Three UT COMC Faculty Honored

Three UT COMC faculty members have recently been recognized for exceptional contributions in their fields.

Drs. David P. Hall and B W. Ruffner have been named this year’s Baroness Erlanger Foundation Distinguished Physicians.

Dr. Hall, a retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, served 42 years on Erlanger’s medical staff and performed the first coronary artery bypass in the region. Dr. Hall served on the teaching staff of the UT COMC for more than 25 years. He is a native of Chickamauga, GA and graduated from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Hall served his residency at Vanderbilt University and Medical College of Georgia. In addition, he completed his Fellowship training at the National Heart Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and the University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr. Ruffner, who was the first medical oncologist to practice in the area, has been on Erlanger’s medical staff for 31 years. Dr. Ruffner served as the UT COMC Interim Dean from 2006-2007. He is a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine, where he also did his Internship and Residency training. He served as research associate and staff Fellow with the NIH in Bethesda, MD. Prior to relocating to Chattanooga, he was Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology at the University of Virginia Hospital.

Dr. James Creel is the recipient of EmCare Inc’s 2007 Commitment to Care Award. EmCare Inc is the nation’s leading provider of emergency care, whose 4,500 emergency medicine physicians treat over 5 million patients annually. The Commitment to Care Award recognizes outstanding emergency medicine physicians who contribute not only to the hospitals in which they work, but also to their communities and to their country. Dr. Creel was presented with the top award during EmCare’s recent medical director’s conference in Dallas, Texas. In addition to his leadership role at Erlanger, Dr. Creel serves as medical director of Hamilton County Emergency Services and as Erlanger’s Vice Chief of Staff. In 2004, he was certified in the subspecialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. Dr. Creel, UT COMC Clinical Assistant Professor, has been instrumental in seeking accreditation approval for an Emergency Medicine Residency Program with the UT COMC, which is expected to launch in 2008.
Welcome

Kristi Strode joined the UT COMC staff January 2nd, filling the new position of grant writer. She is a life-long native of Chattanooga, actually born at Erlanger Hospital. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and a Master’s degree in English, both from UTC. Ms. Strode has experience in local non-profit and governmental arenas. Her most recent nonprofit position was as the Director of Marketing and PR for the local American Red Cross. She has worked extensively with grants in these positions (writing, monitoring, creating community partnerships), and has taught grant writing classes at the local Center for Nonprofits. In addition, Ms. Strode has been an adjunct English teacher at Chattanooga State Technical Community College since 1998, although she is not teaching this semester.

Nancy Geren also joined the UT COMC staff January 2nd as grant manager. Ms. Geren has worked in various departments at UTC over the past twenty years, including Business and Financial Affairs, Personnel, the Bursar’s Office, the Challenger Center, and the Center for Community Career Education. The bulk of her time was spent working with grants, which became her major challenge and passion. She has had the opportunity to serve differing target populations including the disabled, elderly, middle and high school students, single parents, and displaced homemakers. Ms. Geren was born in Williamsburg, VA, raised in Rossville, GA, and now resides in East Ridge, TN with family throughout the southeast.

Academic Faculty Development Series Schedule
Second Monday of each month
12 Noon - 1:00 pm
Probasco Auditorium

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming presentations:

3/10/08 Designing and Testing Questionnaires: Quality of Life Measures and How To Use Them
4/14/08 Physician as Teacher: Adult Learning Techniques

OB/Gyn Resident Alumnus Receives Technology Award

Joy A. Nwadike, MD (2006 UT COMC Graduate) is one of four recipients of the inaugural Health Technology Awards for 2007, presented by the Physicians Institute for Excellence in Medicine. This program recognizes Georgia physicians who have implemented technology solutions in their practice. Dr. Nwadike’s practice, Immanuel Women’s Center based in Chatsworth, received the statewide award for successfully developing and implementing an electronic medical records system.

Congratulations to

Donna Gibson and Sharron Pinter Skorretz both attained Certified Professional Secretary standing in November, having successfully completed the examination offered through the International Association of Administrative Professionals. The IAAP provides information, education, and training and sets standards of excellence to 40,000 members and affiliates and is recognized by the business community around the world.
Publications and Presentations


Cason GW, Bonvallet TC. Single level: radiation exposure to patients, surgeons and OR staff using minimal access spinal technology. To be presented at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, San Francisco, March 5-9, 2008.


Congratulations

First year Pediatrics Resident Jennifer Williams was elected Tennessee resident representative to the American Academy of Pediatrics at the 2007 Annual AAP Meeting. Dr. Williams was elected to this position by a committee of program representatives from the five states that encompass District 4. She will be attending the AAP meeting in Nashville in February 2008 in this newly elected capacity.

Pediatrics Welcomes New Faculty

Nisha Surenderanath, MD has joined the UT COMC at the rank of Affiliated Assistant Professor. Dr. Surenderanath is currently a physician with the Pediatric Cardiology Division of T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital. Dr. Surenderanath obtained her medical degree at Calicut Medical College in Calicut, Kerala, India. Her Pediatrics Residency was completed in 2004 at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, TX. Most recently, her Fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology was completed at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Dr. Surenderanath is board certified in Pediatrics.

Joani Jack, MD, joins the UT COMC at the rank of Affiliated Assistant Professor. Dr. Jack’s appointment was converted in November 2007 from a clinical appointment to an affiliated appointment upon employment with T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital. Dr. Jack obtained her medical degree at the University of Tennessee, Memphis in 1991. Her Residency was completed in 1994 at the UT COMC. She also served as the Chief Resident for the UT COMC during the 2004-2005 academic year. Dr. Jack is board certified in Pediatrics.

Comments, articles, and announcements for the COMmunicator can be submitted in publishable format to Sylvia Friedl, Office of Research Compliance, Sylvia.Friedl@erlanger.org, 423.778.3899.
The Office of the Inspector General Revisits Conflict of Interest

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is suggesting that institutions be liable for conflict of interest reports. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provided the OIG with 438 financial conflict of interest reports for fiscal years 2004-2006. However, this number does not represent the total number of conflicts of interest reported by grantee institutions.

Although federal regulations require grantee institutions to report financial conflicts of interest, the regulations do not require them to report the nature of the conflicts or other details. At least 89 percent of financial conflict of interest reports reviewed by the OIG did not state the nature of the conflicts or how they would be managed.

The OIG is recommending that the NIH:

1) Increase oversight of grantee institutions to ensure their compliance with federal financial conflicts of interest regulations.

2) Require grantee institutions to provide details regarding the nature of financial conflicts of interest and how they are managed, reduced, or eliminated; and

3) Require institutes to forward all financial conflict of interest reports from grantee institutions and ensure that the Office of Extramural Research’s database contains all information.

Research Coordinator Forum Schedule
Noon, COMC Conference Room

2/19/08 Riverbend Medicare Review
Deborah Coke, CPC

3/18/08 EHS/UT Research Compliance
Billing Working Group

4/15/08 Revisiting Conflicts of Interest
Sylvia Friedl, CIP

5/20/08 IRB News and Views
Stacey Hendricks, CIM

6/17/08 HIPAA/HIM Update
Rita Bowen, MA, RHIA
2008 Annual Research Week Deadlines (Revised 11/19/2007)

The 2008 Annual Research Week will be held April 21-25. Abstracts selected for poster judging and oral presentations will have posters displayed all week in the Erlanger Medical Mall Lobby. Research and case report posters will be judged in a Poster Rounds in the morning on Friday, April 25 in the POB Dining Room. Oral presentations will be heard that afternoon in Probasco Auditorium. An awards dinner will be held that evening at the Hunter Museum of American Art. Deadlines are as follows:

**Mon, 2/4/08:** Electronically submit a completed abstract form and a paper copy of the IRB Form H to the department chair/program director. Forms are available on the UT COMC website ([http://www.utcomchatt.org/Research/Research.asp?dpage=irb](http://www.utcomchatt.org/Research/Research.asp?dpage=irb)).

**Mon, 2/11/08:** Department electronically submits the approved Abstract Form and a paper copy of Form H (both denoting the Department Chair/Program Director’s approval/signature) to Stacey.Hendricks@erlanger.org. The IRB will then review the Form H (if not previously reviewed by the IRB).

**Wed, 2/27/08:** All abstract forms will be electronically submitted from the IRB office (having been given approval or exemption) to GME@erlanger.org.

**Fri, 2/29/08:** Blinded abstracts and score sheets will be distributed to the Scientific Review Committee for scoring.

**Mon, 3/10/08:** Scientific Review Committee members return scored abstract spreadsheet to the GME Office for tabulation.

**Wed, 3/12/08:** Scientific Review Committee meets at Noon to make final selections for posters and oral presentations (meeting may run until 2 pm).

**Thurs, 3/13/08:** Departments and presenters notified of the Selection Committee’s decisions.

**Mon, 3/17/08:** Poster presenters meet with John Stroud and Dr. Heath regarding poster guidelines and appointment scheduling with Mr. Stroud for poster design and printing.

**Mon, 3/17/08 through Mon, 3/24/08:** Presenters meet by appointment with Mr. Stroud to submit a PowerPoint file with all text and graphic images for layout of posters, proofing, etc. Note: The presenter must submit a Computer Graphics Request form ([http://www.utcomchatt.org/Docs/F-CGReq.pdf](http://www.utcomchatt.org/Docs/F-CGReq.pdf) denoting the IRB exemption or approval # and signed by the program director or designee).

**Mon, 3/31/08:** Final proof approvals to be confirmed from authors/departments so printing can begin.

**Fri, 4/18/08:** All poster authors and/or Residency staff or research coordinators will take their posters and presentation boards to the Medical Mall at 1:30 pm to assist Mr. Stroud, Research Office, and GME Office in setting up the poster displays.

**Mon, 4/21 through Fri, 4/25/08:** Posters will be on display in the Medical Mall.

**Fri, 4/25/08:** Poster rounds in the morning in the POB Dining room. Oral presentations in the afternoon. Awards dinner in the evening at the Hunter Museum of American Art.
HEALTHCARE FRAUD IN TENNESSEE:
YOUR RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Presented by The Office of Research Compliance
University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga
Thursday, February 28, 2008
Probasco Auditorium

Target Audience
Physicians, Principal Investigators, Faculty
Nurses, Research Coordinators
Healthcare and Hospital Administrators, Billing and Coding Personnel
Institutional Review Board and Ethics Committee Members

8:15 am  Introductions and Welcome
Sylvia Friedl, CIP
Office of Research Compliance

8:20 am  Investigating Health Care Fraud in Tennessee
Curtis Watkins, Program Director
AdvanceMed Corporation

9:15 am  Clinical Research: Responsibility, Liability, and Credibility
Sara Kay Wheeler, Esq.
King and Spaulding, Atlanta, GA

10:15 am  Adjourn

There is no fee for the conference, but registration is required. Please return to Sylvia Friedl, 960 E. Third Street, Suite 104, Chattanooga TN 37403, or fax to 423-778-3673.

Title First Name Last Name
Clinic/Organization
Address Phone number
City State Zip Code
Email address

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