Prime Care Adds Fourth Clinic at TKC

Prime Care added a fourth clinic at The Kirklin Clinic® (TKC) this year to accommodate patient demand for primary care services. Prime Care is comprised of approximately 40 internal medicine (IM) physicians at TKC and clinics in Hoover, Hueytown, Inverness, and Moody. The Hospitalist Service also is part of Prime Care.

TKC originally was envisioned as primarily a specialty clinic, with Prime Care (then known as UCare) as an off-site primary care portal. Community demand and the rise of health maintenance organizations, coupled with the need for more patient-convenient integration of primary care with specialty services, created a need for additional primary care physicians on site, TKC Chief of Staff Nancy E. Dunlap, MD, PhD, MBA, who oversees Prime Care, says.

“Prime Care plays a crucial role in our system. Its physicians practice primary and secondary preventive medicine; manage stable diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease; and seek to identify the onset of acute disease. Their leadership role in the TKC-wide medication reconciliation program is hugely important,” Dr. Dunlap says.

The four TKC Prime Care clinic pods are IM-1, IM-2, IM-3, and General Internal Medicine (GIM). All are on the second floor except IM-3, which opened April 28 on the third floor in space vacated when orthopaedics relocated to UAB Highlands.

Most physicians in the three IM pods are, in essence, full-time clinicians with few, if any, research and teaching responsibilities. In contrast, GIM physicians practice academic primary care medicine, with teaching, research, and inpatient responsibilities, and see ambulatory patients 1 or 2 days a week at TKC.

Each pod’s lead physician reports to Dr. Dunlap. They are: IM-1, Patricia L. Garver, MD; IM-2, L. Steve Hunt, MD; IM-3, Stephen W. Stair, MD; and GIM, Emily A. Boohaker, MD. Patricia Long, RN, is nurse coordinator and Mark Schmidt is administrator for Prime Care.

IM-3 recently added two new physicians to help shorten the waiting time for new patient appointments. “All Prime Care physicians are extremely busy with patient care,” Dr. Stair says, “but it’s important to the medical enterprise to keep up with demand. Patients now experience only a 2- to 4-week waiting period for our new doctors.”

A shortage of physicians entering primary care fields concerns Dr. Stair. “New doctors who

Kadam and Geer Join Prime Care

Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer of The Kirklin Clinic® Nancy E. Dunlap, MD, PhD, MBA, announces the appointment of Ravina V. Kadam, MD, and Michael J. Geer, MD, as assistant professors of medicine in Prime Care.

Dr. Kadam received her MBBS degree from Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Mumbai, India, and completed an internship there. She then completed an internship and residency at University Hospitals and Clinics of the University of Missouri, Columbia, where she was named Outstanding Resident. Prior to joining UAB she was assistant professor of internal medicine at Missouri. Dr. Kadam can be contacted at 205.801.7307 or rvkadam@uabmc.edu.

Dr. Geer received his MD degree from UAB School of Medicine. He then completed an internship and internal...
PRIME CARE

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come out of medical school with debt of $140,000, see the slowly dwindling reimbursement for primary care, and have doubts about going into the trenches on the front lines of medicine,” he says.

“However, the attractions of the field are numerous. We love treating the variety of conditions we see, the ability to follow patients for years and years, and the possibility of seeing whole families for care. We guide them through stages of illness and of life. It’s extremely rewarding.”

Dr. Dunlap points out that although most Prime Care physicians do not conduct medical research, they take part in quality- and process-improvement initiatives that can change the way ambulatory medicine is practiced. One such project was the federal Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services’ Physician Quality Reporting Initiative, which last year allowed for a 1.5% bonus reimbursement for successful completion of checklist measures for diabetes.

In addition, she says, a Prime Care initiative, partially driven by small financial incentives for staff and physicians, successfully reduced Medicare denials for laboratory billing from 26% to 7%, recouping several hundred thousand dollars in savings.

GEER JOINS PRIME CARE

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From 1995 to 2008 Dr. Geer was in private practice with Trinity Medical Center medicine residency at Ohio State University Hospitals, Columbus.

DR. MICHAEL GEER

BOOK DELIVERY NOW AVAILABLE AT HOSPITAL LIBRARY

New Service Can Save a Trip

The Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at University Hospital is rolling out a new book delivery service for all clinical staff. After enrolling in the service, staff can request books from the circulating collection of the main Lister Hill Library and pick the material up at the hospital library within 2 weekdays. Books also can be renewed and returned through the hospital library.

For more information or to enroll in the book delivery service, visit www.uab.edu/lister/wpweb and click on the Book Delivery link, or visit the library, located in room P235 of the West Pavilion.

UAB SYNOPTIS

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UAB PRIME CARE

INTERNAL MEDICINE I
Mary M. Balkovetz, MD
Edward A. Childs Jr, MD
James V. Davis, MD
Patricia L. Garver, MD *
Laurie T. Hall, MD
Frederic G. Ransom, MD
Mark A. Stafford, MD

INTERNAL MEDICINE II
David S. Gettineer, MD
Alan L. Gruman, MD
L. Steve Hunt, MD *
Laura D. Pointer, MD
James E. Williams Jr, MD

INTERNAL MEDICINE III
C. Louis Cummings, MD
Michael J. Geer, MD
Ravina Kadam, MD
Stephen Stair, MD *

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE
Emily A. Boohaker, MD *
Analia Castiglioni, MD
Stuart J. Cohen, MD
Thomas S. Huddle, MD
F. Stanford Massie, MD
Erin D. Snyder, MD
Alan M. Stamm, MD
Katherine G. Romp, MD
Lisa L. Willett, MD

HOSPITALIST SERVICE
Melanie B. Blake, MD
Brian K. Britt, MD
Jeffery L. Jones, MD
Thomas N. Lewis, MD
James Lyman, MD *
Ronnie E. Mathews Jr, MD
Matthew D. Reuter, MD

NURSE PRACTITIONERS
Catherine G. Brown, CRNP
Joanne A. Shaughnessy, CRNP
Timothy J. Stanhope, CRNP

HEALTH CENTERS

UAB Hoover
Marina E. Brainin, MD
J. Mark LeJeune, MD *
Jennifer D. Miller, MD
Lisha R. Thornton, MD

UAB Hueytown
Ricky L. Fennell, MD
John L. Holcombe, MD *
Jonathan D. Mize, MD

UAB Inverness
Anna L. Davis, MD
Fred J. Herndon, MD *
Amy B. LeJeune, MD
Monita Singh, MD

UAB Moody
William B. Boyd, MD
Matthew J. Kornegay, MD
Rebecca W. Miller, MD
Stephen W. Russell, MD *

* Lead Physician
PHYSICIANS: PORTRAIT SESSIONS FREE IN OCTOBER

UAB Health System’s Department of Marketing Communications is providing an opportunity for physicians to have professional portraits taken at its upcoming photo sessions.

Sessions will be held at the West Pavilion second floor conference center lobby on Wednesday, October 29, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, and on Thursday, October 30, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

To schedule an appointment, contact Carol Pierce at cpierce@uabmc.edu. Physicians should wear their white coats to the portrait sessions. Those without an appointment also are welcome.

The photos are used on the Health System Web site’s physician directory and in other Health System communications.

INVESTIGATION OF UNNATURAL DEATHS

By law the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office must investigate, when notified, deaths that occur in Jefferson County in the following situations:

- Accidents
- Homicides or suicides
- Suspected criminal abortion
- Cases where a body is altered by fire, decomposition, or other means, precluding visual identification
- Cases involving suspicion of criminal violence or criminal neglect
- Deaths of persons under arrest or in carcerated in a jail, prison, or detention center
- Sudden unexplained deaths in infants, children, and adults
- Deaths thought to represent a hazard to public health
- Deaths of persons in the family of a physician

“In these cases, family authorization for an autopsy by the Coroner’s Office is not required,” says Robert M. Brissie, MD, director of the Division of Forensic Pathology. “To avoid confusion, physicians should not approach families for permission in such cases until the coroner or medical examiner has declined to perform an autopsy.

“It is also important to note that if an individual is injured as a result of a situation that occurs in Jefferson County, and that person then travels to another county and subsequently dies there as a result of that injury, the case still falls under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County Coroner’s Office,” Dr. Brissie says.

Similarly, if the injury occurs in another county and the person travels to Jefferson County for treatment and subsequently dies in Jefferson County as a result of that injury, the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office does not have jurisdiction. The decision must be made by the coroner from the county where the injury occurred.

The Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office conducts its examinations and autopsies at Cooper Green Hospital. “However, in the event a UAB physician desires an autopsy examination to be performed, the Jefferson County Coroner’s Office should be contacted first,” he says.

If an autopsy is not authorized by the Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office, the body can be released to the university for autopsy following the external examination, if proper authorization has been obtained from next of kin.

Organ donation may still be possible when an autopsy is performed, but physicians should contact the Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office at 205.930.3603 prior to approaching family members so proper arrangements can be made. “We always try to allow family members to make organ donations,” says Dr. Brissie. “However, our office should be called first. This saves time and avoids a potentially embarrassing situation if the county cannot allow donation.”

For more information on death certificates, visit the UAB SCR Web site at https://scr.hs.uab.edu, click on UAB Hospital, click on Standards, and enter “death certificates” in the search box.

ALEXANDER ELECTED ACLPS PRESIDENT

C. Bruce Alexander, MD, professor and vice chair of the Department of Pathology, was elected president of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists (ACLPS) at its June meeting at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Alexander becomes the second ACLPS president from UAB, following Professor of Pathology Jon V. Straumfjord Jr, MD, who served from 1968 to 1970. Jay M. McDonald, MD, UAB’s immediate past pathology chair, was president of the academy while at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

ACLPS is supported by more than 80 academic medical centers in the United States. It supports Young Investigators in Laboratory Medicine and devotes its annual meetings to developing academic talent. Dr. Alexander will preside over the

INFOBAHN

IRB Training

UAB Institutional Review Board for Human Use policy requires that researchers update their training at least once between January and December of each year. Some researchers use a 12-month system – completing their training at approximately the same time each year – which is acceptable so long as individuals complete at least one training event during each calendar year.

http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=58147

To access a UAB Synopsis article, visit our Web site at www.uabhealth.org/synopsis.
UAB First Runner-up for US Hospital of the Year

UAB Hospital is first runner-up for the 2008 Hospital of the Year Award, presented by the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers (AAHP). AAHP President R. Vincent Parr announced the decision recently.

Cabell Huntington Hospital, Huntington, West Virginia, won the award.

Holston Valley Medical Center, Kingsport, Tennessee, is second runner-up. Other hospitals in the top 10 are Dixie Regional Medical Center, St. George, Utah; Leesburg Regional Medical Center, Leesburg, Florida; Memorial Hospital, York, Pennsylvania; Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet, Illinois; St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford, Connecticut; and The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Alexander ACLPS President

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2009 annual meeting at the University of California, Los Angeles. For more information go to http://depts.washington.edu/lmaclps/.

Friedman’s Newspaper Column Wins Award

“Parenting With Dr. Vivian Friedman,” a column in the Birmingham Parent monthly newspaper, won a silver award recently from the Parenting Publications of America (PA). Her column has appeared regularly in this publication since 2005.

From 1988 to 2005 Dr. Friedman, clinical psychologist and professor of psychiatry, wrote 1750 biweekly columns for The Birmingham News.

Dr. Friedman earned her BS degree in developmental psychology from Cornell University, an EdM from Harvard University, and a PhD from Case Western Reserve University. She has trained in forensic psychology, psychoanalytic group therapy, and Rorschach methods and analysis.

Dr. Friedman completed an internship at Boston Children’s Hospital-Harvard School of Medicine and a fellowship in neuropsychology at Boston University School of Medicine. She was a teaching fellow at Case Western Reserve and Harvard, clinical fellow at Harvard, clinical instructor at Boston University School of Medicine, and assistant professor at Tufts University. She joined UAB in 1983.

Coming Up

Reynolds Historical Lecture

Associate Director and Curator, Johns Hopkins University Institute of the History of Medicine, Christine Ruggere, will present “Doctors’ Ladies, or Another Look at Chinese Diagnostic Manikins” on October 23 at NOON at Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, third floor, Ireland Room.