Dean  David Seaberg, MD
One Year Reflection... And Looking Forward

I am completing my first year as Dean of the College of Medicine, Chattanooga. It has been an exciting year. Although we face many challenges, I envision nothing but a bright future for the College and Erlanger. We are moving this campus forward and creating a vibrant academic medical center. The creation of UT-Erlanger Community with faculty who are dedicated to the campus and to the academic mission will be essential to our success.

This year has seen many accomplishments.

• In addition to my appointment, Dr. Robert Fore was hired as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Continuing Medical Education (CME).
• Our relationship with the system-wide College of Medicine has flourished this year.
• Interaction with the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center (Memphis) and system level leadership in Knoxville has continued with several General Staff and Faculty meetings with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor for the Health System, and Executive Dean for the College of Medicine, as well as faculty sessions on adult learning skills, performance improvement, remediation, resident impairment, and medical-legal issues.
• I have participated in the statewide strategic plan for the UT Health Science Center. One of the program directors, Joseph B. Cofer, MD, FACS (Surgery), represents the UTCOMC on a statewide Information Technology Committee.
• Dr. Fore and I participate in a weekly Deans’ teleconference with other Deans of the College of Medicine campuses, and with the Director of Graduate Medical Education, Pamela Scott, in a monthly Statewide Graduate Medical Education teleconference with other GME leaders in Memphis and Knoxville.
• In addition, I participated in strategic planning with the Erlanger Board of Trustees and Erlanger Executive Management in the hospital’s Board Retreat in September 2007.
• The University provided funding for Dr. Fore and I to participate in the American Medical Association Section of Medical Schools. Ms. Scott has also been funded to participate in the Association for Hospital Medical Education and its Council for Administrative Directors of Medical Education.

Under my leadership, biweekly meetings are being conducted with the Dean, the Business Manager, the chairs, and some of the Program Directors to ensure communication and oversight. We are working closely with hospitals and (continued on page 2)
University leadership to expand medical education programs in Chattanooga. Five new Program Directors have been appointed this year:

- Michael Tew, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery Residency;
- Stephen Adams, MD, Family Medicine Residency;
- Richard Sprouse, MD, New Vascular Surgery Fellowship;
- James Creel, MD, New Emergency Medicine Residency;
- Valencia Clay, MD, New Hospice/Palliative Care Fellowship Program.

The Dean’s Office is currently working with the chairs and Business Manager, Jane Clay, to reorganize and streamline distribution and management of University and Erlanger funds for the departments. This year we have also established a Faculty and Resident Development Lecture series to include topics such as research design, teaching and mentoring, professionalism, medical humanities, history of medicine, cultural diversity and competency, and interpersonal communication skills.

The UTCOMC has developed an Office of Research which includes a Research Director, IRB Office, Science Review Committee, Research Advisory Committee, a Research Compliance Officer, and two grant writers/managers. The campus has applied for over $6 million in federal research grants this year.

The Chattanooga campus has been designated as the lead campus for the statewide Continuing Medical Education (CME) efforts of the UTHSC. Under the direction of Dr. Fore and Sally Ward, MBA, Director of Continuing Medical Education, the CME Office has expanded the role of providing continuing medical education in the state and has developed policies and procedures to maintain ACCME accreditation.

UTCOMC and Erlanger Health Systems began a new Emergency Medicine Residency Program in July after gaining approval this year. Six residents are in the first class. This will be the first Emergency Medicine Residency program at the UTHSC. In addition, the Vascular Surgery Fellowship and the Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship were implemented in July. Accreditation requirements were only recently made available for the Hospice/Palliative Care Fellowship, but application for initial accreditation has already been submitted for consideration at the January 2009 meeting of the responsible Residency Review Committee in Chicago. The accreditation decision will be retroactive to July 2008.

Another important accomplishment for 2007-2008 has been the construction of the Human Patient Simulation Center. This Center will allow UTCOMC to provide cutting-edge simulation technology to enhance the educational experience of our students and residents. Ben Dart, MD, (Surgery) was named Medical Director of the Center. Working with our UTC partners in nursing and allied health, we also plan on providing interdisciplinary medical training in a high-fidelity simulated environment. The focus will not only be on the medical care provided, but will also provide training in communication, teamwork, patient safety and infection control among various healthcare providers.

I’d like to thank the University of Tennessee faculty, residents, students, administrators and staff as well as Erlanger Health Systems for their energy and support. I look forward to this next year and anticipate further growth and academic achievement. (See Challenges and Goals for the Future, page 3)
College of Medicine, Chattanooga
Challenges and Goals for the Future

Clinical

- Establish a Primary Care Faculty Practice Plan
- Complete the Department of Pediatrics Chair search
- Search for a permanent Department of Internal Medicine Chair
- Successfully implement the contract for the UTC Student/Athletic/Faculty Health program
- Renegotiate the major affiliation agreement between UT and Erlanger

Education

- Complete the Human Patient Simulation Center and begin inter-disciplinary training programs
- Secure initial accreditation for the Hospice/Palliative Care Fellowship
- Gain re-accreditation from the ACCME for the statewide UTCOM Continuing Medical Education Program
- Continue recruitment of excellent residents and fellows, particularly in primary care residency programs
- Complete renovation of the West Win 6 educational classroom
- Maintain continued accreditation with potentially limited or reduced federal and state funding
- Facilitate successful ACGME program accreditation review of OB/GYN
- Build on existing resources to take an increased number of UT medical students for the entire clinical third and fourth years
- Enhance infrastructure for medical student involvement on Chattanooga campus, and establish a strong medical student chapter of the American Medical Student Association

Research

- Continued development of the Office of Research
- Increase NIH/federal grants and funding
- Continued development of the Nanotechnology Research Group and the Center for Independent Living Research (CILVR) Group

Community

- Increase philanthropic fundraising for UT COMC
- Create and Advisory Committee for the new Chattanooga Health Science Center

**UT College of Medicine**
**Seen on Third Street**

Be sure to look for the new signage on the Whitehall Building. Not only does this make the College of Medicine Chattanooga administrative offices easier to find, but also promotes the College in the community. Special thanks to Erlanger for their cooperation in making this possible.
Dean’s Administrative Office Under Construction

On August 4, the Dean’s offices in Suites 100, 102 and 104 were invaded by demolition experts, carpenters, painters, drywallers, and all their equipment and tools. The renovation was initially scheduled to take place in several phases, but quickly engulfed the majority of the work space in an effort to complete the project in the shortest time possible. The conference room will be moved, offices rearranged, hazardous materials removed, and workspace improved.

The Dean and staff ask for your patience as they try to accommodate the construction crews. It may take longer to respond to your requests, phone calls and email, but everyone is doing their best to stay open for business!

UTCOMC Website Rebuilt

If you haven’t already, check out the new and improved UTCOMC Website.

The homepage can be seen at http://www.utcomchatt.org/index.php.

Not only is this site more attractive and friendlier to visitors, it also enables departments and programs to edit their own content. For additional information on training or to submit comments and suggestions, please contact Sally Ward, CME Director, (sally.ward@erlanger.org).

Correction: The May/June issue of The UT COMmunicator noted that Dr. David Alvarez was honored for Doctor’s Day Appreciation by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society. Dr. Alvarez was incorrectly listed as Associate Professor of Orthopaedics; he is a Clinical Instructor in Internal Medicine.
UTCOMC Revised Mission Statement

At the request of the Dean, the Chairs and Program Directors have revised and expanded the UTCOMC’s Mission Statement. This will be posted on the UTCOMC Website at http://www.utcomchatt.org/subpage.php?pageId=725.

The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga will be a top-tier medical education/health sciences unit.

Goals

We will educate the future leaders in the field of medicine, “Blending the Art and Science of Medicine,” and thus, reduce the burden of human illness and suffering.

Vision Focus Areas

• Quality Education--UTCOMC will provide the highest quality of state-of-the-art education for medical students, residents, and practicing physicians in an integrated, multidisciplinary environment. Faculty will be recruited, supported, and retained to teach, engage in scholarly activity/clinical research, and provide the highest level of healthcare for area patients.

• Cutting-Edge, Nationally-Recognized Research--Recognizing that medical education must be built on a strong scientific foundation, faculty and students will engage in scientific research projects for the purpose of improving health and reducing the burden of illness globally

• Health Enhancements for the Greater Chattanooga Area (and Beyond)--The region will have improved health outcomes due to the work of UTCOMC. Many of the institution’s students will choose to stay in the region to practice; thus, our excellence translates into better regional healthcare.

Values

Excellence--Superior performance will be expected from all faculty, staff, and students

• Fiscal Responsibility--Fiscal soundness will be the basis for all decisions regarding resources and how those resources are best utilized.

• Compassion and Social Responsibility--Faculty, staff, and students will embrace the reason we are here: to contribute to health care one individual at a time. We will never lose sight of the fact that we serve individuals and their families, and they depend on us for their wellbeing.

• Diversity--UTCOMC will recruit, educate, and graduate an increased number of under-represented minorities, and we will work to reduce health disparities that exist.

Pediatric Residents Volunteer at Lone Oak Community Health Center

On Saturday August 23 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm pediatric residents from T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital volunteered their time to host a free pediatric clinic at the Lone Oak Community Health Center in Sequatchie County. Seventeen children from infant to adolescent attended the clinic for sports physicals, well child care, and preventative health counseling. Patients were also provided with free developmental screening, as well as hearing and vision screening for their children. The residents were excited to be able to give back to their community in this way. They hope to continue their newfound partnership with Lone Oak Community Health Center and provide further free services in the future.
2008 Chief Residents Announced

- Kelly Arnold, MD  Family Medicine
- Christy Pettes, MD  Family Medicine
- Apama Chowdhury, MD  Internal Medicine
- Amanda Cincere, MD  Internal Medicine
- Wesley Halford, MD  Internal Medicine
- Brian Humble, MD  Internal Medicine
- Cherise Felix, MD  Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Christy Pearce, MD  Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Brandon Riggan, MD  Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Lynlee Wolfe, MD  Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Terry Arrington, MD  Orthopaedic Surgery
- Garrick Cason, MD  Orthopaedic Surgery
- Matthew Willis, MD  Orthopaedic Surgery
- Laura Asbury, MD  Pediatrics
- Bruce Hermann, MD  Plastic Surgery
- Warren Schutte, MD  Plastic Surgery
- Hans Burkholder, MD  Surgery
- Michael Fahr, MD  Surgery
- William Havron, III, MD  Surgery
- Bruce Lynch, MD  Surgery

Publications and Presentations

Robert C. Fore, EdD, FACME, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Continuing Medical Education, chaired an accreditation survey team for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to re-accredit the Christian Medical Association, Bristol, Tennessee on July 29, 2008.

Lawrence G. Miller, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine and Lead Organizational Development Specialist at Erlanger, served as a judge for the Ninth Annual eHealthcare Leadership Web Site Competition. He evaluated twenty hospital Web sites to determine best practices for hospitals in using the Web to advance their mission and business objectives.


Welcome New Faculty

Family Medicine

Beth Choby, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Assistant Professor on September 1, 2008. Dr. Choby received her MD degree from West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia in 1995. She completed her Family Medicine Residency at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee in 1998. In 1999 she completed an Advanced Obstetrics and Women’s Health Fellowship at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee. Prior to joining us she worked as an Assistant Professor at San Jacinto Family Medicine Residency in Baytown, Texas. Dr. Choby is board certified in Family Medicine.

Lisa Talbert, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Instructor on September 1, 2008. Dr. Talbert received her MD degree at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee in 1988. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee in 1991. In 1994 she completed a Rheumatology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. She completed a Geriatric Fellowship in June 2008 at UT COMC, Family Medicine Department.

Plastic Surgery

The Department of Plastic Surgery wishes to welcome Jimmy Waldrop, MD as its newest faculty member. Dr. Waldrop completed his General Surgery and Plastic Surgery Residencies here at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga. Dr. Waldrop will be a tremendous asset as a faculty member. His office is located at The Plastic Surgery Group, PC.

Internal Medicine

Catherine Payne Sutton, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Assistant Professor and Clerkship Director on February 1, 2008. Dr. Sutton received her MD degree from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, May 2000. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at UT COMC, Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 1994. Prior to joining us she served as a member of University Hospitalists, PLLC, Erlanger Medical Center, Chattanooga, TN. Dr. Sutton is board certified in Internal Medicine.

Victor Kolade, MD, MS, FACP, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Assistant Professor September 1, 2008. Dr. Kolade received his MD degree from University of Ibadan College of Medicine, Ibadan, Nigeria, May 1994. He completed his residency training at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, June 2004. He completed a General Internal Medicine Fellowship at University at Buffalo, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY, July 2006. He received a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, June 2006. Prior to joining us Dr. Kolade served as an Attending Physician, Hertel Elmwood Internal Medicine Center, Buffalo, NY. Dr. Kolade is board certified in Internal Medicine.

General Surgery

Charles Scott Joels, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Assistant Professor in August 2008. Dr. Joels received his MD degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Kentucky, May 2000. He completed his General Surgery Residency training at the Carolina Medical Center, Charlotte, North Carolina, June 2006. He then completed a Vascular Surgery Fellowship at Greenville Hospital System, Greenville, South Carolina, June 2008. Dr. Joels is board certified in General Surgery and will be taking his Vascular Surgery boards in the near future.
Welcome New Faculty (continued)

Surgery

Shauna Lorenzo-Rivero, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Assistant Professor on June 1, 2008. Dr. Lorenzo received her MD degree from the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, June 1999. She completed her General Surgery Residency training at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa, July 2004. She then completed a Colorectal Surgery Fellowship from the Ferguson Clinic, Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 2005. Prior to joining UT COMC, Dr. Lorenzo was in private practice in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dr. Lorenzo is board certified in General Surgery and Colon and Rectal Surgery.

Craig Steve Swafford, MD, joined the UT COMC at the rank of Instructor on July 1, 2008. Dr. Swafford received his MD degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tennessee, May 2003. He completed his General Surgery Residency training at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine Knoxville, TN, June 2008. Dr. Swafford is currently a United States Navy Reservist as a Navy SEAL and Naval Medical Officer highest rank attained O-3E/Lieutenant. Dr. Swafford is eligible for the American Board of Surgery qualifying exam after June 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cauley W. Hayes, MD was honored on June 29, 2008 for his 38 years of distinguished service and years of dedication to teaching and mentoring residents in the departments of Plastic and Orthopaedic Surgery. A plaque honoring Dr. Hayes’ retirement was presented by R. Phillip Burns, MD, Chairman of the Department of Surgery. Dr. Hayes will be greatly missed by the faculty and residents of the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga.

Kurt Scherer, MD, Transitional Year resident at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, was presented the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine award which is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, an award which he was selected by his peers based on his display of humanism and community service. He is also the recipient of the Deanne Barlow Romrell Professionalism in Medicine award. Dr. Scherer continues to be actively involved in the Esprit de Corp committee with the Departments of Transitional Year and Internal Medicine fostering humanism, professionalism and community service.

John Standridge, MD, has been chosen as the plenary speaker, representing the United States, at the 23rd Biennial Conference of the International Health Evaluation and Promotion Association, to be held this year in Beijing, China. Dr. Standridge’s presentation, “Overview of Health Evaluation and Promotion in the U.S.A.” will be given on November 1, 2008.
Is my survey project really human subjects research?

Most surveys do meet the federal definition of research. In defining human subjects research activities, two separate determinations must be made. First, is it research (a systematic investigation including research development, testing and evaluation designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge)? If the answer is yes, then does it involve human subjects (living individuals about whom an investigator 1) obtains data through intervention or interaction with the individual or 2) obtains identifiable private information)?

Example of activities that do not meet these definitions would be 1) ad hoc evaluations of a workshop or symposium (not a systematic investigation), 2) sample surveys on employee satisfaction within one company IF the goal is to identify areas for improvement within that company (not designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge) or 3) an analysis of 1880 census records (not information about living individuals).

I think my project is exempt and should not have to be submitted. Are all research projects involving human subjects required to undergo full IRB review?

No, but the determination does not rest with the investigator. Therefore, all projects must be submitted to the IRB for initial review. Federal regulations permit the exemption of some types of research from full IRB review and allow other research to be reviewed in an expedited process.

Do I always have to get informed consent?

Yes. The informed consent process is a basic ethical obligation for researchers. It must be obtained from the subjects or their legally authorized representatives (parents or guardians) before participation in research begins. However, if requested by the investigator, the IRB may waive the signature requirement for certain types of minimal risk research, such as surveys. For example, IRBs have approved waivers of documentation when an introductory letter or paragraph includes the elements of consent required.

I want to do a survey of high school students or children. Do I need parental consent? What is assent?

Yes, you need parental consent. Because children have not yet attained legal age (18 yo in Tennessee), the parent or legal guardian is asked to give permission whenever a child is asked to take part in research. Federal regulations also require that children be asked to provide assent, or agreement to participate in the research whenever they are capable of doing so. It is important to involve children in the decision-making process whenever possible.

I’m not asking anything about the respondent. I want to know about the place where she works. Does my survey still need to be reviewed by the IRB?

Yes. The project may not meet the definition of human subject if the questions are not about any individual (attributes, attitudes, or private knowledge). However this determination is sometimes difficult to make and the decision rests with the IRB, not the investigator.
2008-2009 Research Coordinator Forum
Fourth Tuesdays, 12:00 Noon
COMC Conference Room

September 19, 2008  Clinical Research: Nuts and Bolts Symposium
See additional information at the UTCOMC Website,

October 28, 2008  Cultural Confidence
Lisa Staton, MD, UT COMC
Meeting room to be announced

November 25, 2008  Research Nursing: UTC Training and Course Offerings
Christine B. Smith, PhD, FNP-BC, UTC

December 23, 2008  No forum this month

January 27, 2009  How Does Your Research Team Function
Karen Gilbert, RN (Takeda Pharmaceutical Research and Development)

February 24, 2009  Ethics in Research
Donald Klinefelter, PhD, UTC Professor Emeritus, Psychology and Religion

February 26, 2009  Research Challenges 2009
Probasco Auditorium

March 24, 2009  Simulation Lab Tour and Demonstration

April 28, 2009  Legal Issues in Research
Will Wallace, JD (UT GSM Knoxville)

May 26, 2009  IRB Update--Changes and New Challenges
Stacey Hendricks, CIM, UT COMC

Save the Date

Research Integrity Workshop
December 4, 2008, 9 AM - 1:00 Noon, EST
Probasco Auditorium (Simulcast from UTHSC Memphis)

The UTHSC Faculty Senate is planning a Research Integrity Workshop to be held on the Memphis campus December 4, 2008, from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Central Standard Time (9:00 am - 3:00 pm local time). This program will be simulcast in the Probasco Auditorium.
<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malpractice</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, September 17, 2008</td>
<td>Institutional Core Curriculum Series Probasco Auditorium Chattanooga, Tennessee</td>
<td>The purpose of this educational activity is to provide information and education regarding malpractice insurance, physician-patient communication and record documentation. Core competencies include: patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.</td>
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<td><strong>Nuts &amp; Bolts Research Symposium</strong></td>
<td>Friday, September 19, 2008</td>
<td>UTCOMC and Erlanger Annual Symposium UTC University Center Chattanooga, Tennessee</td>
<td>The purpose of this educational activity is to engage community and academic investigators in the development of research. In doing this we endeavor to improve patient care quality and evidence-based decision making.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Updates in Breast Care &amp; Updates and Advances in Weight Loss Surgery</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, September 23, 2008</td>
<td>Regional Surgery Seminar Series Bald Headed Bistro, Cleveland, Tennessee</td>
<td>The purpose of this educational activity is to give current updates in the management of breast-related issues and the treatment of breast cancer, and recent advances in gastric bypass, gastric band and vertical sleeve gastrectomy surgeries.</td>
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<td><strong>Clinical Updates in Vascular Disease</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, September 30, 2008</td>
<td>Regional Surgery Seminar Series Monteagle, Tennessee</td>
<td>The purpose of this educational activity is to give current updates in the treatment of aneurysm and renal vascular disease, and peripheral vascular and extracranial disease.</td>
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<td><strong>Inaugural History of Medicine Symposium</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, October 2, 2008</td>
<td>Probasco Auditorium Chattanooga, Tennessee</td>
<td>The goal of this educational activity is to provide an historical overview of the foundations of healthcare and medical education from the perspective of Erlanger Hospital, UT College of Medicine Chattanooga, and the Chattanooga and Hamilton County Medical Society. Speakers include David P. McCallie, MD, Robert Coddington, MD, and R. Phillip Burns, MD.</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Cancer Symposium</strong></td>
<td>Friday, October 3, 2008</td>
<td>The Chattanoogaan Hotel Chattanooga, Tennessee</td>
<td>The purpose of this continuing medical education activity is to address areas of interest and value to physicians to enhance knowledge, competence, and performance. Content and instruction is focused on providing new abilities and strategies in cancer care; assisting in modifying practice; and ultimately improving patient outcomes.</td>
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<td><strong>Influences on Practice, Risks of Medications</strong></td>
<td>Saturday, November 8, 2008</td>
<td>Dr. R. Ben Alley Lecture Series UT Medical Center, Knoxville Morrison’s Conference Center</td>
<td>What socioeconomic influences impact oral and maxillofacial surgery practice, and what effects do Gen X and Gen Y have on the OMS professional? These influences, as well as discussion of risks of certain medications used in OMS procedures, will be topics of this biennial series. Seating is limited. (register at <a href="http://www.tennessee.edu/cme/BenAlley2008">www.tennessee.edu/cme/BenAlley2008</a>)</td>
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The UTCOMC as well as Erlanger Health System employees and medical staff are committed to providing quality care in a safe environment to all patients that we serve. Please report any safety or quality concern immediately as follows:

- To your direct supervisor or department/unit manager; or
- To the House Supervisor at 423-778-6168

For concerns that remain unresolved or if you wish to submit your concern anonymously, call the Chief Compliance Officer directly at 423-778-7703 or the Erlanger Integrity Line at 1-877-849-8338. No employee or medical staff member will be punished or disciplined for making a report in good faith to the Compliance Office.

For concerns that remain unresolved, you may contact the Joint Commission. You can send Joint Commission your complaint by mail, fax, or e-mail. You need to summarize the issues in one to two pages and include the name, street address, city and state where Erlanger Health System is located.

When submitting a complaint to Joint Commission, you may either provide your name and contact information or submit your complaint anonymously. Providing your name and contact information enables the Joint Commission to inform you about the actions taken in response to your complaint, and also to contact you should additional information be needed.

It is Joint Commission’s policy to treat your name as confidential information and not to disclose it to any other party. However, it may be necessary to share the compliant with Erlanger Health System in the course of a complaint investigation.

Joint Commission policy forbids accredited organizations from taking retaliatory actions against employees or medical staff for having reported quality of care concerns to Joint Commission.

If you have questions about how to file your complaint with the Joint Commission, you may contact Joint Commission at this toll-free number (800) 994-6610, 8:30 to 5 p.m., Central Time, weekdays.

Joint Commission Contact Information:

E-Mail: complaint@jointcommission.org
Fax: Office of Quality Monitoring  
(630) 792-5636
Mail: Office of Quality Monitoring  
Joint Commission  
One Renaissance Boulevard  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

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.
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga and the Erlanger Health System Announce the 27th Annual Research Week, Monday-Friday, April 20-24, 2009

Research week was created to provide residents with an opportunity to develop and present a research project or scholarly case report. This year’s events will culminate with an Awards Banquet at The Chattanooga Golf and Country Club on Friday evening, April 24th. All residents, faculty and their guests are invited to attend both the oral presentations and the dinner. Cash awards and plaques will be given at the end of the evening. Please mark your calendar.

Research Project: A prospective or retrospective study accomplished while training in Chattanooga.
Case Report: A scholarly analysis of an uncommon disease or uncommon presentation of a common disease encountered while training in Chattanooga.

- Each resident should check with the appropriate chair/program director to determine if an abstract submission is a required scholarly activity
- Abstract submission and IRB forms are available on the UTCOM website at http://utcomchatt.org/subpage.php?pageId=716 (Note that there are different forms for abstract or research submission.)
- Font should be Times New Roman, 12 pitch; proofread submissions for grammar and spelling
- Abstract narrative is limited to 250 words

The Scientific Review Committee will review all abstracts and select those to be presented. Exceptions to submissions encountered “while training in Chattanooga” will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Scientific Review Committee.

- Posters will be selected for display in the Erlanger Medical Mall Atrium
- Posters must be 3’ x 7’ mounted on 4’ x 8’ poster board and displayed the entire week
- Poster rounds will be held Friday, April 24th
- Presentations may be no longer than 12 minutes (including Q&A) (poster and oral)

- Case studies will be presented in the morning.
- The best case study abstracts (as judged by the Scientific Review Committee) will be orally presented in the Probasco Auditorium at 11:00 AM

- Research abstracts will be presented in the afternoon.
- The best research abstracts (as judged by the Scientific Review Committee) will be orally presented in the Probasco Auditorium at 3:00 PM

- The authors of abstracts selected for oral presentations will also need to prepare posters for display. These posters will not be judged during the Poster Rounds

The deadline for abstract submissions assumes that data collection and statistical analysis is complete. Your abstract should include the following information in this order:

- Why did this work need to be done?
- State your hypothesis.
- What did you do?
- How did you do it?
- What were the findings?
- What do the data permit you to conclude?
2009 Annual Research Week Deadlines

The 2009 Annual Research Week will be held April 20-24, 2009. 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 at Poster Rounds on Friday, April 24. Oral presentations will be held in the Probasco Auditorium. An awards dinner will be held that evening at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club. Deadlines are as follows:

Mon, 1/26/09: 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/subpage.php?pageId=833).

Mon, 2/2/09: 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).

Fri, 2/13/09: All abstract forms will be electronically submitted from the IRB office, given approval or exemption, to GME@erlanger.org.

Fri, 2/20/09: Blinded abstracts and score sheets will be distributed to the Scientific Review Committee for scoring.

Wed, 3/4/09: Scientific Review Committee members return scored abstract spreadsheet to the GME Office for tabulation.

Wed, 3/11/00: Scientific Review Committee meets at Noon to make final selections for posters and oral presentations (meeting may run until 2 PM).

Mon, 3/16/09: Departments and presenters notified of the Scientific Review Committee’s decisions.

Wed, 3/18/09: Poster presenters meet with John Stroud and Dr. Heath in the Probasco Auditorium at 8:00 AM for review of poster design guidelines and appointment scheduling with Mr. Stroud.

Wed, 3/18/09 through Wed, 3/25/09: 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/GraphicsRequest.pdf denoting the IRB exemption or approval # and signed by the program director or designee.

Mon, 3/30/09: Final proof approvals from authors/departments so printing can begin.

Fri, 4/17/09: 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, 4/20 through Fri, 4/24/09: Posters on display in the Medical Mall.

Fri, 4/24/09: Case study poster and oral presentations are in the morning. Research poster and oral presentations are in the afternoon. Awards dinner in the evening at the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club.