Willard Auditorium and Classrooms Now Equipped with Multi-Media Technology

The University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences

Volume 9, Number 1 Winter 1999

Dr. Tietze Dies

Paul Elliott Tietze, MD, Chair of Family Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Tulsa, died January 27, 1999, at the age of 48 after a year-long battle with cancer. Dr. Tietze was a member of the Family Medicine faculty, 1985-93 and Assistant Director for the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency. He also, for several years, was Director of Medical Student Affairs at CCHS.

"Dr. Tietze was well liked and highly respected by his colleagues, the residents and medical students, and his patients as both a physician and a friend," said CCHS Family Medicine Associate Professor Sam Gaskins, MD. "Teaching young physicians and medical students was one of his highest priorities. He was the first family practice faculty member to receive a teaching award from the residents. He made many contributions to our medical education program here at CCHS and then moved on to Chair the Department in Tuscaloosa and establish their Family Medicine teaching program as one of the finest in the Southwest.

Dr. Tietze was one of the most compassionate doctors I have ever known," said Kelvin Sherman, MD, a family physician in Waynesboro, Mississippi, who was also Chief Resident that year. "He was always concerned about our residents and their education. It is a great shock to learn of his death. Dr. Tietze is truly a role model for what a family practitioner should be.

Dean Emeritus Wilter Coggins, MD, of Tuscaloosa, credited Dr. Tietze with major contributions to CCHS programs in medical education, research, and service. He extended heartfelt condolences to Dr. Pamela Tietze on behalf of all faculty, staff, students, and residents and expressed how much Dr. Tietze had meant to everyone during his tenure here.

Jerry McKnight, MD, Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine remembers Dr. Tietze as "an excellent physician and teacher who displayed compassion for those individuals less fortunate in life."

(Carrel Room renovation with computer installation has also been completed. Chalk boards have been replaced with marker boards. The Carrel renovation work to be completed during March and April.

A portable presentation unit (with document camera and laptop computer) should be delivered in March. It will be housed in the Health Sciences Library, available for faculty to check out. CCHS Dean William Curry said the projects were funded through a grant from the UA Provost's office. Provost Nancy Barrett also supported CCHS computer upgrades.

The Medical Informatics Committee at CCHS was formed to advise the Dean on advances in electronic capabilities and continue the progress begun with installing personal computers college-wide. The committee, chaired by Dr. Thomas McHattie, Associate Professor of OB/GYN, includes Dr. Taylor, Dr. Bob Irland, Associate Professor of Family Medicine; Dr. Jim Leeper, Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine; Dr. Charles Taylor, an Auburn University Pharmacy faculty member associated with the CCHS Internal Medicine; Lisa Russell, Director of the Health Sciences Library; Donald Creel, Coordinator of Business Services at Capstone Medical Center; Julia Hartman, CCHS Research Specialist; and Shirley Florence and LeVada Grantham, Assistants to the Dean.

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Producing Doctors with an Attitude

by William A. Curry, MD, Dean

In the February 1 New York, a former Clinton administration health policy advisor, and Gawande, MD, now a surgical resident, addresses the problem of physician "sentinel events" (objective structured clinical exams) for third year medical students. A standardized patient (SP) is trained to simulate specific medical conditions during OSCE (objective structured clinical exams) for third year medical students. The study examines whether shifts in perception of their own medical care may be related to the SPs becoming more interested in clinical outcomes and patient experiences.

My natural response is to examine these questions in the setting of our own clinical teaching program. We need conferences like the "M & M" that openly examine our decisions. (We have them.) We need systems to monitor "sentinel events" that can alert us to opportunities for improving the way the system works. (We have them too.) We need involvement by medical education committees. (We have them in abundance.) Departmental faculty need to meet and discuss their student's and resident's progress. (They do.

These are the responses of an administrator. To them, Gawande wisely responds in his article that the "Quality Improvement" approach alone cannot do the job. It's that being human factor that does us in. What we're really talking about is how is to be responsible doctors who will stay responsible. If that done, then the systems can help them.

To educate and train medical students and family practice residents, to provide services to patients that enable medical education to take place, and to engage in necessary research to support the educational and service components. The service area of the college is rural Alabama.

The mission of the College of Community Health Sciences

Like Caesar's ancient Gaul, all of medical education can be divided into three parts: knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The knowledge and the skills get plenty of attention, and while there are likely academic arguments about them, no one would argue that they will be overlooked entirely. Attitudes are a different matter. The SAT, MCAT, USMLE, and National Boards do not measure them. All of us, even in the most personalized educational settings, find we use the problem-solving approach, not the knowledge tool, to think about the problems relating to them. Yet we have to acknowledge that the dissatisfaction of patients and society with health care has less to do with the knowledge and skills, and more to do with how those powerful tools are applied. I contend that one way to understand how such a system of good medicine can be achieved is to look at the third member of the triad, at the attitudes of physicians.

So where does this lead us? I believe it takes CCHS straight to the heart of our mission. We are asking more of our faculty, staff, students, and residents, than knowledge and skill. We ask for good judgement and clear purpose in how those powerful tools are to be employed. Medicine as a profession, like any profession, is characterized by self-regulation. An individual physician must be self-regulating for his own limits and the need for help. There would only be one way to understand how such a system of good medicine can be achieved is to look at the third member of the triad, the attitudes of physicians.

Where do we go from here? We have to ask ourselves, as individuals, what our attitudes toward ourselves produce self-honesty and accountability. We need involvement by medical education committees. (We have them in abundance.) Departmental faculty need to meet and discuss their student's and resident's progress. (They do.

The first Alabama Rural Health Conference has been postponed until next spring. In the last issue, OnRounds announced that the conference had been postponed for April, 1999. Due to scheduling conflicts, the conference will not be held this spring. CCHS is continuing to develop the interdisciplinary program planned for a statewide symposium on rural health issues. More information, contact the Dean's Office, attn: Kay Hendley, Box 870256, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326. (205) 348-1344. Kayhendley@cchst.edu

Byrd and Taylor Achieve Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy

Debbie C. Byrd, Pharm.D., and Charles T. Taylor, Pharm.D., have each earned the designation of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. This is pharmacy's highest credential in the specialty practice of pharmacotherapy. Both are members of Auburn University School of Pharmacy faculty associated with CCHS: Dr. Byrd with Family Medicine; and Dr. Taylor with Internal Medicine. Board certification is a voluntary process for those already licensed and indicates that the pharmacist has demonstrated advanced knowledge and skills — beyond what is required for licensure. Specialists are responsible for ensuring the safe, appropriate, and economical use of drugs in patient care and frequently serve as a primary source of information for other health care professionals. More than 3000 licensed pharmacists in Alabama, Byrd and Taylor are two of only 14 who are Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy.

Hefelfinger writes for AAMC on Japanese Residents' Education

David Hefelfinger, MD, Chair of Pediatrics, was author of "Graduate Medical Education at Chubu Hospital, Okinawa, Japan" in the December issue of Academic Medicine, the journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Hefelfinger spent three months during his 1996 sabbatical as Visiting Professor at Japan's Chubu Hospital. He worked with Japanese pediatrics residents who generally get very little practice in basic patient-care tasks such as history taking and physical examination. He interviewed the 65 residents about their training and how they felt about publishing basic pediatric procedures. He concluded that more attention should be given to training in general clinical skills in Japanese residency and compared that conclusion with similar concerns that have been raised about U.S. residency training.

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Child Caring Initiative Helping Communities Get Health Insurance Coverage for Children

There are health consequences for uninsured children in rural Alabama. Research has shown a correlation between their insurance coverage and health outcomes.

Uninsured children are at an increasing dilemma in the United States, particularly in Alabama. According to the 1997 Current Population Survey an estimated 15%, or 179,000 Alabama children had no health insurance for all of 1996. Structural changes in the economy and workplace have shifted responsibility for insurance coverage from private to public sectors. While public providers with such programs as Medicaid and ALL-Kids have expanded eligibility levels, many children continue not to be enrolled due to a lack of information and socio-cultural barriers. In an effort to surmount these barriers, the Child Caring Initiative (CCI) was formed to provide for local control of outreach efforts to ensure that children enroll into a health insurance program.

Begun in Bibb County, Alabama, in December 1995, CCI is a community-driven program linking underserved school children with health insurance, family physicians, and community volunteers to increase the number and percentage of children who have health insurance. The mission of the Child Caring Initiative is to assure that every child in the community is enrolled in a health insurance program, receives medical care and health information appropriate to age, and develops expectations about personal health and hygiene. The Initiative was replicated to Fayette County in May 1997. CCI represents a collaborative effort among Bibb County, Fayette County, UA's College of Community Health Sciences, Capstone College of Nursing, the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. A local policy board directs the day-to-day activities, which include conducting child health screenings through the local school system for the identification of child health needs and active outreach and enrollment efforts for families needing health insurance.

The University of Alabama is assisting communities in managing and analyzing their health fair data. Research on results from Bibb County's health fairs examines the relationship between health insurance and child health outcomes based on data gathered during the Initiative's first two years, 1996 and 1997. Data were gathered on a cohort of school-aged children, kindergarten through grade 12, from a single rural west Alabama community. Nearly 16% of children participating in Year 1 were uninsured. This figure was reduced to 12% in Year 2. The most frequently identified health abnormalities included dental, visual, and auditory health deficits; and the local community chose to focus their efforts to reducing the prevalence of these problems, particularly dental and visual deficits. Year 2 outcomes revealed significant reductions in the number of referrals given for abnormalities, with an almost 50% reduction in dental referrals.

- Tracy Palmer
CCHS Project Director
Child Caring Initiative

Dr. Tietze (Continued from page 1)

"Paul was a big, kind-hearted man with a great sense of humor and keen wit. He manifested a level of intellectual honesty that immediately recognized the disingenuous. He was missed by us when he moved to Tulsa and will be sorely missed by the Family Medicine academic community now that he is gone," said Dr. McKnight.

"What I remember and treasured most about Paul were his compassion and integrity," said Dr. Russ Anderson, Chair of Family Medicine at LSU School of Medicine and former CCHS family medicine faculty member and Associate Dean. "He was a big rugged guy with the gentlest heart in the world. Many times I watched him work with patients with tremendous patience and compassion and was always impressed by it. The other thing was his integrity. If he told you he would do something, he did it and there was no question about it. He was strong in his beliefs and always constant to them. Paul meant a lot to me and I am going to miss him.

Retired CCHS Dean Roland Ficken, who appointed Dr. Tietze Director of Medical Student Affairs, said, "He was loved and admired by our medical students, and all our residents who had the good fortune of receiving their training during his watch held him in the highest regard." Dr. Ficken credited Dr. Tietze's efforts to initiate the PBL (problem based learning) process on this campus. He also helped organize the first OSCEs (objective structured clinically evaluated) exams here at CCHS to assess skills of all third year medical students the UA School of Medicine.

Dr. Tietze was a native of Oklahoma, and he earned his MD degree from the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. He and his wife Pam, who completed her residency training here and was on the CCHS faculty, have two sons, David and Travis. Dr. Pernelia Tietze has joined the Family Practice faculty of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. The address of the Department of Family Practice is: 9920 East 21st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129. Phone: (918) 663-6884.
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<td>Samuel E. Gaskins, M.D.</td>
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<td>Carolyn N. Gibson, M.D.</td>
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**SUSTAINING $250 - $499**
- Bobbi A. Adcock, M.D.
- Marc A. Armstrong, M.D.
- John F. Barnum, M.D.
- Roland F. Ficken, Ph.D.
- John B. and Alice Maxwell
- Marilyn W. Moore, M.D.
- Perishing, Yokley and Associates
- J. Reese Pilcher, Jr. Memorial Foundation
- Robert A. Paise, M.D.
- Brenda Richardson, M.D.
- William H. St. Martin, M.D.
- Timothy W. Winkler, M.D.

**SUPPORTER $50 - $99**
- Robin S. Barton, M.D.
- William R. Basset, M.D.
- James B. Booe, Jr.
- Colgan H. Bryan, Jr., M.D.
- George N. Carlson, M.D.
- Marcia J. Chesbro, M.D.
- Neil E. Christopher, M.D.
- Jimmy D. Clark, M.D.
- Elizabeth L. Cockrum, M.D.
- Camille G. Cook
- Martha S. Creel, M.D.
- Marvin D. Creel, Jr.

**LISTER HILL SOCIETY**

**The Annual Fund of the College of Community Health Sciences**

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I pledge $ annually in support of the Lister Hill Society at the College of Community Health Sciences. I understand that I can terminate this agreement at any time.

My check is enclosed.

Bill me: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly

Please make a payroll deduction of $ per month from my UA salary.

Please call me to discuss financial options and tax advantages from a gift to the College of Community Health Sciences.

[Signature] [Date]

Consider Planned Giving

Whether you are considering an outright gift of appreciated securities or real estate, a gift that pays you an income for life, or a bequest in your will, careful planning is essential. CCHS encourages those gifts that hold special meaning or interest for the donor.

Gift and naming opportunities are available for endowed professorships, chairs, scholarships, and facilities. The University would like to give special recognition to donors contributing toward the accomplishment of these goals.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities and options in designing a charitable gift for the College of Community Health Sciences, contact:

Dean William A. Curry, M.D., (205) 348-1288
or
Vicki Johnson, Dean’s Office, (205) 348-0093
College of Community Health Sciences
P.O. Box 870326
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0326
Lister Hill Society Raises Funds for Medical Education at CCHS

Ongoing assistance for medical education at CCHS is provided by 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 annual fund 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.

A benefit held at the President’s Mansion last fall raised $15,000 in cash and pledges to support CCHS activities not funded by the state education budget. Lister Hill Board members Alice Maxwell and Anne Monfore planned the event and said the Board hopes to involve alumni and friends of CCHS in additional activities to increase voluntary giving. The Board invites you to help support medical education.

Lister Hill Society Board of Directors

Wilmer J. Coggins, M.D.
Jim Fleming
Tommy Hazel
Roger Lacy, M.D.
Alice Maxwell
Anne Monfore
Cathy Parker
Bill Sheehan, M.D.
Judie Sitterman
Michael Taylor, M.D.
Sammy Watson
William W. Winterritz, M.D.

UA Trustees Approve New Center at CCHS

Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society

The Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, established at Baylor College of Medicine by Alan M. Blum, MD, the new Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS, will be moved to UA when Dr. Blum (in photo at left) moves from Baylor to the College of Community Health Sciences. The University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved the Center relocation to UA at a recent meeting. The Center was founded by Dr. Blum to explore the role and influence of tobacco historically and in contemporary society through an interdisciplinary approach. The Center’s work includes research, education, and community service and outreach. This purpose supports the mission of the College of Community Health Sciences to train medical students and primary care physicians and engage in related research and service. Instruction, research, and service at the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society focuses on:

- A two-fold instructional component that includes professional education and public education. The educational program for health professionals will include the development of curriculum for medical students, residents in a variety of specialties, and allied health professionals. The public education program is community outreach, a school-based program developed for primary and secondary education levels.

- International collaborative research includes joint projects and faculty exchange with the World Health Organization and its Collaborating Centers.

- A service and outreach program through development and maintenance of the Center’s web-site, the development of traveling exhibits, interdisciplinary short courses and seminars on tobacco issues, and periodic publications.

Celia Wallace with Dr. Alan Blum (left), who will be the new Gerald Wallace Chair of Family Medicine at CCHS. Mrs. Wallace’s million dollar gift to CCHS in memory of her late husband created the first Chair of Family Medicine at UA and one of only a few in the entire country. Mrs. Wallace is CEO of Mobile’s Springhill Memorial Hospital, which was founded by Dr. Wallace, a family physician.

Lister Hill Society Supports CCHS Rural Mission

The Lister Hill Society, in conjunction with the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS), is dedicated to the support and advancement of medical education, healthcare services, and research, with particular emphasis on primary care and rural healthcare. Board members provide leadership to:

- give the College the benefit of their individual and collective advice;
- meet with College and University leaders to review current programs and make recommendations for future endeavors; and
- assure a continuing flow of funds to assist the College in providing medical education, health research, and service to the people of Alabama.

The College of Community Health Sciences was created by the Alabama legislature in 1971 to train physicians and medical students for family practice in the state’s sparsely populated areas.

Over the last two decades, the CCHS family practice residency for physicians has become one of the largest and most successful programs in the nation. By 1998, more than half of its 244 trained graduates were practicing in rural areas or towns of less than 25,000, and over 50% were practicing in Alabama. In fact, one of every eight family physicians practicing in Alabama was trained at CCHS.

Larry Mayes Society & Scholarship Available to Medical Students

The Larry Mayes Society met in December at the University Club for dinner. 4th year medical student Chris Gahraus, spoke on “Unrealized Utility of C-Reactive Protein.”

The Larry Mayes Society is an organization on the Tuscaloosa campus which allows medical students to meet with faculty and residents informally in a social setting.

Scholarship Applications Due March 29

The Larry Mayes Fund also provides an annual award to a rising senior for study abroad. The Larry Mayes Scholarship is based on grade point, class rank, and an essay by the student on what he or she hopes to gain from study abroad. It is available to medical students on all three campuses of UA School of Medicine.

For more information, contact the CCHS Office of Medical Student Affairs, Box 870378, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0378. Phone: (205) 348-1384.
**Dr. Leeper Studies Rural Medical Care and Physician Recruitment in Australia**

Dr. James Leeper, CCHS Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Medicine, traveled to Queensland Australia last fall to work with the Rural Education Research and Development Center at James Cook University. He did follow-up consultations as part of the Fulbright grant which funded Dr. Wheat's trip to Australia in 1997 to compare medical education, and the recruitment and placement of physicians for rural areas.

Dr. Leeper studied methods of the rural training track at James Cook University, which has a similar mission to CCHS. The program there does not recruit rural students and retention rates for rural practice are lower than those of CCHS.

Dr. Leeper visited two physician-training sites, one in Townsville and another in the interior in Townoomba. The top aboriginal health problem was diabetes, he said, but poverty and high rates of alcoholism were also concerns. He observed that female teen smoking and domestic violence were issues as well.

He also participated in a program for high school students similar to the Rural Health Scholars program at CCHS. In Australia, he said, 10th graders choose career paths and their remaining high school curriculum is determined by those choices. After high school, students who plan to be doctors go directly into a 6-year medical school program. 18 of the 20 students in the session he attended were female, and he later met ten medical students, nine of whom were female. Australian males are hard to interest in the academic preparation necessary for medical careers, said Dr. Leeper. As part of the high school program, which took place during their spring break, the students got overviews of health disciplines and "shadowed" health professionals at Townsville General Hospital, aboriginal health clinics, and emergency medical services at a fire station.

Public health problems, said Dr. Leeper, included heart disease and cancer, and infectious tropical diseases which are transmitted by mosquitoes. The northern tip of Australia can be reached on foot from New Guinea at low tide, and there is a problem with migration of wild pigs and other disease-carrying animals.

**Research Lunch Series Continues**

The Research Lunch Series sponsored by the CCHS Research Committee continues this spring. The series provides a forum for presentation and discussion of research of interest to our faculty, residents, and students. Presentations are held the second Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the Carrel Room.

Dr. James Leeper, Chair of Community Medicine, started this semester's series in January with an information on Thirty-year Infant Mortality Trends in Alabama. In February, Tracy Palmer, Graduate Assistant, and Project Director of the Child Caring Initiative, discussed "Impact of Health Insurance on Child Health Outcomes."

On March 9, Dr. James Philp speaks on "Unpredictability in Learning." His research involves Problem-Based Learning, in which students take written examinations based on learning issues they bring to their PBL sessions, and application of this method in residency training.

On April 13, Steven MacCall, Instructor, School of Library and Information Studies, will present a research on Internet information retrieval. The subjects for his study were drawn from CCHS Family Practice faculty sessions, residents, and medical students. This work is part of a larger research program in Digital Libraries that aims at aiding physicians and clinic staff to use electronic information resources effectively in patient care.

The May 11th topic is a joint research project on Defense Mechanisms by Dr. Nancy Rubin and Dr. Richard Stuhler and Michael MacGregor, a graduate researcher, from the UA Psychology Department.

Two new members have joined the Research Committee. Brad Gaspard, MD, represents the residents, and Edward Shackelford is the new medical student representative.

For more information or to contact the CCHS Research Committee Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Rand: erand@cchs.ua.edu Phone: 348-1325

-Matthew C. Cook, Assistant Professor Technical Services/Systems Librarian Health Sciences Library, CCHS

**Dr. McHattie Helps Victims of Hurricane George**

Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

CCHS Assistant Professor of OB/GYN Thomas McHattie, MD, returned in February from a weeklong medical mission to Samana in the Dominican Republic. The people there were still dealing with the after-effects of Hurricane George. The storm swept through the Caribbean in September the week before the team makes a regular full mission trip to the country which occupies part of the same island as Haiti. Dr. McHattie was one of thirty-one doctors, nurses, technicians, and lay volunteers who made the trip set up by Midwest Medical Mission of Toledo.

He described extreme poverty and inadequate medical care. Local physicians at government hospitals don't get paid regularly and can see only a fraction of the patients who need care, he said. They don't perform surgery except in extreme emergencies because the poor facilities and equipment they have to work with put patients at extremely high risk. So many people came every day to the clinic set up by the mission volunteers that armed guards were on duty for crowd control.

"The people here do not get regular care and their needs are great," said Dr. McHattie. The local physicians appreciate the mission's help, he added. Conditions have actually improved since he started going there three years ago, said Dr. McHattie, who travels twice yearly to locations in the Dominican Republic with this team. He said tourism, industrial development, and new political leadership are helping the economy, but the average annual income there is only $5500.00.

Dr. McHattie said the team played tourist before they returned home: they went whale-watching because every humpback whale in the Atlantic comes to Samana Bay in February and March to have their calves. The local government is very protective of the whales, and boats are required by law to cut their engines when a whale approaches. They also visited the first church in the New World, San Cristobel in Santo Domingo, and visited the botanical gardens. It is one of the five largest in the Western Hemisphere, said Dr. McHattie, who was particularly interested in the huge collection of medicinal herbs and plants there and the folklore and witchcraft associated with them.

Dr. McHattie comforts the mother of one of his surgical patients during his work in Samana, D.R.

**CCHS Surgery Department Chairs Combine Private Practices**

Not only will Joseph Wallace, MD, Chair of Surgery for CCHS, and Timothy Winkler, MD, Associate Chair of Surgery, be part of the Department of Surgery, they also share a private practice as members of "Surgical Specialists of Alabama, PC." Their partners are surgeons, Dr. George Nunm and Dr. Richard Stuhler (formerly members with Dr. Wallace of Surgical Associates of Tuscaloosa, PC.) Dr. Falgout, Dr. Waits and Dr. Howard Falgout (originally Tuscaloosa Surgical Specialist, P.C., where Dr. Winkler conducted his internship practice). As of January, all six board certified physicians are located at 1031 Fairfax Park as Surgical Specialists of Alabama, PC. Their practice specializes in general, thoracic and vascular surgery, colon and rectal surgery, gastrointestinal endoscopy, and laparoscopic surgery. The physicians (who are referred to as the 'Super Six') by medical students and the O.R. and E.R. staff at both hospitals are affiliated with the College and provide training for medical students and residents.

-Dick Moore

Dept. of Surgery

**Early Match - Ophthalmology**

Please join us in congratulating Peter Chang and Ben Roberts who have achieved early matches in Ophthalmology. Peter matched at Baylor College of Medicine-Houston and Ben at UAB. We are very proud of them!!

-Dr. Cathy Gresham, MD, Director
Office of Medical Student Affairs
Blane Schilling, MD, (Residency, 1993) has an article in the premiere edition of a runner’s on-line magazine. His story is about a running experience he had in Africa while he was doing medical mission work. The title is “African Adventure,” and you can find it on the internet at: http://www.fasttrackonline.com/newsletter/jan_99/.

A second article by Dr. Schilling, this one about the “Save the Face in the Window” run he organized, is in the February edition of the same newsletter (http://www.fasttrackonline.com/newsletter/feb_99/feb_NL.html).

When he’s not running, doing mission work, delivering babies, or seeing patients at his Carrollton family practice office, Dr. Schilling serves as local football team doctor, Board member for the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, and president of the newly incorporated Rural Alabama Health Education Center. He also serves as preceptor (field-based teacher) for CCHS medical students and residents and mentor advisor to Rural Medical Scholars. Above with Rural Medical Scholar Danny Whitaker from Arley, Alabama, who is in his first year of medical school preparing to be a rural physician.

CCHS Dean and Alums Attend Alumni Seminar in Fayette

Dr. Richard Rutland of Fayette, who helped found the College of Community Health Sciences, hosted a reunion and seminar for physicians at the Fayette Civic Center on October 30, 1998. The event was part of the 40th anniversary celebration of the Fayette County Medical Center, built in 1958. William Curry, MD, CCHS Dean, was the banquet speaker and his topic was “Medical Education - Back to the Future.” Dr. Fred Verby and Dr. Garry Maguire, family physicians in Fayette and graduates of the Family Practice Residency at CCHS, participated as speakers at the conference. Fayette physician Jon Sanford, former CCHS clinical faculty member, was moderator for the conference. Dr. Chay Kim, a Tuscaloosa internist and adjunct CCHS faculty member who was instrumental in establishing the Tuscaloosa branch of the medical school, and Dr. Jim Pittman, Dean Emeritus of the UA School of Medicine, also made presentations. “Lots of CCHS Connections” remarked Dr. Curry of his involvement. He said that community hospitals are an important part of rural life, and he enjoyed being part of Fayette’s celebration.

Editor’s note: Dr. Curry has spoken at a number of recent events in addition to the Fayette Reunion. At the AASOM Rural Medicine Lecture Series on December 4, he spoke on “Challenges in Rural Medicine.” In January, 1999, he made the keynote address, “Life as a Rural Internist,” to the Physicians’ Alabama Opportunity Fair in Point Clear on the 11th; spoke to a Social Work Colloquium at UA on January 11 about “Medicaid Managed Care: New Roles for Social Workers, Nurses, and Physicians”; and presented a Grand Rounds in Medicine Program to the Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency on January 15 entitled “Chicken, Fine Trees and Doctors - A Rural Health Fable.” Dr. Curry also spoke on “The Contribution of Healthcare in Rural Economic and Community Development” to the Project Leadership Group at Chambers County Health Care Issues Day in Valley, AL, January 21.
CME Supporters
Contributing to CME programs at CCHS
- American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
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- Knoll Pharmaceuticals
- Merck
- Roche/Zeneca
- Rhone-Poulenc Rorer
- Searle

State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Honors Convocation
College of Community Health Sciences
May 15, 1999
6:00 p.m.
Sheraton Four Points

Graduation
Tuscaloosa
Family Practice Residency
June 15, 1999
6:00 p.m.
Bryant Conference Center

Grand Rounds
Continuing Medical Education Lectures
12:15-1:15 p.m.
Willard Auditorium
DCH Regional Medical Center
Spring 1999

Speakers in January and February included: Hewitt Ryan, MD, VA Medical Center Tuscaloosa (Geriatric Depression); Michael Hamilton, MD, MPH, Duke University (Treatment of Obesity); Harvey Fair, MD, and Thomas McFadden, MD, DCH Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology (History of Oral Contraceptive Development); William B. White, MD, University of Connecticut School of Medicine (The Timing of Cardiovascular Events); Rich Whitley, MD, UAB Children’s Hospital (New Developments in Neonatal HIV Infection); Michael Waldman, MD, UAB Pulmonary and Critical Care (To Code or Not to Code); and Ross Bunch, MD, of Tuscaloosa. The February First Friday Conference on Arts and Letters was “Fear of Litigation” by UA Psychology Professor Dr. Sum Bridgler and Doctoral student Chad Tillman.

March 5 First Friday “Performance and Lecture” Sherry Cohen, OM, Professor of Fine Arts, UAB
March 12 “Management of Esophageal Reflux Disease” Robert R. Schade, MD, Professor and Chief Gastroenterology and Hepatology Medical College of Georgia
March 19 “Brain Chemistry of Addiction: A Brief Recap” Roger Lacy, MD, Associate Professor Psychiatry and Neurology, UAB
March 26 “Reducing Incidence of Breast Cancer in Women of High Risk” John Carpenter, MD, Professor of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, UAB
April 9 “Women and Alcoholism” Paul Ragan, MD Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
April 16 “Specific Cox II Inhibitors: New Approach to Treating Pain and Inflammation” Douglas C. Connery, MD, Care First Health, Specialties, Myrtle Beach, SC
April 23 “Global Eradication of Infectious Disease” Sten Vermund, MD, Professor and Chair, Epidemiology, UAB

April 30 “Treatment of Vascular Lesions” Paul Gardner, MD, Children’s Hospital, UAB

May 7 First Friday Conference “Olmes Atelvity and New Information” Richard Deihl, MD, Director, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Professor of Anthropology, UAB

May 14 “CODP” Randall Young, MD, Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care, UAB

May 21 “Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Pulmonary Embolism” John T. Owen, MD, Assistant Professor, Surgery and Attending Surgeon, University of California-Davis Medical Center

May 28 “Opioid and Alcohol” Sarah Morgan, MD, Director, Opioid and Alcohol Treatment Clinic, Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences, UAB

For more information, contact: Vicki Johnson, CME Coordinator, (205) 348-0393

The Grand Rounds schedule is located on the internet at: http://cchs.ua.edu/~cme/1999/SPCME.html (the UA CCHS Health Sciences Library)

"Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness" Group Meets at Capstone

The Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at Capstone Medical Center is sponsoring a series of eight-week lifestyle change groups. The first session of "Achieving Wellness in Chronic Illness: A Group Approach" began Jan. 26, and two subsequent groups will follow. The group meets on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. at Capstone Medical Center.

This medical group therapy, for people with such conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic stress, smoking-related conditions, or coronary artery disease, focuses on lifestyle changes through education, practice, and maintenance of healthy daily habits. A major group activity will be Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, a powerful technique for motivation and resolve in exercising, quitting smoking, reducing alcohol intake, lowering calorie consumption, and calming anxious feelings. Psychologist Dr. Harriet Myers, a CCHS Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, is conducting the group sessions. Subsequent group sessions begin on April 6 and June 13. For more information, contact Dr. Myers or Linda Reynolds at (205) 348-1265.

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