Students will have new creative avenues to explore this fall with the 2009 Discussion Book selection of Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder.

This year’s Campus Conversations, a compilation of student works, will be an online publication exploring issues central to Mountains Beyond Mountains. Faculty are invited to create course assignments that relate to public health, health disparities, social systems and disease, public policy, poverty, philanthropic outreach, Haiti, the Caribbean, sacrifice, one person making a difference and other relevant topics. Student work can take multiple forms, including but not limited to essays, artwork, videos, creative writing, journals, photographs and reports. Faculty can nominate and students can submit work this fall for inclusion in the spring 2010 online Campus Conversations.

“With this drug some of these patients went through an entire trial,” Fiveash said. “This is impossible for many independent labs to set up on their own,” says Martin Johnson, Ph.D., director of the faculty. “This is a central place to go and incorporate the analysis into your research without the need to spend a tremendous amount of time and expense trying to figure out how to do it and where to do it, likely while borrowing other people’s equipment.”

“The opportunity to feature multimedia work already has sparked creativity in the Ethnographic Filmmaking class. Students recently finished producing short documentary films that highlight the complexities of the health-care system, a prevalent theme of the text. “This type of student work hopefully will contribute to the dialogue sparked by this year’s book,” O’Beirne says.

Finding a calling

At the center of Mountains Beyond Mountains is Paul Farmer, a doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist and the recipient of a MacArthur genius grant. In medical school Farmer found his life’s calling: to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most.

The book shows how radical change can occur access to new intellectual and technical resources and specialized instrumentation and technologies in the Integrated Molecular Analysis facility (IMA).

Clinical and translational researchers have access to new intellectual and technical resources and specialized instrumentation and technologies in the Integrated Molecular Analysis facility (IMA). The IMA provides a centralized resource for tissue preparation, proteomics analysis and protein quantification. Instrumentation and technologies available include laser capture microdissection, real-time PCR including Taqman Low DENSITY Arrays, and quantitative proteomics analysis using a Meso Scale Imager.

“ima offers powerful tools to aid translational researchers

The IMA is capable of analyzing a variety of samples, including snap-frozen tissues, fine needle aspirates, archived paraffin-embedded tissues, in vivo cell lines and in vivo xenograft tissues. The IMA facility supports intra- and extra- mural research projects through access to selected advanced instruments and methodology performed by personnel with demonstrated expertise. Results often can be provided in just a few days. “Collectively, this facility will provide the intellectual and technical resources that can aid translational researchers,” O’Beirne says. See IMa p3

Cottonseed compound shows promise in battling lethal brain cancer, says Fivesh

A n experimental drug derived from cottonseed shows promise in retard ing growth of a most lethal form of brain tumor, according to UAB researchers who recently completed a Phase II clinical trial of its efficacy.

John Fivesh is the lead researcher testing an experimental drug derived from cottonseed that shows promise in retarding the growth of brain tumor cells. See IMa p3
School meetings with president, provost scheduled for June

In early June the Academic Realignment Commission (ARC) will submit a report to President Carol Garrison and Provost Ebi Capilouto with recommendations for possible options for realignment of the schools of Arts & Humanities, Business, Education, Engineering, Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Social & Behavioral Sciences.

On June 15, Dr. Mark Rosenberg, chair of the ARC, will present the commission’s report to the Academic Programs Council and later to the university community at 11 a.m. in the Alys Stephens Center Jemison Concert Hall.

Following that, Garrison and Capilouto will first meet with each dean to discuss the report with them individually. On June 24 and 25, the two will hold meetings with the deans and chairs in each school; school faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Meetings on June 24 will be held in Heritage Hall Room 102:
- 9:10 a.m., Arts & Humanities
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., Business
- 3:30-4:30 p.m., Education

Meetings on June 25 will be held in the HUC Alumni Auditorium:
- 10:30-11:30 a.m., Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- 1-2 p.m., Social & Behavioral Sciences
- 2:30-3:30 p.m., Engineering

An electronic dialogue will be initiated on June 15, providing more opportunities for input. Comments posted will be open to the university community. Watch the commission Web site at uab.edu/realignment.

After completing the unit meetings, the president and provost will review the feedback obtained from all sources and meet with the deans to determine next steps. Those steps cannot be determined until the nature of both the suggestions in the commission report and the nature of the feedback is obtained. Next steps could include everything from collecting more information to setting up faculty working groups to review the suggestions made.

June 5, Casino Royale to benefit MHRC Healthy Kids Program

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center is going all in June 5 at their Casino Royale event, hoping to raise funds for the center’s Healthy Kids Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to combat obesity among Alabama children.

The event at WorkPlay is open to the public and tickets start at $30. From 6 to 7 p.m. there will be a high rollers sponsor reception, and the casino opens at 7 p.m.

For tickets, call 975-5659 or e-mail samika@uab.edu.

UAB Eye Care to showcase sunglasses

UAB Eye Care is sponsoring a “Sunglass Extravaganza” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 5 in the Optical Department on the ground floor of the Henry Peters Building. It will feature sunwear from Maui Jim, Nike, Coach, Fendi, Gucci and others. Sales representatives will be on hand to answer questions and showcase their latest fashions.

UAB employees can utilize payroll deduction for their purchases. For more information, call UAB Eye Care at 975-2050.

BLAZE academy is now accepting apps

Apply by June 15 for the BLAZE (Building Leadership Attributes with Zeal and Excellence) leadership-development program for faculty and senior staff. This program provides opportunities for employees to enhance leadership skills, learn about UAB’s mission, vision, culture and values and network with others in similar positions across campus.

The application and program description are on the Faculty Development site at www.uab.edu/facultydevelopment and the Training and Development site www.hm.uab.edu/maintraindev/faculty_main.html. The next program will begin Sept. 10.

The ideal candidate for the program has some leadership experience and demonstrates a commitment to enhancing professional knowledge and skills.

Childhood obesity is conference topic

The Leadership Education in Child Health Nursing (LECHN) Fellowship will present a child-health update on trends, treatments and troubles with childhood obesity on June 19.

CDC epidemiologist and renowned obesity researcher Cynthia Ogden will examine health and social consequences, treatment and intervention to prevent childhood obesity.

The conference fee is $30 and continuing education credit will be offered for nurses, physicians, social workers and dietitians. Download a flyer and a registration form at www.uab.edu/SSG/LECHN/childobesity.html.

Call for nominations: Outstanding woman in statistical sciences

Nominations are being accepted for the eighth annual Janet L. Norwood Award until June 29. Eligible women must have completed their terminal degree, made outstanding contributions to the statistical sciences and be willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony Sept. 19.

Details about the award are online at www.soph.uab.edu/awards. Electronic submissions of nominations are encouraged.

UAB Reporter changes for summer, fall

This is the last print issue of the UAB Reporter for the summer; we’ll resume printing and distributing the newsletter with the Monday, Sept. 7 edition. Don’t worry, though, we’re not taking the summer off – instead, we’re saving money by offering the publication online at www.uab.edu/reporter. We’ll tell you each time there is a new one by a notice in The eReporter. When we pick back up with printing and distribution in the fall you’ll notice some changes, primarily that we’ll be keeping the classified, clinical trials listings and calendar online so we can devote our pages to stories that highlight and explore the interests, objectives and achievements of UAB and its faculty and staff.

Also, we will be reviewing our external print mailing list. So, if you’re a loyal reader but not a current faculty or staff member, be sure to sign up for The eReporter by sending an e-mail to ereporter-subscribe-request@listserv.uab.edu so you can get the latest campus news and information delivered straight to your inbox. If you don’t have easy access to a computer and are currently receiving a printed copy, e-mail us at reporter@uab.edu or call us at 205/934-2040 to request to remain on the mailing list.

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Passion for patient care promotes rigor in research

T he summer of 2008, the first in Bir- mingham for Boris Pasche, M.D., Ph.D., was relatively mild for the region. Still, it was a good 30 degrees warmer than Chicago, where he had been an associate professor at Northwestern University, and about 40 degrees warmer than his native Switzerland. In this climate he is a research physician — the director of Hematology & Oncology for the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center and associate director for Translational Research.

Born and raised in Lausanne, the south- western, French-speaking area of Switzer- land, Dr. Pasche entered medical school in the shadow of the Savoy Alps. An exchange program brought him to the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, where he earned his doctorate degrees and discovered a passion for research. However, Pasche says, the European medi- cal system is not designed to accommodate doctors who aspire to be both physicians and researchers. "What attracted me to the United States was that I could be a clinician-scientist. This path not only is encouraged but really is considered to be the golden path."

That desire led him to postdoctoral training at Harvard University, a residency at Cor- nell Medical Center and a fellowship at New York’s Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. "I wanted to see patients and be able to translate discovery into intervention that would ultimately benefit those patients," he says.

Tailored Therapies

During his fellowship, Pasche began explor- ing cancer genomics and discovered a muta- tion that was a tumor-susceptibility gene. He realized that if genes involved in cancers can be identified, then early detection and treatment could be improved.

Pasche says that genetic components can be found in every kind of tumor, which means cancer genetics research has applications throughout the field of oncology. He pre- dicts that these components will lead to the advent of personalized medicine — gene-specific treatments that target cancer with the greatest possible accuracy.

"With the dramatically improved techniques we have to look at genes," he says, "it is likely that you’ll be able to sequence the entire genome for an individual for less than $1,000 within the foreseeable future."

Oncologists already know that some fea- tures of a breast or colon tumor may pre- dict how well a patient will react to various types of chemotherapy or biological ther- apy. "We’re probably going to move from a standard therapy for all breast or colon or gastric cancers to individualized thera-pies, which probably will be less toxic and more specifically targeted to patients with a specific type of tumor," Pasche says. He adds that developments and discoveries in diagnosis and treatment will be led by cen- ters with a tradition of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, high patient volume and teams of physician-scientists such as UAB.

Finding Inspiration

Pasche says a combination of factors brought him to UAB. "First, UAB has a very strong reputation in the field of oncology. I was moving to a place that I knew had the necessary infrastructure to be among the top centers.

Second, UAB has a very strong research environment, offering an opportunity to really expand any medical discovery at both the basic and clinical levels," he says. "UAB is strong in both.

Pasche derives motivation and insight for his research from treating patients. "For me it is an inspiration that is renewed when I go through the clinic and see patients," he says. "Medicine, and oncology in particular, is my passion."

Reprinted from Crossroads, a publication of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center that offers news, features and profiles highlighting current cancer-related news of prevention, treatment and research.

Read the spring edition online at www.uab.edu/crossroads.

Call for submission details

The UAB Discussion Book is the focus for events throughout the academic year. Developed as part of UAB’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), the UAB Discussion Book project promotes civic involvement, respectful dialogue about often-controversial issues and more knowl- edgeable participation in a global society. Faculty can nominate and students can submit work for the online journal from August through December. The work must be produced during the calendar year 2009. A more detailed call on format for submis- sion will be provided later this summer. In the meantime, faculty are encouraged to make their students aware of the online publication so they can save copies of their work for submission.

David Walton, a colleague who works with Farmer on his Partners in Health initiative, will be speaking to new students Monday, Aug. 17. Visit www.uab.edu/discussionbook for more on the test and events for the coming aca- demic year.

IMA

CONTINUED from page 1

assist the investigator in designing and con- ducting experiments, preparing the appro- priate samples for analysis, analyzing them through more comprehensive testing on individual projects to support. This is possi- ble through more comprehensive testing on smaller tissue samples using a wider variety of advanced methods.

The IMA facility can:
• Provide laser-capture microdissection using two different instruments
• Provide real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction, Taqman low-density array and single nucleotide polymorphism analy- sis of human and animal tissues
• Provide multiplex protein quantification using the ME5O scale diagnostics plat- form.

The facility aims to be Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-certified (CLIA) by the end of the year. Results from the IMA facility will be used for clinical diagnostic once the certification is granted; that means patients in clinical trials can have their treatment altered by their physicians based on the findings in the lab.

Powerful equipment

Analyzing gene expression with the Taqman low-density array (TLDA) is a key compo- nent to translational research, Johnson says. "A researcher can examine the expression of up to 384 genes in two hours. This makes it possible to examine complete pathways," Johnson says, who helped in the development and validation of the TLDA technology. "It’s very, very powerful. Most people don’t even know this technology exists, and most universities don’t have it."

The laser microdissection instruments and the ME5O Scale Imager have well-known histories as well. The Laser Microdissection Facility was established in 1996 under the direction of Andra Frost, M.D., IMA co-director, by the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Department of Pathology.

Data obtained by the ME5O Scale Imager detects molecules from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded and frozen tissues, body fluids and fine-needle aspirates and proteins obtained from a variety of protocols used in basic science laboratory research. Thus, the potential uses of the instrument for protein quantification are “virtually unlimited,” Johnson says.

When you couple laser microdissection, TLDA and the ME5O Scale technology you get the ability to perform a comprehensive analysis (capable of determining mRNA or protein levels) on virtually any clinical biopsy,” Johnson says.

June 1, 2009 UAB Reporter 3
Adamson’s dedication inspires, reassures Hem/Onc fellows

The curriculum for the 12 fellows in Hematology/Oncology was 20 pages when Kelly Adamson joined the division nine years ago. Constant tweaks from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have pushed the curriculum to 100 pages today.

Adamson has been in charge of that curriculum since she began her position as an administrative associate. She ensures the fellows stay on course and complete all of the tasks required by the ACGME.

“She has generated the data and helped to design the curriculum to be ACGME-compliant,” says Supriya Koya, M.D., one of the Hematology/Oncology fellows. “She is a great source of inspiration to all of us here.”

Adamson manages the fellowship program: she coordinates daily conferences and speaker lectures, conducts year-end graduation ceremonies, arranges interviews for the applicants and reimburses fellows for their educational expenses. Because Adamson performs her duties efficiently and with the highest praise of her colleagues, she has been selected as May’s Employee of the Month.

Tasha Nabell says, “She constantly reminds us of our administrative responsibilities when we are busy with clinical work and ignoring these responsibilities. She takes care of even small necessities.”

Lisle Nabell, M.D., fellowship director of the Hematology/Oncology division, agrees with Koya and also expresses her admiration for Adamson’s work.

“It has been fun watching Kelly step into this program and then develop ownership of an increasingly demanding job,” Nabell says. “The amount of oversight to keep our fellowship compliant with the ACGME mandates has grown considerably the past several years, and Kelly has been instrumental in staying abreast of changes and initiating necessary changes.”

Adamson takes the praise in stride.

“I’m fortunate to work with some great people, and that makes my job much easier,” Adamson says. Keeping up with the curriculum changes is the most difficult part of her job, Adamson says, and the program is constantly evolving.

“They want more paperwork now than when they did when I first started,” Adamson says. “I never had worked at a university prior to coming to UAB, and if I had to jump into it now, I don’t think there would be time for a learning curve. It certainly would be much harder coming in with no knowledge. I think I really lucked out coming to UAB when I did.”

The fellows say Adamson walks them through any issues they have with the curriculum and makes their jobs much easier.

“Kelly keeps our fellowship afloat,” says John Reardon, M.D., a Hematology/Oncology fellow. “We have had a fair amount of transition in our department, and she has adapted to the changes. She really is like a mother to the fellows.”

Adamson says another challenging — but fun — aspect of her job is balancing the work she needs to do to assist the fellows. She coordinates their schedules and keeps track of the paperwork they need to submit.

Even that process is prone to significant change. Four fellows rotate out of the program and four new fellows rotate in each year, so there always are new personalities entering and friends moving away.

“Once our fellows graduate they are board-eligible for hematology and oncology, and while it’s an exciting time for them, it’s sad to see them leave,” Adamson says. “The good thing is many of them keep in touch. They call back to talk from time to time, and they send pictures of their children. I keep up with them.”

Adamson’s friendly personality makes it easy for fellows to engage her and rely on her for guidance, says Raquel Innis-Shelton, M.D., another fellow in the program.

“I have only been here eight months and Kelly has been so kind and is always willing to help with a smile on her face,” Innis-Shelton says. “She has been so pleasant to work with and has a wealth of information in her back pocket on how to navigate through the UAB Health System.”

“She always keeps a cool head and a sense of humor,” adds James Foran, M.D., former fellowship director of the division. “She has a great work ethic and is efficient and creative. Kelly embodies the UAB spirit of excellence, innovation and good manners.”

Obituaries

Retired LPN Alberta Jolly (ML Skilled Nursing Service), Feb. 5.
Retired Unit Secretary Gwendolyn Kindall (Renal Transplant), Feb. 26.
Office Associate Wanda Bynum (Cardiovascular Disease), March 3.
Retired Senior Sterile Supply Technician Mary McCloud (Central Service), March 8.
Retired Driver James Beasley, Ph.D. (Parking & Transportation Services), March 19.
Retired Program Coordinator Sheryln Burks (Pediatrics-Infectious Disease), April 5.
Retired Environmental Services Supervisor Mary Knighten (Building Services), April 12.
Retired Assistant to the Chair Audie White (Neurology), April 30.
Retired Director of Engineering & Operations August Russell (WBHM), May 5.
Office Associate Randall Sandford (Nursing Fam/Child Health/Caregiver), May 19.
Do you or someone you know have cystic fibrosis? The UAB Center for Nursing Research has developed a Web site that adds information to the pain experienced by patients with CF. Visit the site at http://www.cysticfibrosis.uab.edu/. Dr. David Sibbald is a fracture for a new research study led by a professor in the 19-2 day and involving the use of a new drug on bone health. Compensation. Dr. David Sibbald 4-8100.

Are you a male veteran? Study requires a 2-3 day stay in the hospital. Physical exam, lab results and bone density. 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you a female veteran? If so, you could be eligible to join a UAB research program while walking and also test an Internet program that will improve your balance and ability to walk. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Women & men age 46-50 are needed for research study to map brain activity while performing decision making tasks. Study includes a clinical interview, computerized memory and decision making tasks, vision, hearing and arm strength, ankle, finger, hand and wrist strength, 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you a veteran receiving care at the Birmingham VA Medical Center? If so, you may qualify to participate in a metabolic research study. Research includes a physical exam, laboratory tests, and compensation. Research: David 4-9112.

Women & men age 19 or older who are interested in quitting smoking for a health benefit. You will receive counseling and non-smoking medication to help you quit smoking. You may be compensated up to $600. Compensation: Laura 502-9967.

Volunteers needed who want to jumpstart their fitness program while walking 5 miles a day for 6 weeks. Compensation. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Women and men age 19-45 are needed for a study to evaluate the exposure of FDA approved drugs. Receive a medical exam and 12-hour clinic visits, each followed by 2 additional clinic visits at UAB. June 1, 2009. 4-4112.

Are you age 19 or older with high blood pressure? Are you currently taking medication to lower cholesterol may qualify. Must be healthy and at least 6 months and free of any severe head injuries or neurological illnesses. Study includes a clinical interview, computerized memory and decision making tasks, vision, hearing and arm strength, ankle, finger, hand and wrist strength, 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you currently taking at least 3 medications for your high blood pressure and still have problems controlling your blood pressure? If so, you may qualify to participate in a UAB clinical trial conducted at UAB to help treat these conditions. 1-877-542-9281.

Are you age 19-45 and using a night time breathing device to treat sleep apnea? You may be eligible to participate in a research study. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you a healthy male and female age 25 and under who are interested in participating in a research study to map brain activity while performing decision making tasks. Study includes a clinical interview, computerized memory and decision making tasks, vision, hearing and arm strength, ankle, finger, hand and wrist strength, 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

You may qualify to participate in a 14-week research study being conducted at the UAB School of Dermatology to determine the effectiveness of investigational tooth-coloured dental filling materials. Subjects needing fillings in the back teeth are likely candidates. The fillings are free and a monetary incentive is offered at follow-up visits. 906-9747.

You may be eligible to participate in a breast cancer prevention study. Jena will perform the study. Compensation. 4-9281.

Are you age 19 or older and have toenail fungus? Call 800-950-6662 to participate in a study about transportation. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you age 19 or older with high blood pressure? Are you currently taking medication to lower cholesterol may qualify. Must be healthy and at least 6 months and free of any severe head injuries or neurological illnesses. Study includes a clinical interview, computerized memory and decision making tasks, vision, hearing and arm strength, ankle, finger, hand and wrist strength, 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

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Do you have a physical and/or neurological condition(s) that impacts on people with epilepsy. Studies conducted by the UAB Dept of Neurology. June 1, 2009. 4-4112.

People over 50 years of age are needed for a study to improve memory and brain function. Study includes a clinical interview, computerized memory and decision making tasks, vision, hearing and arm strength, ankle, finger, hand and wrist strength, 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

Are you a male veteran? Study requires a 2-3 day stay in the hospital. Physical exam, lab results and bone density. 2-3 visits, exams and laboratory tests at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-9967.

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ers, no job too large or small. Kitchens, bathrooms, theater, roof, painting, wood floors, tile, Oak Run Kimbergh 965-5223.

Tiling: home from type VCs, exams, wills, probate, judgments. Beth 898-1307.


Babyhouseparents: 3 yrs experience and/or weeklyeds. Good references. Spilkinton@genetics.uab.edu/ 5-687/906-5988.

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Sitter services: retired RN with over 25 yrs of experience looking to take care of your elderly loved one, day or night. References. Hailey Robinson 328-8680.

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Pencil Pet Portraits offers you, the pet lover, the opportunity to have time-lapse pet photographs taken, including morning, evening, action, pieces of art. Visit www.pencilpetportraits.com.

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611-7788.

Professional photographer: Chris Brown, 11 yrs experience in photography and graphic design. 369-6029/chrisbrown@ubblue.net.

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HERE IN ALABAMA, a PLACE OF RICH DIVERSITY, STANDS OUR ALMA MATER. WE CHERISH HER INTEGRITY. MAY EACH LOYAL SON AND DAUGHTER WEAR PROUDLY THE COLORS GREEN AND GOLD.

PRAISE TO THEE OUR HER HONOR WE UPHOLD.

UAB Alumni stay connected and show your true colors. Join the UAB National Alumni Society today.

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UAB Department of Biomedical Engineering