History Making Dean Appointed

Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, has appointed Noma Bennett Anderson, PhD, as dean for the College of Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Anderson is the first African-American named as a dean in the 99-year history of UTHSC. She will begin her new role on the main campus in Memphis around July 1. Dr. Anderson was hired as the result of a national search.

“Over the past several weeks, I have gained a real appreciation for Dr. Anderson and her knowledge and enthusiasm for the growth of our College of Allied Health Sciences. She is a savvy professional who is dedicated to the expansion of the mission of the college on all of our campuses,” Interim Chancellor Schwab said.

Dr. Anderson is the immediate past chair and currently a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. She was previously the dean in the School of Health Sciences at FIU for five years. Prior to that, Dr. Anderson was a chair for 10 years and on the faculty for 16 years in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She was on the Board of Directors for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for three years and served as president in 2007.

See Dean, pg. 3

Haiti Medical Relief Team Returns

A health care team from UTHSC, Methodist Healthcare, Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, Campbell Clinic, Pediatric Anesthesiologists PA, St. Francis, Bartlett, Tenn., Bolivar General Hospital, Bolivar, Tenn., Kosair Children’s Hospital, Louisville, Ky., and Children’s Orthopedics of Louisville have returned from responding to the catastrophic earthquake that left Haiti with more than 212,000 dead and more than 300,000 injured.

The team, which left Memphis on January 30, worked tirelessly in the Haiti Medical Missions of Memphis clinic, located in Croix des Bouquets near Port-au-Prince. Supplies and equipment were also sent to the clinic.

On February 19, elected officials, colleagues, friends and family joined to welcome the 13-member team back. There was barely a dry eye in the Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center auditorium when a slide show of their trip ended.

Mayor A C Wharton and Shelby County Mayor Joe Ford were both part of the proud group on hand to give thanks to the team. Mayor Wharton shared his thoughts and

See Haiti, pg. 4

ContenTS:

Right Grant Writing ......................... 2
Eye Bank Relocates ....................... 3
APhA Named Chapter of the Year .......... 5
Change in Development Leader ............. 6
CON Sets Up New Practice Sites ........... 8
Special Thanks to UW Participants .......... 9
Life Through Bone Marrow ............... 11
AOA Holds Professorship Lecture ........ 13
Weber Named to Governor’s Chair .......... 16

Plough Foundation Awards $4.5 Million Grant to College of Pharmacy

The Plough Foundation has awarded a grant of $4.5 million to the UTHSC College of Pharmacy. The grant will be used to establish the Plough Center for Sterile Drug Delivery Systems, a more than 5,800-square-foot facility on the sixth floor of the new UT College of Pharmacy Building.

The building is under construction on the UT-Baptist Research Park, which is adjacent to the UTHSC main campus.

The Plough Center will serve as an educational hub for teaching and training pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and highly skilled employees for the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. The Plough Center will also provide an environment for the development of unique drug products to solve specialized problems.

Funds from the Plough Foundation grant will cover all project costs for the center including design, construction and equipment, plus data and telecommunications.

“We view support for this new center as a clear extension of the goals outlined by Mr. Abe Plough,” said Scott McCormick, Executive Director of the Plough Foundation. “He was committed to the idea that the greatest good is done when you help the greatest number of people. For generations the greatest good is done when you help the greatest number of people. For generations the greatest good is done when you help the greatest number of people. For generations the greatest good is done when you help the greatest number of people.

See Plough, pg. 4

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.
On March 18 and 19, UTHSC held “A Symposium on Grant Writing” in the Freeman Auditorium of the Hamilton Eye Institute. Guest speaker, Robert Porter, PhD, presented a topic directed at clinical and basic science researchers who are faculty, postdocs, residents and staff. Dr. Porter has presented grant-writing workshops at leading universities and medical schools nationally. Currently director of Research Development at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Dr. Porter has 30 years of experience as a tenured professor, private consultant and research administrator. His proposals have won more than $5 million in awards from government agencies and private foundations. He has presented papers and workshops on grant writing at national conferences and has published prize-winning articles on this subject in the Journal of Research Administration. Dr. Porter has previously taught at Swarthmore College, Susquehanna University, and Eastern Washington University. He holds graduate degrees in speech communications from the University of Michigan.

The symposium was jointly sponsored by the UTHSC Office of Research, the Department of Preventive Medicine and the UTK Office of Research.

For more information, please contact Dr. Karen Johnson, kjohnson@uthsc.edu or Dr. Deborah Smith, dsmith@uthsc.edu.

---

Dr. Porter presents to faculty and staff who attended a grant-writing workshop in the Freeman Auditorium in March.

---

Top Communicator Lauded

Interim Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, attended the February luncheon for the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) where he saluted, Meri Armour, president and CEO of Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. Armour was named the PRSA 2009 Communicator of the Year.

The award is presented to a member of the community who exhibits the ability to communicate effectively to general or specific publics; has public visibility as a communicator; is a respected member of the community; and invests his or her time and talent communicating a specific message or messages.

“Not only is Meri Armour a great communicator, Meri Armour is transformational,” expressed Dr. Schwab. “From those of us from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, we believe that Meri Armour and the Methodist System are transformational. And we believe Memphis will see that transformation over the next several years in a new and vibrant Le Bonheur.”

The Communicator of the Year award was established in 1976. Bud Dudley, founder of the Liberty Bowl, was the first recipient.
**Mid South Eye Bank Now on Campus**

In March, staff of the Mid South Eye Bank celebrated the opening of the center on the UTHSC campus with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Mid South Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., has moved its offices to 920 Madison. The non-profit group is dedicated to providing corneal tissue for transplant and ocular tissue for research. The Mid South Eye Bank also promotes and supports community education relative to organ, tissue and eye donation.

With the support of the UT Health Science Center, the seven staff members who operate the Mid South Eye Bank have a new home from which to continue to provide vision-saving services to the community. The eye bank generally supports more than 300 surgeons each year, using tissue recovered locally and tissue from other Eye Bank Association of America-accredited eye banks across the nation.

To accomplish this task, the Mid South Eye Bank employs surgical technologists who are available 24/7 to recover tissue, to advise nursing staffs regarding matters of donation, and to ensure the orderly delivery of tissue to the eye bank for screening, testing and placement with transplanting surgeons. The eye bank has been a resource for physicians since 1946 and continues to provide quality corneal tissue for sight-saving surgery.

"The move of the Mid South Eye Bank to the UT Health Science Center campus is incredibly beneficial for our organization and will be equally beneficial for the patients we serve," said Glen Mullins, director of Hospital Development. "Our organization will be located adjacent to the UT Hamilton Eye Institute where many of our doctors, nurses and eye technicians work. That’s sure to lead to even greater collaboration with the professionals who teach, engage in leading-edge research, provide clinical care and serve the public through this world-renowned eye institute."

The Mid South Eye Bank works with and within almost all the hospitals in Memphis, West Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas and Desoto County, Miss., to recover eye tissue from consenting donors’ families and to promote donation among the staffs of those hospitals. They provide tissue to physicians regionally and nationwide but its core of physicians are in West Tennessee. For more information about the Mid South Eye Bank, call (901) 448-8264 or visit www.msebtn.org.

---

**2011 Hematology Conference in Knoxville**

Briefings shared at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) international conference were brought to Knoxville recently for the Sixth Annual Hematology Conference. Renowned experts from Mayo Clinic, MD Anderson, Georgetown University and Emory University developed unique presentations combining their areas of expertise with new information they garnered from the ASH conference. They shared this information with a group of regional hematology specialists.

This continuing medical education activity offered up to 5 CME credits for participants. The hematology conference was presented by the UT Graduate School of Medicine and directed by Wahid Hanna, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, UT Graduate School of Medicine.

Before the adjournment of the Sixth Annual Hematology Conference, organizers set the date for the 2011 conference. Mark your calendar now for the Seventh Annual Hematology Conference: January 22, 2011, University of Tennessee Conference Center, Knoxville.
sentiments about the mission. “This is a fine hour for our great city because the Memphis brand not only stands for blues, barbecue, Beale Street and the Grizzlies, the Memphis brand also stands for caring. We are a city that cares not only for those who call Memphis home but a city that opens our hearts and our doors to people in need no matter where they are. Thank you all for extending our brand, the city that cares, to the people of Haiti. I’m very proud of you,” he said.

The team was led by Sunny Anand, MBBS, Le Bonheur director of Critical Care, director, Division of Pediatric Critical Care for UTHSC and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Endowed Chair of Critical Care.

“As world leaders in the field of pediatrics, it is our responsibility to care for children in any community with a demonstrated need,” said Dr. Anand. “None of us is really doing anything. We are all just instruments of love. It was hard to leave Haiti but we know there are other instruments around the world that can pick up where we left off.”

The Le Bonheur Haiti Medical Relief mission has received monetary, logistical and supply support from several community-minded Memphis organizations. FedEx Corp. provided transportation for supplies and personnel into Port-Au-Prince, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital provided pharmaceuticals and medical prescriptions that included pain medication, antibiotics, anesthesia and antivirals. Shelby County Health Department provided vaccines for medical personnel.

In addition, ExtraOrtho inc. provided $160,000 worth of equipment for external fixation to fix broken bones and fractures. Led by Head Coach Lionel Hollins and players, coaches and ownership, the Memphis Grizzlies donated $50,000 to support the relief effort.

Plough cont. from page 1

in the local pharmaceutical industry. That comes full circle to Mr. Plough.”

Abe Plough was a Memphis-area entrepreneur who started his company in 1908, merging with the Schering Corporation in 1971 to form Schering-Plough. The Plough Foundation is a private organization that funds a diverse group of non-profit entities that work to address the many pressing social and economic issues facing Memphis and Shelby County. “We appreciate this extremely generous grant and the synergistic partnership that it symbolizes,” said Dick Gourley, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy.

“This funding will allow both of our organizations to compound the impact of our accomplishments for the benefit of our students, industry professionals and regulators, and the greater Memphis community.”

“We believe a natural congruency exists between the mission of our organization and the mission of the Plough Foundation,” said Steve Schwab, MD, interim chancellor for UTHSC. “Both of our institutions are committed to improving the lives of the citizens of Shelby County and to constantly striving for positive impact on our community and region.”

The new UT College of Pharmacy building is the second building under construction on the UT-Baptist Research Park, a project that will add more than 1.4 million square feet of laboratory, research, education and business space in the heart of the Memphis Medical Center. The more than $65 million Pharmacy building is scheduled to open in fall 2010 and will consolidate UT College of Pharmacy faculty and staff who are currently housed in six different buildings throughout the urban campus. The building will bring nearly everyone from the college together at the new site.

The Plough Center for Sterile Drug Delivery Systems will be designed to develop and manufacture "small molecule" drug products to treat cancer, cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases and other life-threatening conditions. The center will enable scientists to increase the number of clinical trials performed locally, which will be a major positive step toward improved health care in the region.

Code of Conduct Review

Throughout the year UTHSC employees file complaints alleging policy violations, harassment, retaliation and discrimination. In order to take appropriate corrective action, UTHSC must be aware of discrimination, harassment and related retaliation that occurs in UTHSC employment, educational programs and activities.

Anyone who believes that she/he has experienced or witnessed discrimination, harassment or related retaliation should promptly report such behavior to their supervisor or Office of Equity and Diversity (OED).

According to Michael Alston, director of the OED, the need to file a complaint could be significantly reduced if everyone understood and practiced the UT System Code of Conduct. While reading about university policy and procedures may not be exciting, understanding the rules that govern behavior at work can prevent faculty and staff members from making mistakes on the job—mistakes that, depending on their severity, could lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

“Every employee should periodically take time to review the Code of Conduct,” Alston said. “An annual review would be helpful to refresh the guiding principles of our organization and help keep them top of mind.

“Employees must refrain from any physical contact that might be interpreted as threatening or intimidating. Unwelcome physical contact that might be interpreted as threatening or intimidating. Unwelcome physical contact is a direct violation of the Code of Conduct. While reading about university policy and procedures may not be exciting, understanding the rules that govern behavior at work can prevent faculty and staff members from making mistakes on the job—mistakes that, depending on their severity, could lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

“You all for extending our brand, the city that cares, to the people of Haiti. I’m very proud of you,” he said.

The team was led by Sunny Anand, MBBS, Le Bonheur director of Critical Care, director, Division of Pediatric Critical Care for UTHSC and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Endowed Chair of Critical Care.
Researchers, scientists and physicians work tirelessly on health care initiatives such as disparities. The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) has made an effort to merge the fields of journalism and health care by providing a platform to discuss how those disparities and initiatives can be communicated on a wide scale.

In March, NABJ hosted the second Conference on Health Disparities in Washington, D.C., at the Kaiser Family Foundation. UTHSC representative Brandi Franklin, PhD, project manager and research scientist in the CHEER (Consortium for Health Education, Economic Empowerment and Research) Program attended the conference.

“The NABJ Health Disparities Conference provided a unique opportunity to explore health disparities from the viewpoint of the journalist,” Dr. Franklin said. “The purpose of the conference was to generate dialogue on health issues, particularly those that impact communities of color. Though the focus was on ‘telling the story,’ panel discussions produced some excellent ideas that CHEER should explore.”

The conference covered issues on policies, politics and practice on covering health, health disparities and health care reform. It provided helpful hints regarding accurately reporting issues such as breast cancer screening, access to cancer care, HIV/AIDS, incarceration, mental health and the availability of healthy foods in low-income communities.

The conference opened with an address from Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, and closed with comments by U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA. The two discussed a range of current programs to help Americans lead healthier lives by eating well, getting more exercise and making good lifestyle choices.

“Americans will be more likely to change their behavior if they have a meaningful reward—something more than just reaching a certain weight or dress size. The real reward is invigorating, energizing, joyous health. It is a level of health that allows people to embrace each day and live their lives to the fullest,” Dr. Benjamin said.

CHEER is a community-based participatory health disparities research center. It provides new and innovative approaches to address high rates of chronic illnesses and to mitigate multiple health challenges that are disproportionately experienced within ethnic minority communities.

Communications plays a very important role in dispersing health information into the community. UTHSC is committed to communications efforts of the CHEER program.

The UT Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year during the 2010 Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C. The UT chapter 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 a variety of areas including patient care projects, advocacy, and advancing the professional development of its members.

The UT Chapter 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.

According to Dick Gourley, PharmD, dean of the College of Pharmacy, “I am extremely proud of our APhA students. They have done a remarkable job of representing the university to the public and to the profession.”

“This award is very competitive and our students have competed either for the national award or the regional award every year for the past 15 years. 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, the chapter has had two national presidents, two national members at large and three regional officers.

“This is an exciting time to be a member of APhA-ASP at the University of Tennessee,” remarked Clay Cooper, APhA-ASP 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.”

Certified Dermatology CME

The April 16, meeting of the East Tennessee Dermatology Society in Knoxville will be certified for continuing medical education (CME) credits. The meeting will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Dermatology Group, Suite 209, University of Tennessee Medical Center.

Presenters will discuss the unusual presentations of dermatologic disorders and diseases that are refractory to typical therapy. Items to be covered are pathology, dermatologic disorders and their mimics, and treatment strategies.

This activity offers up to two CME credits through AMA and AAPA and up to 0.2 CEUs.

To register and for more information, contact Charlisle Huffstetler, Knoxville Dermatology Group, (865) 342-5808. Certification for the East Tennessee Dermatology Society meeting is managed by UT.
Keith Carver To Lead Development, Alumni Affairs

Steve J. Schwab, MD, interim chancellor of UTHSC, has appointed Keith Carver, PhD, as interim vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs.

After more than three years, Linda Garceau-Luis left the position to assume the role of CEO for a major health care foundation. She is credited with revamping the development organization into a professional, task-oriented office, defining development goals and objectives, and developing close relationships with the UT System development operation.

“We appreciate the contributions Linda made to the university and we wish her all the best as she undertakes new challenges,” Interim Chancellor Schwab said.

Most recently, Dr. Carver spent four years as assistant vice chancellor for Development at UT Martin. Previously, he worked for almost eight years as a development officer for the College of Law at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Working within the development enterprise of the College of Law, he spent three years as assistant director of Development and Alumni Affairs, followed by nearly five years in the leadership position as director of Development and Alumni Affairs. He also served for one year as a program advisor in the Office of Student Activities at UT Knoxville.

Before joining the UT system, Dr. Carver worked for two years as a director of Special Projects and coordinator for the McDonough Center for Leadership and Business at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. Prior to that role, for two years he was co-director of the Volunteer Center for Leadership and Service (TeamVOLS) in the Office of Student Activities, UT Knoxville campus.

Dr. Carver holds two degrees from UT Knoxville: a PhD in philosophy with a focus in higher education administration, and an MS with a focus in college student personnel and educational leadership. He received a BA in sociology from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis).

“He is a long-term member of the UT family who brings with him a genuine commitment to the Health Science Center and to our organizational goals. We look forward to collaborating with him,” Dr. Schwab noted.

A national search will be launched to select the permanent vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs at UTHSC. The position will report directly to the chancellor and serve as the chief development officer for UTHSC. While the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs is located on the main UTHSC campus in Memphis, the vice chancellor will also undertake and support development and alumni initiatives in Chattanooga and Knoxville.

The senior development officer will also provide the leadership and coordination for all private fundraising at UTHSC. The individual will supply direction and staffing for development and alumni activities in coordination with the deans of all six colleges and in collaboration with the UTHSC senior leadership team.

Garcia-Godoy Named Senior Executive Associate Dean of Research

Timothy Hottel, DDS, MS, MBA, dean of the College of Dentistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), has named Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, professor and senior executive associate dean of research. Dr. Garcia-Godoy has made contributions to oral health sciences that have captured worldwide attention, including his studies on extracting stem cells from adult teeth.

He will direct the college’s Bioscience Research Center and currently holds $1.2 million in federal, industrial and professional research grants to improve and test dental products. The appointment of Dr. Garcia-Godoy gives UT College of Dentistry students an opportunity to engage in advanced dental science, positioning the college to gain international recognition and success in oral health research.

Dr. Garcia-Godoy is supporting Cesar Migliorati, DDS, MS, PhD, professor of oral medicine in the UT College of Dentistry Department of Biologic and Diagnostic Sciences to build a research collaboration with the St. Jude Children’s Research hospital to address oral complications that result from cancer therapies. The dental expert is also working with Dr. Migliorati to build a consortium with Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., that will develop treatments for the oral factor of head and neck cancer. Dr. Garcia-Godoy will collaborate with faculty in the colleges of Medicine and Nursing at UTHSC to develop dental research projects, starting with studies related to physiology, and obstetrics and gynecology.

From teeth whitening to cavities simulation, and from dental adhesive development to dental stem cell removal, UT dentistry students will be able to pursue exciting research projects through Dr. Garcia-Godoy. “I am certain Dr. Garcia-Godoy will be popular with our students as he mentors them in a way that will shape the future of dental practice,” said Dean Hottel. He added, “Our patients and the community will benefit from his work at UT.”

Dr. Garcia-Godoy has received approval to construct a new dental research lab on the UTHSC campus and is working to obtain permits from the state. The professor is committed to gaining more knowledge on the ways oral health is linked to chronic medical conditions. He also aims to inform the community that today’s dentists do far more than provide oral health services. They are involved in dental research that can have positive effects on overall health.

Before joining the UT College of Dentistry, Dr. Garcia-Godoy was the associate executive dean of research for the College of Dentistry at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was attracted to UT and Memphis due to Dean Hottel’s vision for the college and because of the city’s amenities. “Dean Hottel and the Health Science Center administrators have expressed such enthusiasm about advancing the dental college into the next phase of its rich tradition; I am challenged to be a part of its success,” said Dr. Garcia-Godoy.

“I also like being near the Mississippi River. It is beautiful and always flowing, which is an inspiration for me and my work.”

Currently, Dr. Garcia-Godoy is president of the Cardiology Division of the International Association for Dental Research and president of the Society for Physical Regulation in Biology and Medicine. He is editor of the American Journal of Dentistry and has published more than 500 abstracts, book chapters and peer reviewed research publications related to dental care.
The Department of Surgery and the Herb Kosten Endowment is hosting its Fourth Annual Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Research and Treatment Symposium on Wednesday, April 21, from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. in the North Auditorium of the Coleman Building.

The Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Research and Treatment Symposium brings to the university distinguished lecturers who are not only national experts but internationally renowned for their work in the field of pancreatic cancer and other related diseases. It is an excellent educational opportunity for UT faculty, residents, medical students and the private medical community to learn about cutting-edge research and treatment being performed both in the United States and around the world.

This year’s invited guest speaker is Vic Velanovich, MD, head of the Division of General Surgery at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. Dr. Velanovich will present on the quality of life of pancreatic cancer patients.

This event is free and open to the public, UT faculty, students, residents, UTMG physicians and the Memphis medical community. Advance registration is strongly encouraged due to limited seating.

Dr. Velanovich received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago. He went on to study medicine at Wayne State University where he received his Doctor of Medicine. He is board certified in surgery.

Over the years Dr. Velanovich has dedicated his practice to the following areas: pancreatic cancer and pancreatic surgery, esophageal cancer and esophageal surgery and gastroesophageal reflux disease. He also practices in other disorders of the esophagus such as stomach cancer and stomach surgery, breast cancer and minimally invasive surgery.

Nearly 38,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year. The survival rate of these patients is less than eight percent after diagnosis. Helping pancreatic cancer patients and their families is the focus of the new Herb Kosten Pancreatic Cancer Support Endowment at UTHSC. Stephen Behrman, MD, associate professor of surgery in the College of Medicine, has been selected to help direct the new endowment.

Through the Kosten family’s generous donation, UTHSC is a leader in the research and treatment of this disease. “Our family wants to honor Herb’s memory by enabling Dr. Behrman to enhance his pancreatic cancer research and develop outreach programs for pancreatic cancer patients and their families,” said Alan Kosten, brother of Herb Kosten, who died of the disease at age 67.

For more information, please contact Dr. Stephen W. Behrman at (901) 448-3234.

Dr. Van Celebrates #91

On January 13, Lester VanMiddlesworth, MD, PhD, turned 91 and his colleagues at UTHSC, where he has taught physiology, biophysics and medicine since 1946, held a birthday party in his honor. “Dr. Van’s research provided the evidence for the contamination of the atmosphere by nuclear tests conducted in the 1950s and led to the atmospheric testing ban treaty that is in effect today,” said Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, Harriet Van Vleet Professor and chair, UTHSC Department of Physiology. Dr. VanMiddlesworth’s data on radioactive fallout in grazing animals is part of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on display at the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington, D.C. “Dr. Van has probably made the biggest impact research discovery at UT Health Science Center that affects citizens of the globe,” Dr. Tigyi stated.

On January 13, Lester VanMiddlesworth, MD, PhD, turned 91 and his colleagues at UTHSC, where he has taught physiology, biophysics and medicine since 1946, held a birthday party in his honor. “Dr. Van’s research provided the evidence for the contamination of the atmosphere by nuclear tests conducted in the 1950s and led to the atmospheric testing ban treaty that is in effect today,” said Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, Harriet Van Vleet Professor and chair, UTHSC Department of Physiology. Dr. VanMiddlesworth’s data on radioactive fallout in grazing animals is part of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on display at the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington, D.C. “Dr. Van has probably made the biggest impact research discovery at UT Health Science Center that affects citizens of the globe,” Dr. Tigyi stated.

The UT Health Science Center administration and Parking Authority want to accommodate all faculty, staff and students who have a need for handicapped accessible parking. Therefore, any motor vehicle parked on university property, other than in paid metered spaces, must display a valid UT parking permit.

The type of permit received indicates the areas where the vehicle may be parked.

Use of a motor vehicle on University of Tennessee property is made available only under the policies established in the University Rules and Parking Regulations, currently in effect. Even though a vehicle may display a handicapped placard or a handicapped vehicle tag, the vehicle must also be registered with the UTHSC parking office.

If you park on the UTHSC campus and you have not registered your vehicle with the parking office, please stop by 740 Court, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to complete this process.
CON Establishes New Practice Sites

It’s only in select schools of nursing that you’ll find active faculty practices, and the UTHSC College of Nursing is not only one of them, but is one that has a national reputation for its leadership in nursing faculty practice. Diverse practice opportunities in the CON have to be considered in order to accommodate faculty in the MSN CNL second degree entry, RN/DNP and APRN/DNP programs. Recently, the College of Nursing Faculty Practice began a collaborative practice with the Methodist University Teaching Practice. Working in partnership with attending physicians as well as UTHSC internal medicine residents, UTHSC faculty nurse practitioners provide acute and chronic illness management, health evaluation and lifestyle promotion, and disease risk reduction to a diverse population of Shelby County citizens.

Faculty practice is a critical element for nursing programs with a strong mission and commitment to advanced practice nursing. “Various clinical sites serving diverse populations provide opportunities for advancing practice opportunities for APRN faculty and providing a multi-professional learning environment for students”, says Donna Hathaway, PhD, FAAN, dean and professor, College of Nursing. “Having faculty actively engaged in practice enables them to maintain their advanced practice credentials, provide exemplary mentorship for our students, and contribute to health and well-being of the citizens of our community.”

The Methodist University Teaching Practice is available to the community four days a week and walk-ins are welcome. Appointments can be made at (901) 516-8785 and a variety of payment options are available. It provides a venue for direct patient care services and establishes a clinical site for research and education. It also focuses on the theory and practice of adult health maintenance, and the assessment and management of common ailments facing many adults.

The practice is managed by Diane Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, assistant dean for faculty practice at the College of Nursing. Collaborating physicians are: Stephen Miller, MD, FACP, senior vice president, Medical Education and Research, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; Catherine Clark, MD, FACP, director of the Methodist University Teaching Practice; Bill Weber, MD, FACP, and Michelle Sands, MD. Other CON faculty staffing the primary care clinic are Patricia M. Speck, DNSc, FNP-BC, FAAFS, FAAN, assistant professor and public health option coordinator, and Patricia Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, associate professor and psychiatric/MH family nurse practitioner option coordinator.

Patients at the Methodist Faculty Practice Clinic are pleased with the services they receive. “They take good care of me here,” said patient Daniel Norphlet as he completed his patient visit. Dr. Pace explained his dosage for his prescription medication before ending his visit.

Individuals needing immediate care but seeking to avoid emergency room visits or long waits for appointments make up a small percentage of patients who visit the practice.

Dr. Pace states in addition to providing primary care at the clinic, faculty nurse practitioners bring extended expertise in specialty care. “I am a certified menopause practitioner and provide women’s health care, often seeing menopausal women referred from other clinicians.” Dr. Speck also brings experience in women’s health care and her unique focus is in the area of abuse and domestic violence. Dr. Cunningham’s practice is focused on primary care and the integration of psychiatric/mental health care into this area.

“We also serve as resources to the residents, both in the area of education and patient consultation in our areas of specialties.”

In addition to the Methodist Faculty Practice, Dr. Pace spends one day a week as the health provider at CSI (Consolidated Systems, Inc.) a steel manufacturer in Memphis, Tenn. Lawrence Madlock, MD, Medical Director for UHS, serves as the collaborating physician for this site.

See Faculty Practice, pg. 10
Grant Somes Missing in Canoeing Accident

Grant Somes, PhD, professor and chair of the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine, has been declared missing after falling into the Mississippi River in a canoeing accident. The accident occurred on Thursday, March 11, around 2 p.m.

Dr. Somes had been the chair of Preventive Medicine since his appointment in 2000. As such, he provided leadership for about 100 faculty and staff members. Simultaneously, he led the Design, Biostatistics and Ethics Unit of the UTHSC Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

In 1984, Dr. Somes began his career at UTHSC as an associate professor and chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, which was later named as a division under the Department of Preventive Medicine. He received full tenure as a professor in 1987; his outstanding performance led to his appointment as chair.

He was involved in research initiatives throughout the campus and had successfully guided the direction of the Department of Preventive Medicine toward community service. Specifically, he spearheaded UTHSC involvement with the Church Health Center, the Telehealth Consortium and the Center for Health Care Disparities. In addition, Dr. Somes actively supported the mission of the Urban Child Institute and secured funds for UTHSC to research brain development in children from conception to 3 years old.

Dr. Somes was principal investigator of the CANDLE Study; CANDLE is the acronym for Conditions Affecting Neurocognitive Development and Learning in Early Childhood. The study, sponsored by the Urban Child Institute, examines factors that affect childhood learning.

The memorial service was held on Saturday, April 10, at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in memory of Grant Somes to the following organizations:

Biostatistics Support Fund (R073910016), Preventive Medicine
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
66 N. Pauline Suite 633
Memphis, TN 38163 (Make checks payable to: The University of Tennessee)

Church Health Center
1210 Peabody Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

Crittenden County Search & Rescue
P.O. Box 111
West Memphis, AR 72301

St. Patrick’s Center, Food Pantry
297 South Fourth Street
Memphis, TN 38126

In Memoriam: Leroy O. Moore

Leroy O. Moore, retired assistant vice chancellor of the Health Career Programs, passed away on January 18.

He joined the University of Tennessee in 1980, where he spent almost 30 years. Before leading the Office of Health Career Programs, Moore had a long association with the College of Medicine, serving as an assistant dean for Student Affairs. He played a vital role in the efforts to increase the number of African-American students enrolling in the college. Later as assistant vice chancellor, Leroy oversaw the Office of Health Career Programs.

Through his various roles in college administration, Leroy’s work always focused on developing the talents of minority and underrepresented students and on implementing strategies to help more of them graduate from professional school.

UTHSC Remembers Dr. Johnson

On Saturday, February 6, James Gibb Johnson, MD, former UTHSC chancellor from 2002 to 2003, passed away. Dr. Johnson received his BA degree from UT and was a 1963 graduate of the UT College of Medicine in Memphis. He graduated from UTHSC with honors, earning the C. Riley Houck Award in physiology, National Science Foundation Fellowship, Merck Award, and election to the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society.

Dr. Johnson’s graduate medical education included internship at the Columbia University Division of Bellevue Hospital in New York City, followed by residency and chief residency in internal medicine, and fellowship in nephrology at UT in Memphis. He was board certified in both internal medicine and nephrology. Following his medical education, Dr. Johnson joined the faculty of the UT College of Medicine in 1969 as an Instructor and rose to the rank of professor of Medicine and most recently Emeritus Professor of Medicine/Nephrology.

He was a distinguished academician, researcher, teacher, administrator and physician who served UTHSC and the local health care community in multiple administrative and leadership positions from 1969 until his retirement in 2003.

UTHSC Sends Condolences

Kenneth Allen Campbell, 53, was born on November 25, 1955, in Memphis, Tenn., and passed from this earthly life on November 12, 2009, at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, after a long illness. He was surrounded by his family that he loved so dearly. He is survived by his beloved wife of 10 years, Edie Campbell.

Kenny began working at the University of Tennessee in Memphis 24 years ago. He worked in the Print Shop, Accounting, and Department of Family Medicine. He earned an associate’s degree as well as a CPS and Star Achievement Award.

He loved his family with all of his heart, as he did his friends, co-workers, and anyone else he met in life. He never met a stranger.
Faculty Practice cont. from page 8

At the steel company, employees operate an assembly line, which often makes it difficult for them to leave their posts. They are dedicated to their jobs and many are very open to Dr. Pace and her health initiatives.

Dr. Pace treats patients who experience minor work-related injuries as well as more chronic illnesses with disorders such as diabetes and hypertension. She provides episodic care and health promotion at the site and collaborates with their primary care provider to ensure continuity of care in their health care management.

The primary goal of the clinic is to focus on maintaining a healthy lifestyle through proper diet and exercise, and following an established health care plan. The concern of overall employee health began after the sudden death of the company’s owner and founder. The health station provides a venue to monitor employees’ individual health status, while educating them on how their health plays an important role in their daily routine.

It is evident that the UTHSC Faculty Practice Program takes a proactive approach in breaking down patient barriers—reaching into the far corners of the community to promote health, reduce risk of disease and to care for the chronically ill.

COD Honors Excellence, Awards Alumni

On March 5, the College of Dentistry held the 2010 Outstanding Alumni awards honoring Drs. Jimmy E. Albright and Tommy G. Roebuck.

Annually, the college honors two alumni recognized by the UT College of Dentistry Alumni Association as having made distinguished contributions to the dentistry field. Jimmy E. Albright, DDS, Class of 1963, began dental practice the same year at the Kentucky Health Department. In 1964, he joined the U.S. Navy. The dental expert resigned his full-time commission with the Navy in 1974 and became affiliated with the U.S. Naval Reserve. He continued service to the reserve until his retirement in 1990, with the rank of captain. In 1974, Dr. Albright joined the UT College of Dentistry faculty in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He has held several positions at the college as a professor, director and departmental chair. He currently serves as a part-time professor and practices dentistry in Memphis. Additionally, Dr. Albright is a staff member or consultant for several local hospitals including: The Regional Medical Center at Memphis, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Corporation and Saint Francis Hospital.

Throughout his career, Dr. Albright has received honors and awards including: The Fellowship Award from the Tennessee Dental Association, the Distinguished Dental Faculty Award from UT College of Dentistry, the Humanitarian Award from the Memphis Dental Society, Fellowship in the American College of Dentists and Fellowship in the International College of Dentists. He is a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon and the Richard Doggett Dean Honorary Odontological Society. Also, he is a life-member of the American Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Dr. Albright is certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and served on the examining committee of that body for six years. He has lectured at seminars nationwide and has authored or co-authored numerous articles for dental journals.

Tommy G. Roebuck, DDS, PA, received his undergraduate education at the University of Arkansas in Monticello in 1959. He graduated from the UT College of Dentistry in 1962. After earning his dentistry degree, Dr. Roebuck served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps at Fort Campbell, Ky. He returned to Arkansas in 1965 to start his dental practice in Arkansas in Monticello. In March 1999, he was presented an award for the best grass-roots dental political organization in the United States. Nationally, Dr. Roebuck was involved in advocacy with the ADA and the Council for Governmental Affairs. He was vice chairman for the council, which involved meetings with the Arkansas congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., and chairman for the Federal Dental Services Subcommittee. In March 1999, he was presented an award for the best grass-roots dental political organization in the United States.

Dr. Roebuck was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2000. In this role, he sponsored legislation that established the Office of Oral Health within the Arkansas Department of Health. His efforts improved the system of care for children and families with mental and behavioral problems. During his tenure in the House, he received legislation awards from numerous organizations.

Black History Month Acknowledged

UTHSC celebrated Black History Month by offering a variety of events on campus. The Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) sponsored a month of inspirational, educational and exciting activities that started on February 1, with the LeMoyne-Owen College Anointed Voices Gospel Choir.

Each week throughout the month the campus received insightful information related to the growth that African-Americans have achieved since slavery. The campus enjoyed “The Taste of History,” a sampling of historic soul food dishes, with an emphasis on healthier eating prepared by Quan Anderson, catering director and executive chef in Catering Services, and his staff.

The HBO documentary “The Black List” showcased some of the most influential African-Americans in the world, serving as the feature for Pizza and a Movie.

The celebration ended with “Speaker and Lunch,” an event that featured two speakers. Pastor Keith Norman, head pastor of First Baptist Church-Broad and D’Army Bailey, lawyer, judge and civil rights activist.

Former Judge Bailey addressed attendees about his life, struggles and triumphs during the Civil Rights Movement. A native of Memphis, Tenn., Bailey enrolled in college at Southern University, where he joined other students in protest demonstrations against segregation in Baton Rouge. Consequently, he was expelled because of his involvement and finished his undergraduate studies at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

Upon completing his juris doctorate at Yale University in 1967, Bailey worked in New York as the national director of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council, an organization created to assist civil rights attorneys working in the south. He then moved to the San Francisco area to practice law, and was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1971.

He returned to Memphis in 1974 and began a law practice with his brother, working as an attorney until his election to the Circuit Court of Tennessee at Memphis. Bailey is a founder of the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the site where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He is also the author of Mine Eyes Have Seen: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Final Journey.

The celebration of Black History Month was well attended by all faculty, staff and students.
Bone Marrow Transplant Gives Gift of Life

For many UTHSC physicians, saving lives is what they commit their lives to -- mentally, emotionally and physically. Tim Mashburn is not one of those doctors. In fact he’s not a doctor at all; nevertheless, he has also saved a life...the life of a man who, so far, he hasn’t even met.

Mashburn is the associate dean for finance and administration in the College of Medicine. In January 2009, he donated life-saving blood stem cells to a male patient residing somewhere in the United States. Out of seven million potential donors on the National Marrow Donor Program’s (NMDP) Be The Match Registry, Mashburn had turned out to be the best match.

“When you donate, it is because the recipient needs that transplant to live,” he explained. “During the process when the donor is being prepared to surrender blood forming cells, which are collected from bone marrow or from your bloodstream, the recipient begins to receive extremely high doses of chemotherapy or radiation. The patient can’t survive without the transplant cells, so you have to be totally committed to seeing your donation through.”

The soft-spoken MBA observed, “It was a very moving experience for me.”

Naturally there’s a matrix of logistics required to connect a donor and recipient. In this case, the series of tests and procedures leading to the donation and transplant was orchestrated by the Heart of America Donor Center in Kansas City, Kan., in conjunction with the NMDP. UT Cancer Institute managed the local testing and stem cell collection in Memphis.

Two methods can be used to donate. In marrow donation, donors receive general or regional anesthesia, and doctors use special hollow needles to withdraw liquid marrow from the back or the pelvic bones. Alternatively, physicians can request a peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation, an outpatient procedure in which the blood forming cells are collected directly from the bloodstream. This entails gathering the donation from IV ports in both arms or through a central venous line that is inserted into one of the larger veins. After evaluation of his arm veins, the physicians recommended that Mashburn’s blood stem cell donation be collected by central line.

Starting five days prior to PBSC collection, Mashburn received daily injections of filgrastim, a cancer-treating drug that stimulates the release of blood forming stem cells from the bone marrow and into the peripheral bloodstream. According to Mashburn, the only side effects he experienced from the injections were flu-like symptoms and aching bones. He was allowed to take Tylenol to ease the symptoms.

On the day of the actual collection, the central line was placed in Mashburn’s neck and connected to the machine that extracts the stem cells from the blood flow. In four hours about 24 liters of blood had passed through the machine. Mashburn’s donation was packaged and put on ice. Before the day was over, a special courier was delivering Mashburn’s healthy blood forming stem cells to the transplant center where the patient was waiting.

Complete confidentiality was maintained throughout the process. Neither the donor nor the patient knew much about each other.

Bone marrow and blood stem cell donation are not as invasive as life-saving organ donations but it’s certainly not your average medical procedure. So how did Mashburn become involved? “A close friend of mine has a daughter who had leukemia and needed the procedure to survive. She was matched with another donor and is now two or three years post-bone marrow transplant,” he explained.

“This is an example of a relatively small thing you can do to save a life. When her father asked me, ‘What reason would you have not to do it?’ I realized there really wasn’t one.”

After a year’s time if both donor and patient have a desire to meet, the NMDP will reveal their contact data. “I would like to meet the patient who received my donation,” Mashburn stated, “but I don’t want him to feel awkward. I don’t want anyone feeling indebted to me. I’m very glad that I did it. Everything I do on a daily basis pales in importance next to the opportunity to donate life-saving stem cells. I hope people who read this will consider joining the Be The Match Registry.”

For more information on blood stem cell and bone marrow donation, visit BeTheMatch.org.

Postscript, February 2010: Six months after Mashburn’s donation, the team at the NMDP’s Be The Match Registry informed him that the patient and recipient of his peripheral blood stem cell donation was recovering well. Shortly after the one-year anniversary of his donation, Tim learned the sad news that the patient had died. No additional details are available.

In spite of the loss of the patient, Mashburn said, “Even knowing that, I would do it all again. There’s no way to measure how much it meant to that patient and to his family to have him with them for those additional months. Knowing that makes it worth it to me.”

Nobel Winner at NanoDays

On Tuesday, March 30, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine hosted a disyling NanoDays celebration. NanoDays is an annual nationwide effort to inform and educate communities about the impact of nanoscience, an emerging discipline with the potential to transform society in future decades. Many scientists and health care professionals believe that nanoscience has yet untapped potential to produce numerous new jobs in the biotechnology field.

The events were held on the UTHSC campus by Pathology Chair Charles R. Handorf, MD, PhD, professor, and Anand Kulkarni, MD, assistant professor at the Hamilton Eye Institute’s Freeman Auditory, 930 Madison, 3rd Floor.

Robert F. Curl, Jr., PhD, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in chemistry delivered the keynote speech during the culminating event.

Nanotechnology focuses on materials or devices that are 1 to 100 nanometers (one nanometer is one billionth of a meter). This technology is now used to develop medical applications such as pregnancy tests, sunscreen lotions and athlete’s foot medications.

The nanoscale consists of particles smaller than cells but larger than atoms. On the nanoscale, it takes 8,000 nanometers to equal the diameter of one red blood cell. One human hair on the nanoscale is made up of roughly 50,000 to 100,000 nanometers. Nanoscale solutions can potentially solve some of the major problems of our time.

NanoDays outreach events are held nationwide each spring to inform communities about nanoscale science, technology and engineering. The events involve community-based educational organizations and nanoscience partners. The annual celebrations are supported by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (www.NISENet.org <http://www.NISENet.org> ), a section of the National Science Foundation.

SASS Open House

Join the Student Academic Support Services and enjoy the facelift of their facility.

Date: Friday, 4/23/10
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m
Where: GEB, Room BB9
For more information, please call (901) 448-5056.
UTMG Opens High-Risk Pregancies Center

UTHSC faculty and maternal-fetal medicine and genetics specialists at UT Medical Group, Inc., have launched a new service for women who have pregnancy complications or are at increased risk for complications, such as premature birth, gestational diabetes, and suspected birth defects. The Center for High Risk Pregancies in east Memphis offers a full range of testing and treatment for women with these and other complications that may occur prior to conception, in pregnancy and at delivery.

Conveniently located in the Baptist Women’s Hospital Physician Office Building at 6215 Humphreys Boulevard, the center’s team works with the patient’s obstetrician to carefully monitor the pregnancy and provide appropriate testing and therapy for both mother and fetus.

Maternal-fetal medicine specialist Michael Schneider, MD, the center director, said the clinic offers a full range of diagnostic services as well as treatment options. Tests include routine and high-risk pregnancy ultrasound, chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis prenatal tests, and fetal echocardiography for heart studies. Fetal transfusion and surgery are performed at Le Bonheur Children’s Fetal Center, which is the only one of its kind in the area and one of less than 20 in the nation.

All of the doctors on the center’s medical team are board certified in their specialties and serve on the UTHSC faculty. In addition to Dr. Schneider, the physician team includes reproductive geneticist Owen Phillips, MD, and maternal-fetal medicine specialist Giancarlo Mari, MD, who is also director of the UTHSC Maternal-Fetal Medicine Institute and interim chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. Dr. Mari is known for his expertise in fetal ultrasound and has pioneered therapies for conditions such as twin-twin transfusion syndrome and fetal anemia.

“Our technological equipment and the medical expertise of our team enable us to provide a highly advanced level of care that is unique in the Mid-South,” Dr. Schneider said. “For example, we are the only Mid-South high-risk obstetrical practice with a certified diabetes educator and board certified geneticist on staff. But excellent care requires more than the latest technology and the most current advances in evidence-based medicine. We also take pride in providing a caring and compassionate environment for our patients and their babies.”

He noted that women who are referred to the center are facing the joy of pregnancy as well as the anxiety of potential complications.

“We understand how they feel because we are parents ourselves. We take great care to answer all of their questions, explain any tests that need to be performed, and counsel them on the results. Our first concern is to ensure the health of the patient and her baby.”

Candidates for referral to the center include women who have an increased chance of developing complications or who already are experiencing a complicated pregnancy. Examples of high-risk conditions include:

• The mother is under 17 or over 35.
• The pregnancy involves multiple fetuses.
• The mother has a chronic medical condition such as diabetes or hypertension.
• Prenatal testing indicates a suspected birth defect.
• The mother is diagnosed with diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes).
• A previous pregnancy resulted in miscarriage.
• The mother has given birth prematurely in the past.
• The mother has a history of fibroids or other gynecological problems.

In some cases, the OB/GYN may refer a patient to the center before she becomes pregnant, noted Dr. Schneider.

For more information on the Center for High Risk Pregancies, visit www.thechrp.com.

Ways to Combat Obesity

On March 11, Dr. Joseph Santoso, MD, FACOG, FACS, professor and director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at UTHSC College of Medicine and gynecologic oncology physician at the West Clinic esented a lecture in the SAC entitled “Obesity as it Relates to Cancer.”

The lecture, part of the university’s attempt to promote a healthy lifestyle to the UTHSC family, left participants with astounding facts on obesity, as well as tips for losing weight.

More than 300,000 Americans die each year from obesity. Obese Americans are 50 percent more likely to have cancer than others. Obese women are at double the risks for getting post-menopausal breast cancer.

Besides cancer, obesity can lead to hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, sleep apnea, liver problems and psychological challenges.

According to Dr. Santoso, “There are no short cuts; losing weight is a lifestyle, not a diet.”

People gain weight due to an increase in carbohydrates, drinking non-diet sodas, eating fast food and a sedentary lifestyle. When it comes to losing weight, it is more effective to eat less compared to engaging in more exercise.

Eating a Big Mac from McDonald’s restaurants adds 704 calories to a diet and a rib dinner adds more than 3,000 calories.

A diet of not more than 1,500 calories daily is recommended with at least 30 minutes of daily exercise.

To burn off the Big Mac, one would have to jog for more than one hour, sit in church for more than 10 hours, or engage in sex for seven to 10 hours.

Reducing body fat by 10 percent can lower your risk for disease. A plan for losing weight should include:

- Food doesn’t have to be “organic” to be healthy. Individuals who want to invest in their health and longevity will fit healthy foods into their budget.

- Even if your weight gain or obesity is hereditary, you are not condemned to obesity and can do something about it.

For more information about Dr. Santoso, please visit www.uthsc.edu or www.westclinic.com.
2010 Alpha Omega Alpha Distinguished Professorship

On April 7, the Beta TN Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha hosted the 2010 ADA Distinguished Professorship featuring guest lecturer L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, Brickhouse Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Britt addressed a group that combined Medicine, Pediatrics and Surgery Grand Rounds.

A native of Suffolk, Va., he was the valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School. He received a BA degree (with Distinction) from the University of Virginia and was a member of the coveted Raven Society. A graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Britt has had extensive surgical and critical care training.

He is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. Dr. Britt is the author of more than 200 scientific publications. His many national and international leadership positions include being the President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, past Chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery, Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association as well as the executive director of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons.

He is on the executive committee of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He also sat on the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Britt is a former member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Surgery. He was also a member of the executive council of the American College of Surgeons National Committee on Trauma and was the chairman of all the regional committees of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, which includes all 50 states and the international community.

Dr. Britt is also the past vice president of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the past recorder/program chair for the organization. He is the past president of both the Southeastern Surgical Congress and the Halsted Society. Dr. Britt is the current president-elect of the American College of Surgeons and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

Alpha Omega Alpha, founded in 1902, is the national medical honor society.

For more information, please contact Deborah Hester at (901) 448-5531.

Is ICE in Your Phone?

Safety officials have recently been encouraging individuals to ICE their phones, and the UTHSC safety office is doing the same for faculty, staff, students and visitors.

ICE, an acronym for In Case of Emergency, is a program that allows users to input emergency contact information into cellular phones.

Examples would be ICE MOM, ICE DAD, ICE Doctor, ICE Spouse (name), etc. ICE can help save your life in time of emergency. If an injured person is unable to communicate, ICE allows first responders to easily and quickly find the injured person’s emergency contact and/or critical medical information.

Unlike some emergency contact programs that gather personal information and charge a fee ranging from $15-$200, the do-it-yourself ICE program is unique: It is FREE to the public (for non-commercial purposes), is promoted nationwide by a number of National Safety Groups, uses an easily recognizable symbol, and contains fully customizable tools allowing for flexibility to modify critical information.

To access a form that can be completed and printed, go to http://www.staysafe-midsouth.us/resources/emergencyinfo-formblank.pdf.

UTHSC Welcomes Civil Rights Icon

On April 7, the Beta TN Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha hosted the 2010 ADA Distinguished Professorship featuring guest lecturer L.D. Britt, MD, MPH, Brickhouse Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Britt addressed a group that combined Medicine, Pediatrics and Surgery Grand Rounds.

A native of Suffolk, Va., he was the valedictorian of Booker T. Washington High School. He received a BA degree (with Distinction) from the University of Virginia and was a member of the coveted Raven Society. A graduate of Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Britt has had extensive surgical and critical care training.

He is the first African-American in the country to have an endowed chair in surgery. Dr. Britt is the author of more than 200 scientific publications. His many national and international leadership positions include being the President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, past Chairman of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Surgery, Secretary of the Southern Surgical Association as well as the executive director of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons.

He is on the executive committee of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. He also sat on the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Britt is a former member of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Surgery. He was also a member of the executive council of the American College of Surgeons National Committee on Trauma and was the chairman of all the regional committees of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, which includes all 50 states and the international community.

Dr. Britt is also the past vice president of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the past recorder/program chair for the organization. He is the past president of both the Southeastern Surgical Congress and the Halsted Society. Dr. Britt is the current president-elect of the American College of Surgeons and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

Alpha Omega Alpha, founded in 1902, is the national medical honor society.

For more information, please contact Deborah Hester at (901) 448-5531.

Two Receive Honors at HEI

Recently two UT Hamilton Eye Institute faculty members were honored at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) annual meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Barrett G. Haik received the AAO Life Achievement Award. This award is bestowed for extraordinary contributions to the academy, its scientific and educational programs, and to ophthalmology. Additionally, Dr. Matthew W. Wilson received an AAO Senior Achievement Award. Drs. Haik and Wilson both received certificates at the annual meeting to mark these distinguished accomplishments.

AAO is the world’s largest association of eye physicians and surgeons with more than 27,000 members worldwide. Approximately 25,000 people attended the 2009 meeting in San Francisco.

University of Tennessee Health Science Center team members honored D’Army Bailey (second from left) following his speech during a Black History Month event on the campus in February. UTHSC staff joining Bailey are Steve J. Schwab, MD (left), interim chancellor; Dena L. Owens, MS, communications representative; Kennard D. Brown, JD, MPA, PhD, executive vice chancellor and chief of staff; Wisdom F. Coleman, DDS, associate dean in the College of Dentistry; and Lawrence M. Brown, PharmD, associate professor in the College of Pharmacy.
**PEOPLE**

**James Eason, MD**, program director, Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute and chief of Transplantation and professor of Surgery at UTHSC, was recognized by The Commercial Appeal as one of 10 people of the last decade whose contributions impacted Memphis.

Dr. James Eason, Hurricane Katrina evacuee and transplant surgeon, makes Methodist University Hospital among the nation’s elite transplant centers, mentioned with Mayo and Cleveland clinic. Dr. Eason performed liver transplant surgery on billionaire Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder in 2009.

**Stephan Foster, PharmD**, professor and vice chair of clinical pharmacy, was presented the American Pharmacists Association’s (APhA) Immunization Champion Awards for outstanding career achievement at the national meeting in Washington, D.C.

He is a distinguished national and state leader in public health, specifically in disease prevention through vaccination. A retired captain from the U.S. Public Health Service, Foster has been a strong advocate for the pharmacist’s role in public health. He serves as the APhA’s liaison representative on the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Since 1998 he has worked with APhA’s immunization team on updating the Pharmacy-based Immunization Certificate Training Program and has been a featured speaker and author in many of APhA’s immunization education programs.

Dr. Foster has personally trained hundreds of pharmacists as immunizers and, through his work with student pharmacists, facilitated the vaccination of more than 10,000 Tennesseans annually. His collaboration within and outside of pharmacy has led to his appointment by the governor of Tennessee to chair a new committee on cervical cancer vaccination.

The state also has used his knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of its pandemic preparedness plan.

**Seema Khurana, PhD**, professor in the Department of Physiology and colleagues recently had an editorial featured in *Nature*, one of the most prestigious scientific journals. Each week *Nature* showcases a hot new cell signaling article from a Nature Publishing Group journal. Free full text access to the paper is maintained for three months, after which the research highlight will be accessible via the Updates page.

The article, “Lipid signaling: LPK’s ways of actin,” highlighted their research on how Lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) controls actin dynamics indirectly, through cell surface receptor-mediated signaling, and directly, by binding and inhibiting villin.

**Kimberly Lamar, PhD, MPH, MS**, assistant professor of Preventive Medicine and coordinator of the Blues Project, was a featured speaker and training session leader at the Third Annual Medicaid Managed Care Summit in Washington, D.C., February 24-26. The summit had representatives from 14 states, convening health-plan and industry experts on delivering answers to current Medicaid challenges. Dr. Lamar addressed the topic of implementing statewide education and outreach projects to improve pregnancy, delivery and child health outcomes. She discussed the Blues Project, a three-year pilot project funded by the BlueCross/Volunteer State Health Plan and conducted by UT Health Science Center and UT Medical Group, Inc.

The Blues Project is designed to be an effective, cost-efficient alternative to current programs aimed at reducing infant mortality and helping improve maternal, fetal and pediatric outcomes in Memphis through education, employment, and removing social barriers linked to adverse child health outcomes.

**Diane Todd Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, NCP, CCD, FAANP**, assistant dean for faculty practice in the UTHSC College of Nursing, has been invited to join the board of the Health Information Partnership for Tennessee (HIP TN), a statewide committee charged with implementing the secure exchange of health information.

Dr. Pace is the first nursing expert on the 12-member board. The addition of Dr. Pace rounds out a mix of public/private health care leaders from across the state and ensures that patient-data needs are covered. From a nursing perspective, Dr. Pace will serve as a board member until September 30, when she is eligible for re-appointment.

**Solomon S. Solomon, MD**, Chief of Endocrinology, Memphis Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, received the prestigious Founder’s Medal by the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI) during the Southern Society’s annual meeting on February 25-27 in New Orleans, La. The Founder’s Medal is the highest honor for research and academic achievement awarded by the society.

Dr. Solomon is an internationally renowned physician, scientist and educator. He is the author of more than 150 original scientific and clinical research articles and recognized for his innovative research on insulin and diabetes since 1969. His noted achievements in medical research include defining the biochemical and molecular operations of diabetic ketoacidosis and helping to define the nature of insulin resistance in Type II diabetes.

**Edward J. Stanford, MD**, professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and head of the Comprehensive Gynecologic Center at UT Medical Group, Inc., was a featured speaker at the fifth annual Women’s Pelvic Health Conference, sponsored by Pelvic and Urological Resources and Education, Helping Others with Pelvic Pain Everywhere (PURE HOPE) in Houston, Texas.

**Mona Newsome Wicks, PhD, RN**, professor and associate dean for Research in the UT College of Nursing, has been invited to serve on the newly created NIH Health Disparities and Equity Promotion (HDEP) study section through December 2012. The HDEP Study Section reviews those applications where the primary aim is to address, reduce or eliminate disparities and improve equity related to health risks, access to care, treatment, or health and health-related outcomes.

The study section reviews applications related to systematic influences, factors contributing to health disparities as well as those with a specific focus on health equity improvement in a particular subpopulation or subpopulations of interest. For more information, visit: http://oms.ca.nih.gov/PeerReviewMeetings/CSRIRGDescriptionNew/HDHIREG/HDEP.htm.
UTMG Pediatric Heart Surgeon Performs Lifesaving Surgery on Mid-South Baby

Last month, pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon Christopher Knott-Craig, MD, successfully repaired a heart defect in an infant who was believed to be one of the smallest in the state to be put on cardiopulmonary bypass for heart surgery. The surgical technique used in the life-saving operation was developed by Dr. Knott-Craig several years ago and has since been adopted throughout the world.

The baby weighed less than four pounds when he was brought to Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center shortly after his birth in Jackson, Tenn. The child’s family resides in Huntington, Tenn.

Dr. Knott-Craig says the infant suffered from an undeveloped artery, known as hypoplastic aortic arch. The defect is fatal if not repaired.

“The surgery was possible only because of a technique which I described and published three years ago,” he explains. “This technique allows surgeons to operate on very small babies more safely.”

Dr. Steven P. Goldberg, a UTMG pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon who co-authored a paper on the technique with Dr. Knott-Craig, says the procedure is especially well suited to infants with small aortas and those who have to undergo repeated cardiac surgery.

Though the infant will likely require routine check-ups throughout his life to monitor his condition, Dr. Knott-Craig says he should be able to live with a normal, healthy heart. For now, he remains at the Cardiac Intensive Care unit and Le Bonheur.

Panda Named Chair of Department of Medicine

David C. Seaberg, MD, Dean of the College of Medicine Chattanooga recently announced the appointment of Mukta Panda, MD, FACP, as chair of the Department of Medicine.

According to Dr. Seaberg, “Dr. Panda was an outstanding candidate to fill this permanent position, evidenced by her regional, national and international reputation in patient care, medical education, and leadership skills.” She has earned a long list of awards and accolades, most notably being the first recipient from the statewide University of Tennessee System to be honored by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as a 2008 recipient of the Parker Palmer Courage to Teach Award. The award recognizes 10 of the best program directors from across the country. Locally she was named the 2009 Chattanooga Young Professional of the Year by a group of community leaders.

“Dr. Panda is one of the most respected and admired faculty members by administration and faculty on our campus due to her ability to encourage teamwork and cooperation. Throughout her years at the Chattanooga campus, she has been a constant inspiration to students, residents and colleagues, encouraging them to strive for excellence in clinical care, education, scholarly activity and community service.”

A graduate of Goa Medical College in India, Dr. Panda trained in Saudi Arabia, and completed her OB/GYN Residency at Kings Hospital in London. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the UTMC and then joined the college as a faculty member and transitional year program director. She has continued to serve in this role as well as associate program director for the Internal Medicine Residency from 2002-2006.

Dr. Panda was instrumental in obtaining a grant in 2009 from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to establish a Gold Humanism Honor Society Chapter in Chattanooga to encourage humanistic qualities and honor junior medical students throughout the UT statewide system. She is also part of the new Academic Internal Medicine (AIM) practice that will serve as a key segment of the newly developing University Health Associates in Chattanooga (faculty practice plan).

“I am humbled and honored to accept the responsibilities and challenges of chair of the Department of Medicine in Chattanooga,” Dr. Panda stated. “I feel so blessed for faculty support and leadership of both the university and Erlanger as we seek to model excellence for our patients, students and residents. I want to thank my husband and children, as well as my parents, for their guidance and encouragement. The future of the Department of Medicine of the UTMC and Erlanger is bright, and I know that when we work together, great things can be accomplished.”

GRANTS

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

John Buolamwini, PhD
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
“Enhancement of Anticancer Activity and Pharmacokinetic Studies of 1 Aryl-Pyrido (b) Indoles”
$15,000

Monica Jablonski, PhD
International Retinal Research Foundation
“Testing of a Novel Therapy to Treat Age-Related Macular Degeneration”
$100,000

Monica Jablonski, PhD
Lupus Research Institute
“Hydrogel Delivery of A Drug to Treat Leber Congenital Amaurosis”
$100,000

Robert Kiesges, PhD
NIH – National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
“Preventing Relapse Following Involuntary Smoking Abstinence”
$765,887

Kimberly Lamar, PhD
BlueCross BlueShield
“The Blues Project Expansion in Shelby County and Hamilton County Tennessee”
$1,688,000

Michael Levin, MD
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
“A Biomarker for Neurodegeneration in Neurological Disease”
$15,000

Kaushik Parthasarathi, PhD
NIH – National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
“Inflammatory Mechanisms in Lung Vascular Segments”
$370,000

Fabio Re, PhD
NIH – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease
“Role of NLRP-3 Inflammasome in Alum’s Adjuvanticity”
$333,000

Carson McCarty Strong, PhD
NIH – National Human Genome Research Institute
“Human Subjects Protections in Prenatal Gene Transfer Research”
$37,000

Shelley White-Means, PhD
NIH – National Center of Minority Health and Health Disparities
“ARRA-Cheet Transforming Health Disparities into Healthy Possibilities”
$699,709

Zhousheng Xiao, PhD
NIH – National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease
“Mechanosensing Function of Primary Cilium- Polycysin Complex in Bone”
$197,802

Junming Yue, PhD
NIH - National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
“Transgenic Rat Overexpressing mR21 in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells: Functional Implications”
$232,449
Karen C. Johnson, MD, MPH, professor and vice chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at UTHSC, has been awarded a $4,427,252 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, to develop and test a behavioral weight loss intervention delivered through interactive technology used in conjunction with a tobacco quit line.

The five-year grant runs through 2014. This grant addresses the need for two-phase clinical research studies on innovative behavioral and/or environmental approaches for weight control in young adults at high risk for weight gain.

Obesity and excess body fat are associated with many diseases and adverse health effects, such as coronary heart disease and stroke. In the United States, obesity rates are at epidemic levels despite awareness of associated health risks. Similarly, the prevalence of cigarette smoking remains high in this country, especially among young adults.

While quitting smoking is associated with numerous health benefits, smoking cessation can result in significant weight gain. Telephone-based tobacco quit lines have been shown to help people quit smoking. However, smokers’ concerns about post-cessation weight gain have been reported as a main barrier to quitting.

Dr. Johnson and her colleagues plan to combine approaches with multiple modes of interactive technology to achieve their study aims.

“We know that younger smokers, ages 18-24 years, are as interested as other smokers in quitting, that they try to quit smoking more, and are as successful as other smokers in quitting. Yet this subgroup is at high risk for weight gain and is less likely than other smokers to seek traditional aid in quitting,” Dr. Johnson explained. “Therefore, we believe that an easily accessible behavioral weight loss intervention targeted to young adult smokers has a strong likelihood to be efficacious in producing weight loss or preventing weight gain.”

The first phase of the clinical research study will include developing and refining the proposed intervention and strategies for young adult smokers.

The second phase will involve a randomized, controlled clinical trial to test the intervention’s efficacy. The study will seek a total of 330 participants. Dr. Johnson is principal investigator.

She also directs the Clinical Trials Division in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine. The division’s main goals are to conduct epidemiologic, behavioral, clinical, and health-services research in areas of chronic disease, health of underserved populations, and women’s health.

The division has been involved in many large, multicenter clinical trials, including such NIH-sponsored studies as Health ABC (Health and Body Composition), WHI (Women’s Health Initiative), and Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes).

Dr. Johnson is a co-author of the article “One-Year Weight Losses in the Look AHEAD Study: Factors Associated with Success,” which recently won the 2009 Outstanding Journal Research Article Award presented by The Obesity Society in Washington, D.C.
On March 2, Congressman Steve Cohen joined 10 UTHSC team members for a lunch meeting on the Memphis campus. The event served to acknowledge the congressman for his assistance in helping to obtain $1.2 million in federal funds for equipment and research support through the Department of Defense bill. The event provided Congressman Cohen with the opportunity to speak directly with several of the beneficiaries of the federal funds and to learn even more about UTHSC.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD (third from left) hosted the luncheon with a guest list that included Charles Handorf, MD, PhD, professor and chair of Pathology; Yi Lu, associate professor of Pathology (prostate cancer researcher); Christopher Nosrat, DDS, PhD, professor of Bioscience Research, College of Dentistry; Larry Pfeffer, PhD, director of the Center for Cancer Research and Muirhead Professor and vice chair, Pathology; Tiffany Seagroves, assistant professor of Pathology; Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD, professor of Pathology (melanoma researcher); Lacey Smith, MD, dean of the College of Medicine, Memphis campus; Sheila Champlin, director, Communications and Marketing, and Linda Garceau-Luis, then vice chancellor for Alumni Affairs and Development.

“This funding means the world to us because it will enable UT to take steps to leverage our assets in partnership with world-class organizations like St. Jude,” said Dr. Handorf. “For St. Jude to achieve all that it has the potential to do, it needs what we do here at UT. It needs our focus on adult cancer.”

“These funds are being used for the purchase of a confocal microscope, which was badly needed,” explained Dr. Pfeffer, who studies brain cancer. “In addition, the funds provide seed money for projects that will go very far in promoting our research on adult cancer.”

A confocal microscope is designed to increase the photographic contrast of an image or to reconstruct three-dimensional images by eliminating out-of-focus light in specimens of a certain thickness. “This state-of-the-art imaging equipment has helped to put us on the map,” noted Dr. Nosrat, who specializes in oral cancer research. “While we are very grateful for that, I want to express thanks to you on behalf of all the patients who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the funding you helped provide for the Health Science Center.”

“Our Cancer Research Building is truly a multidisciplinary facility where researchers who focus on different types of adult cancer work together to write grants, perform research and share valuable resources,” observed Dr. Brown. “Teams of UT researchers like these specialists in different types of adult cancer are addressing a wide range of health care challenges that have a serious impact on our community. When we construct our new Translational Science Research Building, we plan to use this same interdisciplinary model to foster team science going forward.”

When Congressman Cohen asked how many of the researchers attending the luncheon would benefit from the new equipment and seed money, breast cancer researcher Tiffany Seagroves, assistant professor of Pathology, chimed in, “All of us,” with unanimous nods from her colleagues. “We collaborate with each other on multiple projects. I’ve written grants with just about everyone in the room.” She added, “Every single dollar you invest in UT, we give back to the community in multiple ways.”

“When I help UT, I know I’m helping to give life,” Congressman Cohen stated. “That’s the best thing you can do to help your fellow man–give life. After that come the priorities of giving an education and then a job.” He continued, “I know UT is going to do the right thing with these funds.”

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.
STUDENTS
Pharmacy Scholars Inducted

Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Honor Society and Rho Chi Academic Honor Society at the UT College of Pharmacy inducted new members at their joint induction ceremony and banquet on March 6. Both societies are national organizations with chapters at UTHSC. William E. Evans, PharmD, director and CEO of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital delivered the keynote address. Dr. Evans was presented a plaque to commemorate his address by Gillian Bell, Rho Chi president, and Mitchell Lingerfelt, Phi Lambda Sigma president. Rho Chi membership is reserved for the top scholars enrolled in pharmacy, while Phi Lambda Sigma recognizes student leadership.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Defining the Total Package

For some students entering medical school at UTHSC, finishing their degree in a timely manner and gaining a reputable residency position are the most important tasks at hand. But for Erika Dillard, sixth year MD/PhD candidate in the Colleges of Medicine and Graduate Health Sciences, that’s only the beginning.

Erika embodies the definition of “The Total Package,” since she not only excels academically at UTHSC but is an active participant in both the school and Memphis communities on various initiatives.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in neuroscience from Vanderbilt University, Dillard decided that UTHSC was the best choice to pursue her medical degree. As a native of Memphis, she was drawn to the university and the opportunity to be a part of its network of future health professionals. “The clinical training received here is unique and surpasses that of most medical schools in the state and even the country. The confidence our students enter residency with is something that simply isn’t seen in a lot of recent medical graduates from other places.”

Erika is one of few medical students pursuing both a medical degree and a doctoral degree and is the last student to take this path at UT since 2006. Although, having a research background can give medical students a competitive edge in the residency application process, Erika believes her training obtained in UT’s Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences (IPBS) graduate program symbolizes much more than additional letters behind her name. It signifies experience in grant writing, scientific presentation, and mastery of experimental techniques in her area of interest that will provide her the skills necessary for being a successful physician investigator.

The dual path will take seven to nine years to complete. Erika states “It’s a small price to pay in comparison to the doors a dual degree will open for me in my future career.” Her academic achievement has been recognized in many ways at UTHSC as a 2010 Chancellor’s Scholar, recipient of the Bluff City Medical Society Scholarship, and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) T32 Fellowship Award. She is a tutor for the College of Medicine through the Student Academic Support Services (SASS).

Presently, Erika is a student member of several professional organizations including the American Society for Virology (ASV) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). She is an active member of several student organizations at UT including the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), and the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA).

Serving in her community is a priority in her quest to become a physician-scientist. Some of her community contributions include teaching children at Lester Elementary about “The World of Viruses,” a program executed through UT’s Health Careers office, volunteering at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical in the Pediatric Neurosurgery Department, and teaching inmates at the Shelby County Correctional Center on health-related issues encountered in correctional facilities, a past program sponsored by Alpha Omega Alpha.

After completing her dual degree, Dillard plans to pursue a residency in neurosurgery in a program that will allow some flexibility to pursue her research interests as well. She is drawn to neuro-oncology especially high grade adult brain tumors and hopes to be instrumental in developing novel therapies that can increase survival and quality of living in patients suffering from malignant tumors.

Nurse Anesthesia Class of 2009 Scores 100%

The College of Nursing would like to congratulate the nurse anesthesia December class of 2009 for a job well done. All 13 graduates passed the National Certifying Exam on the first attempt. This is an outstanding achievement and the NCE scores are particularly impressive due to its recent revision for increased complexity.
Epidemiology Students Improve Community Health

Students in the Epidemiology Graduate Program at UTHSC are applying their clinical, translational, and community-oriented research skills to improve community health through involvement with the Department of Preventive Medicine’s ACAR unit (Academic Consortium for Applied Research). They are also working on projects targeting violence prevention, maternal/child health, physical fitness and obesity, areas named as public health priorities by the nation’s Healthy People 2010 initiative.

In the ACAR unit, research projects and program evaluations identify and address community needs related to family violence, building an integrated community response to reduce risk and increase resources for victims, service providers, law enforcement, and policymakers in the community setting.

Ashley Miller is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to map and track clusters of domestic violence in Shelby County, which will help target interventions and resources to areas of greatest need. Natalee Peart is developing a data report to assist ACAR research aimed at improving the service and enforcement of domestic-violence protection orders in Memphis. Bintu Marong is developing a complex dataset based on merging of multiple data sources on homelessness in Memphis, assisting ACAR research on the relationship between family violence and homelessness, especially the impact of homelessness on children.

In other departmental research focused on children and families, Angela Lloyd and Christina Brown are involved with Team PLAY (Positive Lifestyles for Active Youngsters), a family-centered initiative examining ways to help prevent and treat excess weight and obesity in children aged four through seven years. Angela says, “At Team PLAY, we’re learning how to use data systems like FileMaker Pro, how grant-funded studies are run, and how intervention methods are applied.

We get to interact with patients on a weekly basis, which will help in any career we may take in the health care field.” Christina adds, “Working with Team PLAY has really brought research studies to life for me. It has allowed me to experience the pros and cons of research that I have heard about in classes.”

April Nellum is using SAS statistical software to work with data from the Blues Project, a clinic and home-based intervention effort aimed at preventing infant deaths, premature delivery, and low birth weights in Shelby County, especially among young, at-risk African-American mothers facing socio-economic barriers that may adversely affect maternal/child health outcomes. Memphis has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation.

The Epidemiology Program, chaired by Pamela D. Connor, PhD, who also directs the ACAR unit in the Department of Preventive Medicine, emphasizes courses and mentorship to advance the skills, research methods, and interdisciplinary interests of health scientists who want to translate fundamental scientific discoveries into practical clinical applications and community health improvements.

Simonne Nouer, MD, PhD is the program director. Epidemiology graduates are contributing to research in many areas, including pediatrics, infectious diseases, critical care, surgery, ophthalmology, pulmonology, neurology, nephrology, genetics, geriatrics, comparative medicine, pharmacology, and other fields.

For more information on the program, please contact ewebb@uthsc.edu or dconnor@uthsc.edu.
Student pharmacist Jocasta Gee administers a bone density test to a visitor during the Annual CPR Training/Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy. The event was held on Saturday, February 13, at Independent Presbyterian Church.

In March, the UT Chapter of the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year. Check the next Record for the full story.

If you are traveling west on Union Avenue, when you get to Manassas, look up and to your left. There you will see the latest billboard showing our new domain name. UTHSC plans to continue our “Right Here in Memphis” campaign in the next fiscal year. Look for different billboard advertisements in upcoming months.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

HEI Surgeon Operates in Uganda

Recently James Fleming, MD, professor of Ophthalmology, was one of 10 surgeons (DC10) invited by the federal government to attend a conference on advanced ophthalmic surgery. He is photographed on the Orbis plane in Uganda performing surgery on a 16-year-old with burn-deformed eyelids.

2010 Chili Soup Cook-Off

On February 12, the Finance and Operations Department held the Susan T. Rains Memorial Chili Soup Cook-Off. Susan, former director of accounts payable and payroll, passed away in November. She had a great talent for bringing people together in friendship and celebration.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

COP Participates in Health Fair

Student pharmacist Jocasta Gee administers a bone density test to a visitor during the Annual CPR Training/Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy. The event was held on Saturday, February 13, at Independent Presbyterian Church.

In March, the UT Chapter of the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year. Check the next Record for the full story.

If you are traveling west on Union Avenue, when you get to Manassas, look up and to your left. There you will see the latest billboard showing our new domain name. UTHSC plans to continue our “Right Here in Memphis” campaign in the next fiscal year. Look for different billboard advertisements in upcoming months.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

HEI Surgeon Operates in Uganda

Recently James Fleming, MD, professor of Ophthalmology, was one of 10 surgeons (DC10) invited by the federal government to attend a conference on advanced ophthalmic surgery. He is photographed on the Orbis plane in Uganda performing surgery on a 16-year-old with burn-deformed eyelids.

2010 Chili Soup Cook-Off

On February 12, the Finance and Operations Department held the Susan T. Rains Memorial Chili Soup Cook-Off. Susan, former director of accounts payable and payroll, passed away in November. She had a great talent for bringing people together in friendship and celebration.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

COP Participates in Health Fair

Student pharmacist Jocasta Gee administers a bone density test to a visitor during the Annual CPR Training/Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy. The event was held on Saturday, February 13, at Independent Presbyterian Church.

In March, the UT Chapter of the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year. Check the next Record for the full story.

If you are traveling west on Union Avenue, when you get to Manassas, look up and to your left. There you will see the latest billboard showing our new domain name. UTHSC plans to continue our “Right Here in Memphis” campaign in the next fiscal year. Look for different billboard advertisements in upcoming months.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

HEI Surgeon Operates in Uganda

Recently James Fleming, MD, professor of Ophthalmology, was one of 10 surgeons (DC10) invited by the federal government to attend a conference on advanced ophthalmic surgery. He is photographed on the Orbis plane in Uganda performing surgery on a 16-year-old with burn-deformed eyelids.

2010 Chili Soup Cook-Off

On February 12, the Finance and Operations Department held the Susan T. Rains Memorial Chili Soup Cook-Off. Susan, former director of accounts payable and payroll, passed away in November. She had a great talent for bringing people together in friendship and celebration.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

COP Participates in Health Fair

Student pharmacist Jocasta Gee administers a bone density test to a visitor during the Annual CPR Training/Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy. The event was held on Saturday, February 13, at Independent Presbyterian Church.

In March, the UT Chapter of the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year. Check the next Record for the full story.

If you are traveling west on Union Avenue, when you get to Manassas, look up and to your left. There you will see the latest billboard showing our new domain name. UTHSC plans to continue our “Right Here in Memphis” campaign in the next fiscal year. Look for different billboard advertisements in upcoming months.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

HEI Surgeon Operates in Uganda

Recently James Fleming, MD, professor of Ophthalmology, was one of 10 surgeons (DC10) invited by the federal government to attend a conference on advanced ophthalmic surgery. He is photographed on the Orbis plane in Uganda performing surgery on a 16-year-old with burn-deformed eyelids.

2010 Chili Soup Cook-Off

On February 12, the Finance and Operations Department held the Susan T. Rains Memorial Chili Soup Cook-Off. Susan, former director of accounts payable and payroll, passed away in November. She had a great talent for bringing people together in friendship and celebration.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

COP Participates in Health Fair

Student pharmacist Jocasta Gee administers a bone density test to a visitor during the Annual CPR Training/Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy. The event was held on Saturday, February 13, at Independent Presbyterian Church.

In March, the UT Chapter of the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP) was named Chapter of the Year. Check the next Record for the full story.

If you are traveling west on Union Avenue, when you get to Manassas, look up and to your left. There you will see the latest billboard showing our new domain name. UTHSC plans to continue our “Right Here in Memphis” campaign in the next fiscal year. Look for different billboard advertisements in upcoming months.

Ken Peterson won first place for spicy chili. Sandra Pulliam placed first for mild chili and Gwen Campbell placed first in the soup category.

HEI Surgeon Operates in Uganda

Recently James Fleming, MD, professor of Ophthalmology, was one of 10 surgeons (DC10) invited by the federal government to attend a conference on advanced ophthalmic surgery. He is photographed on the Orbis plane in Uganda performing surgery on a 16-year-old with burn-deformed eyelids.