Chancellor Owen Maps New Strategy for Health Science Center

Chancellor William F. Owen, Jr., MD held a faculty and staff town hall meeting in Chattanooga on September 1, 2005. He presented an overview of his initial assessment of the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) and outlined our next steps toward reaching greater levels of excellence. These included development of a focused mission and vision, improved communication, coordination of statewide efforts, improvement of infrastructure, and an enhanced identifiable image of the UTHSC to the public.

Chancellor Owen is developing a service-oriented chancellor’s office with a responsive team to support mission critical activities. This team includes:

- Information Technology: Interim CIO Taylor Strickland
- Advancement and External Relations: Vice Chancellor Sue Harpole
- Research: Int Vice Chancellor Leonard Johnson
- Community Affairs: Int Vice Chancellor Karen Fox
- Chief of Staff: Ken Brown
- Finance and Operations: Vice Chancellor Tony Ferrara
- Health System Affairs: Vice Chancellor Mike Caudle
- Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs: To be determined

In addition to his role as Vice Chancellor for Health System Affairs, Dr. Mike Caudle has been named Interim Executive Dean. The Executive Dean will establish a system-wide framework for education processes, accountability and performance benchmarks across campuses in the College of Medicine. This position will also provide oversight of the Deans of the College of Medicine on campuses in Memphis, Knoxville, and Chattanooga.

Dr. Owen also described a four phase strategic planning process:

I. Environmental mapping
II. Strategy development
III. Development of a prioritized implementation plan
IV. Execution of strategy
National Searches for Deans to Commence

Dr. Ronald Blankenbaker will be stepping down as Associate Dean of the College of Medicine--Chattanooga Unit. He has served as the senior administrator for the Chattanooga campus since August 1997. He also served as the Chief Medical Officer of Erlanger Health System (3/93 - 6/01) and was Acting Chair of the Department of Family Medicine of the Chattanooga Unit from 11/94 - 7/95. He will continue as Interim Dean for the Chattanooga Unit while a national search is conducted.

Dr. Henry G. (Hank) Herrod is leaving his position as Dean of the UTHSC College of Medicine in Memphis. Dean Herrod has held that position for approximately seven years. He will pursue his long-time interests in student education and child health. As a full-time tenured professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Herrod will have an opportunity to educate medical students in pediatric clinical care and to return to research. Dr. Hershel (Pat) Wall has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, Memphis campus. Dr. Wall has served the university for more than 40 years and is currently a Professor and Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs.

Dr. James J. Neutens has accepted the position of Interim Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine on the Knoxville campus, filling the role vacated by Dr. Mike Caudle (see p 1). Dr. Neutens has served as Associate Dean for the GSM since 1997 and is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

A nation-wide search is being conducted to fill the permanent Executive Dean position currently held by Dr. Caudle. The national searches for the Dean of the Colleges of Medicine in Chattanooga, Memphis, and Knoxville will be coordinated with that for the Executive Dean.

Welcome

Sherry Haney has joined Pediatrics as Assistant to the Chairman/Medical Director.

We are delighted to report that Virginia Cairns reconsidered her decision to leave, and has returned to her position as Director of the EHS Medical Library. We are fortunate that her absence was brief and are happy to have her back.

Janyne Althaus, MD has recently joined the UT College of Medicine--Chattanooga Unit as Assistant Professor. She is currently a perinatologist in Chattanooga with Regional Obstetrical Consultants and is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Althaus is a native of the Midwest. She attended Pennsylvania State University where she graduated with a degree in Arts and Sciences. She graduated with her Medical Doctor degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut in 1998. After 4 years in private practice in Indiana and Maine she returned to school in 2002 at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland where she completed a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine in 2005.
Presentations and Publications


Freeman M, Apyan P, Currey T, Arrington T, Rudd J. Retrospective review of blood transfusion in total joint replacement patients. Accepted for poster presentation at the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, April 19-23, 2006, San Antonio TX.


Weatherby B, Norris B, Rudd J, Ervin B. The effect of resident work hours regulations on orthopaedic surgical education. Accepted for paper presentation at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting, March 22-26, 2006, Chicago IL.


Comments, articles & announcements for the COMmunicator can be submitted in publishable format to Sylvia Friedl, Office of Human Subject Protections, Sylvia.Friedl@erlanger.org, 423-778-3899
Note to PI

Principal investigators in clinical trials and human subjects research are responsible for keeping up with a large volume of federal and state regulations. Some have direct impact on institutional policies. This new column is directed to investigators and their key personnel as well as members of the Institutional Review Board to promote awareness of research news.

The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) has issued a DRAFT Guidance on Reporting and Reviewing Adverse Events and Unanticipated Problems Involving Risks to Subjects or Others” that may affect reporting of adverse events to the IRB.

This guidance defines external versus internal adverse events as well as “unanticipated problems” and how they relate to adverse events. It also directly addresses multi-center clinical trials and how to manage the large volume of “external adverse events” submitted to investigators and IRB’s. OHRP advises that it is neither useful nor necessary for reports of individual adverse events in multicenter studies to be distributed routinely to investigators or IRBs at all institutions participating in the study. Ideally, they should be reviewed and analyzed by a central data safety monitoring board. A report of adverse event(s) would only be submitted to a PI and IRB at each institution when it is determined to be significant and unanticipated. This Guidance also recommends that a summary of adverse events be included in continuing review reports submitted to the IRB by investigators, and do not need to be reported individually to the IRB.

Researchers are encouraged to review the entire guidance at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/requests/com101105.html. Comments can be submitted by 1/13/06 to OHRP by email at ohrp@osophs.dhhs.gov or the UT-COM IRB at sylvia.friedl@erlanger.org. Please include the term “Draft guidance on reporting adverse events” in the subject field.

Research Symposium

The annual Research Symposium was held at the Chattanooga Conference and Trade Center September 23-24. Approximately 125 researcher investigators, residents, nurses, coordinators, IRB members, and administrators attended. A “scatter session” provided an opportunity for exploring collaborative opportunities within Erlanger Health System, with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, the UT-Chattanooga campus, Oak Ridge National Lab, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, and the local community.

Residents who are interested in additional mentoring are encouraged to contact Dr. Greg Heath (Gregory-Heath@utc.edu) or Dr. Colleen Schmitt (cschmitt7@comcast.net), Co-Directors of Research for the COM or can obtain a list of research resources at http://www.utcomchatt.org/Docs/Research Resource List.pdf.