Biotechnology program attracts new talent

The biotechnology curriculum for the graduate Clinical and Laboratory Science program is filling specific gaps to create a diverse, advanced workforce for a competitive, expanding market. The biotechnology industry is projected to grow by more than 25 percent in the next few years, and Janelle Chiasera, Ph.D., wants UAB-trained students to be a big part of that growth.

Chiasera said finding the scientists to help achieve that mission was easy. “This is UAB,” she says.

To make the program whole, Chiasera needed a faculty member with entrepreneurial skills, preferably one who knew the nuances of the biotech industry. Kathy Nugent, a 20-year veteran of the health-care/biotechnology industry, the executive director of the Biotechnology Association of Alabama and a consultant with Burns McCollum, a life-sciences communications company. But at heart, she is a teacher, and she accepted a full-time position as assistant professor in November 2009.

“Our program and our students are fortunate to have Kathy, a real biotech veteran with international experience in the industry,” Chiasera says. “She has established relationships with key industry thought leaders that will strengthen an already solid curriculum and give our students unparalleled access to those at the forefront in the industry.”

Nugent earned her Ph.D. in biophysics at the City University of New York and was an adjunct professor there and at Hunter College, Baruch College and Medgar Evers College. Nugent moved into pre-clinical research after school and developed the first animal model to study the underlying mechanisms of opiate withdrawal in utero.

Fortunately for all involved, that’s the opportunity Kathy Nugent, Ph.D., desired. Nugent is a 20-year veteran of the health-care/biotechnology industry, the executive director of the Biotechnology Association of Alabama and a consultant with Burns McCollum, a life-sciences communications company. But at heart, she is a teacher, and she accepted a full-time position as assistant professor in November 2009.

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“Water-tank testing is a good approximation of the way radiation beams behave inside the body because humans are more than half water,” Brezovich says. “We have to commission each piece of radiation equipment before its use, whether it’s an existing piece of technology that has been moved or a new machine that has just been installed.”

Physics at the core of new Radiation Center

Swiftly, precisely, silently, millimeter-wide metal leaflets slide back and forth inside a radiation machine, dispersing powerful beams with a colander-like effect. Each tiny opening appears just long enough to let high-energy radiation fall on its intended target. Normally the target is a tumor below the skin of a cancer patient, but on this particular day it is a series of prescribed underground water points in a 50-gallon test tank. The tank, part of an array of quality-assurance tests, sits in the spot where cancer patients lay on the treatment bed.

The assurance testing measures the power and shape of the radiation beams, says Ivan Brezovich, Ph.D., chair of the Division of Radiation Physics in the Department of Radiation Oncology. “The water-tank testing is a good approximation of the way radiation beams behave inside the body because humans are more than half water,” Brezovich says. “We have to commission each piece of radiation equipment before its use, whether it’s an existing piece of technology that has been moved or a new machine that has just been installed.”

Finding first bio-marker for MS moves us closer to personalized medicine

UAB researchers have found the first bio-marker for multiple sclerosis (MS) that might predict which patients will respond to a standard therapy and which will not.

In findings published online March 28 in *Nature Medicine*, the UAB team, in a joint effort with researchers at Stanford University, discovered that patients with a particular type of T helper immune cells responded well to interferon-ß, the usual first-line therapy for the disease, while those with a different T helper immune-cell type did not respond or experienced worsening symptoms.

“Interferon-ß is typically the first therapeutic choice for most MS patients, but there is a subset of about 30 percent of patients for whom it does not work and may make the patient worse,” said Chander Raman, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology and lead investigator of the study. “Our findings, in both animal and human models, indicate that the type of T helper cell present is the determining factor in predicting whether interferon-ß will be effective.”

Raman suggests this might be another rung on the ladder leading to personalized medicine, in which therapies are based on an individual’s physiology and genetic makeup and the nature of disease.

“When our findings are verified in an expanded human trial, a simple blood test could be used to determine which type of T helper cell might be responsible for the disease in an MS patient, enabling clinicians to provide the proper therapy from the beginning of treatment and eliminate the guesswork,” Raman said.

Raman’s team, along with the team at Stanford led by Lawrence Steinman, Ph.D., examined T helper Type 1 cells and T helper Type 17 cells in an animal model for multiple sclerosis. Both Th1 and Th17 cells are major initiators of MS and important in disease severity. The researchers found that interferon-ß was effective in mice with disease initiated by Th1 cells, but worsened disease initiated by Th17 cells. The findings were replicated with striking consistency in analysis of human-patient serum with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, the most common form of the disease.

“This research reinforces the concept that diseases have certain signatures that help define their origin and give us glimpses of how they manifest in our bodies,” said Raman. “The more we understand these signatures, the more likely we will be able to intervene at a critical junction and design and provide therapies that lessen or cure disease.”
Registration now open for summer camps

UAB offers a variety of summer camps that provide academic enrichment for children and teenagers. Camps range from the arts, business, computers, forensics, advanced sciences to sports, cheerleading. Learn more at www.uab.edu/summerscamps.

CSW seeks input on women’s issues, hosting forums

The Commission on the Status of Women will host Open Forums April 6-8 to solicit ideas for creating the best possible experiences from women who work and study at UAB.

Complete the short survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/swopenforums to help plan these small-group discussions.

Join in the informal conversations from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 6 in WPC’s Board Room; from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 7 in Education Building Room 230; and from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday, April 8 in Bartow Arena Green & Gold Room.

Download a flyer at www.uab.edu/women.

Humphry Dumpy had a great fall: Hundreds of students from more than 10 Central Alabama elementary, middle and high schools participated in the 21st annual Brent Newman Egg Drop Competition Friday, March 26 at the Business-Engineering Complex. The students designed contraptions of all shapes and sizes to protect their eggs, which were dropped three stories from the roof of the BEE. The goal is for the personally designed contraption to prevent the egg from breaking when dropped. The UAB School of Engineering chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers holds the contest each year as a way to promote engineering education and inspire the next generation of Alabama engineers.

Free, confidential HIV tests available April 6

The Centers for Disease Control & Treatment estimates that 25 percent of all HIV-positive persons have not been tested and do not know they are living with HIV. Get a free, confidential, certified mouth swab test from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 6 at Lister Hill Library. UAB ID is required.

UAB International Food Fair is April 6

Sample unique delicacies and scrumptious food from around the globe during the International Food Fair April 6.

This annual event, sponsored by International Scholar and Student Services, celebrates the diversity of ethnic groups at UAB.

Bring your appetite. For more information call Lura Foreman at 934-1205 or e-mail lforeman@uab.edu.

Fox to deliver lecture on building healthier America April 7

Claude Earl Fox, M.D., a public-health physician who has headed federal, state and local agencies during the past three decades, will deliver the 2010 Scholar Lecture at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 7 in the UAB Alumni Auditorium.

Fox, a professor in the Department of Epidemiology Public Health at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine and the founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute, will discuss “A Healthier America: One Community at a Time.”

Help raise awareness, funds for Shaken Baby Prevention

The UAB Department of Pediatrics will host the Shaken Baby Prevention Program 4K Stroll and Education Fair Saturday, April 10 on the UAB Campus Green. The walk is a fundraiser to support the program in its efforts to provide child-abuse prevention education in all birthing hospitals, licensed daycare centers and community settings across Alabama. For more information or to register go to www.medicine.uab.edu/stroll or call 205-975-5659.

Info sessions set for Spanish language certificates

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers a certificate for Spanish for the professions called Spanish for Specific Purposes Certificate. Two upcoming information sessions are scheduled at 1 p.m. April 12 and 1:30 p.m. April 13 in Humanities Building 302.

The sessions are open to all UAB students, employees and the public. Visit www.uab.edu/foreignlang/sp for more information.

UAB Football 2010 spring game set

Mark your calendars: UAB Football will host its 2010 Spring Game on Saturday, April 17 in West Campus Field.

A fish fry will follow at the new softball facility at 1 p.m. Lunch is $5 for fans and free for UAB students; anyone planning to attend should RSVP at 996-5218.

UAB Softball will play a doubleheader against Conference USA opponent UCF at 1 p.m. For tickets or general information contact the Athletic Ticket Office at 975-8221, e-mail tickets@uab.edu or visit uabsports.com/tickets.

Tickets on sale for Fins, Fenders and Fun

The UAB Liver Center will salute car racing in Alabama at its annual Fins, Fenders and Fun benefit that supports the research efforts of center for the treatment and care of liver diseases. The event, featuring Hueytown racing legend Bobby Allison and saluting Talladega Super-speedway President Rick Humphrey, will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 17 in the Zamora Shrine Temple. Tickets are $100 and must be purchased by April 12. Dress code is casual – no ties allowed. For tickets or more information, call 205-975-5659 or e-mail samika@uab.edu.

‘10 UAB Dollars for Scholars 5K/10K Race to be held April 30

Join the UAB National Alumni Society Friday, April 30 in the Pepper Place district for the fourth annual UAB Dollars for Scholars 5K/10K Race sponsored by Viva Health. Race day registration begins at 4 p.m. and the race starts at 6 p.m. The post-race party featuring music by Big Daddy’s New Band, food, fun and games for people of all ages will begin at 6:30 p.m. outside the Cantina.

Money raised benefits student scholarships at UAB. For more information on the race or how to register, visit www.alumni.uab.edu or www.active.com.

Dollars for Scholars 5K/10K Race sponsored by Viva Health

The UAB National Alumni Society will host the 5K/10K Dollars for Scholars race to benefit student scholarships at UAB.

The race starts at 6 p.m. and the post-race party featuring music by Big Daddy’s New Band, food, fun and games for people of all ages will begin at 6:30 p.m. outside the Cantina.

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Colin Davis, Ph.D., always has pursued educa-
tion — even when an education system
turned its back on him.

Davis, professor of history, grew up in
England in a working-class family in the
1960s and '70s when status weighed heavily
on the way people were viewed. He didn't
do very well on his 11-Plus Exam as an
11-year-old, which was a crucial test for
British school children. Those who per-
formed well on the exam were fast-tracked
to a grammar school and prepared for uni-
versity training. Davis was instead sent to
a classic working-class school.

Davis completed school at age 15. He
managed to avoid the usual options for
working-class school graduates — farm
laborer or butcher — and received an
apprenticeship as a tool-and-die maker. "I
was clocking in and clocking out every day
from age 15 to 22."

Davis says, "I was lucky that I got an apprenticeship, but I was frus-
trated there. There was a gap because I always
loved history. When I was working I was
buying history books and reading history
and watching all of these documentaries on
British TV."

Much to the chagrin of some in his fam-
ily, Davis quit his job after eight years
and began to study full-time with an eye
on being accepted to the University of
Warwick. More than 30 years later thanks
to the university and local community,
Davis has researched and written two books
on the impact on Davis since his youth, largely due
to his own working-class background and
the influence of his mother, a working-class
woman who voted for the Labour Party.

"We wouldn't allow the foreman to inter-
vene or involve themselves in the working
process," Davis says. "The tool-and-die
workers are skilled craftsmen, so they took
it seriously. There was a lot of shop-floor
power, and I was raised in that environ-
ment."

Moving up at UAB

Davis began his undergraduate work at
age 24, and his interest in American labor
history was born during his three years at
Warwick. He wrote to three professors in
the United States toward the end of his
undergraduate career and was invited to
Binghamton University in New York by
Melvyn Dubofsky. Davis was offered a
position directing discussion groups, and he
received a tuition waiver.

"I thought I'd run over here and get a mas-
ter's and then zip back to England," he says.
"That was 30 years ago."

Instead, Davis decided to pursue his doctor-
ate, met his future wife and began teaching
— something he says now was terrifying.
"I was very nervous, and the first lecture
I gave was a disaster," he says. "But then I
found that it didn't really matter because
teaching was structured so I could say what
I wanted how I wanted, and I eventually
discovered that I really loved it."

Davis came to UAB in 1991 and quickly
established himself among the faculty and
students. He was the recipient of the UAB
Alumni/Ellen Greg Ingalls Teaching Award
in 1997, and he rose from an assistant pro-
fessor to a full professor in 12 years.

Davis has researched and written two books
during his time at UAB — \textit{Power at Ode}:
the 1932 National Railroad Shippers' Strike
and \textit{Waterfront Revolts}: New York City and
London Dockworkers, 1946-62. He's wrapp-
ing up research for a third book on Trans-
Atlantic fisherman in New England and

Colleagues say Davis' books have made
important interpretive contributions to his
field, pushing beyond an older labor history
that dealt primarily with unions to a newer
historical study of workers themselves and
the way in which they sought to resist top-
down work disciplines and control their
workplaces.

"Dr. Davis has established an enviable
reputation as an innovative and productive
scholar during his almost 30 years at UAB,"

says Distinguished Professor Raymond
Mohl, Ph.D. "His record of scholarly publi-
cation and productivity only describes
one aspect of his academic work at UAB.
He is a masterful teacher, has mentored
students in the history honor society and
advised student editors of the annual \textit{Vulcan
Historical Review}, the department's prize-
winning student journal. The Ireland Prize
honors outstanding scholarly research, but it
is important to recognize that great scholar-
ship is not mutually exclusive with top-flight
teaching and engaged academic service."

Davis says his life could not have evolved
any better.

"When the job of American Labor History
instructor came open here, it was right up
my alley," he says. "Birmingham seemed like
the perfect place to be for a labor historian
because of all of the wonderful labor his-
tory here. It's just been a wonderful journey.
UAB's been very good to me. I've been able
to establish my career here, and I've also
been able to blossom."
New dental clinic raises learning to new level

Seven new chairs, a surgical room for live-streaming procedures and more than $1 million worth of high-tech digital tools in the newly renovated dental clinic signal a new era for patients, students, clinicians and researchers.

The majority of the equipment is either purchased or donated outright by manufacturers, says James Broome, D.D.S., associate professor of prosthodontics in the School of Dentistry. “We basically said, ‘Give us your best stuff, and we will give students exposure to it,’” Broome says. And they did: new impressioning equipment, milling machines, drills, porcelain ovens, color-correcting overhead lights and sterilization equipment and more.

The major expense, however, was infrastructure. And Birmingham-based BioHorizons, a UAB spin-off company that specializes in dental implants, awarded a $400,000 grant to the school to renovate the sixth floor to accommodate the technology.

Michael McCracken, D.D.S., associate dean for education and curriculum development, expressed gratitude to the company and all of the manufacturers that provided funds and equipment. Those gifts have given researchers and students the best possible equipment and materials for their work, he says, and will help the School of Dentistry expand its research and clinical trials.

“Part of getting a clinical trial is having a decent facility to do the work and having the infrastructure to support it,” McCracken says.

Tomorrow’s technologies

John Burgess, D.D.S., associate dean for clinical research, says dental students will have access to the clinic to see patients one day a week. “We want to expose dental students to new technology and new delivery systems so that they have some idea of what is available and will be able to make intelligent purchases when they graduate,” he says. “That’s novel.

“We also anticipate that it will be a good resource for continuing education,” Burgess says. “The surgical room soon will be outfitted with several cameras so that dentists watching in the adjacent conference room — or in lecture halls across campus or across country — will have close-up views of techniques being performed.”

The new technologies, materials, research and procedures available through the clinic will help the School of Dentistry serve its patients now and clinicians and researchers in the future.

“The future of dentistry is earlier and better treatment, better restorative materi- als and the ability to diagnose and place implants much more accurately than we have,” Burgess says. “That future is coming very rapidly, and this clinic is going to play a significant role in meeting it.”

The School of Dentistry Clinic gets a makeover — new chairs, surgical room for live-streaming procedures and high-tech digital tools, BioHorizons, a UAB spin-off company that specializes in dental implants, awarded the school a $400,000 grant for renovations to accommodate the new technology. Right, Mary MacDougall, associate dean for research, helps students with a fully automated imaging system.
Every student who takes part in a medical school interview has to answer a question that Professor Craig Hoessler, M.D., says often produces the same answer from every potential student.

Question: Why do you want to be a doctor? Answer: Because I want to help people.

It’s a standard response from applicants, but UAB medical school students are proving those words to be true, Hoessler says. Six years ago a group of students founded Equal Access Birmingham (EAB), an organization dedicated to providing medical care to the under-served in the community. They accomplish this by staffing the M-POWER Ministries free clinic every Wednesday night and hosting local health fairs and screenings, administering education courses and addressing other needs of the under-served with specialty clinics.

“These students are demonstrating they want to help people in their actions every day,” says Hoessler, the faculty advisor. “I think students now know that we should feel good about the future of medicine. Despite a very rigorous academic curriculum — one that equates to a full-time job — they want to volunteer their time to provide this service. That tells me they’re in medical schools for the right reasons.”

EAB was started approximately six years ago by a group of medical students who wanted to start a free clinic that they would run under the supervision of UAB physicians.

The students wanted to accomplish two goals: Provide care for the medically under-served of Birmingham and do it in a way that would enable them to begin honing their clinical skills early in their medical school career.

M-POWER Ministries, a faith-based social services ministry, had an existing clinic that was open each Tuesday and Thursday; they were looking to expand their services when UAB faculty and students approached them. A partnership was quickly formed, and a student-run clinic supervised by UAB physicians began serving the community there each Wednesday evening at 4024 Fourth Ave. South.

Approximately 20 UAB physicians volunteer to help in the clinic during the year, but it’s the students who organize and direct the EAB volunteers’ efforts. Each student has an assigned volunteer who walks the students step by step through the pertinent features of each case and how he formulates a diagnosis.

“We students really enjoy the experience because we are getting clinical education from the beginning, which is pretty difficult to get in your first two years,” says Julie Turner, a second-year medical student and co-president of EAB. “But at the same time, it’s a valuable opportunity for us to contribute to the community.”

The clinic is popular with the medical students; more than 160 participated in one or more of the volunteer opportunities available in the 2009-10 academic year. Opportunities to volunteer are made available to volunteers every three months, and they fill up quickly.

Six years ago a group of medical students founded Equal Access Birmingham, an organization that provides medical care to the under-served. This organization, UAB med students prove they want to be doctors not for just a select group, but to help all people.

The students need supplies to run the screenings, and the School of Medicine has provided some funds for them. Students now are beginning to raise funds to help purchase supplies, including glucometers, testing strips and blood pressure cuffs.

EAB is hosting its first 5K “Run For the Health of It” event Saturday, May 1 to raise money. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Crestline Village at the Knights of Columbus Route. Early registration is $20 for the 5K and $10 for a one-mile fun run.

“EAB would not be where it is today without the support of the administration,” says Turner, a Birmingham native. “We wanted to try to establish one major fundraiser every year, and this is our first 5K. We wanted to do an event that would help us raise funds and emphasized our principles, which is a healthy community.”

To sign up, visit www.active.com and search EAB. If you are unable to race but would like to donate, visit www.active.com/donate/ub or e-mail runforthehealthofit@gmail.com for more information.

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All this high-tech radiation technology starts with the physicists, even the design of the building,” says Brezovich. He points to a set of well-worn Hazeltig-Salter center blueprints in his office, complete with safety and technical details.

Brezovich’s division is a national leader in research and technical ability, propelling UAB forward in the use of leading-edge technology like radiosurgery and IMRT (intensity-modulated radiation therapy). One manufacturer already is negotiating with UAB to help premiere a new radiation-therapy system that could further revolutionize cancer care, says division physicist Richard Popple, Ph.D.

People say it is gratifying to work among five other physicists who contribute to patient care and continue to make strides in the science behind medical radiation.

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Center trains industry’s health and safety specialists

Elizabeth Maples believes strongly that the Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety provides graduate students an opportunity to pursue a successful and satisfying career.

Maples, the deputy director of the center, doesn’t have to look far for evidence to support her assertion. Her daughter, Stephanie Lynch, graduated from the program with a master’s degree in spring 2009 and has spent the past 11 months working in Pittsburgh with the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) — the arm of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that conducts research and makes recommendations to prevent work-related illnesses and injuries.

“She has a really fascinating job,” Maples says. “Her research is on respirator-fit testing. She is trying to determine which respirators work best with certain facial dimensions. It’s a great job and a fun job, and I couldn’t be happier that her training happened right here at UAB.”

The Deep South Center is a consortium of UAB and Auburn University funded by NIOSH. It offers graduate and post-graduate programs in occupational medicine, occupational health nursing, industrial hygiene and occupational safety and ergonomics.

Kent Oestenstad, Ph.D., is the center’s director.

**Recruiting opportunities**

The program attracts graduate students throughout the United States. Graduates from Birmingham-Southern College, the University of North Alabama, Florida State, Eastern Kentucky and University of New Mexico are enrolled or recently have graduated.

“Our students are able to work with some of the top companies in the Southeast and the nation,” Maples says.

“We have graduates working at Disney, Coca-Cola, 3M, Honda, Hyundai and Mercedes, for example. And these are exciting, fascinating jobs. Who would think you would need someone in safety and health at Disney? But it’s amazing what those folks do behind the scenes. You think about all of the waste produced and the mechanical rides and events and it’s a major undertaking.”

Students also have an opportunity to pursue careers in the mining industry and in the public sector, including the CIA, the CDC and academia.

**Multidisciplinary study**

The Deep South Center is one of only 17 U.S. centers funded by NIOSH. Students interested in pursuing industrial hygiene and occupational safety-specialist positions study in the School of Public Health. The School of Nursing trains nurses specifically to coordinate and implement wellness programs and medical surveillance.

Auburn University students study occupational safety, human factor studies and safety and ergonomics in that school’s College of Engineering.

Many of the students enrolled in the program are chemistry or biology majors, although Maples says they have had psychology and philosophy majors join the two-year program, too.

“We’re fortunate to have students who come here that really want to make a difference in people’s lives,” Maples says.

“Maples says a career in occupational health and safety is not something often at the forefront of many students’ minds, so the center works to attract students in a variety of ways.

One of those is its summer Environmetal & Occupational Safety & Health Institute, which is open to students who have completed three years of college, have a 3.0 GPA or better and are pursuing degrees in engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, nursing and health-sciences programs.

“Safety is not sexy,” Maples says. “You think of pocket protectors, goggles and ear muffs. We wanted to think of a way to engage the younger students and give them an opportunity to come to the institute and learn more about occupational and environmental health and safety.”

Undergraduates attending the institute learn the nuances of the profession from graduate students and practitioners working in the field. They also take field trips to local industry where they observe workers and receive hands-on training.

“The idea is to expose people to this field — not just industrial hygiene, safety and nursing — but the whole concept of occupational safety,” Maples says.

Up to 12 students can attend the summer institute. A letter of recommendation with a statement of major and GPA from the student’s advisor and an application must be submitted by Friday, May 15 to be eligible for this summer’s institute.

There is no cost for the program and a limited number of stipends are available for students to attend.

Contact Maples for more information at dev@uab.edu, call 934-7178 or learn more at www.uab.edu/dsc.

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**Summer attraction**

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Higher fat breakfast may be healthier than you think, study shows

The age-old maxim “Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper” may in fact be the best advice to follow to prevent metabolic syndrome, according to a new UAB study.

The study, published online March 30 in the International Journal of Obesity, examined the influence exerted by the type of foods and specific timing of intake on the development of metabolic syndrome characteristics in mice. The UAB research revealed that mice fed a meal higher in fat after waking had normal metabolic profiles. In contrast, mice that ate a more carbohydrate-rich diet in the morning and consumed a high-fat meal at the end of the day gained increased weight gain, adiposity, glucose intolerance and other markers of the metabolic syndrome.

Studies have looked at the type and quantity of food intake, but nobody has undertaken the question of whether the timing of what you eat and when you eat it influences body weight, even though we know sleep and altered circadian rhythms influence body weight,” said the study’s lead author Molly Bray, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology in the UAB School of Public Health.

Men should take lead in deciding to test for prostate cancer

Men who undergo prostate-cancer screening should discuss with a doctor the uncertainties, risks and benefits of the test before it is performed, says Edward Partridge, M.D., president-elect of the American Cancer Society National Board of Directors and director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The updated guidelines suggest doctors more actively involve patients in the decision and offer clearer guidance on those things that should be discussed, says Partridge, a co-investigator on the national Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO trial) that helped inform the updated guidelines.

Neweschafer, noted autism researcher, to speak April 21

Renowned autism researcher Craig Neweschafer, Ph.D. will deliver the 2010 Glennwood Endowed Lecture at the UAB School of Public Health.

The free event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 21 in the Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium. Held during Autism Awareness Month, the Glennwood Endowed Lecture is hosted in conjunction with UAB’s 2010 Neurodevelopment/Simpson-Ramsay Symposium, set for Thursday, April 22.

Neweschafer’s lecture, “Will epidemiology help us find the causes of autism?” will focus on the evidence-based science that comes from tracking trends in autism prevalence and the challenges to gathering data.

Parkinson’s research findings to be presented at local conference April 24

The latest information on clinical treatments and the newest research findings from experts in the UAB Department of Neurology will be featured during the Parkinson Association of Alabama annual conference, “Live Your Best Life Now,” from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Saturday, April 24 in the Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway.

The keynote address, “Dream! Act! Live! Life after Diagnosis,” will be delivered by Todd Bischoff, an international motivational speaker recently diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson’s Disease.

Additional sessions will demonstrate innovative movement therapies, including a moving-with-music session presented by UAB physical therapy faculty that uses the Wii video-gaming system as a rehabilitation tool.

The conference is free, but seating is limited. Pre-registration is encouraged. Register on-line at www.parkinsonalabama.org or call 871-9941.

Intramural grant apps for health-policy research needed

The Lister Hill Center for Health Policy is soliciting faculty applications for one-year grants up to $30,000 to encourage and foster health policy/research services research on the UAB campus. Examples of appropriate proposals are ones that examine the roles of financing, organization, technology or prevention or that investigate the impact of systems of care on outcomes, utilization, cost and/or quality. The application deadline is April 16.

Application details for this opportunity are available at healthpolicy.uab.edu or from Lee Howard at leh@uab.edu.

Apply now for faculty development grants

The RFP and application guidelines for the 2010-2011 UAB Faculty Development Grant Program are available online at www.uab.edu/facultydevelopment and www.uab.edu/senate/home.html. The funding for these grants is provided by the provost’s office and with matching funds from the applicant’s department. The Faculty Senate Curriculum & Research Committee reviews proposals and recommends funding for proposed projects.

Faculty are encouraged to apply individually or as a member of a multidisciplinary team by April 12.

Researchers invited to add questions to statewide survey

Faculty are invited to participate in the 2010 UAB Researchers’ Omnibus Survey of Alabama (ROSA) that can that can provide preliminary data for grant proposals and information on current issues. Researchers can submit one or more questions to be included in a statewide telephone survey of 1,200 randomly selected adults. The survey is scheduled during May and July; data should be available in August. Additional information about the survey and the Survey Research Unit is online at www.uab.edu/surveyresearch. Direct questions to Russ Fourther, co-director of the Survey Research Unit at 975-8300 or e-mail rfourther@uab.edu.

Laboratory Safety Workshop to be offered May 12

Ocational Health & Safety will offer a one-day course on laboratory safety from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 in the Community Health Services Building; a catered lunch is provided. In-depth discussions and demonstrations are offered on biohazard, chemical safety, hazardous materials, waste and general safety. This is an excellent course for anyone who works in or supervises a laboratory. There is a $25 fee for UAB employees ($75 for non-employees). Class size is limited. Call 934-2487 to register. Learn more at www.healthsafe.uab.edu.

Call for nominations for Norwood Award

Nominate a woman for the ninth annual Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. Eligible individuals are women who have completed their terminal degree and have made outstanding contributions to the statistical sciences, and, if selected, are willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony. Additional details about the award are online at www.soph.uab.edu/xg/norwoodaward/aboutaward. Electronic submissions of nominations are accepted and encouraged. Deadline is Friday, June 26.

Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
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