Harold Alper, MD, Humanitarian Endowment Award and Community Lecture

The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga, in conjunction with the Baroness Foundation and the family of the late Harold Alper, MD, awards the Graduating Resident who consistently demonstrates qualities of integrity, respect, and compassion in the care of patients and their families throughout residency training. Congratulations to all the nominees, each of whom exemplify these qualities:

- Kelly Arnold, MD (Family Medicine)
- Hans Burkholder, MD (Surgery)
- Amanda Grubb, MD (Internal Medicine)
- Musharraf Navaid, MD (Hospice and Palliative Medicine)
- Christy Pearce, MD (OB/GYN)
- Brandon Riggan, MD (OB/GYN)
- Kurt Scherrer, MD (Transitional Year)

Amanda Grubb, MD is the recipient of this year’s Harold Alper, MD, Humanitarian Award. A graduate of the UT College of Medicine, Dr. Grubb entered the Internal Medicine Residency in 2006.

According to her nomination, “…Dr Grubb is one of the most outstanding residents I have worked with in my more than twenty years as faculty. She is a gifted physician and is compassionate, caring and empathetic, as evidenced by the excellent rapport she has with the diverse patients presenting to the resident continuity clinic. Dr. Grubb treats every single patient she encounters as if they are indeed the most important person in the world… Dr. Grubb has been a leader in the classroom, from mentoring her colleagues to sponsoring needy patients and families during the Christmas holiday. Dr. Grubb’s efforts extend to our local community. She recently co-hosted 13 children from the YMCA BIG program during a visit to the clinic and hospital. She stands out as a role model and mentor to the children in the YMCA after school program... She does this because she cares for so many others and is deserving of the Harold Alper, MD, Humanitarian Award.”

Dianne Meier, MD, FACP was the guest speaker for this year’s Alper Humanitarian Endowment Lecture. Dr. Meier is the Catherine Gaisman Professor of Medical Ethics, Professor of Medicine and Geriatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and Director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC). Under her leadership the number of palliative care programs in U.S. hospitals has more than doubled in the last five years. Over 250 university and community health care professionals attended this annual event.
27th Annual Research Presentation Selections

This year’s poster and oral presentations will be held on **Friday, April 24th at the Probasco Auditorium**. All interested faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. However, we would like to remind attendees that this is a juried event. As a courtesy to the speaker, please do not enter or exit during the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Resident Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Comparison of square vs half hitch knots in a running suture model</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>Shane Asbury, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:12 am</td>
<td>Contralateral breast symmetriazation concurrent with implant-based post-mastectomy reconstruction</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>Warren Schuette, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:24 am</td>
<td>Clinical decision making for pulmonary embolism: Are physicians using the latest evidence?</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Fadi Makdsi, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:36 am</td>
<td>Rapid response teams: The impact on the rate of cardiac arrests at the Baroness Erlanger Hospital of the UTCOMC</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Tatiana Jacobson, MD Brindusa Mocanu, MD Arshdeep Tindni, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:48 am</td>
<td>The frequency and significance of incidental thyroid nodule on CT scan of the chest performed for reasons other than thyroid disease: A retrospective study</td>
<td>Transitional Year</td>
<td>Kurt Scherer, MD Seth Means, MD Collins Chijioke, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Posterior dislocation of the sternoclavicular joint: A case report</td>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>Jeremy Bruce, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:42 am</td>
<td>Internal carotid artery thrombosis after blunt trauma</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Melissa Rader, MD Phillip Ramsay, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:54 am</td>
<td>Robotic assisted laparoscopic ovarian cystectomy during pregnancy</td>
<td>OB/GYN</td>
<td>Susanne Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:06 am</td>
<td>First case report of concomitant hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis and completed gonadal dysgenesis</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Amanda Joseph, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:18 am</td>
<td>Late onset asthma and stridor: Think about adenoid cystic carcinoma</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Ahmad Kaako, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Painful ophthalmoplegia as the first manifestation of lung carcinoma</td>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Brindusa Mocanu, MD Bassel Obaid, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:42 am</td>
<td>A rare cause of acute seizure in a young male</td>
<td>Internal Medicine &amp; Transitional Year</td>
<td>Brett Krummert, MD Kurt Scherer, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:56 am</td>
<td>The persistent parasite, patient, and physician</td>
<td>Transitional Year &amp; Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Kurt Scherer, MD Nishant Gupta, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Demographic, metabolic, and genomic description of neonates with severe hyperbilirubinemia</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Sandy Varghese, MD Christy Lusk, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:16 pm</td>
<td>Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus in a trauma population: Does colonization predict infection?</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Chasen Croft, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:32 pm</td>
<td>Infrared surface temperature monitoring in the post-operative management of free tissue transfers</td>
<td>Surgery and Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>Paul Papillion, MD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B W. Ruffner, MD, Elected TMA President-Elect

B W. Ruffner, MD, has been elected the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) president-elect for 2009-2010. The TMA is a professional organization for medical doctors dedicated to protecting the health interests of patients and enhancing the effective practice of physicians throughout the state. Elections were held from February 1-28 with 870 members voting. The new leaders were installed in office at the TMA Annual Meeting, April 3-5 in Nashville.

R. Phillip Burns, MD, Named TMA Outstanding Physician

R. Phillip Burns, MD, UTCOMC Professor, Maury W. Bronstein, MD, of Memphis, and Thomas Guv Pennington, MD, of Nashville, were named recipients of the TMA 2009 Outstanding Physician Award. The Outstanding Physician Award is presented annually by the TMA House of Delegates to member physicians who have made their own personal mark on the profession of medicine in Tennessee and on those whom they have worked with and known during their illustrious medical careers.

Dr. Burns was nominated by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society for his steadfast commitment to medical education and innovation and unprecedented longevity in serving as the chairman of surgery at the UTCOMC.

Congratulations

The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) has announced that Catherine Payne, MD has earned the Fellow in Hospital Medicine designation. Becoming a Fellow is an avenue for special recognition for Society members who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues and the hospital medicine specialty. To be designated as a Fellow In Hospital Medicine, an applicant must be a hospitalist for five years, a member of SHM for three years, demonstrate their dedication to quality and process improvement, commitment to organizational teamwork and leadership, as well as lifelong learning and education. In addition, Dr. Payne has been appointed to the SHM Young Physicians Committee.

Ann Rybolt, MD and Lotika Pandit, MD were recently recertified in Geriatric Medicine. Dr. Rybolt initially took the Geriatrics certification test when it was first given in April of 1988 and had recertified in 1998 and 2008. Dr. Pandit was originally certified in 1998. Dr. Mukta Panda also received her recertification in Internal Medicine.

JCAHO Stroke Certification Received

JCAHO grants a disease-specific certification which consists of an on-site review every two years and an intra-cycle telephone survey in the year between the on-site surveys. This certification is separate from the hospital JCAHO review. The EHS Stroke Team utilizes the “Get With The Guidelines/Stroke” recommendations as well as chart reviews to identify strengths and weaknesses and to benchmark against other hospitals. Members of the Stroke Team Committee (which meets monthly) send their congratulations to Medicine Residents, the Emergency Department, Nursing Units, Radiology, Hospitalists, and administrators who help maintain this standard of excellence.

Institute for Health Improvement
Open School for Health Professions
Fundamentals of Improvement
Tuesday,
April 21, 2009
5:00 PM
POB Dining Room
For more information contact
Catherine.Payne@erlanger.org
2009 Inductees to the Gold Humanism Honor Society Announced

The first annual induction of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) followed the Harold Alper, MD, Community Lecture on Friday, April 17, 2009. Jacqueline A. Mintz, PhD, Executive Director of the GHHS, Arnold P. Gold Foundation attended the ceremony as a special guest. Established in 2002, the GHHS is an international association of individuals and medical school chapters whose members are selected as exemplars of empathy, compassion, altruism, integrity, and service in their relationships with patients and others in the field of medicine. The University of Tennessee Gold Humanism Honor Society Chapter was approved in March 2009. This was made possible by an initial grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The GHHS is dedicated to foster, recognize, and support the values of humanism and professionalism in medicine. The Society commits itself to work within and beyond medical education to inspire, nurture, and sustain lifelong advocates and activists for compassionate patient care. Congratulations to these inductees from the Class of 2010:

Akesha Amin
Robin Denise Atkinson
Harry Michael Baddour
Joanna Gabriel Blankner
Brian Thomas Bogdanowicz
Chonna Lynn Larry
James Andrew Parnell
Bryan Keith Payne
Barry Joel Pelz
Gavin Butler Pinkston
Ron Benton Pitkanen
Jerry “Jay” Mark Smith
Matthew Jordan Steadmon
Byron Fitzgerald Stephens
Rebecca Zenaida Tuchez
Allyson Brooke Warren

Two UTCOMC Faculty Honored on Doctor’s Day 2009

W. Todd Cockerman, MD (Assistant Professor in Surgery and Project Access Volunteer) and Alvaro A. Valle, MD (Assistant Professor in Surgery and Project Access Volunteer) were among the physicians honored for Doctor’s Day Appreciation, sponsored by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga, Medical Alliance, and Project Access, in conjunction with News 12. Patients submitted 140 nominations this year, almost triple the number received in 2008. National Doctor’s Day provides a time for people to show appreciation to the doctors who care for them or their loved ones. The first Doctors’ Day observance was March 30, 1933, in Winder, GA, on the anniversary of the first use of general anesthetic in surgery. Congratulations to this year’s awardees.

Pediatric Faculty and Residents are Smoke Free Champions

Pediatricians are choosing to take a stand against the dangers of secondhand smoke. The American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence sponsored a conference and training session February 25-27, 2009 in Anaheim, CA. Annamaria Church, MD, Jennifer Williams, MD, Sandy Varghese, MD, and Jeannette Martin, MD were selected to participate in this international program. Dr. Martin reported that the training sessions were intense and provided ammunition for the participants to begin the work of championing smoke-free homes and work places. Erlanger’s recent announcement to make its campus smoke free is a welcome boost to this enormous battle. For more information on how you can join this effort, please contact Dr. Martin at Jeannette.Martin@ehs.org. [See CME events on page 8 for the Grand Rounds presentation on this topic, Thursday, April 22.]
Publications and Presentations

Mukta Panda, MD led a team of Internal Medicine and Transitional Year residents to complete 14 posters, 8 oral presentations, and 2 workshops at the February 12-14, 2009 meeting of the Southern Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) in New Orleans.


Cofer J. The case against modular recertification. Presented at the Retreat on Maintenance of Certification at The American Board of Surgery, Board of Directors Meeting, J. W. Marriott, Cancun, Mexico, January 10-14, 2009.


C. Croft, MD, Receives Gold Medal Award at Southeastern Surgical Congress

On February 13, 2009, Chasen A. Croft, MD (PGY-5, Surgery) received first place in the resident paper competition at the Southeastern Surgical Congress held in Atlanta, GA. His presentation, “Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in a trauma population: Does colonization predict infection?” was one of six abstracts chosen from hundreds of submissions for competition. The Gold Medal Forum is a tangible stimulus for research by young surgeons. In addition to peer recognition, the presenters receive cash awards.

Dr. Croft worked in conjunction with his faculty mentors, Drs. Vicente A. Mejia, Donald E. Barker, Robert A. Maxwell, Benjamin W. Dart IV, and Philip W. Smith, to develop the project, presentation, and manuscript.

Erlanger’s Infection Control, ICU, Microbiology, and Trauma Services staffs were instrumental in gathering nasal swab specimens and resulting data.

Dr. Croft’s presentation has been selected as one of three oral presentations at UT College of Medicine’s Research Day on April 24th. The presentations will be in the Probasco Auditorium at 3 pm and all are welcome.
**Introduction to Nanotechnology**
Riddhi Doshi, MD, UT COMC grant writer

**The Future**
A patient comes to you with persistent fever. You call up your laboratory team to be ready for their next visitor. They implant a nano-device into the blood stream of the patient through a narrow bore needle by an outpatient procedure. The robot performs the diagnostics, detects the site of infection if any, travels to the appropriate system and provides a dose of medication directly to the infected area. A couple of decades back it would have been difficult to imagine such a device but in the current times with advances in nanotechnology such innovations are not far from our reach.

Currently an array of applications of nanotechnology is under investigation. Researchers are exploring use of nanoparticles for killing breast cancer cells, nanofibers to form biodegradable bone and tendon repair devices, controlled release drug delivery devices, polymer nanowires to detect biomarkers for cancer, Fe-Co nanocrystals as advanced magnetic resonance imaging and near-infrared agent.

**How small Nano really is**
When we say nano- how small do we really mean?

![DNA](image1)

DNA- diameter
2.5 nm

![Bacterium](image2)

Bacterium-length
2.5 micrometers

![Raindrop](image3)

Raindrop –diameter
2.5mm

A nanometer is a unit of length in the metric system equal to one billionth of a meter. Numerous structures and processes in nature are at nanoscale. Scientists are trying to mimic these nanoscale structures to produce biometric materials. Researchers have now developed expertise in production and modification of nanomaterials. Various products like antibacterial wound dressings, batteries, cosmetics, sunscreens and coating for scratch free glass contain nanoscale materials.

**Nano at UTCOMC**
UTCOMC’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is currently working on developing a residue-free nanofiber based bone graft and a controlled release antibiotic device for control of orthopaedic infections. With industry and academic partners, the technology is envisioned to be commercialized eventually with technology transfer.

**“Read Across America”**

Elizabeth McFarlin, MD (Pediatrics PGY2) and Jeanette Martin, MD (Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics) were part of the Read Across America program, visiting and reading with students at the Primose School of Hixson. The Read Across America program, now in its twelfth year, is sponsored by the National Education Association, and focuses on motivating children to read, in addition to helping them master basic skills. The reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.
The following article is an excerpt from Health Lawyer’s Weekly, March 27, 2000, Vol. VII Issue 12.

GAO Says Vulnerabilities in IRB System Elevate Risks for Human Subjects

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) told a House panel March 26 that the system used to review and monitor clinical trials involving human subjects is “vulnerable to unethical manipulation” increasing the risk that experimental products are approved for testing “with little or no substantive due diligence.”

Gregory D. Kutz, GAO’s Managing Director of Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, appeared before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations to present the results of a sting operation GAO devised that involved creating a bogus medical company and approaching several institutional review boards (IRBs) for approval to test a fictitious medical device on human subjects. Kutz said the phony device, a post-surgical healing device for women, had fake specifications and matched several examples of “significant risk” devices from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance. GAO succeeded in obtaining approval from an actual IRB to test the bogus device, Kutz reported. The two other IRBs rejected the research protocol. According to GAO, the two IRBs that did not approve the bogus device protocol called it “awful” and a “piece of junk,” the “riskiest thing I’ve ever seen,” and placed the odds of approval at “zero percent.” GAO noted a search of the FDA’s online database would have shown no evidence that FDA ever cleared the device for marketing. The sting operation was prompted by concerns that commercial review boards may not always exercise effective due diligence in reviewing research protocols. GAO performed the undercover investigation of the IRB review process at the Subcommittee’s request.

In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chairman Bart Stupak (D-NJ) said the evidence suggested Coast IRB, LLC, which approved the phony product, “was more concerned with its financial bottom-line than protecting the lives of patients.” Stupak noted a coupon sent by Coast, based in Colorado Springs, CO, offering a free IRB review so researchers could “coast through your next study.” According to Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA), information provided by Coast indicated that over the past five years, Coast’s board has reviewed a total of 356 proposals for human testing and approved all of them. During this timeframe, Waxman said, “Coast’s revenues have more than doubled, increasing from $4.4 million in 2005 to more than $9.3 million in 2008.”

Appearing before the Committee, Coast IRB CEO Daniel S. Dueber said the government had “perpetrated an extensive fraud against my company.” “It did so without probable cause that Coast had committed any crime. Indeed, no one at Coast has committed any crime,” Dueber said in his written statement. Dueber said the GAO investigation violated federal and state criminal laws, amounting to mail fraud, wire fraud, and forging a medical license among other things. Dueber added that Coast has asked law enforcement to investigate GAO’s actions. Dueber said he was confident Coast would have discovered the fraud before its next scheduled review of the trial.

Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), Vice Chair of the Committee, introduced a bill March 26 aimed at strengthening federal regulation and oversight of human subjects research. “Research is the key to innovation and discovery, including curing deadly diseases. But, as this whole panel agrees, that research must be conducted ethically so that participants understand the risks and make informed decisions about volunteering. That’s why we need to upgrade our entire patient protection system in this country,” DeGette said.
Target Tobacco
Wednesday, April 22, 2009
7:00 AM
Jennifer Williams, MD, Sandy Varghese, MD, Jeannette Martin, MD, Annamaria Church, MD
UTCOMC
Massoud Pediatric Building, Room 140

Can We Personalize Therapy for Kidney Disease?
Thursday, April 23, 2009, 8:15 AM
Brad Rovin, MD
Professor of Medicine
Ohio State University
Probasco Auditorium

Faculty and Resident Development Series
Risk Management
Monday, May 11, 2009
Noon
Carol A. Schwab, JD, LLM,
Director of Medical/Legal Education
Probasco Auditorium

Germ Cell Tumor of the Ovary
UTCOMC OB/GYN Department
Friday, May 15, 2009
7:30 AM
Robert H. Young, MD
Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
Pathologist & Associate Chief, Massachusetts General Hospital
Probasco Auditorium

Faculty and Resident Development Series
National Children’s Study
Monday, June 8, 2009, Noon
Carol J. Rowland Hogue, PhD, MPH
Professor of Epidemiology
Director, Women’s and Children’s Center
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
Probasco Auditorium

Family Medicine Update
Wednesday - Saturday
June 10 - June 13, 2009
The Chattanoogan
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Nuts and Bolts Research Symposium
September 25, 2009
UTC University Center

History of Medicine Symposium
October 1, 2009
Probasco Auditorium

www.UTCOMChatt.org/CME