to choose their strongest candidates,” she explained. A group of judges reviews the nominees’ academic records, as well as their service commitment to improving health in America, especially the health of underserved populations. “Marcus was very highly rated on all the categories we reviewed, and we’re happy to present him with this award,” Kewin stated.

The 2008 AMA Annual Meeting was held in Chicago from June 12 to 14. Jennings had the opportunity to meet the other scholarship recipients, network with medical students and physicians, and receive acknowledgement at the Minority Affairs Consortium Caucus. He also had an opportunity to attend activities of the AMA Medical Student Section, and meet AMA and foundation leaders.
Dental Resident Is Finalist in National Competition

Dr. Brett A. Seshul, a 2008 graduate of the periodontology residency program in the College of Dentistry, has been named a finalist in the 2008 Balint Orban Memorial Competition, sponsored by the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP). This competition provides a forum for presentation of the clinical and basic science research completed by students during their residencies. Eight finalists (four in clinical research and four in basic science research), selected on the basis of written abstracts of their work, are invited to give oral presentations at the annual meeting of the AAP. Two winners are named, one in each research category. For 40 years, this highly regarded competition has unveiled many of the future leaders in periodontology, whether in academia or private practice.

Dr. Seshul’s research interest is bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ), and his master’s research project was titled “Effect of Bisphosphonates on the Production of Mediators of Osteoclastogenesis (RANKL, OPG, and IL-6) By Human Gingival Fibroblasts.” His mentor for this project and master’s committee chair was David A. Tipton, DDS, PhD, of the Dental Research Center and the Department of Periodontology. Drs. Paul Bland, Mustafa Dabbous, Edwin Thomas and Lawrence Weeda, all of the UT College of Dentistry, also served on Dr. Seshul’s master’s committee.

Bisphosphonates are used to prevent and/or treat resorptive bone diseases including osteoporosis and metastatic bone cancer. Bisphosphonate-related ONJ results in localized pain, soft tissue swelling and inflammation, tooth mobility, and exposed bone. In this condition, bisphosphonates can alter osteoblast RANKL and OPG production so that osteoclast activation and bone remodeling are inhibited and bone becomes necrotic.

Dr. Seshul’s work suggests that the bisphosphonate drugs alendronate and pamidronate can also affect soft tissue cells (i.e., gingival fibroblasts), altering their production of RANKL and OPG. This could in turn help to alter the bone microenvironment to favor inhibition of bone resorption/remodeling, contributing to ONJ.

Dr. Seshul will present this research at the 2008 AAP annual meeting, September 6 to 9, in Seattle, Wash.

The competition is named in honor of Dr. Balint Orban, a member of the AAP who was influential in developing the scientific foundations of contemporary periodontology. It is open to students currently enrolled in accredited periodontology residency programs in the United States and Canada and those who graduated less than 18 months prior to the annual meeting of the AAP.

Dr. Seshul is a 2001 graduate of the UT College of Dentistry. Before entering the periodontology residency program at UT in 2005, he served in the United States Army from 2001 to 2005 in Germany, Iraq, and at Fort Irwin, Calif. During this period he completed a residency in Advanced Education in General Dentistry. Dr. Seshul will begin the private practice of Periodontology in August in San Antonio, TX.

Campus Cleans Zion Cemetery

This spring the UTHSC student body held a campus-wide Zion Cemetery clean-up day. Zion Cemetery is the oldest African-American cemetery in Memphis where more than 22,000 people are buried. College of Medicine students have cleaned this historic area for several years, but this most recent project marks the first time that students from across the Health Science Center joined in the effort. Approximately 60 people attend, and plans are already in progress to organize another project during the next academic year.

Joyce Addo-Atuah, Kennard Brown First African-Americans to Receive PhDs in Health Outcomes and Policy Research at UTHSC

Among the participants in the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) graduation ceremony in May were the first two African-American recipients of doctoral degrees in the Health Outcomes and Policy Research (HOPR) Division in the UTHSC College of Pharmacy. The HOPR Division focuses on health care disparities, translational research, medication therapy management, cost analysis and health policy analysis. Joyce Addo-Atuah and Kennard Brown were conferred with the Doctor of Philosophy degree offered through the UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences.
Open Letter To UTHSC Campus Computer Users

As we approach the home stretch on the UTHSC campus network upgrade, I want to take a moment to share a few thoughts with all of the users. First, I want to thank you in advance for your continued patience and cooperation as we begin the task of moving every user to the new network equipment. This work will begin around the middle of August and will proceed on a building-by-building schedule. You may experience a short outage when your building is being converted. Detailed information regarding the building migration schedule and other pertinent information can be viewed on the project Web site at http://www.utmem.edu/networkupgrade.

A university like UTHSC is a prime target for identity theft and compromise of confidential information, so we must be constantly vigilant. As part of the implementation process, for several months the project team has been attempting to identify every server on the UTHSC campus that is connected to the HSC network. We’ve also worked to identify each server’s location, content and the individual responsible for it. If you are aware of, or have responsibility for maintaining, a server that is connected to the network and have not already provided your information to the project team, please do so immediately. You can provide that information to Joe Morrison by e-mail at jmorrison24@utmem.edu. If the team is unaware of your server prior to the cutover of your building, your server will become inaccessible once your building is migrated to the new hardware. If this happens, your server will be out of service for an extended period of time.

Two major benefits associated with the network upgrade will be enhanced network security and faster network speeds, both on campus and to the Internet. To obtain the maximum utilization of our UTHSC network resources, all users must adhere to the University of Tennessee policy for information technology regarding Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources. It can be found in its entirety at: https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=34,140536&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&_p_policy=IT0110

This policy spells out in detail the purpose of the network and the kinds of activities that are permitted and not permitted. Of particular importance at this time are the first two statements, as follows:

1. All users are expected to act in a responsible, ethical, and lawful manner when using the university’s information technology resources.

2. The university’s information technology resources are provided for use in conducting authorized university business. Using these resources for personal gain, illegal, or obscene activities is prohibited.

   The policy goes on to state under “User Prohibited Activities”:

   9. e. Copyright infringement including illegal file sharing of video, audio, or data;

   The policy also states under “Remediation”:

   Abuse of university policies, resources, or abuse of other sites through the use of information technology resources may result in termination of access, disciplinary review, expulsion, termination of employment, legal action, and/or other appropriate disciplinary action. Notification will be made to the appropriate university office (e.g., appropriate office for student conduct matters, human resources, general counsel, the police department with campus or institute jurisdiction) or local and federal law enforcement agencies.

   My reason for drawing attention to the Acceptable Use Policy is twofold:

   First, the Tennessee legislature recently passed legislation that requires all private and public universities to take measures to prohibit copyright infringement.

   The other reason has to do with the speed or bandwidth of the UTHSC network. The time required in getting a response from a site on the Internet or the time it takes to download a large file is in many cases directly related to the amount of bandwidth that is available on the UTHSC network. We are constantly increasing the amount of bandwidth on the network; however, many times the existing bandwidth is being used for applications that are inappropriate and, in many circumstances, I believe those users are unaware that their usage is affecting other users. For instance, if you are downloading or watching video online, this requires a tremendous amount of bandwidth. Listening to the radio or monitoring the weather over the Internet are examples of activities that reduce the available amount of bandwidth. Everyone needs to be aware that any bandwidth they are using inappropriately is reducing the amount of bandwidth available for conducting university-related business.

   Thank you for your continued support as we move forward in improving the network service for the UTHSC campus. If you have any questions regarding this letter or about any IT services, please call me at 448-8787 or send me an e-mail at tstrickland@utmem.edu.

Taylor Strickland, Chief Information Officer