

# On Rounds

The University of Alabama  
College of Community Health Sciences

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Winter 1992

## Summer Graduates of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program Select Practice Locations



▶ Seated (left to right): R. Barry Jones, J. David Bullock, Robert W. Fowler, Bobbi B. Adcock, Kyle K. Carter, Charles M. Eddins. Standing (left to right): Lennis K. Dippel, Matthew J. Hogan, John B. Crider, Douglas B. Fullerton, George P. Walker, IV. Not pictured: Nancy H. Lindberg and Sheryl B. McConnell.

In our last edition of *On Rounds*, we welcomed a new class of medical students and residents and acknowledged the successes of our most recent medical graduates as they received their M.D. degrees and embarked upon their residencies. In this issue, we would like to recognize the accomplishments of another special group of young men and women, the 1991 graduates of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program.

On June 18, 1991 DCH Regional Medical Center hosted a graduation dinner for the family practitioners who, after spending three years in the CCHS residency program, were about to enter a career in primary medicine. Mr. James Ford, President and CEO of DCH Healthcare Authority, acted as host in welcoming the graduates and guests. Dr. Roland Ficken, Interim Dean of CCHS, offered additional greetings on behalf of the College and University and introduced other persons at the Head Table. These notables included Mr. Bryan Kindred, Administrator of DCH, Dr. Samuel Gaskins, Director, and Dr. Paul Tietze, Assistant Director of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program, and Dr. Riley Lumpkin, the guest speaker, recently retired from CCHS and past president of the Medical

Association of the State of Alabama.

Following Dr. Lumpkin's address, special awards were presented to a number of the residents who had distinguished themselves during their interval at CCHS. The William R. Willard Award, presented annually to the outstanding first year resident, was presented by Dr. Ficken to Dr. Kathleen T. Shine. Departmental awards were conferred upon graduating residents. Dr. William Winternitz presented the Internal Medicine Award to Dr. R. Barry Jones. Dr. Bobbi B. Adcock collected both the Obstetrics/Gynecology Award from Dr. Cindy Dedmon and the Surgery Award from Dr. Arthur Snyder. The Pediatrics Award was conferred upon Dr. Kyle K. Carter by Dr. David Hefelfinger. Dr. Sheryl B. McConnell received the Psychiatry Award from Dr. Elizabeth Rand.

The ceremony continued with the following acknowledgements. VA Medical Center "Resident of the Year Awards" were presented to Dr. Lisa D. Columbia and Dr. Michael W. Peaden by Dr. Patrick McCue. The William F. deShazo, III, Family Practice Award was presented by Dr. Alan J. Maxwell to Dr. John B. Crider. Dr. Crider, along with Dr. Charles M. Eddins, received the Dean's Award along



▶ Dr. Sam Gaskins and Dr. Paul Tietze with Chief Resident, Dr. Charles Eddins.

with Chief Resident Chairs bearing the University Seal and a brass plaque for their services during the 1990-1991 residency year. Finally, completion certificates were awarded to Obstetrics Fellows Dr. Pamela H. Tietze and Dr. W. Phillip Smith.

Since that summer ceremony, eleven of these graduates have entered practices in six states and Germany. Two others, who completed the program this autumn, also will have entered practice by the time this newsletter reaches press. This group represents the 16th graduating class of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program. It brings to 165 the total number of Family Practice graduates. A list of graduating residents and their new practice locations follows: Bobbi Brister Adcock, M.D., Kingsport, Tennessee; John David Bullock, M.D., Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Kyle Kelley Carter, M.D., Jacksonville, Florida; John Benton Crider, M.D., Arab, Alabama; Lennis Kyle Dippel, M.D., Weisbaden, Germany; Charles Martin Eddins, M.D., Monroeville, Alabama; Robert Wesley Fowler, M.D., (fellowship) Tuscaloosa, Alabama;

see *Family Practice*, page 3

## Dean's Message

Academic medicine is a world in constant transition as it seeks to keep pace with the rapidly changing needs of a modern, global society. This theme was highlighted at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in November, entitled "The Broadening Environment of Academic Medicine." Such a title allows for a great deal of diversity among the topics presented in the various workshops and discussion sessions. For example, plenary session speakers addressed, "The Environment: Global Development is the Only Answer" (William D. Ruckelshaus, former Deputy Attorney General and Head of the Environmental Protection Agency); "Children and the Aged: Can Their Needs Be Reconciled?" (Daniel Callahan, Ph.D., Director of The Hastings Center); "Health Care Reform: Prospects and Progress" (John D. Rockefeller, IV, U. S. Senator, West Virginia). Common among these presentations was the call for the AAMC and its constituent medical schools to understand the health and health care delivery problems we face globally, to prepare our students and residents for these challenges, and to be proactive in developing solutions. Particularly gratifying, because of the mission we claim at CCHS, was Senator Rockefeller's understanding of the need for primary care physicians, particularly family practitioners, and his commitment to a goal of increasing their numbers. The necessary role of the primary care physician in any health care reform package was a topic of frequent discussion throughout the meetings. It feels good to be recognized. Now, we must await some substantial evidence of commitment to the rhetoric through appropriate legislation and the development of essential resources.

Speaking of resources, there is another important matter I want to bring to your attention. The University of Alabama will announce, this coming spring, the beginning of a major capital campaign. All colleges and divisions of the University will be involved. As you know, state funds are not the reliable resource they have been in the past and they have never been available at a level that would allow us to successfully pursue all of our goals. We can take pride in many successes: our outstanding residents and medical students have consistently performed above the national average on all objective measures. To preserve this success and assure the future, we must now develop private resources. To advance our commitment to better health care for rural Alabama citizens, we need to develop scholarships for rural students. And, we must strengthen our faculty through the development of several needed positions plus the provision of sufficient material resources to enable them to be effective in carrying out their responsibilities.

For those of you who are our alumni, your advice and counsel as we enter this capital campaign effort is essential to its success. You are always welcome here and we look forward to your support and encouragement.

## Research at CCHS Journal Club Participation Increases Family Practice Residents' Reading of Professional Literature

Journal clubs are used by many residency programs to promote and improve critical reading skills and to keep current with medical advances. Both tasks are essential elements in developing lifelong patterns associated with effective medical practice.

In 1988 and 1989, Dr. John Van Derwood, former resident in the Tuscaloosa Family Medicine Residency Program, Dr. Paul Tietze, co-director of the Program, and Dr. Christine Nagy, director of the Health Research Consulting Service, conducted a study of journal club activity in family practice residency programs in the southeast. Specific interests included identification of factors associated with participation, evaluation of perceived value of the club, and examination of the impact of club attendance on the reading habits of residents. Results from that study appeared in *Southern Medical Journal* in April, 1991.

To answer the questions posed, questionnaires were sent to directors of the 75 accredited family practice residency programs in the southeast. These questionnaires requested information about the program and such aspects of journal club activity as the structure and format of any organized club, attendance patterns by both faculty and residents, and the perceived value of journal club activity. In addition, questionnaires were sent to the 1450 residents then enrolled in the programs requesting similar information about the clubs along with the identity of their residency program and the amount of time and names of journals read. Responses were received from 66 directors (89% response rate) and 698 residents (49% response rate) representing each of the included programs.

84% of the programs were found to have organized journal clubs, most of which had

existed for more than five years. Most met monthly and average attendance at meetings was reported as 16. Participation rates generally increased with year of residency, so that 40% of third year residents participated in contrast to 25% of first year residents. Attendance was enhanced by faculty participation and by a positive perception of the activity by the program director.

On average the resident respondents reported spending 6.7 hours per week in reading professional literature. Although residents perceived the clubs as less valuable than program directors, most (80%) considered them to be an important part of their total educational program. Journal club participants spent significantly more time in reading both medical journals and texts than did non-participants in the same programs.

Documented benefits of journal clubs include improved ability to appraise an article critically, increased resident research productivity and increased postgraduate self-directed education. This study supports earlier findings that club participation is important in the development of early patterns of professional reading. It also suggests that journal clubs are likely to be more successful when attended by both faculty and residents and strongly supported by program directors.

## Health Sciences Library News

In a recent issue of *On Rounds*, the CCHS Health Sciences Library announced a contract with the National Library of Medicine to provide training in the use of GRATEFUL MED software. Alumni of the Family Practice Residency Program practicing in Alabama communities with populations of less than 100,000 were targeted for the contract. Training has also been provided for CCHS faculty and third year residents. To date, librarians Lisa Russell and Barbara Doughty have conducted eleven training or demonstration sessions, including two sessions at West Alabama Health Services in Eutaw, one session at Fayette County Hospital, and one session for the Jackson County Medical Society. Residency alumni Dr. Sandral Hullett, Dr. Bob Grubbs, and Dr. James Gauthier coordinated the sessions at these sites. It is not too late to contact Health Sciences librarians about scheduling demonstrations or training at other sites. For more information about this service, contact Lisa Russell at (205) 348-1360.

In other news, the library's photocopy machines were moved on October 15, 1991 to a new "photocopy room" adjacent to the Circulation Desk. It is hoped that this change will reduce the level of noise and distraction from the photocopy machines. The quieter environment should make the library more conducive for studying.

## Grants Funded

William W. Dressler, Ph.D., Professor of Behavioral and Community Medicine, received \$2,400 from the CCHS Research Committee to study "Lifestyle Incongruity, Social Support, and Chronic Disease Risk among the Mississippi Choctaw" from the CCHS Research Committee. Co-principal investigators are M. Janice Gilliland, M.A., Assistant Director of BioPrep, and James R. Bindon, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology. Dr. Dressler is the principal investigator on an \$80,000 grant funded by the National Science Foundation to study "Social Environment and Physiologic Adjustment in a Developing Society." His co-principal investigator for that study is J.E.D. Santos, M.D.

## Publications and Presentations

M. Christine Nagy, Ph.D., director of the Health Research Consulting Service, presented "Prenatal and Postpartum Depression Among Rural Alabama Blacks," a paper she co-authored with James D. Leeper, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Behavioral and Community Medicine and Sandral Hullett, M.D., at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Atlanta in November. She and Stephen Nagy presented the paper, "A Longitudinal Examination of Teacher Burnout in San Francisco," at a meeting of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance in San Francisco last April. A third paper co-authored by Dr. Nagy, "The Effect of Gender on Salary Differences Among Foodservice Directors in Accredited Hospitals," was presented in October by co-author, Elizabeth Barrett, at the American Dietetic Association's annual meeting in Dallas. That paper was also co-authored by Roy Maize.

Paul E. Tietze, M.D., associate professor of family medicine and assistant director of the Family Practice Residency Program, M. Christine Nagy, Ph.D., director of the Health Research Consulting Service, and John G. Van Derwood, M.D., former CCHS Resident, had their paper, "Journal Clubs in Family Practice Residency Programs in the Southeast," published in *Southern Medical Journal* in 1991.

John R. Wheat, M.D., assistant professor of behavioral and community medicine, was co-author, with Charles E. Killian and Donald E. Melnick, of "Reevaluation of Medical Education: A Behavioral Model to Assess Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Instruction," recently published in *Evaluation and the Health Professions*.

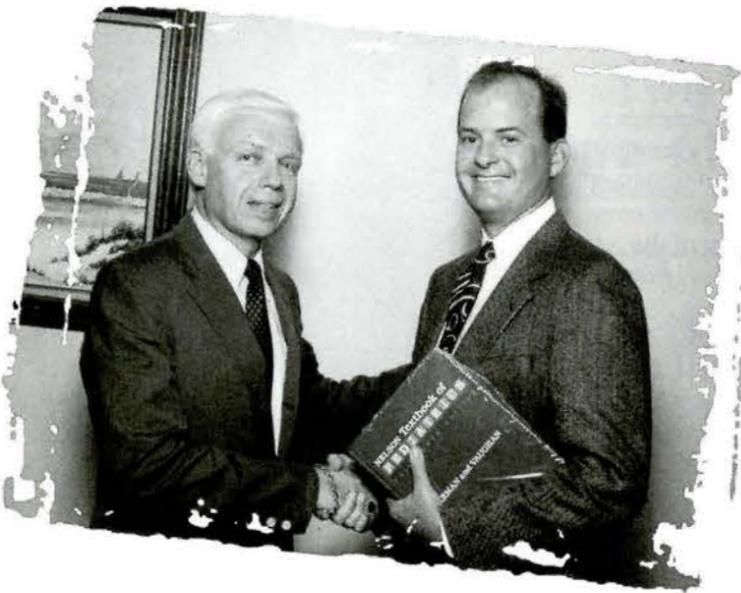
# Family Practice

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Douglas Byron Fullerton, M.D., Greeley, Colorado; Matthew James Hogan, M.D., Atlanta, Texas; Ruben Barry Jones, M.D., Tupelo, Mississippi; Nancy Hamilton Lindberg, M.D., (finished in October - practice

site unknown); Sheryl Bailey McConnell, M.D., (finished in November - practice site unknown); and George Philips Walker, IV, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama.

As always, we view these transitions with mixed feelings: sadness at our loss; pride at the accomplishments of our residents; and, most of all, optimism for the future of primary care medicine, enriched by these individuals, their skills, and their ideals. Best wishes to each of our former residents. They have already enhanced our program, as they will surely enhance the profession which they have chosen and the communities where they have settled.



▶ Dr. David Hefelfinger, Chief of Pediatrics, and Dr. Kyle Carter, recipient of the Pediatric Award.



▶ Dr. William Winternitz, Chief of Internal Medicine, presents the Internal Medicine Award to Dr. Barry Jones.



▶ Dr. Sam Gaskins, Director and Dr. Paul Tietze, Assistant Director of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program with Chief Resident, Dr. John Crider.

## Support Now Available for Persons Living With AIDS in the Tuscaloosa Area

A growing number of people living in the Tuscaloosa area are finding that their lives have been changed in some way by AIDS. Help is now available for persons living with AIDS through a confidential HIV/AIDS support group at the University of Alabama.

The only requirement for membership in the group is that one's life has been affected by the AIDS crisis. Persons with AIDS, those who test positive for the HIV virus, family members of persons with AIDS, and those who may be at risk or afraid of contracting the disease are invited to attend. Members are not required to reveal their HIV status.

The group is coordinated and co-led by Dr. Beverly Thorn, a clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychology at the University of Alabama. The other co-leader, Jennifer Wilson, is a doctoral student in clinical psychology. The group meets weekly for 1-1/2 hours at The Psychology Clinic in Gordon-Palmer Hall on the University campus. Attendance is free and the confidentiality of all participants will be safeguarded.

Many people who live with AIDS may be abandoned by family members or friends. Even those who are not rejected outright may be discouraged from talking about the disease. Support groups provide an opportunity for

individuals to talk about the disease, its symptoms, associated feelings, and the reactions of others with people who share related experiences. For many individuals this may represent their first opportunity to talk about their concerns and difficulties related with the disease or its treatment. The group will focus on such issues "health status, safer sex, and future options," according to Dr. Beverly Thorn. "We urge anyone who knows someone who could benefit from this program to refer any interested patients, friends, or colleagues to this group."

For more information about the group, contact Dr. Thorn at 205/348-5024.

# New Faculty Bring Varied Clinical and Research Experience to CCHS

Over the years CCHS has been fortunate in acquiring faculty members to enrich and strengthen the medical education, resident training, research, and patient care components of our mission. New faculty bring new emphases, approaches, and insights which continually challenge the tenets of an existing program, guard against complacency, and expand educational horizons. In 1991, CCHS will be the beneficiary of the unique experiences and interests of the following five new faculty members.

During the summer Cathy L. Gresham, M.D. joined the Department of Internal Medicine as an Assistant Professor. A native of Sylacauga, Alabama, Dr. Gresham was an honors graduate of Samford University in Birmingham where she majored in biology. She subsequently attended the University of Alabama School of Medicine and spent her clinical years in Tuscaloosa. Upon completion of her residency at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. Gresham returned to CCHS to take her current position. Her research experience has primarily concerned patients in Intensive Care Units.

Denis A. Perez, M.D. is the new Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at CCHS. Born at Ft. Benning, Georgia, Dr. Perez, who is fluent in both English and Spanish, holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. His medical education was completed in Puerto Rico where he earned the M.D. degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and held an internship and residency at University Hospital. Dr. Perez is experienced in uncomplicated and high risk obstetrics. Current research interests include evaluation of antibiotics in premature rupture of membranes of preterm infants and treatment alternatives for Rh isoimmunization.

Michael A. Taylor, M.D. has joined CCHS as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Taylor was born in Fort Hood, Texas and attended college in Kentucky. He earned a baccalaureate degree from the University of Kentucky and the medical degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine. After a residency in pediatrics at The Children's Hospital in Birmingham, he entered a private pediatrics practice first in Raleigh, North Carolina and then in Paducah, Kentucky. One of Dr. Taylor's clinical interests has been in the area of child abuse. In Kentucky he served as Child Medical Examiner for the Attorney General's Office Sexual Assault Medical Exam Protocol and was named Paducah-McCracken County Child Advocate of the Year in 1990. He has given presentations of child abuse and evaluation of pediatric sexual assault.

The Department of Family Medicine recently added an Assistant Professor, Pamela H. Tietze, M.D. Another native of Texas, Dr. Tietze was born in Graham and finished high school in Dallas. She holds both baccalaureate and master's degrees in biology from Southern Methodist University. After completing medical school at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and an internship at the University of Oklahoma Teaching Hospitals, Dr. Tietze joined the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program where she was awarded the Psychiatry Department Award. Dr. Tietze's interests include women's health care and family therapy. Dr. Tietze is married to Assistant Family Practice Program Residency Director, Dr. Paul E. Tietze.

Martha C. Tillotson is a new librarian at the Health Science Library with the rank of

Instructor at CCHS. Ms. Tillotson holds a baccalaureate and a master of library service degree from the University of Alabama. Following an internship at the University's Law School Library, she worked in the University libraries as a reference librarian and as a curriculum laboratory librarian. As the Technical Services and Systems Librarian at HSL, Ms. Tillotson is in charge of cataloguing, acquisitions, and maintaining and updating the HSL database in Amelia. An active community member, she is a member of the Arts Council and the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society.

The most recent addition to the CCHS faculty is Robert B. Ireland, Jr., M.D. Dr. Ireland comes to the Department of Family Medicine as an Assistant Professor from Clinton, Mississippi. A 1971 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a degree in engineering, Captain Ireland returned to Clinton's Mississippi College to finish his pre-medicine courses. From there he enrolled in the University of Mississippi School of Medicine from which he earned the M.D. degree. Following a family practice residency in Tuscaloosa, he again returned to Clinton, Mississippi where he entered private medical practice as a family physician for five years.



Michael A. Taylor, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

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Roland P. Ficken ..... Dean  
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