President Bush Meets UT College of Medicine Faculty

President Bush flew into Chattanooga on Wednesday, February 21st and spent several hours discussing health care issues with UT faculty, Erlanger physicians and staff, local and state politicians, and citizens who described their health-related personal challenges.

Drs. Tom Devlin, Clinical Assistant Professor and Blaise Baxter, Clinical Assistant Professor, had the opportunity to demonstrate the MERCI catheter device which removes stroke-causing blood clots in the vein. The MERCI device was initially used as part of a research study done through UT/Erlanger Health System.

Dr. Donald Chamberlain, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, demonstrated the DaVinci Operating Suite, a system which uses a robot for minimally invasive procedures.

Dr. Joe Cofer, Professor of Surgery, participated in a panel discussion of health care needs at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Dr. Cofer is a co-founder of Chattanooga’s Project Access Program which helps provide specialty care to the uninsured.
Transitions

Ronald U. Goulet, PhD, and T. Bain Ervin, BSE, recently joined the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga adjunct faculty. Each holds an appointment with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Goulet is an Associate Professor with the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He obtained his BS in Civil Engineering at Northwestern University and his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Hampshire. He is an active member of the Research Committee of the Chattanooga Orthopaedic Education and Research Foundation. Dr. Goulet has co-authored a number of published articles on biomechanical research with the residents and faculty.

Mr. Ervin is the Director of the Basic Science Research Laboratory in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. He obtained his BS in Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Mr. Ervin is a member of the Research Committee of the Chattanooga Orthopaedic Education and Research Foundation and is actively involved in conducting biomechanical research projects with the residents and faculty. He also manages the arthroscopic skills laboratory and performs statistical analysis for the department.

Christy Westmoreland will be joining the University Surgical Associates beginning April 9, 2007 as the Administrative Manager of Clinical Research. She will be managing primarily the business aspects of the research department, including compliance, budgets, and contracts. She joins Pat Lewis, Karen Reed, and Emily Kirk in the UT office. Christy worked in the UT office as a research nurse from 2000 through 2003. We are looking forward to her return.

Web 2.0

Larry Miller, PhD, Director of Continuing Medical Education and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine, was featured in an article in the February 2007 edition of Corporate Meetings and Incentives Magazine. Dr. Miller was interviewed for his work in using the virtual reality world of Second Life to explore its potential for medical education.

Second Life is a unique and flexible virtual world environment that has rapidly grown in its scale and impact. The 3-D virtual world is essentially built and owned by its residents. Second Life opened to the public in 2003 and today is inhabited by over four million people from around the globe. It provides a platform for educators interested in distance learning, computer-supported cooperative work, simulation, new media studies, and corporate training. Simulation in a safe environment enhances experiential learning, allowing individuals to practice skills, try new ideas, and learn from their mistakes.

Dr. Miller has also started a Web 2.0 Blog to highlight some Web applications that may be useful to medical educators. His recent posting to the Blog discusses Quizlet, a Web application that allows the learner to create flash cards or quizzes for learning vocabulary or terminology. In addition, it creates study groups for sharing (eg, anatomy, medical and clinical terminology). Look for these and other tools for continuing medical education at http://uterlanger.blogspot.com/.
“59 Minutes” Local Investigation

“Dr Gray, isn’t it true that you were being paid handsomely to conduct this clinical trial using patients in your own office?”

Audiences in Chattanooga and Knoxville watched as Dr. Meredith Gray calmly sat in the “hot seat” answering questions about her role in a (fictional) clinical trial. Dr. Gray (played by Tina Dudney, MD, Internal Medicine faculty Knoxville) was in the media glare because of her role as a physician/researcher in a clinical trial gown awry. The interview was part of the Fourth Annual Human Subject Protections Conference.

This conference used an investigative news format to present ethical and legal issues in clinical research. The taped interviews were combined with panel discussions as a way of illustrating some of the ethical, legal and regulatory issues in clinical trials. The Chattanooga panel (pictured left to right) included Colleen Schmitt MD, Lisa Staton MD, Stacey Hendricks, IRB Administrator, Rabbi Joshua Leif, and Joe Rudd PhD. The panel provided context, background and advice on the issues raised by Dr. Gray’s unfortunate situation. The audience of residents, faculty, administrators, researchers, staff and members of the IRB joined with the panel in discussing issues such as conflicts of interest in research, therapeutic misconception, informed consent readability, compensation for conducting and participating in clinical trials, billing issues, randomization and many other topics.

The conference was sponsored by UTHSC’s Office of Human Subject Protections.

5th Annual Cancer Symposium
Bad Habit Cancers: Part 2
Friday, April 13, 2007, The Chattanoogan Hotel
Program Director: Donald Chamberlain, MD

Preventing Cervical Cancer
Edward W. Hook III, MD
Practicing Defensive Medicine in the 21st Century
Jim Kjar, JD
Image Guided Breast Biopsy
Richard E. Fine, MD
A Transtheoretical Approach to Patient Compliance
James O. Prochaska, PhD
How a “Nice” Precancerous Glow Can Lead to a Nasty Cancerous Growth
John A. Zic, MD
Panel & Group Discussion
B W. Ruffner, MD, Moderator

The UT COM designates this series for a maximum of 6 AMA PRA Category I Credits. Nurses may get up to 6 contact hours of ACCN CEUs through UTC. Application has been made for CPE credit for pharmacists through the UT College of Pharmacy which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

To register, contact CME@Erlanger.org
Recent Publications


Presentations

Greg Heath, DHSc MPH, presented “Physical Activity in Public Health,” at a training symposium of the IX Congress of International Medical Advances in Guadalajara, 2/22/07. This Congress was sponsored by the Mexican Government and Civil Hospitals and Clinics as well as the Mayo Clinic. Fourteen countries were represented.

Christy Pearce, MD, PGY-2, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was chosen to present a poster entitled, “Elective Appendectomy at the Time of C-Section: A Randomized Controlled Trial,” at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine 27th Annual Meeting, February 5-10, 2007 in San Francisco.

Internal Medicine residents of the UT COM Chattanooga were once again well represented at the 2007 Southern Regional Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Mukta Panda served as a co-author and faculty mentor for 24 presentations. Other faculty members included Drs. Staton, Holden, Gefter and Poole. Nine oral and sixteen poster presentations were included. Representing the department were: Shazia Amil MD, Shadi Ayyoub MD, Sushma Bhat MD, Mandy Cincere MD, Gautam Dutta MD, Kumar Gaurav MD, Chad Halford MD, Asma Khan MD, Manogna Maddineni MD, Supriya Mannepalli MD, Brindusa Mocanu MD, Arshdeep Tindni MD, and Umesh Yalavarthy MD, as well as Jason Hill MD and Olga Suarez MD, representing the Transitional Year program. Additionally, Drs. Ayyoub and Yalavarthy were awarded the Jeopardy Prize. Congratulations to all who presented.
Note to PI

The DHHS Office for Human Research Protections has created a website of frequently asked questions. These will be the subject for the “Note to PI” section over the next few months. You can find more detailed information at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/index.html#faq.

**Does Research Involving Children Include Special Requirements?**

Yes. Subpart D of the HHS regulations at 45 CFR part 46 provides additional protections for children participating in human subjects research. If the research involves pregnant minors, then the requirements of subpart B must be met and if the research involves incarcerated minors then the requirements of subpart C must be met.

Subpart D’s additional protections include:

- Requiring IRB review of some research activities involving children that would be exempt if the research subjects were adults. Subpart D widens the range of research activities requiring IRB review by reducing the scope of the exemption in 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2) regarding research activities involving education tests, survey or interview procedures, or observation of public behavior, if the subjects are children. The exemption of research activities involving survey and interview procedures is eliminated. The exemption is also narrowed for research involving observation of public behavior, by eliminating the exemption of any research involving observation of public behavior if the investigator will participate in the activities being observed.

- Use of parental permission and child assent instead of the procedures for obtaining informed consent used for research involving adults. Subpart D uses parental permission and child assent instead of the procedures for informed consent used for research involving adults. In general, one or both parents or a guardian must be provided with the information ordinarily required for informed consent, so that they may decide whether to allow the child to participate, and children capable of assent must also express their willingness to participate. Subpart D allows for various conditions and waivers of parental permission and child assent, depending on the nature of the research activity and the maturity of the child.

- Conditions for IRB approval of proposed research activities in three categories depending on the level of risk and other specified features of the proposed research activity. Subpart D requires the reviewing IRB to identify the level of risk, the potential for direct benefits to the subjects, and other specified features of the research during the approval process. Depending on the level of risk and other specified features of the research activity, there are three categories under which the IRB can approve research involving children.

- Review by the Secretary for research that an IRB finds not approvable under any of the three categories. If the IRB does not believe that a proposed research activity fits any of the three categories, but that it does present a reasonable opportunity to further the understanding, prevention, or alleviation of a serious problem affecting the health or welfare of children, the IRB may forward that proposed activity to the HHS Secretary for review under conditions identified in section 407 of the regulations.

- Additional conditions for certain research activities involving children who are wards of the State or any other agency, institution, or entity. Subpart D also sets additional conditions for research involving children who are wards of the State or any other agency, institution, or entity if the research is approved under two of the categories of approvable research: it limits the kind of research activities approved under these two categories in which children who are wards can participate, and it requires the appointment of an advocate to act in the best interests of the child.

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.
2007 Annual Research Week

Abstracts have been submitted and distributed to the Selection Committee. Committee members will have the opportunity to review 21 research topics and 52 case reports. The Committee members are:

Karl Miller, MD, Family Medicine/Geriatrics
Mukta Panda, MD, Internal Med & Transitional Year
Daniel Schubert, MD, OB/GYN
Joe Rudd, PhD, Orthopaedic Surg/Ortho Trauma
Billy Arant, MD, Pediatrics
Lesley Wong, MD, Plastic Surgery
Vicente Mejia, MD, Surgery/Surgical Critical Care
Gregory Heath, DHsc, Director of Research
Pam Scott, Director of Graduate Medical Education
B W. Ruffner, MD, UT COM Dean

All College of Medicine Departments and Programs have submissions this year. Thanks to all who worked diligently to have their materials in by the deadline.

Deadline Update

Questions?
Contact Greg Heath, DHSc, MPH, Director of Research
gregory-heath@utc.edu, 425-4432 or 778-4843

Thurs, 3/22/2007: Selection Committee meets at 5:30 PM to make final selections for posters and oral presentations.

Fri, 3/23/2007: Departments and presenters notified of the Selection Committee’s decisions.

Thurs, 3/29/2007: Poster presenters meet with John Stroud and Dr. Heath regarding poster guidelines and appointment scheduling with Mr. Stroud for poster design and printing.

Fri, 3/30/2007 through Mon, 4/16/2007: Presenters meet by appointment with Mr. Stroud to submit all text and graphic files for layout of posters, proofing, etc.

Mon, 4/23/2007: Final proof approvals from authors/departments so printing can begin.

Fri, 5/4/2007: All poster authors and/or residency and research coordinators will bring their posters and presentation boards to the Medical Mall at 1:30 PM to assist Mr. Stroud and the GME staff in setting up the poster displays.

Mon, 5/7 through Fri, 5/11/2007: Posters on display in the Medical Mall.