

On Rounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

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Winter, 1998

CCHS and School of Social Work Collaborate to Provide Social Work Component at Capstone Clinic

Capstone Medical Center, which has been without a social work program since 1996, is now home for a faculty member from the UA School of Social Work who is based at CMC to rebuild and implement the social services component of patient care. **Cynthia Tyler**, who was appointed to the position in February, 1998, will also supervise social work interns, confer with medical students and family practice residents

about their patients' needs, and provide counseling services in the Psychiatry/Neurology clinic at Capstone.

Capstone physicians had requested that social work services at CMC be resumed since many of the patients need help with other services in addition to the medical care they receive, said CCHS Senior Associate Dean **William Curry**, M.D. He and Social Work Dean **Lucinda Roff**, who were already developing other joint projects, decided that an interdisciplinary approach could meet the need for a social work program at the clinic while also providing academic benefits for students in both social work and medicine.

Dr. Curry said he is very pleased that CCHS and Social Work could combine their efforts to benefit both patients and students. He sees the joint position as an ideal example of University goals to provide community service and excellence in teaching. The University's research mission can also be addressed in this collaboration, he said.

"Interdisciplinary teamwork is extraordinarily important in providing effective health and mental health services," said Dean Roff. "We are delighted with the opportunity to work together in meeting patient needs and at the same time provide a site for students to get practical experience."

Ms. Tyler will also be providing some counseling to patients through the Psychiatry Department's clinic at Capstone.

"Mental health care has always been a team effort," said Dr. **Elizabeth Rand**, Chairman of the Psychiatry Department. "We are delighted to diversify our staff to include social work in addition to psychiatry and psychology. We feel especially fortunate to have an individual as experienced and capable as Ms. Tyler to take on this role."



Dr. Bill Curry, CCHS Senior Associate Dean, and Dean Lucinda Roff, UA School of Social Work, worked out a joint appointment between the two schools which provides social work services for Capstone, counseling through the psychiatry clinic at CMC, and a training site for social work interns.



Cynthia Tyler, MSW
(See profile of Tyler on page 7.)

New OB/GYN Suite Provides More Space for Busy Clinic

Part of Capstone's Overall Growth

The obstetrical and gynecological suite of the Capstone Medical Center has moved across the street into the building which houses the CMC business offices and several private practices. The space was formerly occupied by Drs. McIlwain and Carlson, oral/maxillofacial surgeons. OB/GYN patients, who often overflowed the waiting room into the halls at CMC, will now enjoy a larger, attractive waiting area and their physicians will have more examination rooms to use during clinic hours.

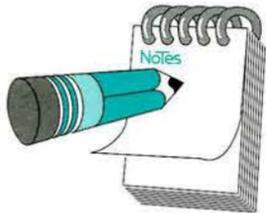
Approximately 16% of all patient visits to CMC are made to OB/GYN, and 1825 patients made 7998 visits to the OB/GYN clinic in 1997. "The OB/GYN move accommodates our increasing numbers of patients and is part of an overall growth trend at Capstone Medical Center," said **Marc Armstrong**, M.D., Medical Director of CMC.

In 1983, 8,586 patients made 27,320 visits to Capstone, increasing to 11,672 patients and 41,972 office visits in 1990. By 1995, Capstone patients came for 47,057 clinic visits; and in 1997, the number of patient visits had increased to 51,068.

(continued on p. 5)



OB/GYN faculty members, Dr. McHattie (left) and Dr. Fair, check equipment in a newly furnished exam room prior to seeing patients on their first day in the new location, February 9. The recent move provides OB/GYN with 3700 square feet of space.



Faculty Notes

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Article by McKnight and Adcock on Diagnosing Paresthesias in *American Family Physician*

Family Medicine faculty **Jerry McKnight**, M.D., Chairman of the department, and Assistant Professor **Bobbi Adcock**, M.D., are authors of an article titled "Paresthesias: A Practical Diagnostic Approach" in the December 1997 issue of the journal *American Family Physician* (pp. 2253-2260). Paresthesias -- which are usually described as burning, tingling, or numbness or feelings of cold, warmth, prickling, pins and needles, skin crawling, or itching -- are common presenting complaints, and "in most cases the history provides the key to diagnosis," says the article. The authors discuss causes of the complaint and clinical syndromes associated with the condition, including detailed charts and tables. Information on central nervous system causes and abnormalities of the peripheral nervous system are covered, and the article describes useful diagnostic procedures and lists laboratory tests which may be helpful in making a diagnosis.

McKnight and Adcock make suggestions for taking the patient history and testing sensory functions and provide detailed anatomical drawings to assist their discussion.

Family Medicine Faculty Attend National Conferences, Meetings

Dr. **Marc Armstrong**, Director of the Family Practice Residency Program, will attend the Residency Administrators Program (RAP) conference in Kansas City, March 29-31.

Dr. **Bobbi Adcock**, who coordinates the family medicine clinical training of third and fourth year CCHS medical students, attended a conference on pre-doctoral education sponsored by STFM (Society of Teachers of Family Medicine) held in New Orleans February 5-8.

Dr. **Jerry McKnight** attended the spring meeting of ADFM (Association of Directors of Family Medicine) in Miami February 18-21. Last November, he served as grant reviewer of proposals for graduate training in family medicine submitted to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

Rand's Contributions to Field of Psychiatry Have National Impact

Dr. **Elizabeth Rand**, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, is conducting a workshop at the Association for Academic Psychiatry in San Diego March 4-7, 1998. Her topic is "Issues and Methods in Teaching Psychiatry to Primary Care Physicians in Practice." Dr. Rand is concluding her two-year term as president of the Association for Academic Psychiatry this spring and has been responsible for implementing this national conference.

Dr. Rand is also serving as an examiner for the national boards (Part II examination) in psychiatry for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology March 29-31, in Chicago.

She is also preparing for three presentations to the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Toronto, Canada, during the first week of June. The topics for presentation are: "Use of the PRIME-MD in a University Student Health Service"; "Models to Guide Primary Care Psychiatry Teaching" (co-presenter Troy Thompson); and "Psychiatric Training and Primary Care" (a symposium).

Gaskins Addresses Conference on Rural Alzheimer Patients

Samuel Gaskins, M.D., Associate Professor of Family Medicine, presented two workshops at the 4th Annual Conference on Care for Alzheimer Patients in Rural Communities held last September in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Gaskins is medical director for the Harper Center, a nursing home for psychiatric patients on the Bryce Hospital campus. His workshop topics were "Comprehensive Healthcare for the Dementia Patient" and an advanced course in "Long-Term Dementia Care."

Dr. Taylor Answers Letter on ADHD in Family Med Journal

Dr. **Michael Taylor's** discussion of drug therapy for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in *American Family Physician* (2/15/97, pp. 887-901) provoked disagreement from a Michigan doctor who preferred confining use of psychostimulants "only to academic pursuits."

Dr. Taylor's response, printed in the September 1 issue (pp. 734-5), pointed out that "if indeed a child is reported to have difficulties while in the school setting only, then the diagnosis of ADHD is unlikely and the use of psychostimulants would not be appropriate management." He points out that "not all children with ADHD need medication therapy," and warns that "all too often, the physician's focus concerning medication therapy is on school problems, with little or no consideration of the other aspects of the child's life."

Dr. Taylor emphasizes that "each child's therapy should be individualized by the physician" and says that medication should be only one part of a comprehensive effort which includes behavior management techniques at home and at school and proper placement and assistance in the school system.

He issues a plea to primary care physicians to "look at all problem areas for each child with ADHD." A favorable response to drug therapy may improve a child's interactions with family members, in church and athletic activities, and with peers. For many, he says, "this will be just as important, if not more so, in improving self-esteem and school performance."

"Remember that the child is your patient, not the school system--so help the child wherever and whenever you can," he says.

Margaret Garner Selected for Leadership Tuscaloosa

Margaret Garner, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, is participating in the 1997-98 class of local leaders from all sectors of the community. "Leadership Tuscaloosa" is co-sponsored by the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce to inform and cultivate community leaders who can address issues such as education, cultural diversity, social service problems, and strategic planning. Ms. Garner was also honored by the College of Human Ecology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She was named a "Centennial Leader" as part of a 100-year celebration at the school, where she received her master's degree.

Garner is also serving as president of The University of Alabama faculty senate and is working with other college and university leaders to increase state funding for higher education. The "8 in 98" campaign urging the state legislature to approve an eight percent budget increase is based on needs created by budget cuts and several years of level funding.

In addition to these activities, Garner lectures on healthy lifestyles, diet, and nutrition topics throughout the community. In January she conducted a 5-hour workshop in Tuscaloosa for the District 8 Dental Society which was attended by about 70 people. Workshop topics were nutrition, wellness, obesity, and treatment of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

CCHS Provides Leadership for Rural Partnerships Conference

Dr. **John Wheat**, Associate Professor of BCM (Behavioral and Community Medicine), helped plan and conduct a conference with the theme "Building Rural Health Partnerships in the South" in Biloxi, Mississippi, last November. The conference was jointly sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Farm Federation, and The Southern Rural Development Center; and organized by the Southern Extension Research Activity Interest Group on Health.

The conference focused on "assisting rural communities in the South to sustain local health services in the current health policy environment," said Dr. Wheat, who served as moderator.

Attending were participants from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington, D.C. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation officials were also present.

Several conference presenters were from CCHS. **John Brandon**, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of BCM and Family Medicine, who has a family practice in Pickens County, discussed the county's successful efforts to maintain a local hospital and provide a wide array of services. **Tracy Palmer**, Director of the College's Blue Cross/Blue Shield Project to develop an insurance program for uninsured children, discussed the partnership in which the Rural Alabama Health Alliance (RAHA), Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Department of BCM, and the Bibb County Child Care Initiative worked together.

John Hagen, Assistant Administrator of the West Alabama Health Education Consortium (WAHEC), and **Susan Guin**, CRNP, Coordinator of the Rural Medical Scholars Program, made poster presentations on WAHEC and the Rural Scholars, both of which evolved from partnerships in which CCHS works with organizations and rural communities to improve local health services. Rural Medical Scholars **Danny Whitaker** and **Robbie Vickers** also represented CCHS at the conference.

Dr. Owings Awarded Renewed State and National Certifications

William O. Owings, M.D., Professor of Family Medicine, instructor of Advanced Trauma Life Support and a member of the state faculty for the course, has been renewed in this role by the American College of Surgeons. He teaches ATLS courses several times a year. Dr. Owings has also received recertification from the American Board of Family Practice.

How Standardized Patients Judge Their Own Medical Care Is Topic of Study by CCHS Faculty

Nancy Rubin, Psy. D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry; **Elizabeth Philp**, M.D., Associate Professor of Family Medicine; and CCHS researcher **Julia Hartman** were co-authors of a chapter in *Advances in Medical Education*, edited by Scherpbier, van der Vleuten, Rethans, and van der Steeg (Kluwer Academic Publishers).

Their topic, "Health Care Perceptions: Do They Change for the Standardized Patient?" was an analysis of questionnaire responses from people who were trained as standardized patients (SP) for the clinical skills evaluation of UA medical students in the 1993 and 1994 OSCEs (objective structured clinical exam). The study found that, overall, "the SP's perceptions of their own medical care and physician were positive both before and after participation as an SP. When significant changes in perception were noted, however, the changes were in the negative direction, i.e., perceiving the physician as 'worse' after participation as an SP."

Dr. Curry Appointed Senior Associate Dean

Dr. William A. Curry, CCHS Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Chair of that department, has been named Senior Associate Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences.

Interim Dean Robert Centor, M.D., announced Dr. Curry's appointment to faculty in December. The new responsibilities, which began January 1, 1998, are in addition to his role as Assistant Dean for Rural Medicine for UASOM (University of Alabama School of Medicine). Dr. Curry is also president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA).

"Dr. Curry assumes day-to-day administrative duties of the College," said Dr. Centor, who will continue to serve as Interim Dean through July 1.

Reflections . . .

by William Curry, M.D.

Spirit of Cooperation Seen as CCHS Fulfills Mission

Even a quick scan of this issue of *OnRounds* reveals a flurry of networking and interdisciplinary activities at CCHS: a joint faculty position with the School of Social Work, joint grant proposals with the College of Nursing, maternity programs in obstetrics, the pediatric "alumni" clinic of the high risk nursery, the environmental health project in community medicine, naming a coordinator of Sponsored Programs, the recent research colloquium. There are others in progress as well.

As appealing as interdisciplinary research and outreach may be, and as productive as networking has become in corporate and academic America, they can be interesting and

popular distractions if they are not tied to our mission. It was the Great Philosopher himself, legendary New York Yankee manager Casey Stengel, who said, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." We do well to quote him regularly. The projects described here would meet the Great Philosopher's test. Not only do they connect to each other in many cases, they also find their roots in the mission of CCHS: clinical education of medical students, training family practice residents, addressing the needs of rural Alabama, and associated research. It is a mission of which all of you are justly proud, and one which I am proud to join.

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Front (L-R): Anne Monfore, Alice Maxwell, Vicki Johnson, Tommy Hester, and Julie Sittason. Back: Bill Shamblin, M.D., Sammy Watson, Billy LaGrone, Roger Lacy, M.D., Bill Curry, M.D., Bill Winternitz, M.D., and Wil Coggins, M.D. Not pictured: Jim Fleming, Cathy Parker, Steve Lovelady, M.D., and Michael Taylor, M.D.

Lister Hill Board Meets

The Lister Hill Society Board members were guests of Tommy Hester at a luncheon meeting at the University Club in January. Dr. Bill Curry, CCHS Senior Associate Dean, and Vicki Johnson, who staffs the Board, joined volunteers at the meeting to discuss ways to support medical education at CCHS.

The Board formed a fund-raising planning committee, chaired by Dr. Roger Lacy. The members are Julie Sittason, Alice Maxwell, Anne Monfore, Tommy Hester, Jim Fleming, and Vicki Johnson. The Board gratefully acknowledges the 1997 Society donors listed here. They encourage your new or continued support for education of primary care physicians at CCHS.

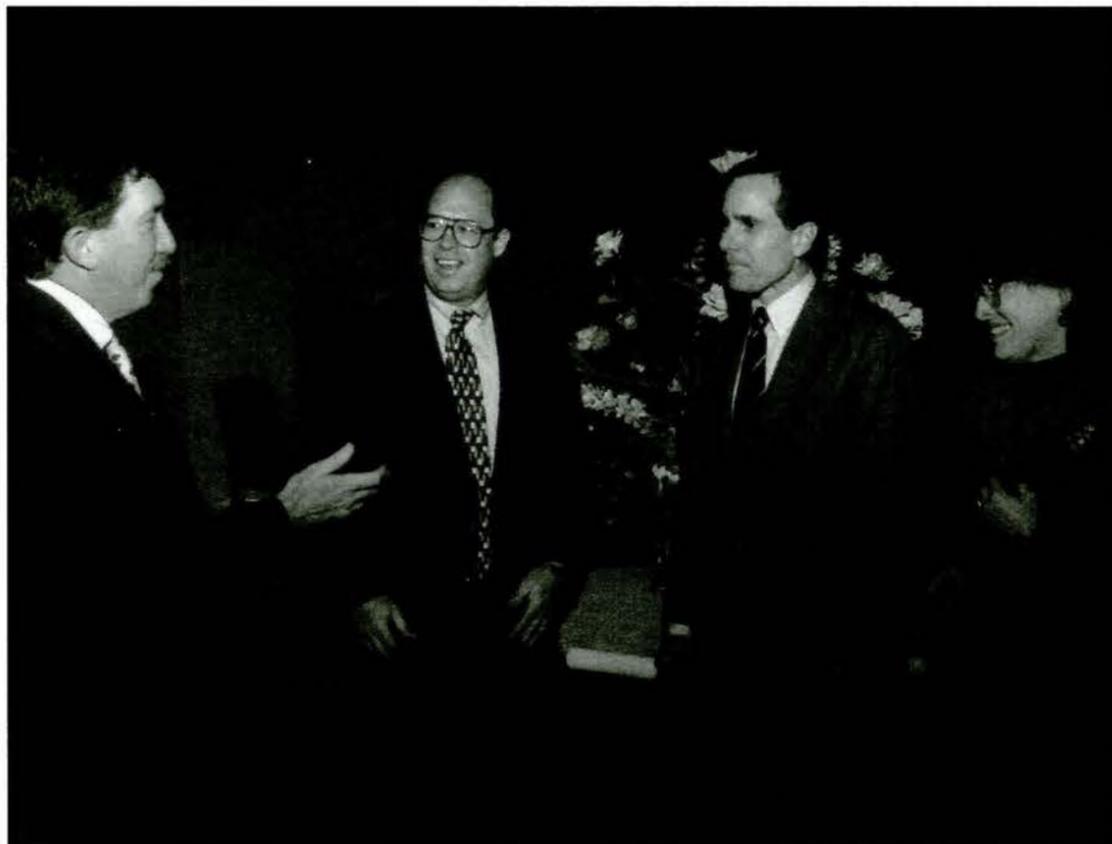
Grand Rounds Schedule Covers Variety of Topics

Grand Rounds speakers in January were from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB): Professor of Medicine/Epidemiology Dr. Edward Watson Hook, III, who spoke on STD Treatment Guidelines; Robert P. Kimberly, M.D., Director of Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology at UAB's Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Center, whose topic was "Pathogenesis of Systemic Lupus, Fc Receptors, and Insights into Nephritis and Vasculitis"; pediatrician Lane Rutledge, on "Inborn Errors of Metabolism"; and psychiatry professor Charles V. Ford, who discussed Factitious Disorders.

On February 6, E. Culpepper Clark, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Communication at The University of Alabama, presented the *First Friday* Conference on "Civil Rights: Desegregation and the Continuing Legacy." Continuing Medical Education (CME) topics for February were "Cardiovascular Surgery" by Terry Olivet, M.D., of Tuscaloosa; "Status Report on Alzheimers Disease" by Richard E. Powers, M.D., Director, Bureau of Geriatric Psychiatry at Bryce Hospital, and Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Alzheimers Disease; and "Strategies to Prevent Pre-term Birth" by Robert Goldenberg, M.D., Professor & Chairman of OB-GYN at UAB. Conferences for the rest of spring semester are:

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
March 6 FIRST FRIDAY	Gary Taylor, Ph.D. UA Professor of English	"Feeling Bodies: Emotions in Shakespeare's Plays"
March 13	Carden Johnston, M.D. Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics Children's Hospital, UAB	"Art of War and Primary Care"
March 20	John T. Carpenter, Jr., M.D. Professor of Medicine, UAB Department of Hematology/Oncology	"Breast Cancer"
March 27	John Allen Dix Cooper, M.D. Professor of Medicine, UAB Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	"Community and Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia"
<i>SPRING BREAK</i>		
April 10	William A. Spickard, Jr., M.D. Vanderbilt Medical Center Nashville, TN	"Alcoholism in a Medical Faculty"
April 17	Kurt Kroenke, M.D. Regenstrief Institute Indianapolis, IN	"The Difficult Patient"
April 24	Ricardo Azziz, M.D. Professor of Medicine UAB Dept. of OB/GYN	"New Concepts in Treatment of Menopausal Osteoporosis"
May 1 FIRST FRIDAY	Jerry Rosenberg, Ph.D. UA Department of Psychology	"The Holocaust"
May 8	James Bonner, M.D. Professor of Medicine Department of Clinical Immunology, UAB	"Asthma and the Older Patient"
May 15	Tuscaloosa Cleft Palate Team	
May 22	James Hamilton, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Psychology The University of Alabama	"The Role of Self Esteem in Factitious Illness Behavior"
May 29	Panel Discussion	"End of Life Decisions"

Note: Grand Rounds Conferences are held 12:15-1:15 pm in the Willard Auditorium in the UA Educational Tower at DCH Regional Medical Center. For information, call Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0093.

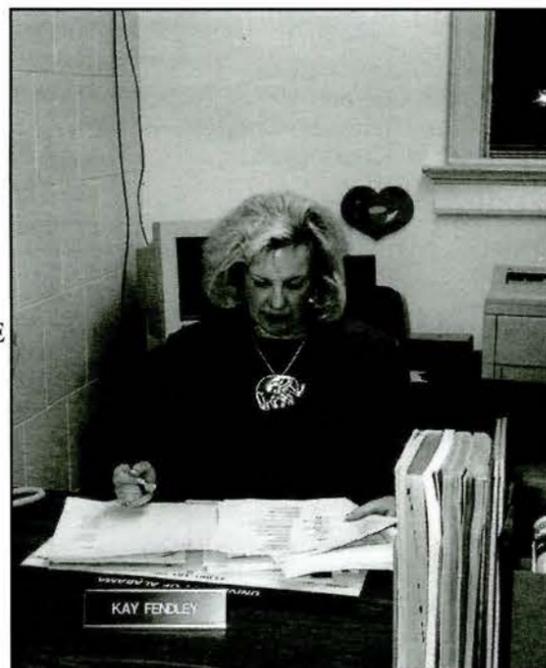


1997 CME Donors

Continuing Medical Education conferences during 1997 were sponsored in part by the contributors below. Their support makes Grand Rounds presentations possible, increasing the current information on medical research and treatment available to physicians in practice or training and others in health-related professions.

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Kay Fendley has been named Coordinator of Sponsored Programs for CCHS. She will be working with faculty to develop and fund health research proposals and interdisciplinary collaborative projects. (See related article, next page.)

CCHS hosted an interdisciplinary research colloquium on January 12. Participants included (L-R): Dr. Robert Centor, Dr. Edward W. Hook, III, Dr. Bill Curry, and Dr. Elizabeth Rand.

Speakers were Robert Centor, M.D., Crayton A. Fargason, M.D., and Edward W. Hook, III, M.D., all from UAB. Moderators were Elizabeth Rand, M.D., Chair, CCHS Research Committee, and Robert Wells, Ph.D., UA Vice President for Research and Director of The University's Office of Sponsored Programs.

The panel encouraged faculty to seek input and collaboration across disciplines, explore topics which inspired their interest and enthusiasm, and to start small and build research which can become the basis of a proposal for funding. For more information, call Kay Fendley, Coordinator of Sponsored Programs, 348-1344.

OB/GYN Clinic Moves as Capstone Patient Visits Increase (from p.1)

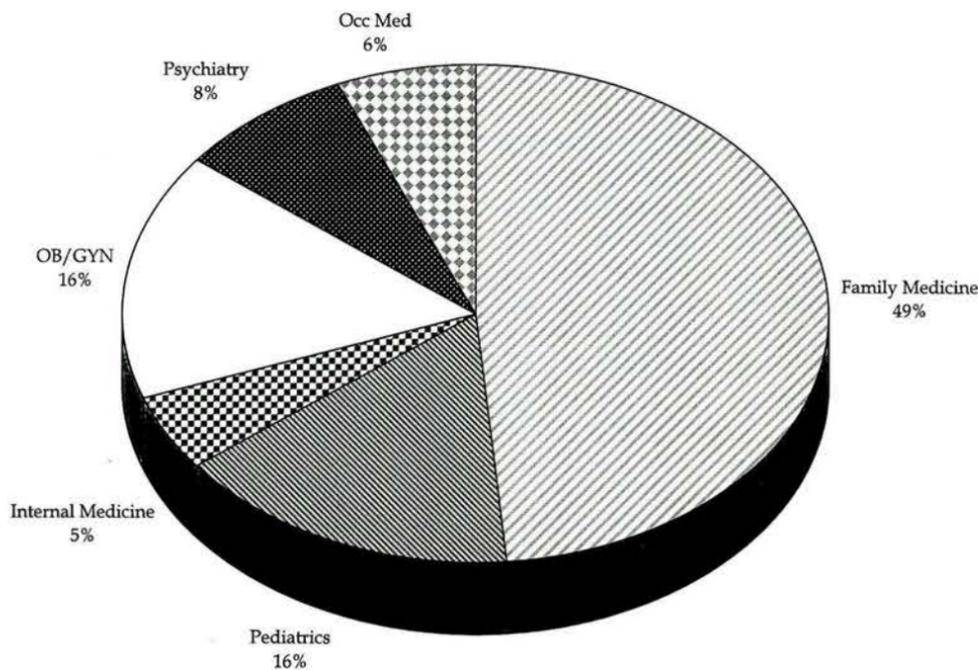
The Capstone Medical Center, a family practice center which has other specialty clinics providing patient care and training for CCHS medical students and family practice residents, offers a comprehensive array of health care services including lab testing, nutrition counseling, support groups, and pharmacy consultation.

Since CMC is home base to the family practice residency program, most of its patient visits (24,034 last year) are to family medicine clinics, primarily in Red Suite and Blue Suite. The remaining clinic visits in addition to OB/GYN are made in Pediatrics (7790 in 1997), Internal Medicine (2371 visits), Psychiatry (4018 patient visits), and Occupational Medicine (3095 clinic visits).

"Moving OB/GYN to new quarters frees space for creating new services or expanding other clinics," said **John Maxwell**, CMC Administrator.

"We are delighted to offer our patients such an attractive environment," said CCHS Senior Associate Dean **Bill Curry**, M.D. "This is an important time in a woman's life when convenience and comfort are really welcome. We hope the new offices will make our patients feel more at ease."

Capstone Medical Center - Patient Visits by Specialty
Fiscal Year 1997



Graphic by Donald Creel, Capstone Medical Center

Training for Doctors in Rural Environmental Health Is Focus of NIH Grant to CCHS Behavioral & Community Medicine

Curriculum Will Focus on Health Hazards Identified by Rural Physicians, Residents

Contaminated water and waste runoff are generally thought to be urban problems. Yet, similar environmental problems can plague the health of rural residents in almost any small, Southern town.

Preparing rural doctors to deal with these health issues is the goal of a new University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS) project, recently funded with some \$600,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for five years.

Dr. John Wheat of CCHS, a clinical branch campus of the UA School of Medicine (UASOM), is leading the project as principal investigator.

"This grant will be used to prepare us to be better able to teach and include environmental health issues in the education process. There are a lot of environmental health concerns in the Deep South and in rural Alabama, and the population would benefit from physicians having knowledge about these issues," said Wheat, associate professor of behavioral and community medicine.

For example, Wheat says, a doctor in a large city seldom has the opportunity to treat a mother and her baby who may be affected by nitrates in well water, left by the disposal of chicken waste. Or, patients who are worried about mercury or other chemicals in the catfish they catch and eat from a local river.

"The rural doctors we train will be able to respond to their patients' needs and to community concerns about how the rural environment affects their health. This new program should help the doctors we produce for Alabama have an up-to-date and complete set of health information for their respective communities," Wheat notes.

The CCHS project comes under the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences division. It is funded by an environmental/occupational medical academic award to include rural occupational and environmental health concerns into medical education.

In the first year of the project, Wheat said they would put staffing in place and get as much community response as possible. The idea is to use participation research that will require strong community involvement, he explains.

Consensus groups (made up of rural residents from a variety of occupations and lifestyles) will be set up across the state to help determine the most pressing health care concerns based on their real-life experiences. The plan is to then integrate these concerns into the curriculum taught to medical students and residents in training at the UASOM.

"The main objective is to produce primary care graduates who understand the major environmental/occupational medical needs of rural residents, and who understand how to address these specific health concerns through appropriate medical care," Wheat says.

Producing more rural physicians has long been a goal of the medical program in Tuscaloosa, and Wheat says this new grant gives the program an additional dimension. "Just last year we began our Rural Medical Scholars Program as an answer to one of the state's most critical health care problems - the need for more rural doctors. Now, we will be able to train those doctors in the best possible way to meet current health care needs of the population they will serve," he says.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program selects and prepares 10 outstanding rural scholars each year for family medicine or primary care practice in Alabama. The 10 students from rural Alabama towns are able to enroll in preparatory courses on the UA campus in Tuscaloosa in the year prior to matriculation to medical school.

The new environmental program will work jointly with the Rural Medical Scholars program to provide hands-on experience for rural doctors in training. Already, Wheat has taken the medical students to observe the catfish industry and how it impacts the health of rural residents. Some 20 pre-med and medical students are in the scholars program and they will be a part of the new rural environmental project, as well. The curriculum which is developed will affect the entire medical school student body, said Dr. Wheat.

Projects like these are especially timely for our state, Wheat adds, when you consider that three-quarters of Alabama's counties have a doctor shortage in either the whole county or among a poverty population. These programs are a way to continue the momentum generated by UA and, hopefully, address critical health care needs.

According to data from the Alabama Department of Public Health, there is a shortage of family doctors across the state. "We need more than 100 family doctors now, and many communities depend on doctors nearing retirement or those who are only temporarily in the community," Wheat notes.

The focus of education and research at CCHS is community health, especially in rural areas. CCHS emphasizes family practice and other primary care disciplines, as well as providing education for third- and fourth-year medical students.

-Linda Hill
UA News Bureau

Note: This article was originally published in *Dialog*, the faculty and staff newsletter of The University of Alabama.

Multidisciplinary Follow-up Brings Wide Range of Professionals Together to Treat Special Pediatric Patients

High Risk Clinic at Capstone Benefits Students as Well as Babies

Every Wednesday afternoon at the Capstone Medical Center, a multi-disciplinary team of professionals meets in the pediatrics clinic to see babies and children who have special problems or who may be at risk for development problems. Though the number of patients with appointments varies each week, it is usually a very busy afternoon for the team. Four to fifteen or more high risk patients may be there on a given clinic day. Each child's visit lasts an hour or more, and the clinic coordinator moves children and parents from one specialist to the next as they receive expert care and counseling related to the needs of the patient.

High Risk Clinic in the Pediatrics suite at Capstone benefits not only its patients. CCHS family practice residents and medical students get the opportunity to observe and participate in a multidisciplinary treatment setting for babies at risk. Students in other disciplines who are learning to work together to improve outcomes for children who are disabled or at risk for developmental delay also benefit from attending the clinic.



DCH audiologist Yolanda Kelley (left) tests the hearing of an infant at the High Risk Clinic at Capstone as Melinda Milford, a UA audiology graduate student, uses the specialized equipment to record the results. Hearing tests are part of a routine examination for patients at the clinic. Premature infants are at greater risk for hearing loss, which can delay speech and intellectual development.



Ashley Evans, M.D., a pediatrician at CCHS, holds a two-year-old who was born prematurely. He got to play with the stethoscope before she examined him as part of his follow-up care for babies born at risk in West Alabama. Dr. Evans is medical director for the weekly High Risk Clinic at Capstone Medical Center.

"We see babies and young children for a variety of reasons and our team jointly develops a care plan for each patient," says Dr. **Ashley Evans**, Medical Director of the clinic. "We get referrals from the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) for babies who weigh less than three pounds and five ounces or 1500 grams. These are usually premature infants, but NICU also refers babies who suffered low oxygen at birth or had neonatal meningitis or neonatal seizures." Babies born to drug-users or infants who might suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) are also considered high risk.

Pediatricians and family physicians who want special consultation also send patients to the clinic for evaluation and follow-up. During a clinic visit, a child is examined by or has access to several specialists, including a pediatrician or neonatologist, a nurse, nutritionist, social worker, speech therapist, audiologist, occupational and physical therapists, and a developmental specialist. The team then confers on each case to develop a care plan and referrals for special services. Follow-up appointments and regular checkups are scheduled as needed in each case. The High Risk Clinic is not for sick babies or emergency care, and it is not a substitute for regular medical care.

"We complement the normal care provided by the child's own physician," said Dr. Evans. "We look for indications of special problems and early signs of developmental delay. Medically, I check head circumference for possible neurological problems. I look for cerebral palsy, which is an emerging disability, 'failure to thrive,' chronic lung disease, anemia, and speech, vision, or hearing problems." Other team members screen or test children as needed during the clinic, or patients are referred to other specialists for evaluation or to special treatment services or community programs.

The High Risk Clinic is covered by most private insurance companies and by Medicaid. If neither is available, there is limited state grant money to fund patient visits for children who qualify.

"The goal of the clinic, which receives support from state perinatal funds, is to reduce infant mortality and morbidity and improve child

development," said **Linda Boyd**, RN, MSN, MPH, who serves as Prevention Coordinator with the State of Alabama and coordinator of the High Risk Clinic. She also manages "Family Connections," a related early intervention program funded by the state.

"Being medical director of this clinic is an unexpected perc for me," said Dr. Evans, who is also Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CCHS. She has always had special interest in disabled children, and she is particularly devoted to the interdisciplinary approach to making sure children get the services they need.

"Our patients come from all over West Alabama," she said. "It is important to discover problems early and treat them as soon as possible. This clinic makes the right people available in one place." Dr. Evans is available to confer with any physician or parent who thinks a child might need special care." For more information, call Dr. Evans at (205) 348-1309.



Taking a moment during a busy clinic afternoon, several members of the High Risk Clinic team consult on the cases of children attending that day. At the conclusion of every Wednesday afternoon clinic, the team meets to discuss each patient and develop joint follow-up treatment plans. Seated: Yolanda Kelley (left), Audiologist, DCH Regional Medical Center; and Margaret Garner, a registered dietician and assistant professor of Family Medicine at CCHS and staff member at Capstone Medical Center; Standing (L-R): Melinda Milford, UA graduate student in audiology; Mary Beth Vick, Community Service/Early Intervention service Coordinator, Partlow Developmental Center; Jenny Kingrey, UA Social Work intern; Carolyn Neiswander, Clinic coordinator and social worker, Partlow; Tara Shanner, a UA food and nutrition major and staff member in CMC Medical Records Department; Barbara Burgess, UA Speech and Language Pathologist; and Carla McLendon, occupational therapist, DCH. Team members not pictured are: Melinda Wheeler, physical therapist, DCH; Linda Boyd, Prevention Coordinator, state of Alabama; and Jill Livingston, developmental specialist, RISE (a UA infant stimulation and early intervention program), and Dr. Ashley Evans, medical director of the clinic.

Tyler to Head CMC Social Services Program

Cynthia W. Tyler, MSW, has been appointed as director of social services at the Capstone Medical Center. She comes to CMC from Brewer Porch Children's Center, a children's mental health program at The University of Alabama. Since 1995, she has developed and administered child mental health clinical services and organized crisis intervention services for children in rural counties surrounding Tuscaloosa.

A Tuscaloosa native, Ms. Tyler earned three degrees at UA: a BS in Home Ec, an MA in Political Science, and a Master of Social Work with Clinical Specialization.

Prior to her work at Brewer Porch, she provided group therapy for Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham, leading patient groups for adults, adolescents, geriatric patients, and intensive care patients. She also worked with the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) at the UA School of Law for twelve years where she served as a case advocate, outreach coordinator, and mental illness advocate coordinator.

She has also worked with state social work departments in Alabama and Tennessee and has experience with the food stamp and ADC (Aid to Dependent Children) public assistance programs. She has worked with the Red Cross in Nashville, Tennessee, in youth services and the Service to Military Families program, and as Director of Social Services for the Tuscaloosa County Chapter of Red Cross.

Ms. Tyler has participated on multi-disciplinary treatment teams at VA; she served on an interdisciplinary committee on welfare reform; and she developed a successful employment training program for welfare recipients who learned to be behavior aides for children with mental health problems. She is past chairperson of the West Alabama unit of the National Association of Social Workers, has been a Headstart Council member and board member for a spouse abuse agency, and is co-founder of Tuscaloosa Peace Links, Inc.

Mrs. Tyler and her husband Greg, a Tuscaloosa attorney, are parents of 17-year-old twin sons.

Research Luncheon Series

The CCHS Research Committee is hosting an interdisciplinary Research Lunch Series during spring semester. Presenters scheduled are:

- February 23: **Beverly Thorn, Ph.D.**
Professor of Psychology &
Director of Clinical Training
- March 23: **Elizabeth Philp, M.D.**
Associate Professor
of Family Medicine
- April 27: **Debra Nelson-Gardell, Ph.D.**
Assistant Professor
UA School of Social Work
- May 25: **Susan Gaskins, D.S.N.**
Associate Professor
Capstone College of Nursing

For more information, call **Elizabeth Rand, M.D.**, Chair, CCHS Research Committee, 348-1325.

BCM Researcher to Lead Health Roundtable at National Forum

Tracy Palmer, a graduate student in Human Environmental Sciences who is doing research with Behavioral and Community Medicine faculty, **John Wheat, M.D.**, and Dr. **Jim Leeper**, on the Bibb County Child Caring Initiative, will facilitate a roundtable discussion at the Coalition for Healthier Cities and Communities' 1998 Policy Forum, "Innovations: Healthy Communities Building a Productive Workforce." She has been awarded a travel fellowship from the American Hospital Association for her trip to lead discussion on the impact healthy children have on building healthy communities.

Notes from Alums



Family Medicine Alumni Donors Recognized for 1997 Gifts

Alumni contributing in 1997 to the Residents Drive for an Endowed Chair in Family Medicine are:

Dr. J. Russell Barnes
Dr. Robin Spoone Barton
Dr. Thomas J. Burchett
Dr. Lisa D. Columbia
Dr. Martha H. Crenshaw
Dr. Mark Fred Dean
Dr. Edgar N. Donahoe, Jr.
Dr. Richard L. Gardner
Dr. Bob Arvid Grubbs
Dr. Johnstone Pow Hollis
Dr. S. Catherine Huggins
Dr. Sandral Hullett-Robertson
Dr. Michael Leigh McBrearty
Dr. Karen Elizabeth Stone
Dr. Wilson Larry Tucker
Dr. Timothy Earl Whalen
Dr. Thomas P. Winkler

Dr. Ponder Practicing with Fellow CCHS Grad in Florida

Ken Ponder, M.D., a 1991 medical school graduate, is in private practice in Niceville, Florida, near Fort Walton. The Niceville area has a population of less than 30,00, he says, and he considers it "lower Alabama." He is in practice with **William Abernathy, M.D.** who graduated with him from CCHS. They each completed an internal medicine residency at the Orlando Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Ponder and his wife Sarah had their first baby (Claire Elizabeth) in December. They get back to Tuscaloosa on occasion, usually at UA's Homecoming.

Streiffer Chairs New Department of Family & Community Medicine at Tulane University

Rick Streiffer, M.D., a 1980 graduate of the Residency program, reports "lots of Tuscaloosa influence in New Orleans," where he becomes chairman of the new Department of Family and Community Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine on March 1.

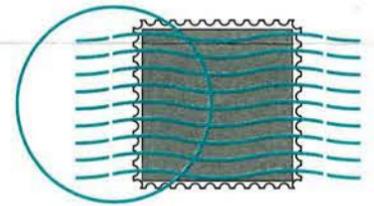
"**Russ Anderson** (formerly family medicine faculty at CCHS) is just down the street at LSU," he explains.

Dr. Streiffer has been program director for the family medicine residency at the Baton Rouge General Medical Center.

Clip and return!

Notes from Alums

Please send alumni news to *OnRounds* to share with former classmates, other alums, and faculty. Be sure to include the date of your CCHS graduation and your current address and phone numbers. We are interested in where you are practicing and other personal or professional updates since you left the college: additional training, practice information, articles published, community service, local newspaper clippings about you, presentations or courses taught, honors, elected positions, career changes, hobbies, etc.) Send pictures if available.



Name: _____
(first) (last) (maiden or name used at graduation)

Graduate of program? (MS ___ or Resident ___) Graduation date: _____

Present Position/Organization/Address: _____

Office phone: _____ Home phone: _____

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News for *OnRounds* _____

Please enclose other info (including photos).

Return to: Vicki Johnson, CCHS • (205) 348-0093
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Capstone Celebrates Christmas with Gifts for Needy Patients and "a Resident Santa"

Thirteen Capstone patients and their families received a holiday ham and grocery gift certificate to brighten Christmas. Ziegler Meats contributed the hams. Each suite at the Capstone Medical Center chose one or more patients who needed the food, and CMC employees donated money for the gift certificates. Other contributions were made by Ross Products with Abbott Pharmaceuticals, Schering Laboratories, Poly Pharmaceuticals, Tuscaloosa Physical Therapy, TAP Pharmaceuticals, and Merck and Company. Over \$1100 was collected.

Proceeds from a drawing for a set of porcelain nativity angels and one of Charlotte Barger's homemade Red Velvet cakes added to total.

Members of the Christmas Basket Committee this year were Jackie Clark, Debbie Warren, Charlotte Barger, and Becky Tierce. The committee conducted the Christmas project with the support of the BEST Committee at Capstone Medical Center. The purpose of BEST (Better Employees Serving Together) is to help provide patients of CMC with quality medical care while working to assure that the

clinic maintains financial viability. Serving on the BEST Committee this year are John Maxwell (Chair), Marc Armstrong, MD, Sylvia Bostic, Miriam Bradley, Jackie Burkhalter, Lynne Cabbill, Teresa Cook, Sylvia Cottingham, Terry Grosse, Gaye Harbin, Dianne Kerr, Nancy Matthews, Bob Moore, William Owings, MD, Melanie Powell, MD, Debbie Pullen, Becky Tierce, Debbie Warren, Debbie Watson, Sherry Wedgeworth, Chris Sward, MD, and Kent Kanatani, MD.



Left: The CMC Christmas Basket Fund Committee members hold grocery gift certificates like those given to indigent patients. Pictured outside Blue Suite at Capstone Medical Center are (L-R) Charlotte Barger, Jackie Clark, Becky Tierce, and Debbie Warren.



Right: Santa and his helper, Rob Hankenhof and daughter Julia, were dressed for the occasion when the Residents and their families gathered for a Christmas party.

Right: Enjoying Christmas festivities were wives and children of the Family Practice residents (L-R): Londa Haskell and Shawn, Stephanie Freeman and Frances, Angela Smelley and McKenzie, and Dana Stidham with Gabe.



OnRounds

The University of Alabama
College of Community Health Sciences

OnRounds is published with the assistance of the Lister Hill Society. The Lister Hill Society, named in honor of the late U.S. Senator from Alabama who worked for better health care for all citizens, is the voluntary support group for CCHS, the College of Community Health Sciences. The focus of this branch of the University of Alabama School of Medicine is community medicine and primary care, especially in the preparation of family physicians to care for patients in rural areas.

Contributions from alumni and friends to the Lister Hill Society fund cash awards to recognize outstanding medical students and residents, special projects to enhance medical education curriculum or facilities, student travel to professional meetings, alumni publications, research expenses, and library information.

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