Christopher LeSar, MD Introduces New Surgical Procedure to Region

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Christopher LeSar MD, Assistant Professor in Surgery at the UT COM-Chattanooga Unit, has received regional recognition for performing the first endovascular thoracic aneurysm repair at Erlanger Hospital. In the procedure, the aneurysm is treated by inserting a Gore Tag Thoracic Endoprosthesis into the aorta. This stent/graft relines the aorta to make a new path for blood to flow. The Gore Tag is the first and only endovascular device approved by the FDA for use in treating thoracic aortic aneurysms.

The endovascular surgery is done through the placement of the graft in a long, thin tube called a delivery catheter, which is passed through an artery in the groin to the aneurysm following a small incision. Conventional open chest surgery to repair this type of aneurysm is significantly more invasive.

Several factors went into the procedure being performed at Erlanger, where over 3,000 endovascular procedures have been performed since this unit opened two years ago. Dr. LeSar credits the hospital’s technical ability, and acknowledges that a special surgical team has trained for two years to perform some of these advanced surgeries. He adds that, “It takes that kind of effort and technological abilities to perform it safely.”

Judge Thomas and Physicians to Explore The Alliance

Judge Neil Thomas, Hamilton County Circuit Judge, is meeting with Erlanger and UT faculty and residents to discuss The Alliance, a working group of physicians and lawyers who are implementing a program to address credible expert testimony in malpractice lawsuits. The meeting is scheduled to take place Feb. 23rd at 1:30 pm in the Surgery Conference Room. Attendees should RSVP to Sylvia Friedl, 778. 3899, or sylvia.friedl@erlanger.org.
Chattanooga College of Medicine Represented in Japan and China

Drs. Ron Blankenbaker and John Standridge traveled to Beppu, Japan in January to participate in the Biennial International Conference of the International Health Evaluation and Promotion Association (IHEPA). Dr. Blankenbaker spoke on Health Evaluation and Promotion for the Elderly—International Implications and Dr. Standridge on The Prevention and Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease. Both presentations were well received by those in attendance. Dr. Blankenbaker also participated in the Board and Membership meetings of the Association during which he was reelected as the Executive Vice President of IHEPA.

Dr. Blankenbaker stopped off in Beijing, China on his way to Beppu, Japan to meet with a number of Chinese physicians to discuss future CME trips to Beijing and the possibility of collaborative research projects to evaluate the results of Traditional Chinese Medicine versus Western Medicine or the two together in an integrated fashion. He will pursue these possibilities with each of the departments and teaching programs here at the College of Medicine and hopes that some significant research efforts will develop.

2006-2007 Chief Residents Named

Congratulations to the following physicians, who will begin serving as Chief Residents on July 1, 2006.

Family Practice
Internal Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pediatrics
Surgery
Orthopaedic Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Jennifer Head MD and Jonathan Summers MD
Asma Khan MD and Jennifer Whitley MD
Bridget Brunner MD, Christopher Innes MD and Amanda Mulch MD
DeeJay Miranda MD
Robert Aderhold MD, John Green MD, Curtis Koontz MD, and Jonathan Mauldin MD
Delan Gaines MD and Jim Lashley MD
Phillip Lackey MD and David Steckler MD

Congratulations

Donna Gibson was recently hired as Senior Administrative Services Assistant for the College of Medicine. Ms. Gibson has worked in senior management at First Tennessee National Corporation (Bank) and brings valuable experience in communication and organizational skills.

Leslie Herman, MD graduated in May 2005 from the UNC Chapel Hill Faculty Development Fellowship in Internal Medicine.

Anuj Parikh, MD, emergency physician, has passed Part 1 of the ABEMS Boards.

Colleen Schmitt, MD has been named Chairman of the Health and Public Policy Committee for the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and will be serving in this position for the next three years.
**Internal Medicine Residents and Students Continue to Excel!**

The residents and students at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Chattanooga Unit, Department of Internal Medicine had yet another victory at the Southern Medical Association Annual Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas in November 2005.

The Department was represented by six oral and eight poster presentations. The residents presenting included Drs. Ayyoub, Mannepalli, Shah, Grigorian, Makdesi, Cheriyath, Dixon, Mantha Bala, Patel, Gadadhar, Luce, Lee, and Khan. Dr. Mukta Panda was the faculty mentor and co-author for the oral and poster presentations.

The poster, “Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome or Lethal Catatonia? Two Shots, One Arrow—Benzodiazepines,” authored by Dr. Mannepalli, Natalie Strelnikova M4, and Dr. M. Panda received the Physicians Choice Award.

We would like to acknowledge the Internal Medicine Education Foundation that supported the residents’ expenses. Congratulations to them and to all who represented the Chattanooga Unit this year!

**Presentations and Publications**


Herman LD and CCTOP Study Group. Disagreement of patient and physician perceptions concerning the same primary care encounter. JGIM May 2005. Also presented at the National Society for General Internal Medicine, New Orleans LA, May 2005 and at the Office of Minority Health Summit 2006, Washington DC.


**Transitions**

Best wishes to Mel Twiest, MD as he enters retirement from his tenure as Erlanger’s Chief Medical Officer as of January 31, 2005. Dr. Twiest served as a Clinical Associate Professor in Surgery on the UT College of Medicine Faculty. His efforts on behalf of the College of Medicine in Chattanooga have been greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth McGhee has moved to the position of Senior Administrative Services Assistant for Graduate Medical Education and Continuing Medical Education. Please welcome Liz in her new role in Graduate Medical Education.

We also will be saying goodbye to Virginia Cairns, who has accepted a position as Head of Reference and Instructional Services at the Lupton Library on the UTC campus. She won’t be too far away, but we will surely miss her.
New DHHS Guidance on IRB Review of Clinical Trial Websites

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a Guidance 9/20/05 to provide IRBs information regarding review of clinical trial websites created to recruit research subjects. This guidance describes the circumstances for which IRB review of clinical trial websites is required and provides some points to consider in the review process.

When information posted on a clinical trial website goes beyond directory listings with basic descriptive information (such as study title, purpose of the study, protocol summary, basic eligibility criteria, study site location(s), and how to contact the study site for further information), such information is considered part of the informed consent process and therefore requires IRB review and approval.

Information exceeding such basic listing information and thus requiring IRB review includes descriptions of clinical trial risks and potential benefits, or solicitation of identifiable information. If identifiable private information is collected via the clinical trial website, the IRB should review plans for protecting the confidentiality of that information.

The complete text of the guidance is available at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/clinicaltrials.html.

Don’t miss these deadlines ...

February 21, 2006
Registration deadline for “Clinical Research: A Day in Court.” This fictional jury trial will demonstrate core issues in human subjects’ research while helping researchers, residents, staff, and administrators recognize and address the challenging and sometimes controversial aspects of a clinical trial. There is no charge for UT College of Medicine and Erlanger employees, but registration is required. For registration or additional information, contact Liz McGhee, 778.6884, Elizabeth.McGhee@Erlanger.org.

June 30, 2006
From Leonard Johnson, PhD, University of Tennessee Health Science Center Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research

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.

The CITI training program can be accessed by linking to www.citiprogram.org. Specific instructions for registering are on the home page. Documentation of completion of training will be a requirement of IRB protocol submissions after June 30, 2006.
Call For Abstracts--Resident Research Week

The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga and Erlanger Health System announce the ANNUAL RESEARCH WEEK 2006, Monday - Friday, May 8 - 12, 2006. This event provides residents with an opportunity to relay information about a research project or scholarly case report. Residents are asked to submit an abstract for a Poster Presentation and/or an Oral Presentation. The Word file containing the abstract form is available from the individual departments or by going to http://www.utcomchatt.org/Docs/rrwabstr.doc and saving the Word document on a disk. An attachment is being sent via email as well as a hard copy from your department.

Research projects must be a prospective or retrospective study accomplished while in training in Chattanooga. Any exception to the “while in training in Chattanooga” provision will be considered only on a case-by-case basis by the Research Week Selection Committee. A case report must be a scholarly analysis on an uncommon disease or uncommon presentation of a common disease encountered while training in Chattanooga. Residents may submit multiple abstracts for consideration by the Committee.

Approximately twenty individuals will be chosen to prepare poster presentations. The best four - six abstracts will be honored by the residents being asked to present their topics just before dinner on May 12. These will be the only oral presentations given. The poster presentations will be 3’ x 7’ mounted on 4’ x 8’ poster board and will be displayed for the entire week, May 8 - 12, in the Medical Mall Atrium. “Poster Walking Rounds” will be conducted in the morning and the afternoon on Friday, May 12. Award winning posters will be honored at the dinner that evening at the Hunter Museum of Art. Since selections will be made on the basis of the abstracts submitted, the quality of the abstracts is extremely important. Residents should submit typed abstracts on the one-page form, and should make certain grammar is correct and that the document has been through “spell check.” The font used should be Times New Roman 12 pitch. Residents should limit the abstract narrative to the space allocated on the one-page form. All Department Coordinators should have the abstract form on their office computers. Abstracts should include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Project</th>
<th>Case Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statement of purpose</td>
<td>Brief review of case, reviewing cogent points of history, physical exam, and data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method used</td>
<td>Brief summary of literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant results</td>
<td>Importance of case in the context of literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion statement</td>
<td>Signature of chair/program director indicating approval</td>
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<td>Signature of chair/program director indicating approval</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Each resident should check with the appropriate chairman to determine whether or not that department requires that an abstract be submitted.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Residents must submit their abstracts on disk or via email to their respective program director. Given the program director’s/chairman’s electronic approval, the Residency Coordinator will send the abstracts via Erlanger email to the GME Office at gme@erlanger.org. The Research Abstract Selection Committee will review all abstracts and select those to be presented. The residents selected for poster presentations and the four to six residents selected to give oral presentations will be announced by Friday, March 10 to allow ample time for the participants to prepare posters or oral presentations.

The awards dinner and ceremonies will take place on the evening of May 12. All residents, faculty and spouses will be invited to attend both the oral presentations and the dinner, sponsored and funded by Erlanger. Cash awards and plaques will be given at the end of the evening to the oral presenters as well as to the best posters.
Annual Research Week Deadlines--2006

The Annual Research Week will be Monday, May 8, through Friday, May 12, 2006. Posters will be on display all week in the Erlanger Medical Mall Lobby.

Deadlines are as follows:

**Tuesday, 2/28/2006:** All abstracts must be approved by the department chair/program director and e-mailed from the chair’s/program director’s office to the GME Office (gme@erlanger.org)

**Fri, 3/3/2006:** Blinded abstracts and score sheets will be distributed to the selection committee.

**Tues, 3/7/2006:** Selection Committee members must return scored abstract spreadsheet to the GME Office for tabulation.

**Thurs, 3/9/2006 (Tentative):** Selection Committee meets at 5:30 PM to make final selections for posters and oral presentations.

**Fri, 3/10/2006:** Departments and presenters notified of the Selection Committee’s decisions.

**Fri, 3/17/2006 (Tentative):** Presenters meet with John Stroud, Drs. Schmitt and Heath regarding guidelines and timetable.

**Mon, 3/20/2006 through Mon, 4/10/2006:** Residents presenting meet with John Stroud to submit all text and graphic files for layout of posters, proofing, etc.

**Mon, 4/24/2006:** All posters must be proofed a final time by residents and faculty advisors

**Tues, 4/25/2006:** John Stroud begins printing posters

**Fri, 5/5/2006:** Presenters and their resident coordinator or designee will take posters to the Medical Mall for exhibit

**Mon, 5/8/2006 through Fri, 5/12/2006:** Posters on display in the Medical Mall.

**Fri, 5/12/2006:** Walking poster rounds in the morning and afternoon.

**Fri, 5/12/2006:** Oral presentations and awards dinner in the evening.

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.