Schwab Appointed Chancellor

Interim UT President Jan Simek has appointed Steve J. Schwab, MD, as chancellor for UTHSC. Simek made the recommendation at a meeting of the Executive and Compensation Committee in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the UT Board of Trustees in Knoxville. The committee approved Simek’s recommendation and the full Board of Trustees approved the action on June 24.

Dr. Schwab has served as UTHSC interim chancellor since Oct. 1, 2009. He simultaneously served as executive dean for the UTHSC College of Medicine, largest of the Health Science Center’s six colleges, and chair of UTMG, the largest of the UTHSC faculty practice plans. A national search was conducted to fill the chancellor post.

“Throughout the search process, Dr. Schwab demonstrated his commitment to thinking strategically, responding openly, and acting in a collaborative and decisive fashion,” President Simek said.

Dr. Schwab joined UTHSC as the first-ever executive dean for the College of Medicine in July 2006. In 2007, he assumed direct responsibility for the COM Memphis campus. As chancellor, Dr. Schwab will transition out of the executive dean role, and a national search will be conducted for his successor in that post.

“It is an honor to be selected to serve as the leader for the UT Health Science Center team,” Dr. Schwab said. “Our faculty, staff and students have many reasons to be proud of our legacy and optimistic about our future as we move forward to fulfill our mission in education, research, clinical care and public service.”

MD Discovers Novel Concept in Drug Design

John DeVincenzo, MD, professor and researcher in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Sciences, has proven for the first time that a totally new concept in drug design can be used to treat human diseases such as cancers, genetic diseases and viral infections. DeVincenzo, who also serves as a children’s infectious diseases specialist at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, was recently recognized for being the first to prove that a totally new concept in drug design can be used to treat human disease. DeVincenzo, who also serves as a children’s infectious diseases specialist at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, was recently recognized for being the first to prove that a totally new concept in drug design can be used to treat human disease.

The new drug design concept is that a simple chain of sugars called RNA (Ribose) can be used to offset operational costs, they are critical. The fundraising efforts will continue until the campaign’s December 2011 completion and beyond as we continue to work to have all units reach their individual goals, as well as to find funding for new and unfunded priorities.

UT Reaches $1 Billion Campaign for Tennessee Goal Ahead of Schedule

On June 20, during the Advancement and Public Affairs Committee meeting, it was announced to trustees that the university has surpassed the $1 billion mark for the Campaign for Tennessee 18 months ahead of schedule. The campaign officially ends in December 2011.

“This monumental success of reaching our goal early is a grand statement by our alumni and friends that they believe in the work of our faculty and leadership as well as the importance of the University of Tennessee in their lives and in the future of our state,” said UT Interim President Jan Simek.

The campaign’s success places UT among an elite group of only 28 public universities that have successfully completed fundraising campaigns of at least $1 billion, according to the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

It is important to remember that about 98 percent of all Campaign for Tennessee gifts are restricted for a specific scholarship, professorship, program, building project or other objective of the donor’s choosing. Although these gifts cannot be used to offset operational costs, they are critical.

The fundraising efforts will continue until the campaign’s December 2011 completion and beyond as we continue to work to have all units reach their individual goals, as well as to find funding for new and unfunded priorities.

CONTENTS:

Pharmacy Artifacts Donated ................................... 3
Centennial Celebration ........................................ 5
CHEER Office Open House ................................... 7
Dr. Oz Visits Memphis ........................................... 10
A Brand New Le Bonheur ...................................... 11
Power of Commitment Shines ............................... 13
Armstrong Earns ARRA Grant ............................... 15
700 Students Graduate ........................................ 19

See Concept, pg. 3

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center is to bring the benefits of the health sciences to the achievement and maintenance of human health, with a focus on the citizens of Tennessee and the region, by pursuing an integrated program of education, research, clinical care, and public service.
Faculty Senate Makes Special Presentations

On May 11, following the State of the Campus Address delivered by Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, the Faculty Senate handled more than regular, scheduled business.

Parker Suttle, PhD, Faculty Senate president presented several awards to faculty and staff along with a special award in honor of Dr. Grant Somes who recently passed away in a boating accident. Dr. Somes’ wife accepted his plaque for the Presidential Citation Award. The following individuals were also honored during the awards presentation.

**Senator of the Year**
Phyllis Richey, PhD, MS, BSEd

**Administrator of the Year**
Mark R. Patters, PhD, DDS, BS

**Presidential Citation Award**
George E. Cates
Karl A. Schledwitz
Monice Moore Hagler

**Exceptional Meritorious Achievement Award**
Christopher Todd Barber, MSBA, BS
Bradley N. Terhune, MS, BA

**Certificate of Appreciation**
Audrey R. Zucker-Levin, PT, PhD, MBA, GCS, Secretary/Treasurer

**Academic Support Appreciation**
Jeddie Maxwell, BA

Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs

---

### Head Start for Heart Walk

It’s time to plan for the 2010 Start! Heart Walk on October 2. We’re already working hard to meet our $30,000 goal.

As the leading cause of death in this country, cardiovascular disease claims almost as many lives each year as the next seven leading causes of death combined.

To help fight heart disease and stroke, the university will offer its support once again for the annual Heart Walk. Teams of walkers have been organized to help raise funds for the American Heart Association event.

This year UTHSC hopes to mobilize more than 400 walkers, so join a team today and show how much you care about cardiovascular disease. To join a UTHSC team, please visit www.midsouthheartwalk.org.

---

### New Chief of Gastroenterology On The Way

Toan Nguyen, MD, will join the Department of Medicine in late August as the chief of Gastroenterology and the Hyman Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Nguyen is an experienced leader who has served as the interim chief of Gastroenterology at the University of Washington and the Seattle VA. He received his BS and MD from the University of Chicago. Dr. Nguyen completed his residency at the University of Chicago and his fellowship in Gastroenterology at Stanford University.

Dr. Nguyen is internationally known for his research on pancreatic duct epithelial cell function, secretion and pathology. He has published widely in journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. His research is funded by VA Merit awards and he has served as the director of a NIH T32 training grant. He will partner with colleagues in the Division of Gastroenterology and across campus to enhance and strengthen clinical, educational and research activities.

Please join the Department of Medicine in thanking Jackie Fleckenstein, MD, for her continuing superb service as interim chief of Gastroenterology.
Family Donates More Than 600 Health Care Artifacts

Dr. Cleo Stevenson’s family has donated more than 600 medical, dental, nursing, allied health and pharmaceutical artifacts to the Health Sciences Library on the Memphis campus. The reception acknowledging the donation was held in April.

The Cleo W. Stevenson Collection – now proudly displayed in the Health Sciences Library – allows visitors to step back in medical history to view more than 100 artifacts, bringing both amusement and admiration for work that paved the way for modern health science.

Dr. Stevenson’s family actually donated more than 600 medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and pharmaceutical artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries; the Health Sciences Library has plans to periodically rotate these items on exhibit. The first 100 pieces on display represent the fields of medicine and pharmacy, and their debut in the library was celebrated on April 30 at a reception in honor of Cleo W. Stevenson, MD, and his family for their generous gift.

“I’d like to talk about the objects and tell you what they were used for and what we wouldn’t dare use them for today,” shared Jean Stevenson, wife of the late Dr. Stevenson, who enjoyed excursions helping her husband hunt for his medical treasures.

During the reception, she spoke of fumigators that were thought to eliminate the “bad air” during the yellow fever epidemic, hollow walking canes used to carry vials of medicine, portable amputation kits, and leech jars, among other things. Mrs. Stevenson reminisced of how Dr. Stevenson’s interest was piqued when a pair of medical saddlebags owned by her grandfather (Dr. John Washington McCarley) was found in her parent’s attic in the 1940s. From there, his quest began.

Dr. Stevenson, who was a 1943 graduate of the UTHSC College of Medicine, began to display collected items in his office at Methodist Hospital, where he served as medical director of the Nursing School for almost 40 years. An internist, Dr. Stevenson also practiced with his two older brothers in a clinic at 1469 Poplar, which stayed in operation until the late 1970s. Dr. Stevenson continued to work and make house calls until his retirement in 1990. He died in September 1995 at age 74.

Mrs. Stevenson shared how over the years they searched and searched for medical items, and even had friends helping them find pieces. After much searching, a friend – Ruth Crenshaw – called to tell them that she had found a leech jar with a leech still inside. “They were dead, but that’s all the better,” said Mrs. Stevenson with a laugh.

As the collection grew, patients urged him to display the items, and Methodist Hospital constructed the first cabinets for the collection in the early 1970s. When the family recently donated the artifacts to the Health Sciences Library, UTHSC administrators used funds from the Simón R. Bruesch Endowment to purchase the seven display cases for the collection.

During remarks at the reception, Richard Nollan, associate professor in the Health Sciences Historical Collections, explained that Dr. Bruesch was a UTHSC neuroanatomist who had a deep interest in history and who helped create a strong paper collection at the library. Though after Dr. Bruesch’s death, due to space limitations, much of the collection was put into storage until Tom Singarella, PhD, became the director.

Now UTHSC’s Historical Collection has a large, well-cared-for paper collection and is the only health sciences special collection in the Mid-South.

Because the collection is so large, the complete exhibit cannot be displayed at one time. In the future, the Health Sciences Library plans to rotate the collection along themes, such as ophthalmology, patent medicine, nursing and quackery.

The Health Sciences Library has made these items available in display cases on the third floor of the library in the Lamar Alexander Building. Images can also be seen in the online exhibit at http://library.uthsc.edu/history/stevenson-collection/.

Concept cont. from page 1

nucleic Acid) can be easily designed on laptop computers and then synthesized into powerful disease-fighting therapies. The therapies work by shutting down disease-causing genes through a process known as RNA interference (RNAi). The discovery of this natural process of RNAi was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2006. RNAi drugs had shown promise in test tube studies and in animals, but had never been shown to work in humans. Realizing the potential power of the new discovery, Dr. DeVincenzo and his team tackled the virus called RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), the most common cause of hospitalization of infants and an infection with no therapy or vaccine. Healthy adults contract only rare, mild RSV infections that disappear without medical intervention.

The investigator’s team infected 88 healthy adults with RSV cultures that he collected and grew from his patients at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. He then administered RNAi drug therapy to half the study participants in the form of a nasal spray and a placebo to the other half. Findings from Dr. DeVincenzo’s study proved that the RNAi therapy shut down a gene critical to RSV, thus preventing the virus from replicating itself. Patients who received the RNAi drug had significantly less infection than those receiving the placebo.

The findings pave the way for this new type of drug therapy to treat a large variety of human diseases including cancers, genetic diseases and viral infections. In April, the study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences announcing the potential of the RNAi drug therapy.

“The next step in this discovery is already being undertaken,” said Dr. DeVincenzo. “We are in the midst of a clinical trial to test the RNA interference drug in lung-transplant recipients who have become naturally infected with Respiratory Syncytial Virus, which can be deadly for these patients.” The researcher added that the aerosol form of the RNAi drug was proven to be safe in the previous phase of study and the safety is being tested again in the current phase of the clinical trial. His long-term goal is to test RNAi drug therapies to reduce RSV infections in infants.

Regarding the possibility of marketing the RNAi drug treatment, Dr. DeVincenzo emphasizes that the drug’s commercialization cannot be predicted, but could receive approval as an orphan drug (a treatment for rare conditions) as early as 2013 if the current phase of clinical trials proves to be very successful. Approval for using RNAi treatment on children who suffer from RSV would take longer.
Blues Project to Enroll 1,000 At-Risk Mothers

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation has received a $1.7 million grant from the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation to expand the Blues Project (BLUES) in Shelby and Hamilton Counties in Tennessee.

BLUES, a study aimed at reducing infant mortality rates, is administered by UTHSC. The project provides TennCare-eligible pregnant women access to quality prenatal care and services through group visits at community health centers. Additional services include case management, social support, patient education, and referrals to community resources. Participants can access services from onset of pregnancy until the child’s second birthday. Each site includes a team of professionals providing clinical and social services.

After the Bluff City was dubbed as having the highest infant mortality rate among the nation’s 60 largest cities in 2004, BLUES Phases I and II were launched in Memphis between 2005 and 2009. The study, which assists large numbers of women, has served nearly 1,000 at-risk mothers resulting in more than 900 healthy deliveries, 0.24 infant deaths and 9 percent low birth weight babies. The $1.7 million grant will also be used to measure the impact of patient education, social support and prenatal care on infant mortality in the state of Tennessee, but across the country in cities with similar demographic characteristics.

In 2006, Hamilton County posted the second-highest infant mortality rate (11.2 deaths per 1,000 live births) in the state and the highest African-American infant mortality rate (23.7 deaths per 1,000 births). From 2001 to 2005, nearly 16 percent of Hamilton County’s live births were preterm. Of the preterm deliveries, 72 percent resulted in infant deaths. Hamilton County has the highest occurrence of low birth weight in the state at 12 percent. The low birth weight for its African-American babies is almost double that of whites (18.6 percent compared to 9.7 percent, respectively). Given the expansion into Hamilton County, BLUES proposes to: (1) duplicate the BLUES model to prove effectiveness (2) compare the birth and child health outcomes of the Hamilton County participants to those in Shelby County, and (3) establish the Blues Project as an effective, data-driven and cost-efficient model for reducing infant mortality in Tennessee.

“We want to demonstrate the scalability of BLUES and work to build a self-sustained structure of care that will expand, not only in the state of Tennessee, but across the country in cities with similar demographics to Memphis,” said Kimberly Lamar, PhD, MPH, MSEE, principal investigator of BLUES and assistant professor for the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine. The BLUES model is holistic in scope and empowers women to overcome social and economic barriers affecting their health and that of their children. Results show African-American BLUES mothers have made significant improvements in their educational and employment goals by the end of their second year follow-up.

“The $1.7 million BlueCross BlueShield grant will also be used to measure the impact of patient education, social support and prenatal care on infant mortality in pregnant women,” stated Dr. Lamar.

Croce to Study Pneumonia in Trauma Patients

Martin A. Croce, MD, professor of Surgery is the recipient of a $225,000 research grant from the National Trauma Institute (NTI). Dr. Croce’s study is one of seven grants awarded in May by NTI, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding trauma research in the United States.

Dr. Croce’s study will evaluate a recommended bundle of care maneuvers designed to help prevent ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) in injured patients. Approximately 20 percent of those who develop VAP die, and there is little evidence showing that the use of these “care bundles” reduces the occurrence of VAP. The prospective observational study will examine data from six institutions both before and after bundle implementation to determine which factors affect the incidence of VAP.

In addition to his academic role, Dr. Croce serves as chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care and medical director for the Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center in the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED). “Ventilator associated pneumonia is a life-threatening problem for trauma patients. Prevention is an important way to improve the outcome of trauma patients, but the methods for VAP prevention are not well studied,” Dr. Croce said. “We hope to identify strategies that are effective for VAP prevention.”

NTI is committed to facilitating translational research – that is, research whose results may affect the practice of medicine and patient outcomes in the near term. NTI’s next Request for Proposals will be released later this month. To sign up to receive announcements related to research funding opportunities, visit the website at www.nationaltraumainstitute.org and go to the Research page.

Russell Named Assistant Vice Chancellor

Cynthia (Cindy) Russell, a 17-year employee of UTHSC, was recently appointed assistant vice chancellor for Faculty Administration in the Office of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs. Russell reports to Cheryl R. Scheid, PhD, vice chancellor for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs.

“I am very happy that Cindy has accepted this expanded role. As a ‘seasoned’ UTHSC faculty member, Cindy understands campus culture and has a first-hand knowledge of faculty needs, an understanding derived from 17 years as a Nursing faculty member and from membership on numerous campus-wide committees,” Dr. Scheid said.

In her new role, Russell is responsible for academic personnel policies and procedures, core faculty development programs, faculty excellence and retention, assessment and evaluation activities, campus-wide initiatives and programs, online faculty evaluation process, campus-wide purchase and implementation of technologies, and online courses and programs.
Centennial Celebration Launched

It all began in 1911 with the merger of several Tennessee medical units into the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. Now, almost 100 years later, UTHSC continues our commitment to research, education, clinical care and public service.

As UTHSC approaches our centennial in 2011, the university has planned a series of celebrations for this momentous occasion. To ignite excitement for the coming year, a kickoff event took place on April 9 at the Madison Hotel, in conjunction with the Development Council meeting. The council rotates between all campuses and convenes in Memphis every four years.

The theme of the event, “Celebrate the Past and Move Ahead to a Bright Future,” showcased attendees in their best period dress from 1911 to the 1970s, including clothing from flapper dresses, top hats and feather boas, to pillbox hats, go-go boots and poodle skirts. Food, fun, photographs and dancing marked an atmosphere that all were able to enjoy.

Top donors, faculty and attendees watched the sunset on the rooftop of the hotel while enjoying three floors of live music: songstress Joyce Cobb, saxophonist Mark Baker and the tinkling tones of a well-versed pianist. Health care memorabilia such as sepia-tone photos and small equipment from yesteryear was also strategically located for guests to peruse.

Now through 2011, UTHSC will salute past events and celebrate a promising future through a variety of centennial activities and events for students, alumni, faculty and staff. In addition, a centennial coffee table book that showcases our people, campuses and pivotal role in the health care fabric of our communities will also be available for purchase.

Become a part by contributing any historical photos, personal reflections, or artifacts that you may have from your time at UTHSC. For more information, please contact Richard Nollan in the Health Sciences Historical Collections at (901) 448-6053, rnollan@uthsc.edu.

Promote 100 Years in Memphis

Sheila T.T. Champlin
Director
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Communications and Marketing
62 South Dunlap
Memphis, TN 38163
Phone: (901) 448-4957
Cell: (901) 237-8574 • Fax: (901) 448-8640
E-mail: schamplin@uthsc.edu

UT Health Science Center is approaching its centennial and you can help promote the university and this historic occasion by ordering your business cards with the 100th symbol.

To order your updated business cards, follow normal department procedures and simply request the 100 years design. For more information, please contact UT Printing Services at (901) 448-5553.

Preventive Medicine
Introduces Campus Violence Program

Campus violence has increasingly become a public health issue and is imperative to address at institutions across the nation. Recently, the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine in collaboration with the UTHSC Campus Police Department was awarded a series of grants by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). The Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program is a three-year initiative and will be known as Ending Violence on Campus (EVOC).

The purpose of the grants is to provide the support necessary to implement a system of care for victims of campus violence. In addition, it ensures that the necessary policies and procedures regarding campus violence are in place, and that these initiatives are sensitive to the needs of the victims and the campus community as a whole.

Pamela Connor, PhD, primary investigator for this grant and the director of the Academic Consortium of Applied Research (ACAR) Unit, leads the team implementing the components of the effort. Components of EVOC include the development of an online campus violence curriculum utilized to educate incoming students as well as faculty and staff. In addition, over the next three years information regarding campus violence and safety will be disseminated by the UTHSC Campus Police Department Training Unit to the campus community.

Finally, EVOC will establish an active relationship with community organizations that specialize in victim servicing for the purpose of educating and providing solid referral sources. These community organizations include the Exchange Club Family Center, Memphis Area Legal Services, Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center, and Shelby County Crime Victims Center.

The OVW, part of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the country’s capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Violence Program is a three-year initiative.

Moving forward, the Department of Preventive Medicine and the UTHSC Campus Police Department want the campus community to become active participants in making UTHSC a model institution for preventing sexual violence and servicing victims of sexual violence.

For more information, please call the Department of Preventive Medicine at (901) 448-5900.
MERIT Award to Study Ethanol Arteries

In May, Alejandro M. Dopico, PhD, MD, professor in the Department of Pharmacology, College of Medicine, was awarded $1,779,532 from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The award will support Dr. Dopico’s ongoing study of how ethanol acts on potassium channels of the BK type (Big-conductance potassium channels) in excitable cells, with a particular focus on the impact of alcohol disruption of BK channel function on brain artery function. The five-year grant will run through June 2014.

Ethanol or ethyl alcohol, the volatile, flammable, colorless liquid best known as “alcohol” and found in alcoholic beverages and thermometers, is a powerful psychoactive drug. BK (or Slo) channels constitute a family of highly selective potassium channels found in all cell membranes. Their normal function controls a wide variety of cell processes essential for life, including neuronal firing of train of action potentials, regulation of neurotransmitter release, and control of vascular smooth muscle tone.

Dr. Dopico’s research has documented the contribution of ethanol in targeting of BK channels to several well-known alcohol actions in the body, including inhibition of vasopressin release and thus, diuresis, and, more recently, cerebrovascular constriction in response to alcohol levels found in circulation during episodic alcohol intake such as during binge drinking. He has been a member of the UTHSC faculty since July 2000 and immersed in this avenue of research for more than 16 years.

The Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award program was initiated by the NIH in fiscal year 1986. Since that time, the MERIT Award has become a symbol of scientific achievement in the research community. The awards are offered to a limited number of investigators who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity during their previous research endeavors and who are likely to continue to perform in an outstanding manner.

Investigators cannot apply for MERIT Awards. After new and competing renewal investigator-initiated research project grant (RO1) applications are reviewed in the usual manner, NIAAA staff and the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism give further consideration to those RO1 applications that meet the criteria for a MERIT Award. The NIAAA director notifies those investigators who are selected. The principal feature of the MERIT Award is the opportunity to obtain up to 10 years of research support in two segments and thereby relieve awardees of the need to prepare frequent renewal applications.

“It is a great honor to have received this award, which resulted from the sustained effort of many scientists, both collaborators and fellow trainees, whom I have had the pleasure to work with along these years. The award recognizes a basic concept of our scientific program, which is unveiling fundamental biophysical processes to understand pathophysiological events triggered by alcohol intake,” said Dr. Dopico.

Only three other UTHSC researchers hold MERIT Awards. Each of these scientists had his initial five-year award renewed for a second five-year period.

Postdocs Host Luncheon

In May, the UTHSC Postdoctoral Association, in conjunction with the Postdoctoral Office, invited postdoctoral research trainees, research associates, and research assistants to their spring program and Scientific Career Seminar Series.

The seminar series offered insight on the various careers available to postdoctoral fellows. The series ended with the path – From Postdoctoral Fellow to Tenure-Track Faculty.

Three current UTHSC faculty members provided their personal journey from fellow to faculty member. Ronald Laribee, PhD, assistant professor in Pathology discussed the importance of taking responsibility for your own actions. “You are responsible for your success as a postdoc,” Dr. Laribee emphasized. He also advised postdocs to build a lasting relationship with their advising researcher and to network.

Kazuko Sakata, PhD, assistant professor in Pharmacology, recommended postdocs be fully aware of what they want to do. She stated, “Make sure to sell your product – your research.” Know that your research is the key element during your postdoc fellowship, as well as being able to work independently. “Postdoc training is the golden year to develop your assets.”

The final speaker, Maria Gomes-Solecki, DVM, assistant professor in Molecular Sciences, informed students to always be passionate about what they do. “Specialize and find a niche where you are comfortable,” she said.

The UTHSC Postdoctoral Association (PhDA) was established in 2007 as an affiliate of the National Postdoctoral Association and received the award for the best new NPA chapter in 2008. The PhDA sponsors research and career development seminars, an orientation program, research poster awards, and travel awards for postdocs, as well as a variety of social events.

For more information on the PhDA, log on to www.uthsc.edu/PhDA.

CANDLE Study Reaches Enrollment Milestone

Organizers of the CANDLE Research Study announced they have enrolled 1,000 pregnant women since recruitment began in December 2006. The goal is to enroll a total of 1,500 participants.

The CANDLE Study (Conditions Affecting Neurocognitive Development and Learning in Early Childhood) is conducted for mothers-to-be who want to follow the development and learning levels of their babies from birth to 3 years of age.

Participants must be less than seven months pregnant, have a low-risk pregnancy and live in Shelby County. The study identifies factors that impact a baby’s development and ability to learn during pregnancy and its first three years.

CANDLE studies the effects of social, economic and cultural conditions, as well as psychological, genetic, environmental, and dietary factors that influence child development and behavior. Recently, The Urban Child Institute has supported presentations about study findings at national research meetings.

Since 2006, a broad range of faculty experts at UTHSC have contributed to the development and continued progress of the CANDLE Study. In addition, CANDLE has expanded its recruitment efforts community-wide.

“Our enrollment milestone could not have been achieved without the teamwork shown by everyone who works on this study,” said Patricia Simpson, study manager for CANDLE. “Everyone on staff is dedicated to the spirit of this research and is remarkable at what they do.”

For more information about CANDLE, visit www.candlestudy.org or contact Patricia Simpson in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine at (901) 448-1318 or e-mail her at psimpso4@uthsc.edu.

Pregnant women who are interested in participating in the study should call (901) 448-8400 or visit www.candlestudy.org.
‘New Treatments, No Tricks’ at UTHSC

On June 15, UTHSC and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society hosted a seminar on increasing African-American and Latino participation in clinical trials that are used to improve health outcomes for all citizens. New Treatments, No Tricks, held at the Student-Alumni Center, aimed to reduce minority fears of participating in clinical trials and inform minority citizens on how to gain access to various studies.

The workshops explained clinical trials in layman’s terms; discussed barriers to and benefits from clinical trials participation; described government requirements for protecting individuals who volunteer for clinical studies, and provided a forum for audience questions to researchers who conduct clinical trials and minority citizens who actively participate in these studies.

New Treatments, No Tricks was designed for African-American and Latino citizens, health care professionals (physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists and care takers), policy-makers, community health organizers, minority communications experts, and all interested individuals.

Speakers represent UT Health Science Center, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University, the University of Memphis, UT Medical Group, the West Clinic, and the Men’s Health Network. The primary sponsors are the UT Health Science Center Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Additional sponsors include the Consortium for Health Education, Economic Empowerment and Research, the Men’s Health Network, and the National Medical Association.

The seminar included a film and panel discussion on the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, a clinical trial conducted between 1932 and 1972 in Tuskegee, Ala., involving African-American sharecroppers with syphilis. The 40-year study examined the progression of untreated syphilis to justify treatment for African-Americans.

CHEER Opening, Meaningful Beginning

The CHEER staff recently welcomed visitors to help celebrate their open house. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD (right) was on hand to address the needs and answer questions regarding UTHSC’s involvement with the program.

As individuals gathered to celebrate the opening of CHEER (Consortium for Health Education, Economic Empowerment and Research) on the UTHSC campus on May 14, it was evident that this was the beginning of a major project that will change the face of health disparities research.

More than 50 people toured the new facilities and were excited to hear about new opportunities that address health disparities in the Memphis and Mississippi Delta region.

It is staffed with eight team members who work daily with other contributors to make the program a success.

CHEER is a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) Exploratory Center of Excellence in Health Disparities. It’s funded through the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Other CHEER partners are LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, Memphis Housing Authority, First Baptist Church Lauderdale, and Mustard Seed, Inc.

Founded in 2007, CHEER’s mission is to engage in community-based collaborations to accomplish research and incorporate the role of community assets and personal efficacy in order to drive healthy lifestyles for at-risk persons in Memphis, Tenn., and the Mississippi Delta region.

For more information, visit our website http://www.uthsc.edu/CHEER.

Certified Dermatology Meeting

On September 17, the East Tennessee Dermatology Society will hold an interactive meeting that will allow dermatologists and their team members to observe patients and discuss unusual presentations of dermatologic disorders and diseases that are refractory to typical therapy. Case presentations will highlight dermatologic disorders, their mimics and treatment strategies.

The CME certified meeting is sponsored by the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville and will be held at the Knoxville Dermatology Group, Suite 209, UT Medical Center, Knoxville. The meeting will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.

This activity offers up to two CME credits through AMA and AAPA and up to .2 CEUs. To register and for more information, contact Knoxville Dermatology Group at (865) 342-5808.

Important: Your Pharmacy May Change

As of July 1, CVS Caremark will become the pharmacy benefits manager for all employees participating in the state of Tennessee Group Health Insurance Program.

All participating employees should receive the welcome packet and prescription cards in the mail soon. If you do not receive your cards, please call the CVS Caremark Call Center, open 24/7, at 1-877-522-8679.

On June 15, employees were notified that Walgreens Pharmacy would NOT be included in the Caremark CVS pharmacy network. However, Caremark and Walgreens now have reached an agreement that Walgreens Pharmacy would NOT be part of the 30-day pharmacy network. Walgreens will NOT be part of the 90-day mail network effective July 1.

Even without Walgreens in the network, plan members will have access to more than 1,400 pharmacies across Tennessee. A listing of pharmacies participating can be found at http://www.caremark.com/stateoftn/.
**Face Lift for SASS**

When Student Academic Support Services welcomed guests to its open house on April 23, Kimberly Quiney began one tour by saying “Everything’s changed – from the door to the floor.” Though catchy, she wasn’t kidding.

The SASS, an academic support service located in the GEB to facilitate and enhance student learning, had undergone a five-month-long renovation. The remodeling project did begin with new carpet and doors but continued with new bookshelves, tables and office furniture. New lounge furniture to give a homey feel was also added, as well as two new refrigerators and microwaves. Computer donations from Information Technology Services and the Student Government Association Executive Council were made, and more cubicles for testing and studying were added. A conference room for student groups to meet and practice presentations is now a part of the SASS. Little things such as painting the concrete walls to brighten the basement area, installing blinds and clocks in study rooms, and adding white boards for group study sessions were not overlooked – and the list could go on.

“Essentially we really wanted students to have a comfortable and inviting place to study and learn,” stated Quiney, who during the renovation worked in the SASS and was instrumental in coordinating the efforts. Since that time, Quiney has transferred to Human Resources as a senior benefits specialist, but was on hand during the open house to help give tours. Constance Tucker and Laurie Brooks, educational specialists in the SASS, also assisted with the renovation, including selection of furniture and the design of the study space. They were also on hand to act as tour guides for visitors during the open house, which was organized with the help of Pam Houston in Special Events.

Emphasizing that the renovations were about the students and their needs, Quiney explained that none of the existing staff received new furniture. “Instead the focus was on how the UTHSC administration and SASS could serve the students better.

New computer software is also being purchased, which will enable students to check-in when they come to the SASS. This will allow staff to more efficiently track how the center is being used and to identify students’ needs within the different programs and colleges.

Kathy Gibbs, director of the SASS, explained that the impetus for the renovations was to enhance the environment for students, and the directive and budget capability to do so came from the administration.

Each month the SASS receives about 1,000 visits from students. The UTHSC administration wanted to make these visits more meaningful, as well as to have a place in which students could take pride.

“As hard as they work and as much time as they spend studying on campus, they deserve a pleasant place to learn,” Gibbs said. “We are glad the SASS is part of the campus effort to provide more attractive space, including more study space.”

So what do students think?

“I see a big change,” said Shawna Clark, D2, as she visited with fellow dental students during the SASS open house, enjoying refreshments catered by Chartwells. Her classmate, Andrew Conkin, D2, agreed. “There is more room for students to study – more tables and chairs.”

“It is more spacious,” added Jennifer Collins, D2, “You don’t feel like you are right on top of another student.”

**Fast Facts about the SASS Remodeling:**

- Now has 25 working computers
- 10 laptops for student check-out
- Almost doubled cubicle space
- Had four group study rooms, now has six
- Card readers were installed for 24-hour access to secure study areas.
Good Things Ahead: State of Campus Address

Strengths, goals, challenges and achievement of goals were all part of the message from Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, on May 11 during his State of the Campus Address.

Speaking to the Faculty Senate and a large portion of the campus community, Dr. Schwab focused on the positive aspects that will benefit the university in the near future including enhancing strong education programs and focusing on maintaining and growing education excellence.

Although tough economic times have affected state allocations to the Health Science Center, the central goal of education was met. “In 2009 - 2010 we had a very strong performance in education and research despite the financial distress,” Dr. Schwab stated.

Dr. Schwab also congratulated Dr. Parker Suttle, president of the Faculty Senate on another stated. Dr. Schwab also congratulated Dr. Parker Suttle, president of the Faculty Senate on another successful year.

He also applauded scientists for the high, nationally acclaimed research that continues to set the Health Science Center apart from many institutions.

Focus on National Minority Health Month

The Consortium for Health Education, Economic Empowerment and Research (CHEER), hosted two special events in observance of National Minority Health Month.

CHEER, a community-based health disparities research center, offered seminars that discussed new approaches in addressing health disparities (poor health outcomes prevalent among vulnerable populations such as minority groups).

In conjunction with the UTHSC Black Graduate Student Association, CHEER hosted a symposium that featured Rani Whitfield, MD, a board-certified family physician in Baton Rouge, La., committed to advancing innovative methods for improving minority health.

Dr. Whitfield presented “H2D and Health Disparities,” a discussion on how he uses hip hop music to reach minority citizens for the purpose of explaining health disparities and communicating culturally appropriate health messages.

CHEER also presented, “The Mayor’s View on The Med and Health Disparities,” a seminar led by Joe Ford, interim mayor of Shelby County, Tenn. Mayor Ford discussed his view of the funding challenges at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis and how the facility plays a role in Shelby County’s strategy for addressing health disparities.

“We are excited about sharing the ideas of these dynamic speakers with the community,” said Shelley White-Means, PhD, CHEER’s executive director. “This is our time to implement the vision of CHEER and discuss various ways to attack the problem of adverse health outcomes among certain citizens.”

The CHEER partners are UT Health Science Center, LaMemphis-Owen College, the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department, Memphis Housing Authority, First Baptist Church Lauderdale and its separate non-profit initiative, Mustard Seed, Inc.

For more information, contact Brandi Franklin, PhD, CHEER project manager, at (901) 448-1982. For more information about CHEER, visit www.uthsc.edu/CHEER.

Information on Stroke Treatment in Knoxville

On October 1, The Third Annual Stroke Symposium will be held at the UT Conference Center, Knoxville. The symposium will provide information for health care professionals practicing in family medicine and internal medicine, as well as pharmacists, advanced care nurses, staff nurses, therapists and other professionals who work to prevent and treat stroke.

This CME-certified course is sponsored by the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville, and UT Medical Center Brain and Spine Institute. Registration will open soon at www.tennessee.edu/cme/Stroke2010. For more information, contact Communications and Outreach at (865) 305-9190 or CME@utmck.edu.

FedEx Taps UTHSC Commercials in Video

FedEx has launched a new product called SenseAware, which combines a patent-pending slim GPS and sensor device that clips into packages or onto a pallet, with a Web-based collaboration platform to create an entirely new paradigm in distribution. Companies with critical or high-value shipments can now know the health of their shipment in near-real time and can collaborate with business partners up and down the supply chain on alerts and analytics.

FedEx consultants asked to use footage from UTHSC TV commercials to develop their two-minute video targeting bioscience industry customers. The FedEx video will highlight Memphis and the wealth of bioscience and life sciences businesses and institutions in the Bluff City.

The video was shown to about 75 customers at a late June FedEx Customer Council. The company also plans to use the video for one-on-one customer meetings for the next two years. To view the UTHSC TV commercials, visit: www.uthsc.edu/tvcommercials.
COD Offers Free Dental Screenings

Organizers at the 15th Annual Sisterhood Outreach Summit and Showcase relied on the UT College of Dentistry to provide free dental screenings. Directors of the showcase partnered with the college to conduct the dental screenings and provide attendees with oral health care information and dental products on June 5 and 6 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

The College of Dentistry has participated in the event for several years and 2010 was no different. This year the team of dental professionals and students conducted 441 dental screenings. The wait time was fairly short and screenings lasted about 10 to 20 minutes, unless participants had specific questions or dental needs.

The team encouraged participants to schedule regular screenings with their dentist or with the College of Dentistry patient care clinic. Dental professionals recommend an annual dental screening for children and adults to prevent pain and suffering due to dental problems and to encourage early dental treatment.

The Sisterhood Outreach Summit and Showcase is presented by Grace Magazine and was created to show women positive ways to change their lives. This year’s theme was “Forged in the Fire of Excellence.” More than 30,000 people attend the annual event.

For more information on the College of Dentistry patient care clinic hours of operation and services offered, please call (901) 448-6468.

Dr. Oz Brings Health Care Wizardry to Memphis

Through the joint partnership between Methodist Healthcare, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and Columbia University Medical Center, Mehmet Oz, MD, professor of cardiac surgery at Columbia University Hospital and host of “The Dr. Oz Show,” brought his message of community and personal health and wellness to the Memphis Botanic Garden. On June 10, nearly 200 health care providers, community leaders and special guests gathered in Hardin Hall for an early morning, invitation-only event.

“I’m here to discuss how you as health care providers can partner with the media to promote better health,” Dr. Oz noted. “I want to share the lessons I’ve learned and the mistakes I’ve made in getting people to talk about health.

“One of the most important lessons is people don’t change because of what they know. They change based on what they feel,” he stressed. “We have to drive change in our patients not by giving them information that may or may not be new to them. We have to get patients to care about themselves as much as their doctors and their families care about them. Then we can give them the information that heads them in the right direction.”

Dr. Oz said talk-show maven and business mogul Oprah Winfrey taught him, “Emotion drives 90 percent of change. If we can get patients to care, we can provide them with upbeat messages, engaging factoids and news they can use to drive transformation in how they take care of their own health. That’s powerful change.”

“Improving the health and well-being of our patients is part of our DNA,” said Gary Shorb, president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. “As a faith-based institution, we have an unconditional concern and care for the population we serve.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Oz bring his expertise in health education and disease prevention to our community,” Shorb continued. “And we are especially pleased with our partners at Methodist and the University of Tennessee for providing such tremendous value.”

“We are partners with the Methodist Healthcare System and with Columbia University Medical Center because we are committed to dramatically improving the quality of cardiovascular care and education for this region,” observed Interim Chancellor Schwab.

“We know that is an achievable goal because it is through this kind of partnership that Methodist and UT have built a Transplant Institute that is one of the top 10 solid organ transplant units in the U.S. We want to bring that same high level of care to cardiovascular patients in the Mid-South.”

Brain Awareness Awareness Week Symposium 2010

Nationally celebrated Brain Awareness Week was recently observed by UTHSC. Dr. Kristin Hamre (left) and Dr. Staci Bilbo (right) lectured on the brain and the body’s immune system. Dr. William Armstrong, PhD (center), professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology and director of the Neuroscience Institute helped lead the symposium.

Every year, UTHSC celebrates Brain Awareness Week, a worldwide initiative that unites the efforts of universities, hospitals, patient groups, government agencies, schools, service organizations and professional associations.

The Neuroscience Institute and the Urban Child Institute featured two presentations by internationally known scientists on the early development of the brain and how the body’s immune system continually “takes” to the brain.

Kristin Hamre, PhD, neuroscientist from UTHSC, talked about early brain development with an emphasis on critical periods and growth spurs. She also discussed how the nervous system is vulnerable to a variety of insults during these growth spurts.

Staci Bilbo, PhD, keynote speaker and a neuroscientist from Duke University, spoke about how the immune system profoundly influences brain development, which has implications for cognitive functions as well as a number of neuropathological conditions.

Dr. Bilbo discussed how the brain-immune conversation occurs normally, as well as during illness, injury, or infection, and thereby has a continual and powerful influence on mood, motivation, and learning in both health and disease.

Kenneth Allen Campbell

A photo caption in the March – April issue of The Record incorrectly identified Kenneth Allen Campbell. Campbell passed away on November 12, 2009, at Methodist University Hospital.

Kenny began at UTHSC 24 years ago. He worked in the Print Shop, Accounting and the Department of Medicine. He is survived by his beloved wife of 10 years, Edie Campbell.
Grand Opening for New Le Bonheur

When temperatures reach the 90s and humidity drives the heat index to triple digits, usually that’s the major topic of conversation. However on Tuesday, June 15, the new Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital was the center of attention – despite the sweltering Memphis heat. From 10 to 11:30 a.m. all eyes were on a two-block stretch of Dunlap as the grand opening parade for the new, 12-story addition rolled, strolled and pranced by. The new building adds 610,000 square feet to the hospital, bringing the Le Bonheur campus to more than 1 million square feet. The $340-million hospital will open to patients in September.

With this new addition, Le Bonheur becomes the largest children’s hospital in the state. Through its partnership with UTHSC, Le Bonheur trains more pediatric physicians than any other facility in Tennessee.

“This is a great day for Memphis. We should be proud of what we have accomplished for our children. But it’s important to remember this is only the beginning of the story. There are many great chapters still to come in Le Bonheur’s amazing story,” said Meri Armour, president and CEO of Le Bonheur.

The 255-bed hospital nearly doubles Le Bonheur’s current space for patient care, research and teaching. Featuring the latest advancements in technology and comforts for families, the hospital is designed to provide each child and family with exceptional care. The new Le Bonheur will allow the hospital to continue to be a resource for families; to recruit and retain top talent from around the country; and expand pediatric medicine for decades to come.

Hundreds of men, women and children turned out for the parade and celebration, anxious to take part in this historic day. Many came prepared, umbrellas and water in hand, making their own cool oasis of shade. To keep the other participants and spectators hydrated and energized, Le Bonheur associates distributed cases of cold bottled water and specially decorated cookies, along with fold-out fans and frog-faced foam visors for kids.

The parade was narrated by Roscoe Orman and Sonia Manzano – better known as “Gordon” and “Maria” from the long-running PBS show “Sesame Street.” In signature “Sesame Street” style, they announced the parade was being “brought to you by the numbers 19 and 52” – the year the hospital first opened.

Following the parade and a brief ceremony, the new hospital was open to the community for tours. Every year Le Bonheur treats 130,000 children from across the country and throughout the world. The hospital is home to one of the nation’s 10 busiest pediatric emergency departments and hosts one of the largest pediatric surgical brain tumor programs. More than 80 percent of the physicians who provide clinical care for young patients at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital also teach and perform research at UTHSC.

In 1952, when the original Le Bonheur hospital began operation, the founders attached the keys to a balloon and sent them floating away to symbolize their commitment to the ideal that no child would ever be turned away. The new Le Bonheur will continue to live up to that pledge.

Hazardous Waste Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation enforce regulations concerning the proper management of hazardous waste. Although the UTHSC Safety Affairs Department makes every attempt to ensure all labs are following federal and state requirements for the management of hazardous waste, we still need the help of everyone working in the labs to ensure UTHSC remains compliant. This is accomplished by properly managing your Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA), which is the area in your lab, or work area, where you store your hazardous waste.

Here are some general tips to ensure you are managing your waste properly in your SAA:

- Ensure all waste containers are properly labeled with UTHSC’s hazardous waste label (labels can be obtained by contacting Safety Affairs at (901) 448-6114, or at General Stores). A waste label should be completed and placed on the waste container as soon as waste is added to the container. You should write out the chemical name of all hazardous constituents on the label in English. Please do not use abbreviations, formulas or general nomenclature.

Proper container management is crucial to operating a compliant SAA. The container should remain closed, except when adding waste, should be clean of waste on the outside and should be leak proof. Also, pay attention when pouring waste to an existing waste container and make sure you will not add a constituent that will react with the contents already present in the waste container.

Hazardous waste should be stored in the same manner as hazardous chemicals. Incompatible chemicals should be stored separately (i.e., flammables separated from oxidizers), and placed in secondary containment (tubs or dishpans work well for secondary containment).

You must not accumulate more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste or 1 kg of acute hazardous waste in your SAA. Once the waste containers are full, or if you are not going to generate more of the waste stream, please contact Sharon Andersen at (901) 448-6115, or sandersen@uthsc.edu, to coordinate a pickup. Anyone who generates and/or manages hazardous waste must be trained on an annual basis. If your lab or department has not received formal training, please contact Safety Affairs to get information regarding training options.
Dean Presents Abstract at National Seminar

On June 4th, David C. Seaberg, MD, dean of the College of Medicine, Chattanooga, presented an abstract titled, “Redirecting Low-Acuity Pediatric Emergency Department Patients to a Hospital-Based Federally Qualified Health Center” during a four-day annual meeting of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) in Phoenix, Ariz. The abstract is based on research performed at the UT College of Medicine and Erlanger Health System, Chattanooga.

In 2008, the UT College of Medicine and Erlanger Health System obtained a grant from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish a hospital-based federally qualified health center (FQHC). These centers were created under the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive care to the underserved. The UT College of Medicine and Erlanger established their FQHC in clinic space adjacent to the hospital’s Pediatric Emergency Department. The FQHC was open from 6 a.m. to midnight daily and was staffed by a pediatrician.

Data forms were completed on every low-acuity Pediatric Emergency Department patient during the hours of operation of the FQHC.

Through screening exams, pediatric ER patients with less severe or low-acuity conditions (emergency severity index of 4 or 5 on a scale of 10), were redirected to the FQHC. Over 12 months, 40,191 patients were signed in at Erlanger’s Pediatric Emergency Department. During this period, ER physicians and physician assistants redirected a total of 6,530 (16.2 percent of pediatric ER volume) to the nearby FQHC. Only three of these patients were re-triaged back to pediatric ER. The average charge per visit for the FQHC patients was $150. The majority of the clinic patients were enrolled in Medicaid.

“Our data showed that when patients and their families arrived at the hospital, they felt they were experiencing a real emergency,” observed Dr. Seaberg. “Through their health care experiences at the FQHC, they realized that emergency room care was not always required. Furthermore, 96 percent of patients and families who were redirected reported being very satisfied with their care.”

The research study was funded by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and by the Baroness Erlanger Foundation. Dr. Seaberg concluded that additional research is needed to examine the effect on Pediatric Emergency Department patient flow and whether patients can maintain a “medical home” at an FQHC. Other issues include negotiating with payers for a screening fee; establishing cost-effective provider contracting and staffing; improving the provider credentialing process; and reducing the cost per visit.

The mission of SAEM is to improve patient care by advancing research and education in emergency medicine. The organization is dedicated to the improvement of care of acutely ill and injured patients by improving research and education.

Cushman Receives Top VA Award

William C. Cushman, MD, professor of Preventive Medicine, Medicine, and Physiology in the College of Medicine and chief of Preventive Medicine, Memphis VA Medical Center, is the recipient of one of the VA’s highest awards.

At ceremonies marking Research Week, Dr. Cushman received the Barnwell Award, which is given for outstanding scientific achievements in clinical research that advance the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders in the veteran population.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Dr. Cushman, married 40 years, is a priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church and the proud father of three. The oldest, Jon, is an Army helicopter pilot in Afghanistan.

In addition to being the lead hypertension consultant to Medical Service for the VA, he is on the Executive Committee that wrote the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute National Committee Report on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of Hypertension.

He has been an investigator in many clinical studies relating to hypertension and cardiovascular disease prevention.

Dr. Cushman is principal investigator for the VA Clinical Center Network and Chair of the Blood Pressure Working Group of the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) trial conducted from 2000 through 2010.

ACCORD is one of the largest studies ever conducted in adults with type 2 diabetes who were at especially high risk of cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks, stroke or death.

For more information, please visit www.research.va.gov/researchweek.

Wasson Honored as Woman of Excellence

African-American women across Memphis were recognized for their leadership roles during an annual event at the Peabody Hotel on April 30. Willietha Wasson, DDS, associate professor in the UT College of Dentistry was among 50 honorees for the Women of Excellence Awards presented by the Tri-State Defender, the local newspaper highlighting issues of interest to African-Americans.

Dr. Wasson represented the Health Science Center for her untiring effort to serve underprivileged populations through Tennessee Smiles, a UT-based oral health outreach effort.

The Tennessee Smiles initiative, spearheaded by Dr. Wasson in 2003, provides complimentary dental screening and oral health information to underserved adults and children at health fairs throughout the Mid-South. “There is a great need for oral health care in our community and I am honored to be in a position to serve,” said Dr. Wasson.

“Requests for our services are coming in so fast that there is more than we can do, but we are reaching out to UT College of Dentistry alumni to volunteer time, donate supplies, host health fairs, and assist with data collection.”

Mearl Purvis, news anchor at WHBQ TV (Fox 13), was the mistress of ceremonies for the high tea event that included a fashion show and hors d’ oeuvres. Ms. Purvis reminded guests that women should not envy the achievements of other women, but should start on their own journey toward success and encourage other women along the way.

Professor Earns Spot at National Meeting

Le Bonheur Critical Care physician and UTHSC Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Thomas Spentzas, MD, recently presented work at the national meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Critical Care section. The presentation was entitled, “Suppresses the TNF Production of RAW264.7 Macrophages Stimulated with Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (CA-MRSA).” Relatable work also was presented at the Society of Critical Care Medicine International meeting and the Pediatric Academic Society.
Power of Commitment Key to Success

One of UTHSC’s largest and most popular workplace observances — the 2010 Administrative Professionals Luncheon — offered suggestions this year for unlocking the doors to a successful career.

“Power of Commitment: Utilizing Your Keys to Success” was held to honor and recognize administrative professionals. During the last few years, the popularity of the luncheon, which is hosted by the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of Equity and Diversity, has caused organizers to break it into a two-day event. This year was no different.

On April 21, Katie High, EdD, chief of staff for the University of Tennessee, spoke to the luncheon crowd. Two days later on April 23, Monica Fleming, assistant to the chancellor and Star Achievement facilitator, offered career insight to the group. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Ken Brown (left), JD, MPA, PhD, and Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD (right) were both on hand to congratulate each individual.

Dr. High earned both her bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism and master’s in leadership and policy studies in higher education from the University of Memphis. She currently facilitates Level I training of the Office Dynamics Star Achievement Program, which focuses on improving skills, attitude, teamwork and strategy for administrative professionals at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Fleming earned her doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Tennessee in 1982 and has been on the staff at UT in a variety of capacities since that time. Dr. High made an impression on the audience when she told them her personal keys to success, which stem from life experiences. Dr. High stated, “These are seven keys to success that I learned in just under 30 years.” Her keys to success were: Stereotypes are Alive and Well, First Impressions Count, Communication is Key, Getting People to Pay Attention, Take Time for Yourself, Keep Learning and Admit your Mistakes.

Fleming earned both her bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism and master’s in leadership and policy studies in higher education from the University of Memphis. She currently facilitates Level I training of the Office Dynamics Star Achievement Program, which focuses on improving skills, attitude, teamwork and strategy for administrative professionals at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Fleming provided the professionals with helpful tips such as, strive to build a reputation of care and say thank you.

New Cruisers Patrol Campus

With spring came the arrival of five new police cars and one Chevy Tahoe for the UTHSC Campus Police. Many have seen them cruising around campus. Some have heard their loud distinctive sirens sounding to regulate traffic on the streets of the medical center. Others have been served by the officers who drive them. These new vehicles are a highly visible reminder of the presence of our campus police as they continue to protect and serve the UTHSC community at all times.

Alum Named President of TPTA

Scott Newton, MD, PT, was recently elected to a three-year term as president of the Tennessee Physical Therapy Association (TPTA), which is a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.

The mission of the TPTA is to represent and advocate for the profession of physical therapy and promote excellent, ethical, and autonomous practice, which serves the culturally diverse population of Tennessee.

Dr. Newton says that while he serves as president, his goals will include increasing patient access to physical therapy, educating the public on the benefits of physical therapy, promoting the profession of physical therapy and cultivating member involvement and leadership while increasing membership.

Dr. Newton received his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from UTHSC in 1991. In 2005 he received his Doctor of Physical Therapy also from UTHSC.

He is the owner of Tennessee Therapy Services and has offices in Pulaski and Ardmore, Tenn. He and his wife, Wanda, have three children: Matt, Westin and Madison.

Professor Honored by American Association of Endodontists

Adam Lloyd, BDS, MS, received the Edward M. Osetek Educator Award from the American Association of Endodontists during the association’s recent Annual Session in San Diego, Calif. The award is presented to a full-time educator with less than 10 years of teaching experience.

A member of the AAE since 1996, Dr. Lloyd already has made extraordinary strides in his teaching career and contributions to the world of endodontic education. He received his BDS at the University of Wales College of Medicine in 1994, followed by his Certificate in Endodontics and MS from the Baylor College of Dentistry.

He previously held an associate professorship at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine and also served as the director of predoctoral endodontics at the University of California at San Francisco School of Dentistry.

Dr. Lloyd has two young sons and resides in Germantown, Tenn.

Professor Honored by American Association of Endodontists
People

Dr. Wisdom Coleman

Dr. Christopher Nosrat

Dr. Sheila Melander

Shenika Thomas

Peggy Veesser

Carolyn Moffitt

Dr. Peggy Veesser

Dr. Hershel P. Wall

Dr. Campbell receives Humanitarian Award

The article was published in May 1999 and as of June still raises much interest in the neuroscience field. The Journal of Neuroscience is the official publication of the Society for Neuroscience with 40,000 members and the world’s largest organization of brain researchers.

Sheenka Thomas, BPS, administrative assistant for the chief of staff, recently graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor’s of professional studies in organizational leadership. Thomas has recently been accepted into the graduate program at the University of Memphis, pursuing a master’s of professional studies in human resources leadership. After completing her master’s, Thomas plans to continue her education and earn a doctorate degree.

Peggy Veesser, EdD, FNP-BC, has just been awarded the title of Professor Emeritus in recognition of 31 years of service to UTHSC. Dr. Veesser has held various roles in the College of Nursing and across the campus, most notably as director of University Health Services, which has achieved national accreditation status.

Dr. Veesser retired two years ago with a celebration, though the emeritus title was delayed until the end of a two-year post-retirement service to assist with transitioning UHS administration.

Dr. Veesser is past president of the Tennessee Center for Nursing, a fellow and officer of the American College Health Association, and fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Presently, she is serving as executive editor of the Journal of American College Health. She is past Chair of the National Conference for Nurse Practitioners and received the Lovett Award in 1998 from the American College Health Association for outstanding nurse-directed college health service. She also received the SGAEC Award for Teaching Excellence in 2000 and the Outstanding Political Nurse Award from the Tennessee Nurses Association in the same year. Dr. Veesser was selected as one of the Top 100 Nurses in Memphis in 1990 and 2001.

Hershel (Pat) Wall, MD, was recently recognized by the Tennessee Medical Association with the Outstanding Physician Award at the Tennessee Medical Association’s (TMA) 175th Annual Meeting.

The Outstanding Physician Award is presented annually by the members of the TMA House of Delegates to member physicians who have made their own personal mark on the profession of medicine in Tennessee and to those whom they have worked with during their illustrious medical careers.

Recently, Brent J. Campbell, DO, one of the chief residents in the Family Medicine Residency, was named the recipient of the 2010 Harold Alper, MD, Humanitarian Award.

The award is presented annually to a resident in his or her last year of training at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga who has consistently demonstrated exemplary compassion for patients and colleagues, community service, and humanitarian qualities during residency. Congratulations to this year’s 13 nominees, each of whom exemplify these qualities.

Dr. Campbell entered the program on July 1, 2007, after graduating from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania. He exemplifies an ideal family practitioner – one who goes above and beyond to make sure a patient is safe and appropriately treated, involving all teams within the hospital, as well as the family. He received numerous nominations, not only from his own department, but from others.
Armstrong Receives Grant for Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope

William E. Armstrong, PhD, professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, and director of the Neuroscience Institute, has been awarded a grant for $466,377 from the National Center for Research Resources, one of the National Institutes of Health.

The award, issued under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will be used to purchase a confocal laser scanning microscope with spectral scanning capability for the Neuroscience Imaging Center at UTHSC. The full grant will be paid in 2010.

In a confocal laser scanning microscope, a laser beam passes through a light source aperture and then is focused by an objective lens into a small (ideally diffraction limited) focal volume within or on the surface of a specimen. In biological applications especially, the specimen typically contains fluorescent labels.

Confocal laser scanning microscopy is a technique for obtaining high resolution optical images with depth selectivity. The key feature of confocal microscopy is its ability to acquire in-focus images from selected depths, a process known as optical sectioning. Images are acquired point-by-point and reconstructed with a computer, allowing three-dimensional reconstructions of topologically complex objects.

“The features of this particular laser scanning confocal microscope are its enhanced sensitivity over predecessors, and especially its ability to spectrally scan biological tissues for multiple fluorescent markers, with up to 34 channels, and with 10 nm [nanometers] of wavelength resolution,” said Dr. Armstrong. “This means scientists can separate and quantify the simultaneous emissions from fluorescent markers, even when they do not look different to the naked eye. This gives significant flexibility in the number and type of fluorophores that investigators can choose from as biomarkers within a single tissue section,” he explained.

In the Neuroscience Imaging Center, neuroscientists focus on discovering the anatomy of brain areas using shared equipment such as electron, light and confocal microscopes, and the computer-assisted quantification of neuron number, location and morphology. This imaging center is critical for understanding basic brain function as well as its impairment from injury or disease.

Alum Becomes President of National Doctors Association

On April 24, J. Fred Raiston, Jr., MD, FACP, an internist from Fayetteville, Tenn., took office as president of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the nation’s second-largest physician organization. His term began during Internal Medicine 2010, the ACP annual scientific meeting in Toronto, Canada.

As president, Dr. Raiston will be the senior elected officer of ACP. During his one-year term, he will preside at all meetings of the ACP membership, serve on eight ACP committees and represent ACP at national and international chapter meetings and public functions.

Dr. Raiston has been in the practice of general internal medicine in Fayetteville, Tenn., since 1983. His group, Fayetteville Medical Associates, includes internists, family physicians, pediatricians and a nurse practitioner. The group traces its roots to 1909 and serves a rural county of 30,000 near Huntsville, Ala.

Dr. Raiston has served in many leadership capacities for the Tennessee Medical Association, including a term as board chairman. He was chairman of the TMA TennCare Reform Task Force and is involved in many community activities. Dr. Raiston has also served as a board member and has held many leadership roles on the medical staff of Lincoln Medical Center in Fayetteville. He was actively involved in a public referendum, which succeeded with overwhelming approval for a new community hospital.

Dr. Raiston has a strong interest in electronic health records, efficiency in health care delivery and health care system reform focused on a close relationship between individuals and a personal physician. Dr. Raiston was chair of the ACP Health and Public Policy Committee from 2001-2009.

A graduate of Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., Dr. Raiston received his BA in political science from Yale University. He earned his medical degree in 1980 from UTHSC College of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency training at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. He is board-certified in internal medicine. Dr. Raiston is married to Farris Lynch Raiston and they have twin teenage sons, Will and Jim.

GRANTS

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

William Armstrong, PhD
NIH-National Center for Research Resources
“A Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope for Neuroscience Imaging Center”
$466,377

Alejandro Dopico, MD, PhD
NIH-National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
“Vasodilation via Selective Pharmacological Targeting of BK Channel Beta 3 sub-units”
$390,127

Daniel Kesteller, PhD
Susan G. Komen for the Cure
“Development of ODM as a Biomarker in Breast Cancer”
$299,800

Tiffany Seagroves, PhD
NIH-National Cancer Institute
“The Role of HIF-1alpha in Breast Cancer Stem Cell Activity”
$299,800

Deborah Elizabeth Soeliner, PhD
NIH-National Institute on Drugs Abuse
“Gestational Ethanol and Neural Mechanisms of Adolescent Nicotine Reinstatement”
$45,590

Jena Steinle, PhD
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
“Beta-Adrenergic Agonist Used to Treat and Prevent Blindness in Diabetic Patients”
$15,000

Micheal Storm, PhD
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
“Development of a Prototype Flavored, Pharmacetically Elegant, Liquid Emulsion or Suspension of De-odorized Omega-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Appropriate for Pediatric Patients”
$15,000

Yao Sun, MD, PhD
NIH-National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
“Regulatory Mechanisms of Oxidative Stress in Cardiac Angiogenesis Post-infarction”
$370,000

View UTHSC News Notes

Catch up on UTHSC media coverage by visiting http://www.uthsc.edu/news/newsnotes/. News Notes is a periodic e-mail that shares good news coverage of the Health Science Center. These e-mail updates provide a brief summary of media exposure that faculty, staff and students have received, as well as providing links (when available) for more information.
MedEdPORTAL – An Important Tool for Faculty and Students

For many in the academic world research is everything, and improving teaching skills takes a backseat. At least this is how a number of professors felt when approached by the Association of American Medical Colleges to develop instructional and assessment tools.

When professors expressed that developing good instruction wasn’t valued as a scholarly activity, the AAMC responded in 2005 by creating MedEdPORTAL – a free publishing venue and dissemination portal to support educators and learners as they create and use online teaching materials, assessment tools, and faculty development resources.

William Brescia, PhD, director of instructional technology for UTHSC’s College of Medicine, said that the AAMC, which partners with the American Dental Education Association, is serious about making high-quality instructional materials available and is now becoming more important to health care professionals. Explaining that because teaching tools must meet the same criteria as published research articles, about one-third of the submissions get rejected.

“Because it goes through the same peer-review process [as an article published in medical journals], it carries the same weight,” said Dr. Brescia. “The lynchpin is that it has been peer-reviewed.”

Dr. Brescia knows firsthand the rigors of getting published in the portal — in June his tutorial, “Tying the Surgical Square Knot,” was made available in this online site. The tutorial provides two basic techniques for tying the surgical square knot, which differs based on the fingers that are used. Thanks to video from Steven J. Van Voorst, MD, a UTHSC Department of Surgery retiree, various grips are shown, as well as real-time demonstrations and step-by-step guidance for each technique.

Two additional UTHSC faculty members have also recently been published, and others serve as reviewers. William Morris, MD, associate professor of Ophthalmology, had his work published on the portal earlier in 2010. His web-based multimedia presentation, titled “Clinical Examination of the Eye and Its Adnexa for Non-ophthalmologists,” shows the non-ophthalmologist how to perform a complete examination using commonly available clinical instruments.

Prior to that, Carol Schwab, JD, director of medical legal education in the Office of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs, had published her “Legal Issues in Health Care” – an online interactive program that includes tutorials, fact sheets and Study-Mate activities designed to teach legal and ethical issues involved in the practice of medicine.

MedEdPORTAL publications include such items as tutorials, virtual patients, cases, lab manuals, assessment instruments, faculty development materials, etc. Knowing that these items have gone through such a rigid review benefits both teacher and learner.

Dr. Brescia explained that faculty members could build their curriculum vitae by noting published articles. In fact, MedEdPORTAL is designed in such a way that accepted work should be “considered a compelling scholarly contribution suitable to support promotion and tenure decisions.”

In addition to serving as a prestigious publishing venue, faculty can also use MedEdPORTAL to gather new ideas and support for their own teaching. This is especially helpful as resources become scarce. For example, Dr. Brescia shared that modern methods of teaching such as working with other disciplines and team-based learning modules are available. The modules include descriptions of ways to use team-based learning to guarantee that there are “no free riders and improve learning.”

To ensure that students do not have access to answers to study materials, some information is restricted. However, MedEdPORTAL is not just for faculty. Students can also gain access to supplemental study materials that present needed concepts in a new way. Students can also submit their own notes and diagrams to help others with areas they have mastered and receive credit for a publication.

“If you are using it — whether faculty or student — there are really all kinds of resources that can be put in the classroom,” said Dr. Brescia. “The instruction is classroom-tested, and easy to use.”

To view MedEdPORTAL, visit www.aamc.org/mededportal, or for more information, contact Dr. Brescia at bbrescia@uthsc.edu.

Study to Help Fight Liver Disease

Dennis Black, MD, professor of Pediatrics and Physiology, is the primary investigator on a multi-center study led by Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. The $600,000 study will focus on the usefulness of a bile acid in treating children with primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), a disease that affects bile ducts of the liver.

The FDA-funded project will look at whether the use of ursodeoxycholic acid, or UDCA, can benefit children with PSC. UDCA is the major bile acid in bears and is normally found in small amounts in humans. When administered orally to humans, the drug slows down liver cell death, acts as an anti-inflammatory agent, and stimulates bile flow. UDCA has been approved by the FDA to treat gallstones and primary biliary cirrhosis in adults, but not PSC, although it is widely used in both children and adults with PSC.

“We know UDCA can quickly and dramatically improve liver chemistries for children living with PSC — more so than adults,” said Dr. Black, who is also the UT CTSI associate director and director of the Pilot Projects Program. “Now we want to study whether it has longer term benefits for these children. A recent study in adults suggested worse long-term outcomes.”

PSC is a rare disease that causes bile ducts inside and outside the liver to become scarred, narrowed and eventually blocked. Often, the only effective treatment for this disease is a liver transplant. Le Bonheur is home to the STOPSC registry, a multi-center database and DNA repository for patients with PSC.

In the study, children already on UDCA will have their dosage decreased by 50 percent for four weeks and then will be taken off for eight weeks. Then, those children will receive regular doses again. Throughout this process, researchers will measure liver inflammation, blood tests and various other markers to determine the consequences of being off of the UDCA. The information collected from this pilot study will help in the design of longer controlled, prospective trials in children.

Dr. Black hopes to attract 50 children for the three-year study. Because PSC is such a rare disease, those subjects will come from eight pediatric facilities around the United States and Canada.

For more information regarding the study, contact Dr. Black at (901) 287-5355.
The University of Tennessee Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year during the association’s 2010 annual meeting held in Washington, D.C. The UT chapter, which comprises 545 members on the UT College of Pharmacy’s campuses in Memphis and Knoxville, competed alongside 110 other pharmacy schools across the United States and Puerto Rico. The APhA-ASP Chapter of the Year is awarded to the chapter that excels in such areas as patient care projects, advocacy, and advancing the professional development of its members.

Over the last year, the UT APhA-ASP Chapter held more than 150 community outreach events. Students immunized more than 10,000 people during the flu season, counseled more than 5,000 patients on various health care topics, created a medication disposal program that collected more than 300 pounds of unused and expired medications, and promoted the profession by educating the public on what their pharmacist can do for them.

“I am extremely proud of our ASP students,” said Dean Dick Gourley, PharmD, who leads the UT College of Pharmacy. “They have done a remarkable job of representing the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to the public and to the profession. My congratulations to the members, officers, and faculty advisors for their continued success!”

Since 2000, the UT APhA-ASP chapter has been awarded six Regional Operation Immunization Awards, six Regional Operation Diabetes Awards, one Regional Heartburn Awareness Award, two National Operation Immunizations Awards, two National Patient Care Awards, four Divisional Chapter Achievement Awards, and three Chapter of the Year Awards. In addition, two National Presidents, two National Members at Large, and three Regional Officers have been elected from the rolls of the UT APhA-ASP Chapter.

“I am extremely proud of our ASP students,” said Dean Dick Gourley, PharmD, who leads the UT College of Pharmacy. “They have done a remarkable job of representing the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to the public and to the profession. My congratulations to the members, officers, and faculty advisors for their continued success!”

“This is an exciting time to be a member of APhA-ASP at the University of Tennessee,” remarked Clay Cooper, chapter president. “We are consistently among the top chapters in the nation and it is indeed something to be proud of. We work hard all year to make a difference in the lives of our patients and in our profession. Being recognized on the national level for those efforts is a real honor.”

Since 2000, the UT APhA-ASP chapter has been awarded six Regional Operation Immunization Awards, six Regional Operation Diabetes Awards, one Regional Heartburn Awareness Award, two National Operation Immunizations Awards, two National Patient Care Awards, four Divisional Chapter Achievement Awards, and three Chapter of the Year Awards. In addition, two National Presidents, two National Members at Large, and three Regional Officers have been elected from the rolls of the UT APhA-ASP Chapter.

CODA, Another Victory for UTHSC

The UTHSC Program in Dental Hygiene recently received another successful accreditation during a site visit from the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

CODA’s site team was complimentary of all faculty and the program, leaving an end result of “no recommendations.”

The dental hygiene program strives to create a learning environment in which each graduate is instilled with the knowledge, skills and values to provide care to patients, along with a sense of responsibility to self, the community and the profession.

For more information regarding the program or the CODA site visit, please visit http://www.uthsc.edu/allied/dental_hygiene_home.html.

Student Pharmacists Invade Capitol

The University of Tennessee chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) recently met with Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker while in Washington, D.C. for the 2010 APhA Annual Meeting.

More than 40 UT College of Pharmacy students and faculty attended “Tennessee Tuesday” on Capitol Hill to discuss pharmacists’ role in upcoming health care reform. Topics included the importance and value of pharmacists providing education and advice about medications to patients, pharmacists being used as the medication expert as part of the overall health care team, and highlighted the many areas where pharmacists can make a difference in rising health care costs.

Mark Dunnenberger, APhA-ASP VP of Legislative Affairs and organizer of the visit, said, “This opportunity is very important on many different levels. Not only does it advocate for both our patients and our profession, but it allows Senators Alexander and Corker to have valuable insight into what pharmacists can do both in Tennessee and across the nation.”

Faculty, Students Visit Peru for Dog Awareness

David Hamilton, DVM, assistant professor and vice chancellor of research and Lillian Zaldunio, from the Laboratory Animal Care Unit, recently returned from Cusco, Peru, where they were part of an international group that visited the area to raise awareness about responsible dog ownership.

The health clinic was located in the town of San Jeronimo, Peru, which has a population of 30,000 and is estimated to contain 15,000 dogs. The campaign was sponsored by the Hamm Foundation of Oklahoma and included veterinarians, veterinary students and technicians from UTHSC, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the Universidad Nacional de San Marcos in Lima, Peru.

More than 700 dogs were presented over the five-day free clinic. The dogs were examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated against Rabies virus and treated for both internal and external parasites. Approximately 250 of the male dogs were also chemically sterilized as a means to help control the dog population.
Students Attend UT Day on the Hill

UT Day on the Hill is a half-day legislative relations event held in Nashville to showcase the diversity and impact of UT campuses statewide. The event provides an opportunity for every segment of the UT System to highlight areas of specialty and update legislators on the activities at UT campuses and institutes.

In April, Justin Griner, P2, and Brad Barnhill, MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader student, volunteered to join Sheila Champlin, director of Communications and Marketing, to represent UTHSC. The Communicators at each major UT site work to organize and coordinate participation in the legislative event. The university covers all student expenses related to UT Day on the Hill. Faculty members Parker Suttle, PhD, associate professor of Pharmacology and then president of the Faculty Senate, and Martin Donaldson, DDS, associate professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health, also participated.

Early in the day, each campus and institute sets up a portable tabletop display in the halls of the Legislative Plaza. Displays are staffed by campus and student representatives for four hours as they engage legislators and their team members. This year, once all the displays were removed from the plaza, UT’s world-famous sports coaches (from left) Derek Dooley, Pat Summitt and (far right) Bruce Pearl chatted with alumni, students and staff.

“It was encouraging to meet representatives from the other UT campuses, and it was an honor to represent UTHSC at UT Day on the Hill,” Justin said. “The coaches were very gracious and generous with their time, but I most enjoyed getting to share with the legislators my experiences as a student in the College of Pharmacy. It’s easy to represent an institution like UTHSC where I’ve had so many positive experiences.”

“I feel very honored to have been asked to attend UT Day on the Hill,” Brad stated. “Being in the presence of world-renowned coaches was amazing, but that feeling was dwarfed by the sense of pride I felt representing UTHSC. Participating in this event helped me to understand how important it is for professionals to have a voice in local and state governments. This was a great opportunity to represent the university and the College of Nursing. It solidified for me how rewarding student involvement can be.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Maintaining a Healthy Balance

Balancing life can be a difficult task, but Sampaquita “Sampy” Wright, fourth-year pharmacy student, manages to find a balance between a demanding education, extracurricular activities and marriage to another UTHSC student.

Sampy represents the well-rounded student that the UTHSC College of Pharmacy looks for when educating the next health care professional.

Sampy, a Nashville native, is married to fourth-year medical student Adam Wright. After earning her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from UT Knoxville, Wright decided that the UTHSC College of Pharmacy was the best choice for her. “UTHSC’s College of Pharmacy is rated one of the best schools in the country,” she stated.

Her passionate connection to science and medicine was developed early in life. However, her mother-in-law, a pharmacist and UTHSC alumna, sparked an even greater interest in the field.

Since her entrance into pharmacy school, she has been heavily involved in various extracurricular activities. She volunteers at the many local health fairs, the Target House as a special-event volunteer, and a tutor at the Mustard Seed after-school program. Her professional membership includes, the Tennessee Pharmacists Association, Tennessee Society of Student Pharmacists, Phi Delta Chi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Rho Chi Honorary Society, and Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society.

Most recently, Sampy and another pharmacy student organized CHANCE (Chapters Helping Advocate for Needy Communities Everywhere), which is a two-year service project geared towards the pharmacists’ role in affecting communities with high infant mortality rates. The project allowed student pharmacists to facilitate classes at AGAPE House for underprivileged pregnant women and host several health fairs to raise awareness about infant mortality. The project was awarded a $2,000 grant from the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists.

In her efforts in giving back to the community, Sampy donated nine inches of hair to the American Cancer Society through the Pantene Beautiful Lengths.

The dedication and time that is incorporated into pharmacy school has granted Sampy with a number of honors, awards and scholarships, including of the Kirk Hevener Scholar of the Year Award, the Plough Scholarship, Spirit Award, P3 Class Community Service Award, and a host of others. “I credit my success here at UTHSC to my professors, who are well-known in their expertise and for their willingness to always help, guide and go the extra mile in any way possible,” she said.

After completing pharmacy school, she plans to enter her residency and explore the world of academia. “I enjoy the teaching aspect of pharmacy and the ability to mentor other students and give back in the ways I received from my preceptors and professors.”

Although pharmacy school is challenging both academically and socially with leadership positions in campus organizations, Wright advises students to: “Find something you are passionate about and dedicate yourself wholeheartedly. Being fully involved in the community and other aspects of your education will enhance your educational experience and make your time here at UTHSC memorable.”
On Friday, May 28, UTHSC graduated 700 health care professionals. The spring graduation ceremony was held at the FedEx Forum. Steve J. Schwab, MD, interim chancellor, presided over the ceremony. Jan Simek, PhD, interim president of the University of Tennessee, conferred the degrees.

Harry Jacobson, MD, former Vanderbilt vice chancellor for Health Affairs and former CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System, delivered the commencement address to the graduates and their families. His remarks were titled, “Health Care is a Team Sport.” Dr. Jacobson, a nephrologist and health care entrepreneur, retired from Vanderbilt in 2009 after more than 12 years as CEO. He has been described as an out-of-the-box thinker, an inspiring leader with the ability to energize people, and a visionary physician-scientist who is as comfortable in the corporate boardroom as he is in the laboratory.

In his remarks, Dr. Jacobson congratulated the graduates and then delved into a brief historical sketch of health care in the past 100 years, in the process outlining the challenges that today’s health care professionals face. He discussed the myriad scientific advances that have affected the application of medicine, the dynamic growth of the health care industry, the costs of health care and impact of those costs on various groups, and the variability of practice learned in academic institutions.

“Delivery of the social impact of medicine – to improve health – has evolved into the single largest segment of the U.S. economy. Today, in this country, we spend more than $2.5 trillion on health care,” he said. “It is not just the explosive growth of science and its application to health care that challenges providers, but it is also the challenge of health care as service. It is the use of knowledge born of the union of science and medicine to improve health outcomes at affordable costs. The promise of the union of science and medicine is a promise that is incompletely fulfilled.”

Quoting Albert Einstein, Dr. Jacobson remarked on the physicist’s brilliance, noting that “in his ability to succinctly characterize the human condition, [Einstein] said something very appropriate about how we should approach the stubborn problems we face in health care. He said, ‘The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the levels of thinking we were at when we created them’.”

Dr. Jacobson challenged the graduates to look for the new level of thinking that could serve to transform health care to a consistent, high-quality service that maintains the health and restores the health of the people it serves and does so at a cost that is reasonable.

“Here we are in 2010, a decade into the 21st Century and a decade after the landmark Institute of Medicine Report entitled To Err is Human, a report that focused national attention on our challenges in the delivery of safe and effective care. Just a few weeks ago a press release by the National Patient Safety foundation called for immediate corrective action because academic health centers have, ‘not trained physicians to work collaboratively in “teams” to redesign care processes.’ So if health care today suffers a cardinal sin of omission, the way it trains and organizes talent to achieve its mission is it.”

During his tenure as CEO, Dr. Jacobson pursued an ambitious, multi-pronged strategy that has been summed up in one word: growth. Under his leadership, Vanderbilt Medical Center (VMC) cut costs, negotiated better reimbursement rates for patient care, and the center quadrupled its annual research funding to more than $400 million. VMC’s performance reportedly exceeded expectations by almost every measure – annual net revenue, the number of faculty and staff, space for research and patient care, and national rankings. He was also instrumental in establishing a $10 million “Chancellor’s Fund,” which in conjunction with the university’s technology transfer office, helped launch 18 companies.

Dr. Jacobson earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He continued his training through a nephrology fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas. Recruited to Vanderbilt in 1985, within a decade he had moved up to the executive suite as deputy vice chancellor for Health Affairs. Along the way, he held more than $1.5 million in active grant support, published more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and a textbook on kidney disease, served on and chaired national advisory committees, and explored the corporate side of medicine through such companies as Nashville’s Renal Care Group, which he co-founded.

The 700 graduates who received Dr. Jacobson’s commencement message are from all six of the UT Health Science Center’s colleges. The College of Social Work, which had a private graduation ceremony, reports to the UT Knoxville campus, not to UTHSC, but a branch of the college is located in Memphis. The number of graduates from each UTHSC college are:

- 178 from the College of Allied Health Sciences;
- 73 from the College of Dentistry;
- 43 from the College of Graduate Health Sciences;
- 143 from the College of Medicine;
- 36 from the College of Nursing;
- 175 from the College of Pharmacy, and
- 52 from the College of Social Work.
On May 11, U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen visited the UT Family Practice site on Primacy Parkway to discuss the importance of medical adherence in health care reform. Cohen toured the facility after a presentation was made by David L. Maness (center), MD, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine; Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown (second from right), JD, MPA, PhD, and Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab (third from right). The presentation focused on the continual support that is needed from the legislature and politicians to ensure that the Memphis community is receiving the best possible health care options UTHSC and its family practice sites can offer, including more pharmacy options and education at an office visit level.

Dr. Oz Shares Experiences

From left, UTHSC Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, Dr. Oz and Gary Shorb, president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Health-care, spent a few minutes getting acquainted before the talk-show host took the stage for his trademark high-energy, informative and inspiring presentation to nearly 200 local health care providers and special guests on June 10 at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. (See page 10 for article.)

‘Give Me a Break’
UTHSC Celebrates Student Appreciation Day

UTHSC students enjoy a wild ride down an inflatable slide during this year’s Student Appreciation Day.

Cohen Tours Family Practice Site

On May 11, U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen visited the UT Family Practice site on Primacy Parkway to discuss the importance of medical adherence in health care reform. Cohen toured the facility after a presentation was made by David L. Maness (center), MD, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine; Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown (second from right), JD, MPA, PhD, and Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab (third from right). The presentation focused on the continual support that is needed from the legislature and politicians to ensure that the Memphis community is receiving the best possible health care options UTHSC and its family practice sites can offer, including more pharmacy options and education at an office visit level.

Inaugural Class Sets the Mold for Success

An intensive 34 credit-hour program leading to a Master in Pharmacology has come to a successful conclusion for the inaugural class of 2010. Several of the graduates will soon join their new classmates in the College of Medicine’s class of 2014.

Program directors Trevor Sweatman and Edwards Park are very pleased with the results of the initial offering and look forward to strengthening the program as new students enroll and the field of pharmacology continues to grow.

The one-year master’s program fills an important niche for Tennesseans pursuing a medical career. Previously the pharmacology courses were only offered out of state. Having the program here in Memphis provides for significant cost savings for prospective students.

For more information about the Master in Pharmacology program, please visit http://www.uthsc.edu/grad/Programs/index.php?page=PharmacologyMS.