The work of thirty UT COMC residents was highlighted during the 25th Annual Research Week, held May 7 – 11, 2007. This event was the vision of Associate Dean and Director for the Chattanooga campus in 1983, Robert C. Coddington, MD. He sought to create a culture that would provide residents the opportunity to present research papers or scholarly case reports to their peers, faculty, and hospital staff. The Research Week awards were named in honor of Dr. Coddington.

Residents are asked to submit abstracts of either unique case reports or research projects in which they have been involved over the past year. This year, the Research Selection Committee received a record number of abstract submissions. The best ten research projects were chosen for oral presentation, four research projects for posters, and twelve case reports were also chosen for posters.

The team of judges included Frances Fesmire, MD (Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine and Surgery, UT COMC), Katherine Ruffner, MD (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Vanderbilt University), and Steve Schwab, MD (Executive Dean, UT Health Science Center College of Medicine).

As Dr. Coddington envisioned, Erlanger employees and visitors have come to appreciate this annual event. It provides an opportunity for the public to see the kinds of unusual cases and research challenges physicians have faced over the past year. Congratulations to all this year’s participants. (See pg. 2 for complete list of awards.)
25th Annual Research Week Awards

Robert C. Coddington, MD Award for Research Excellence
1st Place Research
Amy Hildreth, MD (primary author) and Chasen Croft, MD (2nd author and presenter), Department of Surgery
A single dose of etomidate during rapid sequence induction in trauma patients causes significant adrenocortical insufficiency: A prospective randomized study

2nd Place Research
Brian Weatherby, MD, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Biomechanical testing of a novel proximal femur plate for treatment of vertical shear Pauwel’s type III unstable femoral neck fractures

3rd Place Research
Marc Court, MD and Richard Smith, MD, Department of Pediatrics
Clonidine overdose in children: A troublesome trend

4th Place Research
Sarah Seeley-Dick, DO, Dept. of Pediatrics
What change has Prevnar brought to pediatric pneumococcal infections at T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital?

1st Place Research Poster
Christy Pearce, MD and Lynlee Wolfe, MD, Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology
Physician knowledge and opinions about sexually transmitted infections and the Human Papiloma Virus vaccine: A community based survey

2nd Place Research Poster
Ryan Huffman, MD, Transitional Year Program
Awareness of and response to the outbreak of contact lens-associated fusarium keratitis: A survey of resident physicians and patients in multiple medical clinics

1st Place Case Report Poster
Laura Cooley, MD, Department of Internal Medicine
Dyspnea on exertion: Where is amyloidosis on your differential?

2nd Place Case Report Poster
Azhar Shamas, MD, Department of Internal Medicine
Sinus headache, but which sinus?

3rd Place Case Report Poster
Manogna Maddineni, MD, Department of Internal Medicine
Clinical suspicion trumps laboratory testing: Detecting ENA in the absence of ANA

4th Place Case Report
Allison Smith, MD, Department of Family Medicine
A case of hypoventilation due to hypochloremic metabolic alkalosis secondary to loop diuretic therapy in comorbid CHF and COPD
Promotions

Four faculty members received promotions effective July 1, 2007. Faculty are nominated for promotion for their continuing commitment to academic excellence. Nominees are recommended by their department chairs and are reviewed by the committees on Academic Appointments and Promotions, both locally and in Memphis. The UT COMC thanks the following individuals for their achievements:

- Lesley Wong, MD  Professor, Plastic Surgery
- Benjamin Dart, MD  Assistant Professor, Surgery
- Jason Rehm, MD  Clinical Assistant Professor, Plastic Surgery
- Stephen Rich, MD  Clinical Assistant Professor, Obstetrics/Gynecology

Dr. Desbiens to Retire

Best wishes to Norman Desbiens, MD, who announced his retirement to be effective as of June 30, 2007. Dr. Desbiens joined the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga faculty February 1, 1997 and served as Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine since that time. His wisdom and leadership on behalf of the University, the College of Medicine, and the Department of Medicine have been greatly appreciated.

Publications and Presentations


Lawrence Miller, PhD presented “A community partnership case study: A community college and a teaching hospital,” at the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Conference on Teaching Excellence in Austin, Texas, May 21, 2007. Fannie Hewlitt, PhD was co-author.

Brian Weatherby, MD will be presenting a poster entitled, “Reamer aspirator (RIA) bone graft/harvesting in non-union and segmented defect repair” at the Eastern and Southern Orthopaedic Associations Meeting, August 1-4, 2007 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Co-authors are Peter Nowotarski, MD, Brent Norris, MD, Paul Stafford, MD, and Joseph Rudd, PhD.

Congratulations

Pamela Scott, Director of Graduate and Undergraduate Medical Education for the COMC, was among 43 individuals who graduated on April 22, 2007 in Memphis, Tennessee, from the Second GME Leadership Institute, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The three part course is designed for designated institutional officials, deans, and graduate medical education directors to meet the challenges of accreditation and innovation in medical education.

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.
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.

Are investigators responsible for obtaining and documenting informed consent?

Yes.

Investigators are responsible for obtaining and documenting the informed consent of research subjects or their legally authorized representatives, unless the IRB approves a waiver of informed consent, or a waiver of documentation of informed consent, respectively (45 CFR 46.116, 45 CFR 46.117). Investigators must give a copy of the informed consent document to each research subject (or the subject’s legally authorized representative), and keep the signed original or a copy of it for their records (45 CFR 46.117(a); 45 CFR 46.115(b)).

When the documentation requirement is waived, the IRB may require investigators to provide subjects with a written statement regarding the research (45 CFR 46.117(c)).

Transitional Year Program Hosts the Second Annual “Press Out Domestic Violence” Fundraiser

A weight lifting competition was held in the Erlanger Medical Mall on May 31st to benefit the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults, as well as other hospital charities. This is an annual event and all of our health care friends are encouraged to start working out now so you’ll be ready to compete next year and challenge the Surgery Department’s success (they have won the Department title both years of this event).

The primary winner of the day was the Partnership for Families, but awards were also given to the following:

Total Bench Pressed by Department: Department of Surgery

Strongest Man: Phillip Smith, MD (Surgery)
Strongest Woman: Natalie Strelnikova, MD (Transitional Year Program)
Lift/Body Weight: Paul Apyan, MD (Orthopaedic Surgery)
Lift/Body Weight: Rozmond Lewis, MD (Family Medicine)
Endurance Lift: Andy Wilson, MD (Graduate, Transitional Year Program)
Endurance Lift: Mukta Panda, MD (Transitional Year Program Director)

(L to R) Participants: Andy Wilson, MD, Ryan Huffman, MD, Mukta Panda, MD, BW Ruffner, MD
Transitions

Larry Miller, who has served as the UT COMC/Erlanger Director of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for six years, will be transitioning to a new position with Erlanger’s Organizational Development Department. As Lead OD Specialist, he will have responsibilities for all non-clinical training/education for Erlanger, including the establishment of a new leadership academy. Although we will miss Dr. Miller in the COMC Administrative hallways, we look forward to working with him in his new role.

Sylvia Friedl (778-3899) and Elizabeth McGhee (778-7442) will provide interim staffing pending the search for a new CME Director.

Continuing Medical Education

22nd Annual Family Medicine Update
June 13-16, 2007
The Chattanooga Hotel and Conference Center

Practical Topics for Practicing Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, PAs, and Pharmacists

Saturday morning speakers include Mr. Jim Brexler, EHS CEO, the Honorable Rosalind Kuria, Speaker Pro Tem of the Tennessee Senate, Dr. Clifton Cleaveland, UT COMC Faculty and Internist, and Dr. Dennis Plaistad, UTC Professor of Ethics.

Renal Symposium: Challenges and Changes
Kidney Foundation of Greater Chattanooga
August 28, 2007
The Chattanooga Hotel and Conference Center

Speakers to include:

Sam Dagogo-Jack, MD Chair, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, UTHSC
Christopher Lesar, MD University Surgical Associates, UT COMC
Christopher Poole, MD, Nephrology Associates, UT COMC
Maurie Ferriter Director of Patient Services, Natl. Kidney Foundation of Michigan
Jane Bryan/Patient Panel Challenges from a Patient Perspective

Additional details and registration information are available at:

UT COMC Continuing Medical Education
Email: cme@erlanger.org
Website: www.cmeconferences.org
Phone: 423-778-6884 or 800-947-7823 x 6884