The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga received notification in February that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and its Emergency Medicine Residency Review Committee approved the addition of the Emergency Medicine Residency program based at the Erlanger Baroness Campus. The first class of residents will begin training in July 2008. The three year program will consist of six residents at each level, a total of eighteen residents when the program reaches maturity.

This will be the first emergency medicine residency program within the UT Health Science Center, which consists of campuses in Chattanooga, Memphis and Knoxville. Dr. James Creel, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Erlanger, will be Program Director.

“We are honored to announce the addition of the emergency medicine residency program at UT COM Chattanooga,” stated Dr. David Seaberg, Dean of the College of Medicine Chattanooga. “The program is not only essential in providing University of Tennessee medical students with the opportunity to pursue emergency medicine training, but it is also important to have trained, board-certified emergency physicians available to staff the emergency departments across the state. This approval is another step in the growth of our academic medical center and will help improve the care of our patients in the Chattanooga area.”

Dr. Creel added, “This program is a great addition to UT COM Chattanooga and Erlanger, and it is a program that will continue to give back to the city, the state, and the region by sending out well-trained board-certified emergency medicine physicians to area emergency rooms when they’ve completed their training.”

According to Erlanger President and CEO Jim Brexler, “The continued expansion of the UT COM Chattanooga at Erlanger is good news for this region. Last fiscal year, Erlanger saw more than 100,000 patients in our emergency departments, a new record. With the oversight of experienced emergency physicians, the doctors entering this new program will immediately contribute to the care of patients while they prepare for their future careers.”

The UT COMC, established in 1974 as the Clinical Education Center of Chattanooga, is affiliated with Erlanger Health System, one of the southeast’s premier academic medical centers and a recognized leader in healthcare and technology.
STERIS Corporation recently donated surgical equipment valued at $600,000 to the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga (UT COMC) surgical training lab based at the Erlanger Baroness Campus. Equipment included operating room and endovascular room tables and lights, as well as surgical scrub sinks, according to surgical training lab director, Richard Cook.

“UT COM Chattanooga and Erlanger’s commitment to the future of medical education in the Chattanooga region reaches farther than most people here in Chattanooga could imagine,” stated Anita Oaks Headrick, with STERIS Corporation. “STERIS Corporation is honored to be a part of this investment.”

Dean David Seaberg added, “Our surgery and surgical subspecialty training at UT COM Chattanooga is one of the best in the southeast, if not the nation, and our surgical skills lab provides a world-class facility for that training. We are extremely grateful for companies such as STERIS which help foster UT COM Chattanooga’s educational mission.”

UT COMC’s premier surgical training lab is fully equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, providing physicians, residents, and medical students with hands-on skills training on the latest techniques and surgical practices. The lab includes specialized areas designed in orthopaedic surgery and arthroscopy, anatomical study, surgical skills practice, and microsurgery in a simulated operating room with anesthesia and operating room technician students.

“The surgical training lab at UT COM Chattanooga helps prepare and train some of the finest medical students in the nation and we are thankful for the continued support from STERIS,” stated Dr. Ben Dart, Surgical Training Lab Medical Director.

STERIS Corporation is a global leader in infection prevention and surgical support, offering a broad array of capital, consumable and service solutions to healthcare, pharmaceutical, industrial, and government customers.

Congratulations

Dr. Roger DeVersa, Associate Program Director in Internal Medicine, has been appointed to serve on two national committees for the Society of Hospital Medicine: the Membership Committee and the Non-Physician Provider Committee. Dr. DeVersa is a nominated member to the Council of Young Physicians for Tennessee. He has also been appointed a member of the Board of Trustees’ Budget and Finance Committee for Erlanger Health Systems.

Mukta Panda, MD, Transitional Year Program Director, was one of ten program directors receiving this year’s Parker J. Palmer Teaching Award, sponsored by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Panda is shown here with William H. Hartmann, MD, Chair of the ACGME Board of Director (to her left) and Thomas J. Nasca, MD, CEO of ACGME. The awards dinner took place February 11, 2008 during the ACGME’s winter Board of Directors meeting at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont, IL. (See October 07 COMmunicator for additional details.)
Of Special Note

Billy S. Arant, Jr., MD, Professor of Pediatrics, presented a seminar entitled, “Stroke Kit: How to Have a Stroke!” at the 2008 Awakening Conference held January 5-8, 2008 at The Cloisters, Sea Island, GA. Other program participants included Former Attorney General Ed Meese, Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions, former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, Larry Kudlow of CNBC Kudlow and Company, and Wall Street Journal’s chief economic writer, Steve Moore, and economic and political columnist, John Fund.

Publications and Presentations


Rybolt A. Achieving the AAA of ambulatory care education: Appeal, Aptitude and Appreciation, a presentation of an intensive, hands-on experience using a structured ambulatory care orientation curriculum early in resident training. Poster presented at the ACGME Conference, the Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine, TX, 2008 Feb 29.


The Internal Medicine Residents and Faculty were very well represented at the Southern Chapter of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SSGIM) meeting in New Orleans, 2/28 - 2/23/08. Twenty abstracts were selected from which six were chosen as oral presentations. The Residents represented were Doctors Rahman, Tindni, Humble Mocanu, Tveite, Amil, Cincere, Gaurav, Cooley, Bhat-Pai, Chowdury, Strehnikova, Morrison, and Shamas. Faculty represented were Doctors Jones, Franklin, DeVersa, and Panda. Dr. Panda led a workshop at the SGIM meeting on mentorship titled, “Take Them Under your Wings—What Are You Taking On? The Perils and Pleasures of Mentoring.” Collaborative staff included Dr. Jada Bussey-Jones (Emory), Dr. Lisa Willet (UAB), and Dr. Jeff Weise (Tulane).

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.
**Preserving the Past for Future Use**

**What’s Happening at the Medical Library**

Did you know that ...

Your Medical Library houses some of the rarest and oldest medical material in the Southeast?

We have issues of JAMA from its beginning stages (circa 1885)?

In 1772, a book, *An Essay on Fevers*, discussed “...cold, northeasterly Winds bring on Disorders of the Breath, Sides and Lungs” (p 168)?

There is a fascinating look into the past through the book, *The Summer of the Pestilence*, published in 1856? In diary-like format, this small volume documents the announcement and spread of the yellow fever in Norfolk, VA. The book’s entries were sent to the secretary of the Virginia Historical Society for documentation of this epidemic.

Most library users are probably not aware of this collection’s presence. The rare books, journals and other materials (newspapers, clippings and photos) are kept in a back room under lock and key.

In order to maintain these resources and eventually make them more readily available (for viewing), Kara McClurken, preservationist librarian with SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network) will lend her expertise in rare books to assess the condition and value of this one-of-a-kind collection. Working with Kara and SOLINET, the Library staff will learn what steps to take in order to have this material more accessible to you.

Preservation is defined as, “The activities associated with maintaining library and archival materials for use either in their original physical form or in some other usable way.” Typically, preservation programs maintain collections through proper treatment, which ensures their availability for use, or through reformatting, when use is no longer possible due to unstable condition and/or embrittled paper.

The Medical Library staff will keep you apprised as they learn more about the resources in our collection.

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**Welcome**

The Department of Internal Medicine welcomes Dr. Catherine Payne Sutton as a new full-time faculty member. Dr. Payne Sutton has worked as a hospitalist and comes to us with great experience and leadership. She has been actively involved in many hospital quality improvement projects and will also be functioning as the clerkship director for Internal Medicine.

Dirk W. Kiner, MD joined the faculty of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga at the beginning of November as Instructor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Kiner is in practice with University Orthopaedics. He obtained his medical degree at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Kiner completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery in 2006 at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. He then completed a fellowship in orthopaedic trauma at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC.
Quality Assurance or Research: The Gray Zone

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) coordinated a quality-improvement research project aimed at reducing catheter-related infections. The study involved a five-item checklist to assure proper precautions were taken to prevent infection in 108 ICUs in Michigan. A July 2007 ruling issue by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) temporarily halted the collection of data on the use of the checklists. However, OHRP revised their findings in a new release on February 15, 2008 and allowed that Michigan hospitals can continue to implement the checklist to reduce the rate of catheter-related infections without falling under regulations governing human subjects research.

The issue came under scrutiny when OHRP issued a determination letter in July 2007 to JHU. The letter states, “Although JHU asserts that the interventions carried out by the Michigan hospitals were not human subjects research, but quality improvement activities, OHRP notes that quality improvement activities can also be research activities... OHRP finds that, given that the project involved non-exempt human subjects research, JHU failed to ensure that the requirements for obtaining and documenting the legally effective informed consent of the subjects ...were satisfied. OHRP notes that the subjects of the research were both the healthcare providers at the participating ICUs and their patients.”

Two bioethicists at the NIH disagree with the OHRP initial conclusion. In an article in the Feb 21, 2008 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, Ezekiel J. Emanuel and Franklin Miller posed three key questions in evaluating the case from an ethical and regulatory perspective:

1. Did the quality improvement project qualify as human subjects research that needed IRB review and approval?
2. If it is human subjects research, could it have been approved through expedited review?
3. Was informed consent required?

The authors agreed that OHRP was correct that the JHU project was not exempt from federal regulations for human subjects research, “since it prospectively implemented a protocol of infection control interventions and tested hypotheses regarding its effectiveness.” Further, the authors argued publishing the study results suggests that a goal was to produce generalizable knowledge.

Regarding the second question, they felt that the JHU IRB could in fact have used expedited review since there was no more than minimal risk involved.

And finally, Emanuel and Miller felt that informed consent of patients could have been waived since the quality improvement interventions did not expose patients to additional risks. However they did not address the risks to the health care providers (eg, possible allegations of malpractice).

Recommendation: Federal regulations on exempt or expedited review of research are under scrutiny. If you are conducting a study that may result in conclusions you wish to publish, IRB review is required before you start. EHS/UT IRB information and forms are available at http://www.utcomchatt.org/Research/Research.asp?dpage=irb
2008 Annual Research Week Deadlines (Revised 3/16/08)

Mon, 3/17/08, 10:00 AM Probasco: 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.utcomchat.org/Docs/F-CGReq.pdf](http://www.utcomchat.org/Docs/F-CGReq.pdf) denoting the IRB exemption or approval number 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 POB Dining Room followed by oral presentations in the afternoon. Awards Banquet in the evening at The Hunter Museum of American Art.

Grants Development

The Grants Department is off to a busy start. We very much appreciate the help of our colleagues who met with us over the past few weeks to explain their individual areas of interest. We are taking this information and matching those interests to actual funding sources. A huge thank you also goes out to Pat Bowers, EHS Grants Development Manager, for her help in making this launch successful. Our current projects include the following:

We are partnering with Emory University through a pending subcontract arrangement to implement the National Children’s Study in Bradley County, an area designated by the NIH as one of 105 study locations to track 100,000 children from the time of their mother’s pregnancy through age 21.

We are seeking funding through a variety of sources (such as the Anheuser-Busch Foundation) for the development of a high-fidelity simulation lab with replicated emergency and operating rooms. This lab will enhance the educational experiences of our current practitioners as well as our students. In addition, it will give area high school students an opportunity to explore the medical field through shared learning experiences.

We are matching appropriate funding sources to the project implementing hypothermia in cardiac arrest. There are several federal opportunities; an application should be submitted soon to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

We are working with the Memphis HSC on a submission to the Donald R. Reynolds Foundation for enhancements of the geriatrics program. We are advocating for Dr. Standridge’s vision of a community-based program with opportunities for both students and the aging population.

A working committee of UTCOMC and EHS faculty and staff is exploring submission to an NIH grant opportunity, The Effect of Racial/Ethnic Discrimination/Bias on Health Care Delivery.

If you have questions or would like to discuss possible grant opportunities, please contact Ms. Kristi Strode, 423-778-4566 or email her at kristi.strode@erlanger.org.
Continuing Medical Education News

Sally Ward joined the UT COMC staff February 18th as the Director of Continuing Medical Education. Ms. Ward recently moved from southwest Utah where she worked in program and event management for Southern Utah University in Cedar City. She holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration. Ms. Ward’s experience and enthusiasm has been in building programs from the ground up, strategically focusing on the future.

Along with Dr. Robert Fore, Ms. Ward will work to streamline the Continuing Medical Education process and ACCME accreditation statewide for the UT COMC. There are going to be many opportunities for growth in the CME program.

**Thursdays, March 13, March 20, March 27, 2008**
COPD Population Screener (COPD-PS™);
A Simple Tool for Identifying Patients at Risk for COPD
Dr. Frederic Seifer
7:00 - 8:00 pm
325 Market Street in the 3rd Floor conference Room
RSVP (Indicating your preferred date): 423-778-3822

**Tuesday, March 18, 2008**
Good Clinical Practice Tutorial Review
Research Coordinator Forum
Sylvia Friedl
12:00 Noon, IRB Conference Room

**Wednesday, March 26, 2008**
Erlanger Trauma Symposium
Chattanooga Choo Choo--Finley Lecture Hall
Registration information: 423-778-6704/beth.phillips@erlanger.org

**Monday, April 14, 2008**
Physician Industry Interaction
Faculty and Resident Development Series
Mark A. Levine, MD
Chair, AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, Professor of Medicine
University of Colorado Health Science Center
12:00 Noon, Probasco Auditorium

**Friday, April 25, 2008**
Annual Research Day
Poster Rounds, POB Dining Room in the morning
Oral Presentations, Probasco Auditorium in the afternoon
Awards Dinner, Hunter Museum of American Art in the evening

**Wednesday, June 11 - Saturday, June 14, 2008**
Annual Family Medicine Update
Clarion/Doubletree
Registration information: 423-778-6884