To all of you who shared the year’s joys and challenges
Who cared for our patients,
For our students,
And for each other,
We wish you a peace-filled holiday season
And a very happy new year.

From all of us at
The University of Tennessee College of Medicine--
Chattanooga Unit

College of Medicine Holiday Hours

University offices will be closed for the holidays Monday, December 26th through Monday, January 2nd. Please be sure to take care of any University business as early in the week of December 19th as possible.

Comments, articles, and 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.
Regular physical activity is associated with enhanced health and reduced risk for all-cause mortality. Beyond the effects of mortality, physical activity has many health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, some cancers, and musculoskeletal conditions. Even with all the benefits of regular physical activity, only 46% of adults in the US report engaging in a sufficient frequency of moderate-intensity physical activity (30 minutes, five or more days per week).

The scope of inactivity-related disorders is of epidemic proportions, yet no region-wide academic unit has attempted to establish an academic research unit to address the problem. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga can not only fill the need, but can become regional and national leader. It is proposed that the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, in partnership with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine--Chattanooga Unit and other inter-sectoral partners (e.g., regional planning, Chattanooga Outdoor Recreation Initiative, StepONE, city/county government) establish an academic Center for Physical Activity and Health.

The long-term developmental objectives for such a center are to:

- Fully establish an academic Center for the study of physical activity and exercise for the prevention of disease before it occurs
- Expand the Center so that students and practitioners can study in an environment where the best physical activity and exercise research (basic and clinical) occurs
- Become a regionally and nationally recognized preeminent academic Center where top faculty are attacking the big questions, such as countering obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc., with daily physical activity
- Establish programs in education and training of lay persons to achieve active lifestyles

The process of creating such a center will follow these steps:

- Develop the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s health sciences programs into a leading inter-disciplinary physical activity and health program in the nation.
- Formalize a campus-wide program, based upon current strengths
- Identify within multiple departments at least one project related to physical activity-related diseases
- Use Center activities to foster individuals to integrate and facilitate projects for greater impact on disease and unhealthy lifestyles
- Further develop research programs into the biologic, behavioral, social, and environmental basis of how physical inactivity produces 35 unhealthy, and in many cases, deadly, chronic health conditions. Develop knowledge about the mechanisms of these disorders so improved and more effective evidence-based interventions are used to reduce human suffering and reduced health-related quality of life, and as a side consequent, reduce health care costs.
- Service the citizens of the southeast region of Tennessee by assisting the Dept. of Health and Human Performance within the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies and the UT College of Medicine--Chattanooga Unit in providing a venue for interaction on human physical activity and exercise research, developing an energy-balance research facility, and assisting these institutions in the recruitment of outstanding faculty in medicine, nutrition, physical therapy, athletic training, exercise physiology, nursing, physical activity, epidemiology, and public health.

During the next few months a series of forums are being planned to discuss the next steps in creating the Center for Physical Activity and Health with interested UTCOM faculty and staff. If you are interested in attending such a forum or learning more about the creation of the Center, please contact Dr. Greg Heath at Gregory-Heath@utc.edu, or call 425 4432.
Another Victory for the Chattanooga Unit

The Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Physicians meeting, held November 3-5, 2005 in Nashville, proved to be another victory for the Chattanooga Unit. Representing the Department of Internal Medicine this year with poster presentations were Dr. Harsha Gadadhar, Dr. Asma Kahn, Dr. Mike Makdesi and Dr. Jasmine Shah.

The oral presentation from the Chattanooga Unit was done by the team of Dr. Shadi Ayyoub second year internal medicine resident and Christi Pettes fourth year medical student. Ayyoub and Pettes took first place in the Associate’s Program for their oral presentation entitled Neurologic Manifestations in a Patient with Atrial Fibrillation: Not the Obvious “Stroke” of Diagnosis. This is the first time in the history of the meeting that a presentation was given (and won) by a resident-medical student team! Competing for the first place in the oral presentations were residents from UT Memphis, UT Knoxville, Vanderbilt University, ETSU, Meharry and Baptist at Nashville.

Dr Mukta Panda was the faculty mentor and co-author for the oral and poster presentations. The winning team of Ayyoub and Pettes will represent the Tennessee chapter at the National ACP meeting in Philadelphia in April 2006.

The team of residents also paired with the UT Memphis team to win the residents jeopardy. Congratulations to them and to all who represented the Chattanooga Unit this year!

Congratulations

Thomas W. Currey, MD, has been elected to the American Academic of Orthopaedic Surgeons Board of Councilors.

Darwin Koller, MD, MSC, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and one of the new attending physicians in the T.C.Thompson Children’s Hospital Emergency Department, was the winner of the Willis-Wingert Award, which is given by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section of Emergency Medicine for the most outstanding fellowship research project in Pediatric Emergency Medicine nationally. Dr. Koller presented his research at the 75th AAP National Convention held in October of this year. His platform presentation was entitled Oxycodone, Ibuprofen, or the Combination for the Treatment of Acute Orthopedic Injury-Related Pain in Children.”

Mukta Panda, MD, has been chosen to chair the 2006 meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Panda has directed the residency portion of the meeting for several years. The American College of Physicians (ACP) is the nation’s largest medical specialty society. Its mission is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.
Presentations and Publications


Goldberg T, Currey T, Rudd J. RO5-2 improving follow-up of indigent patients enrolled in medical research studies: a review of two studies in which 100% follow-up was obtained. Accepted for publication, *J Surg Orth Adv*.


Stevens CA. The heterogeneity of acrania. Selected for paper presentation at the David W. Smith Workshop on Malformations and Morphogenesis at The University of Iowa, August 2005.

Norman A. Desbiens, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine, was welcomed as Visiting Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis on Wednesday, December 9. He gave the Annual Charles Clarke Lecture at Grand Rounds, and several presentations to the Ethics Committee at the Regional Medical Center and the General Internal Medicine Research Group. A reception in his honor was held at the home of Dr. James Bailey, Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine.

*Anterior Lumbar Spine: Exposure Strategies and Techniques for the Treatment of Spinal Disorders* course, sponsored by Synthes Spine, was held at the Erlanger Medical Center, November 19, 2005. Orthopaedic Surgery Instructor James Osborn, MD chaired the course. Orthopaedic Surgery Associate Professor Paul Broadstone, MD and Assistant Professor Richard Pearce, MD and Surgery Department Assistant Professor Richard Sprouse, MD presented lectures. There were a total of nine participants from across the US in attendance.

**Best wishes to Margaret Lifsey**

December 2005 marks the end of 27 years of dedication and service for Margaret Lifsey, Senior Administrative Services Assistant for Medical Education. Margaret came to the UT College of Medicine-Chattanooga Unit in November 1978. She worked as the administrative assistant for the Chairman of the Department of Medicine until December 1995. Since that time she has worked as the assistant for the Office of Medical Education, providing support for medical students and residents. We’re going to miss her wealth of knowledge and her ever-present sense of humor. On behalf of the entire College of Medicine, we wish her a wonderful retirement.
Note to PI

This is an excerpt from a memo from Dr. Leonard Johnson, PhD, UTHSC Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, to all IRB members, researchers and key personnel.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Erlanger Health Systems are committed to protecting our research volunteers--and the integrity of the data derived from their participation in research. To this end, the UTHSC is updating its required educational training program for faculty investigators/mentors, IRB members, administrators, and all other individuals who participate in the conduct of human subject research, including those using human-derived materials. Investigators are responsible for documenting training for personnel that perform research procedures, handle investigational materials, or participate in the conduct of research. Documentation of completion of training will be a requirement of IRB protocol submissions after June 30, 2006.

Previously, the federal requirement for training in human subject protections was addressed via an online tutorial available on Blackboard. It provided appropriate but limited information and had no provision for periodic updates or refresher training.

The newly adopted training program is the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI). This program, completed in March 2000, is the result of a collaborative effort between the University of Miami and the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center to create a web-based human subject protections training program. It is currently being used by many institutions in the US and has become the standard for academic research centers.

The CITI training program can be accessed by linking to www.citiprogram.org. Specific instructions for registering are on the home page.

There are a number of modules, some geared primarily to biomedical research, some to social/behavioral research. There is one primarily for IRB members, and one that has been designed specifically for the University of Tennessee. Review of all modules is encouraged, but learners are only required to complete the modules according to their category which is defined by title/group (eg, administrator, department chair, principal investigator, key study personnel).

There is an additional requirement that individuals be recertified at three year intervals. You will receive an email notification from CITI when refresher training is due. CME credits are available; procedures for obtaining credit hours are described at the website.

The Office of Human Subject Protections (OHSP) will administer this program. For questions or concerns, please contact Sylvia.Friedl@erlanger.org.
Save the Date – February 23, 2006
Look for registration materials early in January

Clinical Research on Trial:
A Mock Trial of Current Legal Issues

CJ Craig )
Plaintiff, injured patient/research participant )

Vs. )

Marcus Welby, MD )
Defendant, physician/investigator )

&

Irby Chair, MD )
Defendant, IRB Chair )

Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger Medical Mall
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

This presentation is a fictional jury trial based on an actual case. It will demonstrate core ethical, legal and regulatory issues in human subjects’ research while helping researchers, research staff, research administrators, and residents recognize and address the challenging and sometimes controversial aspects of a clinical trial.

Participants:

- Judge Neil Thomas, Hamilton County Circuit Court
- Attorney Mike Richardson (Lawrence, Lawrence & Richardson) as Plaintiff’s attorney
- Attorney Sue Scruggs (Spears, Moore, Rebman & Williams) as Defendants’ attorney
- Mukta Panda, MD (Associate Professor, Internal Medicine) as Plaintiff CJ Craig
- Raymond Enzenauer, MD (Associate Professor, Internal Medicine) as Defendant Marcus Welby MD
- John Morgan, MD (Chairman, UT/Erlanger Institutional Review Board) as Defendant Irby Chair MD
- Lorrie Mason, RN as Nurse Coordinator Clara Barton

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CME/CEU credit available through the Office of Continuing Medical Education
Registration will be required, no fee will be charged to UT faculty, staff, residents, IRB members or Erlanger employees

Sponsored by
The Office of Human Subject Protections
University of Tennessee College of Medicine—Chattanooga Unit
University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center
For additional information contact sylvia.friedl@erlanger.org