New Health Service Partnership

Thanks to a new partnership between the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga (UTCOMC), The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) and Erlanger Health System (EHS), UTC students have new access to an expanded array of healthcare services.

Implementation of University Health Services will develop in phases, with the first phase beginning August 1, 2008 at the current site of student health on the UTC campus. Plans call for the service to relocate to the UT Family Practice Building across from the Baroness Erlanger campus.

University Health Services will provide a variety of health care services to UTC students, faculty, staff and student-athletes, along with the community. Through the relationship with the UTCOMC, services will include orthopaedic and sports medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB-GYN, and subspecialty medical care, such as cardiology, pulmonology, geriatrics, and general surgery.

“I could not be more pleased for the opportunities this partnership brings to our students and our campus,” UTC Chancellor Roger Brown said. “When you combine the resources of one of this region’s top health care providers with those of the health education providers, the services available to students, faculty and staff will be far beyond anything we’ve ever had here at UTC. We are fortunate that such top quality providers are willing to work with the campus to bring top quality health care to our entire campus population, including students, faculty, staff and student-athletes.”

The partnership also will provide opportunities for clinical experience for UTC and UTCOMC students, including those in nursing, physical therapy and athletic training.

New services available to UTC students will include the ability to bill services to insurance, extended evening and weekend hours, and on-site diagnostic and lab services. University Health Services also will provide physical exams and immunizations necessary to enroll in classes and participate in extracurricular activities.
Welcome

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology wishes to announce the addition of a new faculty member, Terry L. Williams, MD, on July 1, 2008. Dr. Williams. Dr. Williams is a native of Chattanooga. He earned Bachelor and Master’s degrees of education in the 1990’s. After teaching for five years at the college level, he went on to receive his Doctorate of Osteopathy from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2004. His internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology were completed at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga. During his residency, he received the W. Powell Hutcherson, MD Award, the program’s highest honor. Upon completion of residency in June 2008, he returned to his roots in education and accepted a position as Instructor within the OB/GYN Department.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is also pleased to announce the addition of Valerie Parker, MD. Dr. Parker joined the OB/Gyn Department as Instructor as of September 1, 2008. She received her undergraduate training at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and her medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. Dr. Parker completed her internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga.

The COMC is happy to welcome a new technical writer, Langhorne Waterhouse. Ms. Waterhouse served as the Director of the Medical Library and brings a wealth of research background to her new position. After receiving her Masters degree in Library Science in 1988, Ms. Waterhouse began her career in research at the University of Georgia’s Main Library as a reference librarian. Then, having worked with a broad range of subjects, she decided to focus her work efforts on special libraries--collections dedicated to a single subject or discipline. Ms. Waterhouse has experience in researching a variety of topical areas, among them, small business, pulp and paper science, library services and collection development, database and web site maintenance (with some design of each), management consulting and executive search. She is looking forward to working with the faculty, residents and staff in this new phase of her career.

Rachel Bohannon is the new Director of the Medical Library. A Chattanooga native, Ms. Bohannon has been working in the Medical Library since 2000. Her interests include southern literature, historical fiction, medical literature, surfing the web, gardening, music and cooking. She and the staff of the library hope that you will contact them, either by stopping by or through email, and let them help with any medical research assistance you may need.
Publications


Presentations


Lawley M.  Cyclic biomechanical analysis of contemporary vs locked plating in a ‘GAP’ fracture model.  Presented by B. Weatherby MD at the 2008 Tennessee Orthopaedic Society Meeting, September 25-27, 2008 in Greensboro, GA.  Coauthors are P. Nowotarski, MD, R. Goulet, PhD, B. Ervin, BSE.

Internal Medicine Names New Program Director

Lisa Staton, MD, was recently named interim Internal Medicine Residence Program Director.  Dr. Staton is an associate professor of the UTCOMC, has received multiple teaching and research honors including the Jim Metzger Young Investigators Research Award, and has pursued research in the areas of pain management and cultural competency.  The department is excited to have Dr. Staton, a seasoned educator and clinician, leading their residency program.

Congratulations

Robert C. Fore, EdD, FACME, CCMEP, has earned recognition as a Certified Continuing Medical Education Professional (CCMEP) by the National Commission for Certification of CME Professionals.  Dr. Fore is among the first cohort of professionals to obtain this certification.

Jennifer Davis Williams, MD, a second year pediatrics resident at T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital, was elected the new District IV Coordinator for the Resident Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).  This election took place at the recent annual AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in Boston.  She currently serves as the program delegate to the AAP and has served as the Resident Representative for the Tennessee Chapter of AAP (2007-2008).  This position places her on the executive committee for the resident section of the AAP where she will represent District IV (Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) at the national resident section meetings, AAP National District meeting and next year’s AAP NCE meeting in Washington, DC.  Her responsibilities will include writing for the Resident Report newsletter in conjunction with the Assistance District Coordinator, and organizing residents and medical students on program/residency level, state/chapter and district level.  She will be presenting the annual resident section advocacy project, Target Tobacco at an upcoming Grand Rounds at T.C. Thompson at a time yet to be announced.

Corrections

The August/September issue of The COMmunicator incorrectly listed Aparna Chowdhury, MD as a 2008 Chief Resident.  Internal Medicine only has three chiefs, not four (as listed).

Dr. Catherine Payne Sutton completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at UTCOMC in June 2003 (not June 1994).
Internal Medicine

Participants Excel at the American College of Physicians ...

The Internal Medicine Department of the UTCOMC was a success at the American College of Physicians Tennessee Chapter scientific meeting recently held in Nashville. The theme of the meeting was, “Out With the Old, In with the New.” Mukta Panda, MD was a member of the scientific planning committee. The Department was very well represented by both faculty and residents.

The Nashville scientific session started off with an excellent plenary presentation by John Boldt, MD (Pulmonary/Critical Care). Mark Anderson, MD, was given the prestigious award for volunteerism and community service for his exceptional humanitarian efforts and dedication to patients. Roger DeVersa, MD and Catherine Payne Sutton, MD were official judges for the associates program. In addition, Dr. DeVersa was elected as a member of the Tennessee Council of Young Physicians.

The Internal Medicine residents had four posters and one oral presentation. The oral presentation by Nishant Gupta, MD, entitled “The Persistent Patient, Physician and Parasite,” received the first place award and will be presented at the national meeting in spring 2009. His coauthors were Kurt Scherer, MD, Winston Caine, MD, and Mukta Panda, MD. Other residents who presented were Fadi Makdsi MD, Molly Tveite, MD, William Kyle, MD, and Nimesh Bhattarai, MD. Their faculty mentors were Drs. DeVersa, Payne, Jones and Panda. Drs. Tindni, Anower, Gupta, and Bhattarai represented the department in Medical Jeopardy.

... And Contribute to the Community

The Internal Medicine and Transitional year residents and faculty are involved in many community service activities on an ongoing basis. Recent events have included:

- The Chambliss Shelter and Audubon Acres Service Projects: Participants included Transitional residents, spouses and children, pediatrics residents, and internal medicine residents as well as approximately 60 community participants.

- Minority Health Fair: Internal Medicine residents participated in blood pressure screening and patient care.

- Ocoee River Rafting Trip: 6-8 Internal Medicine and Transitional Year residents and spouses participated in this team building activity.

- Boy Scout Medicine Merit Badge: Transitional and Internal Medicine residents, faculty, Pamela Scott (Director, UTCOMC GME), 20 Boy Scouts, 5-6 Boy Scout leaders toured the hospital and introduced the medical profession.

- Race for the cure: The team of internal medicine and transitional year residents and faculty raised $1,000 and participated in the 5K event.
Note to PI

The UTCOMC recently implemented a new Physician Industry Guidance which includes standards established for the entire UT Health Science Center. Faculty are required to disclose significant financial interests, including salary for services from a single source aggregated over 12 months when expected to exceed $5,000. The entire policy can be seen at the UTCOMC Research Compliance website, http://www.utcomchatt.org/subpage.php?pageId=971

The following article is an excerpt from The Chronicle of Higher Education, 10/31/08, “Hidden Payments to University Researchers Draw New Fire,” by Richard Monastersky.

This month, Emory University acknowledged that the NIH had halted a $9.3 million grant to the university because of concerns raised about the financial ties of Charles B. Nemeroff, the project’s former chief scientist and a professor of psychiatry. The agency’s actions are causing administrators around the country to lose sleep, especially because they expect that more dirty laundry will soon be aired by Congressional investigators who have been tracking payments to academic scientists.

“The fact that some of these things get splashed into the headlines and that various members of Congress take it upon themselves to deal with these issues puts us on notice that we really need to address this as a larger issue and not on a case-by-case basis,” says Keith R. Yamamoto, executive vice dean for research at the School of Medicine of the University of California at San Francisco.

The force stirring up so much of the recent bad publicity for universities is Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the top Republican on the Committee on Finance. His staff has sent letters to more than 20 universities, requesting information about industry payments to dozens of researchers in psychiatry, cardiology, and orthopedic surgery. The investigators have also solicited information from companies about how much they are paying the same scientists. By comparing the two sets of data, the committee staff has identified researchers who have received large sums that they did not disclose to their universities, in violation of institutional and federal policies.

In the Emory case, the finance committee released data this month indicating that Dr. Nemeroff collected approximately $2.5 million from pharmaceutical companies between 2000 and 2007 but only disclosed about $1.2 million on forms that he was required to submit to the university. Other documents indicate that Emory had repeatedly sought to reduce or stop Dr. Nemeroff’s work for companies, especially those products he was studying. At each step, Dr. Nemeroff thanked the university for sorting through his complex financial arrangements and promised to limit his consulting and other relationships with medical companies.

Federal regulations stipulate that researchers receiving NIH grants must remain free of conflicting financial interests, which are defined in practice as receiving more than $10,000 a year or owning more than 5 percent of an entity that might bias their work. Investigators supported by a grant must provide financial information to their university, and the university must then ensure that any conflicts of interest are managed or eliminated. The agency does not require that the university provide information about the nature of the conflicts or how they have been resolved.

In August, the NIH stopped funds to Emory on a large set of grants dealing with depression which Dr. Nemeroff had been leading. He has since been replaced as the chief scientist on the grant and he has voluntarily stepped down as chair of the psychiatry department. Senator Grassley is hoping to build support for the Physician Payments Sunshine Act.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, 2/26/09, Jane Jordan, Deputy General Counsel at Emory University will be speaking at the UTCOMC Research Challenges 2009 Conference, Probasco Auditorium.
| **Scientific Integrity**  
Thursday, December 4, 2008  
**Sponsored by UTHSC**  
**Faculty Senate and Research Administration**  
Probasco Auditorium Simulcast  
9:00 am - 3:30 pm EST  
Chattanooga, Tennessee | UTHSC is pleased to have two national experts explore this important topic with healthcare professionals and research staff. Speakers: Greg Koski, MD, former director of the DHHS OHRP and Cynthia Ricard, PhD, Office of Research Integrity. Topics include scientific integrity and mentoring, conflict of interest, and informed consent. [http://www.utmem.edu/research/research administration/seminar reg.php](http://www.utmem.edu/research/research administration/seminar reg.php) |
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| **Cultural Competence**  
Monday, December 8, 2008  
**Faculty and Resident Development Series**  
Cy Huffman, MD, EHS Chief Medical Officer  
Robert C. Fore, EdD, UTCOMC Associate Dean  
David Carnish, MDiv, Director EHS Pastoral Education  
Olen Grubbs, MDiv, Director EHS Pastoral Care  
Probasco Auditorium | This is the first session in a series on cultural awareness as a quality improvement initiative. The purpose of this educational session is to provide participants with tools to identify cultural differences that are specific to our community that act as a barrier in providing effective healthcare, recognize these differences in practice, and identify tools to facilitate the process in overcoming these barriers. |
| **Consent**  
Monday, January 12, 2009  
**Faculty and Resident Development Series**  
Carol A. Schwab, JD, LLM  
UTHSC Director of Medical/Legal Education  
Probasco Auditorium | The objectives of this educational session are to teach participants how to:  
- Define the duty to obtain consent, the types of consent and the levels of consent  
- Define a medical battery  
- Explain how to obtain a patient’s informed consent  
- Identify who gets and who gives consent  
- Explain the “mature minor doctrine”  
- List the consent hierarchy under Tennessee Law  
- Explain how to handle withdrawal of consent  
- Identify when to get informed refusal |
| **5th Annual Hematology Conference An Update on Selected ASH Topics**  
Saturday, January 24, 2009  
**Faculty and Resident Development Series**  
UTC Conference Center  
Knoxville, Tennessee | This fifth annual conference is an American Society of Hematology (ASH) international conference follow-up and briefing. Speakers will develop unique presentations combining their areas of expertise with new information garnered from the ASH conference presentations. |
| **Addiction Medicine Conference**  
Thursday-Friday, February 19-20, 2009  
UTC University Center  
Chattanooga, Tennessee | This one and a half day interdisciplinary conference is designed to increase the awareness of healthcare providers regarding the high prevalence of substance abuse disorders, to improve the ability to access and treat patients for substance abuse disorders and to assist healthcare providers to integrate treatment regimens designed to improve patient care outcomes. |
| **Research Challenges 2009**  
Thursday, February 26, 2009  
**UT COMC Office of Research Compliance**  
Probasco Auditorium | The purpose of this educational session is designed to provide investigators and key personnel federal and local policy and current research regarding:  
- Childhood comprehension & assent  
- Health care literacy in Tennessee  
- Disclosing COI: The Emory experience  
- Research as a hobby |
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 be 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 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 UTCOMC 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, 3/11/09: Scientific Review Committee meets at 12:00 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.

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.