Grant adds MERIT scholars to UAB’s Graduate School

A new developmental grant awarded to UAB’s Graduate School will be used to help educate and train a diverse community of postdoctoral scholars who will become tomorrow’s leading academicians.

UAB is one of 15 universities to receive an Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) from the National Institutes of Health. The award enables institutions to combine a traditional mentored, postdoctoral research experience with an opportunity to develop teaching skills through assignments at a minority-serving institution.

The Graduate School has created the Mentored Experiences in Research, Instruction and Teaching (MERIT) program with the grant, and expanded its partnerships with Miles and Stillman colleges.

“The training grant offers postdoctoral trainees a unique opportunity to get practical, mentored teaching experience while simultaneously expanding their research skills,” says Bryan Noc, Ph.D., dean of UAB’s Graduate School. “Postdocs who have had the IRACDA experience are highly desirable faculty candidates because they already have demonstrated their desire and willingness to become competent teachers.”

The MERIT program will include three years of concurrent research training and teaching instruction. The first two scholars begin the program in October, and two scholars will be recruited each year. Six scholars will be in the program at its peak.

The immediate objective of the program is to help developing scientists conduct high-quality research in an academic environment. Long-term objectives are three-fold:

• Enhance research-oriented teaching at minority-serving institutions
• Promote interactions between research-intensive universities and minority-serving institutions that lead to collaborations in research and teaching
• Increase the number of well-qualified, under-represented minority students entering careers in research

Research conducted with children has unique challenges. Similarly simple steps like obtaining consent, taking vital signs, placing IVs and drawing blood can become very difficult.

And it only takes one bad research experience to sour a child’s outlook or a family’s enthusiasm to participate.

The UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) recently partnered with the UAB Department of Pediatrics and Children’s Hospital of Alabama to develop the Child Health Research Unit (CHRU) to better engage and care for children participating in research. The partnership with Children's Hospital gives UAB physicians and researchers a child-friendly environment and access to the expertise to address the physical and emotional needs of children.

The CHRU will enable researchers to better conduct clinical trials, simplify participation for the study subjects, consolidate pediatric research in one site and provide access to pediatric services not generally available in an adult facility.

“This is advantageous for our patients,” says J.P. Clancy, M.D., director of the CHRU. “You’re able to see study subjects in a research-dedicated space and access services like IV placement, radiology and lab services by experts in the care of children.”

The CHRU, located on the seventh floor of Dearth Tower in Children’s Hospital, is structured much like the adult Participant and Clinical Interactions Resources (PCIR), another component of the CCTS. Both provide space, access to nursing and lab processing for investigators.

Clancy says the goal of the CHRU is to create a platform for investigators to conduct research with pediatric subjects that is safe and flexible to accommodate the needs of the investigator and the study participants.

“I believe that we have a great opportunity to create research relationships across departments and schools at UAB, especially when you can partner that with the great facilities and expertise available within Children's Hospital,” Clancy says.

Pivotal trials under way

Phase II and III trials of new drugs to treat the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis (CF) are currently under way in the CHRU.

The drugs, known as CFTR modulators, target the defective protein that causes CF. The approach is considered unique because all other therapies used for CF target downstream symptoms and not the root cause of the disease.

“This is not gene therapy in which you replace a gene,” says Clancy, the principal investigator of the international Phase II study of VX-809, a small molecule designed to help correct the most common cause of CF. “This uses a drug in pill form to help your own gene or gene product work better.”

UAB is playing a key leadership role in the VX-809 trial and the Phase III international trial of PTC124, a study drug intended to

Four alumni to mark 40 years during first University Day

Four distinguished graduates will speak to the crowd gathered to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and celebrate the institution’s inaugural University Day Thursday, Sept. 24. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as UAB recognizes its “Fifty Years of Breakthroughs” during a convocation that will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Alys Stephens Center Jemison Concert Hall. (For important information on parking, visit www.uab.edu/parking.)

The ceremony, led by UAB President Foster Davis and Brian Sims – will present remarks during the ceremony.

“The training grant offers postdoctoral trainees a unique opportunity to get practical, mentored teaching experience while simultaneously expanding their research skills,” says Bryan Noc, Ph.D., dean of UAB’s Graduate School.

Carol Garrison and UAB Provost Eli Capilouto, also will feature 40 distinguished UAB alumni representing the graduating classes from 1969 to 2009. Chancellor Malcolm Portera of the University of Alabama System will speak, and the four graduates, one from each decade – Tommy Cummings, George Little, Manquta Furness Davis and Brian Sims – will present remarks during the ceremony.

For more information on UAB’s “Fifty Years of Breakthroughs,” see p.4

New unit gives youngest patients best in clinical research

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Student enrollment hits all-time high

UAB student enrollment hit a 40-year high of 16,874. That includes a 19 percent increase in freshman enrollment to 1,517, and graduate student enrollment of 5,193, up 9 percent for its all-time high. Enrollment of professional students is 1,553.

“We are so pleased that students recognize the opportunities we offer not only for an outstanding classroom education, but for the many experiences we provide that round out that education,” said UAB President Carol Garrison.

Late rally brings the Labor Day blood drive close to its goal

The UAB Kickoff Classic blood drive (Let’s Put Some Pints on the Board!) came close to making its goal with a late fourth quarter rally. By the time the Labor Day week drive ended on Sunday, Sept. 13, 450 units of blood had been collected, 47 percent from UAB employees.

The Red Cross Donor Room in the North Pavilion is launching a pilot program with extended hours on the third Tuesday and Thursday of each month. The room will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on those days. Contact www.givelot.org to make a reservation to donate or call the donor room at 996-7777.

IDEA evaluation of chairs to end Sept. 29

Faculty are urged to participate in the IDEA evaluation of department chairs being facilitated by the UAB Faculty Senate. The online survey has been sent directly from the IDEA Center, and the survey ends Tuesday, Sept. 29. More information is on the Faculty Senate site at www.uab.edu/fsenate.

Community safety survey under way

The UAB Police Department is conducting an online survey as part of its accreditation review by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to complete the survey at blazernet.uab.edu; BlazerID and strong password required.

Meal plans available for faculty and staff

Park the car and forget about carrying cash. Campus Restaurants and CampusCard meal-plan options are open for UAB faculty and staff for all-you-care-to-eat meals in the Commons and meal deals in the Commons, the Diner and Blazer Cafe. Direct questions about the faculty and staff meal plans to Leigh Clarksowski at 996-6567 or leighc@uab.edu. To sign up for your meal plan visit the campus card office or visit www.uab.edu/dining.

ASC season opens with blues guitar hero Buddy Guy

The legendary Buddy Guy will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 in the Alys Stephens Center. VIP tickets are $100. The evening will begin with a patio party at 6:30 p.m. featuring live music from Tennessee Hollow in the Haskell Courtyard, Dreamland Bar-B-Que plates for sale and a cash bar.

Submit opinion about library services, enter to win iPod shuffle

An anonymous, nationwide, online survey to help Lister Hill Library measure the effectiveness of its services and resources in under way, and faculty, staff and students are asked to provide their opinions of service quality. The survey can be found online at www.uab.edu/lister.

Student, faculty and staff who provide an official UAB e-mail address when they complete the survey will be entered to win one of three iPod Shuffles to be given away.

Both Lister Hill and Sterne libraries participate in the survey every two years, and a similar survey was sent from the Mervyn Sterne Library in the spring. For this survey, focus your answers on the Lister Hill Library.

Find arts events, news on “Art Matters”

Arts events and happenings at UAB are featured every two months on “Art Matters,” a half-hour public access program on Bright House Networks Channel 4. See it at 9 p.m. Monday, 6 p.m. Tuesday, 10 p.m. Wednesday and 5 p.m. Thursday or on Birmingham On Demand or online at vimeo.com/uab. The Alys Stephens Center new season and the traveling exhibition “Sacred Steps on the Camino” at the UAB Visual Arts Gallery are highlights.

Spirit on the Green luncheon is Oct. 1

The UAB National Alumni Society invites you to a “Spirit on the Green” luncheon Thursday, Oct. 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Campus Green. Get free hotdogs, chips, cookies and cold soft drinks and cheer for the Blazers who play Southern Miss at 7 p.m. at Legion Field. Visit the NAS online at www.alumni.uab.edu.

Women’s Soccer tailgate is Oct. 4

Join the UAB National Alumni Society and the Blazer Women’s Athletic Society at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 at the West Campus Field for free hotdogs and snacks prior to the 1 p.m. game against University of Texas-El Paso. Bring your Blazer Spirit and help cheer on our nationally ranked UAB Women’s Soccer Team. Visit the NAS online at www.alumni.uab.edu.

Teaching with technology classes scheduled Sept. 30

Learn to better use information and resources to guide online preparation and contribute to the success of students during the four lunchtime Teaching with Technology seminars scheduled this academic year in the Hill University Center Board Room (HUC Room 325).

First is improving learning using clickers in the classroom on Monday, Sept. 14. Other topics include using resources to plan blended and online courses and improving student retention and student presence in online courses. More information and online registration is available at www.uab.edu/facultydevelopment.

Online calendar holds latest activities, events

The UAB Campus Calendar at www.uab.edu/calendar is updated daily with campus events, activities and deadlines, and the “Calendars” link on the UAB home page takes you straight there. Check out the FAQs for more information.
Grant renewal confirms UAB’s leadership in skin research

Louise Chow, Ph.D., and her research stream in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics are very familiar with skin cells. Research they published earlier this year marked the first time researchers reproduced the entire infection cycle of HPV-18 in primary human-skin cells.

A pilot and feasibility program grant Chow’s team received from the UAB Skin Diseases Research Center (SDRC) is enabling them to explore a new direction — developing human-induced pluripotent stem cells from primary skin cells. The ultimate goal is to correct genetic skin disease. “It’s certainly a learning experience and gets us into a new field,” Chow says. “And without the pilot funding from the SDRC, we would not be able to attempt the exploration.”

The Department of Dermatology recently had its competitive renewal application for the SDRC funded for five years by the National Institutes of Health. It’s the second consecutive five-year award for the SDRC, one of six interdisciplinary centers of excellence in investigative dermatology. Among the four universities that re-applied for the grant, UAB was the only SDRC to receive a renewal.

“These are very competitive awards,” says Craig Elmets, M.D., director of the SDRC. “This award enables us to integrate skin-disease research at the university, bring together precious resources and focus them on common goals that relate to skin disease. It also enables us to attract new researchers into skin research, which provides new ideas.”

Components of SDRC

The SDRC has three components:

• Core services that are applied for research
• A pilot and feasibility study program
• An enrichment program that supports a seminar series, journal clubs and research conferences

The SDRC has funded 11 pilot and feasibility programs to date. Chow’s application, one of three studies selected for the 2009-2010 year, highlights the diverse interest in skin research at UAB.

The other studies are exploring the role of the innate immune system in regulation of UV-induced skin carcinogenesis (Nalisha Yusuf, Ph.D.) and investigating the requirement for Tbet expression during psoriasis (Louie Harrington, Ph.D.).

“The programs bring new ideas to cutaneous biology and dermatologic research that will provide new insights into a variety of different diseases,” Elmets says.

Four areas of interest

The SDRC currently has four primary areas of interest:

• Immuno-dermatology, especially in the area of allergic contact dermatitis. The most notable example would be poison ivy. It also includes the areas of psoriasis, blistering diseases of the skin and autoimmune skin diseases
• Skin cancer, the most prevalent form of cancer with more than 1 million cases reported each year in the United States. “We’re looking at ways to prevent skin cancer and better methods for its treatment,” Elmets says.
• Genetic skin diseases, particularly in the area of neurofibromatosis. It’s a disorder that can cause tumors to grow on nerves and produce other abnormalities such as skin changes and bone deformities. “We’re also looking at other genetic skin diseases, including epidermodysplasia bullosa in which the integrity of the skin is deficient, and in its most serious form can lead to death at an early age,” Elmets says.
• Biochemistry of the skin, focused on research related to discovering the genes and proteins altered in various types of skin diseases.

The SDRC was selected for renewal in part because of these broad research efforts and its ability to secure considerable grant funding during its first five-year period. “We increased our grant funding substantially and used funds for the pilot and feasibility studies that evolved into much larger grants,” Elmets says. “We also developed a fellowship training program and made some significant findings. For example, we identified some agents that show promise in preventing skin cancer. We’ve completed some human trials that showed some very promising results, but we need to do additional studies.”

Elmets says building on the success of the first five years will be a challenge. But the SDRC has grown to include 39 investigators from 14 different departments within UAB, and Elmets is confident it will continue to make great discoveries during the next five years.

“Our goal is to continue to strengthen investigative dermatology at UAB and expand what we’re already accomplished,” Elmets says.

Inaugural class of Athletics Hall of Fame is led by Bartow

The inaugural class of the UAB Athletics Hall of Fame will be honored during a banquet Friday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at The Club. Tickets to the event, which is open to the public, are $60 per person. Reserved tables of eight can be purchased for $500. The event will include dinner and feature the inductees and special guests. Call the UAB Athletic Ticket Office at 975-8221 to order.

The UAB Athletics Hall of Fame has been created to recognize the contributions of individuals whose participation in Blazer athletics has brought distinction and honor to the program.

The inaugural class includes:
• Gene Bartow, men’s basketball coach from 1978-86 and director of athletics from 1978-2000
• S. Richardson Hall, UAB president from 1977-86
• Wanda Hightower Jordan, women’s basketball student athlete from 1978-82
• Oliver Robinson, men’s basketball student athlete from 1978-82
• Jerry D. Young, senior vice president for finance from 1974-83 and key supporter of UAB athletics

“We are delighted to institute an Athletics Hall of Fame, and it is especially fitting that we honor the five individuals who have been selected for our inaugural Hall of Fame class,” says Brian Mackin, director of Athletics. “All five of them have played integral parts in the development and success of UAB Athletics, and we are honored to recognize them in this way.”

The five members also will be honored during the Blazer’s Thursday, Oct. 1 football game against Southern Miss. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Legion Field.

September 21, 2009 UAB Reporter 3
UAB’s first president, Joseph Volker, D.D.S., Ph.D., was convinced that this brand-new university — the product of a marriage between a medical center and a former extension center — could grow up to become a world-class institution. At first, his dreams seemed unreasonable even to his own faculty.

After their initial meeting with Volker, “everybody felt like he was sort of a wild man, sort of crazy,” recalls retired biochemistry professor Charles Bugg. “He was describing all these big visions of where we would be 20 years from now... I remember he sounded extremely unlikely and ambitious, and we ended up far exceeding what he projected.”

It didn’t take long for the improbable to become possible, then inevitable. Gleaming new research and education buildings rose on Birmingham’s Southside and quickly were filled by brilliant faculty and students with big ideas of their own.

By 1973, UAB was Birmingham’s second largest employer; five years later, it would be the largest. As the steel industry collapsed, the university helped Birmingham transform itself from an industrial to an intellectual powerhouse. Before Volker’s 20 years were up, UAB had reached the $100 million mark in active grants and contracts. And in 1992, U.S. News & World Report named UAB the No. 1 up-and-coming university in the United States.

Today, UAB is Alabama’s largest single employer, with...
Futurewords | In an online exclusive, UAB experts weigh in on what the next 40 years may hold for their fields, including big changes to UAB's campus, the future of brain regeneration, and the dilemmas of the artificial womb. Plus: Antarctic penguins, iTunes for art, managed care revisited and video visits with doctors. UAB Magazine’s online home also is the place to learn much more about UAB's 40 years of breakthroughs—and catch a slideshow of vintage photographs from UAB Archives. Visit www.uab.edu/uabmagazine.

Ten Notable Moments from the Past 40 Months

1969
- UAB enrolled its first students as an autonomous campus in the three-campus University of Alabama System in September 1969. A chronology of its growth and development is online at www.uab.edu/historical/uabchron.htm.
- Student life blooms with the opening of the University Center.

1978
- Membership in the UAB National Alumni Society tops 9,000, with 59 chapters (including one in Taiwan). Plans are under way to build UAB’s first Alumni House.

1992
- Neelaksh “Neel” Varshney, a senior electrical engineering major from Madison, Ala., is the first UAB student chosen as a Rhodes Scholar.

1994
- UAB becomes the first Alabama university to achieve Research University I status in the Carnegie Foundation classification.

1996
- The nonprofit UAB Health System is established.

1999
- Oxford Bound: Nekatiu ‘Neal’ Vardney, a senior electrical engineering major from Madison, Ala., is the first UAB student chosen as a Rhodes Scholar.

2003
- UAB formulates a new Strategic Plan, establishing its vision “to be an internationally renowned research university—a first choice for education and health care.”

2005
- UAB Campus Recreation Center opens with pools, a track, ball courts, cardio areas and a towering climbing wall.

2009
- Regina Benjamin, M.D., a School of Medicine alumna practicing in Bayou La Batre, Ala., is nominated as surgeon general by President Barack Obama.

2018
- The inaugural issue of inquirO debuts; the landmark research journal is published by and for undergraduates.
Kathy Harbison, a financial associate in the Division of Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology, believes cleaning is a necessary evil.

“I understand the work can be boring and monotonous; I don’t even like to clean my own house,” she says.

That’s one of the reasons Harbison is drawn to Environmental Services Specialist Wanda Perdue. She sees the work Perdue performs on a daily basis inside the Shelby Building, and she’s always impressed.

“Wanda has ownership and pride in her work,” Harbison says. “Our floor is one of the cleanest floors of any building at UAB.”

Perdue consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, a desire to help others and a positive attitude—traits her co-workers say make her an ideal selection as September’s Employee of the Month.

Perdue is responsible for cleaning the first floor of Shelby and has responsibilities on the eighth floor and in the basement. Perdue says she takes pride in every aspect of her job, but she does consider the first floor lobby one of her most important areas.

“It’s the first thing people see when they come in the building, and I want to have it clean before the first person walks through the doors,” Perdue says. “I want it sparkling. I want it so clean that when they walk in they can smell how clean it is.”

Perdue says her attitude comes from her upbringing. She says her family always believed that any task a person is given, they should do it with drive and joy.

“We were always raised that whatever you do, you do it to the best of your ability,” Perdue says. “Take pride in what you do.”

Randy Seay, program manager of Graduate Biomedical Sciences and the IBS Graduate Program, says Perdue has distinguished herself as a “superb leader” and UAB employee.

“Wanda’s competence, compassion and ethics as a UAB employee are exemplary,” Seay says.

The research-training plan is similar to other postdoctoral training plans. The teaching instruction plan is much more defined. Julia Austin, Ph.D., is co-program director for teaching.

Postdoctoral trainees will observe classes at Miles and Stillman and select a teaching mentor from one of those institutions during their first year. They will become more hands-on in year two, co-teaching a course or helping to organize a new course. The third year the postdoctoral trainer will teach a course they have prepared with their mentor at Miles or Stillman.

“We anticipate that the courses our postdocs teach will be added curriculum,” Schweibert says. “They will expand on existing courses or bring in a new topic to create an advanced-level course.”

Schweibert says the Health Disparities program will partner with the Minority Health and Research Center each summer to help MERIT students augment their fall and spring experiences. MERIT scholars will partner with an undergraduate from the MHRC who is enrolled at Miles or Stillman to begin developing their mentoring skills.

“These postdocs can become role models,” Noe says. “The interactions will hopefully inspire some of these students to pursue a career in science or technology and continue their education by going on into a graduate program.”

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“She goes beyond the call in each and every area of her life and duty, ensuring that all with whom she interacts are greeted with respect.”

Perdue’s co-workers appreciate her hard work, but they also say she has become a close friend.

“She knows the names of everyone in our area and asks us about things that are going on in our lives,” says Jan Hitchcock, program manager in Immunology/Rheumatology. “We consider her to be a part of our group.”

Perdue says she feels fortunate to work with so many caring people in the Shelby Building. She says they are always courteous when they ask for her assistance and never hesitate to invite her in to their break room to eat lunch.

“It truly is like we’re all a family,” Perdue says. “My customers are like part of my family. I love them like they’re one of mine.”

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Researcher looking for genetic predictors for suicide in proteins

Monsheer Sodhi, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurology, is examining the role of specific proteins in the brain to develop a test that potentially could identify those at highest risk for suicide so they could be steered to therapy.

Sodhi is investigating a protein called the serotonin 2C receptor. Scientists refer to it as a signaling protein, one of several that are responsible for the proper functioning of serotonin, a chemical in the brain that regulates feelings of well-being and happiness. Serotonin 2C interacts with anti-depressant drugs such as Prozac, which are thought to treat depression by boosting serotonin signaling.

A second type of protein called ADAR, which seems to inhibit the activity of the serotonin 2C protein when serotonin is absent. Simply put, too much ADAR leads to too little serotonin 2C signaling. Sodhi explains in a video at www.uab.edu/news.

Fighting the flu

UAB antiviral researcher John Gnann, M.D., has advice on protecting yourself from the swine flu and how to recover more quickly if you are sick. Also the UAB flu page at www.uab.edu/flu offers answers to questions about such topics as HR and class-attendance policies and more. To watch video of Gnann and other UAB experts, go to the flu page and click on UAB News.

Intramural grant program applications now available

The Center for Clinical & Translational Science and the Council of University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers (UWIRCs) are seeking applications for their collaborative Translational Research Intramural Grant Program.

It is anticipated that this program will fund at least six one-year grants of up to $60,000 each. The RFP and pre-proposal application materials are available at www.cts.uab.edu/pages/pilot_rfp.aspx. All pre-proposal applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. Please direct questions to Melissa McBrayer at mcbrayer@uab.edu.

Lecture reflects on complementary, alternative medicine

Eric W. Boyle will examine the recent history of complementary and alternative medicine at the National Institutes of Health during the Reynolds Lecture Series at noon Tuesday, Sept. 22 in the LHL Ireland Room. Boyle is the Stetten Fellow in the History of Biomedical Sciences and Technology of Medicine, NIH.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Box lunches are served. A list of upcoming lectures is online at www.uab.edu/reynoldslecture.

Abstracts for CCC retreat due Sept. 28

Abstracts submitted for presentation as a poster in the research competition for the 13th annual Cancer Center retreat are due by Sept. 28. This year’s retreat on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel will feature presentations by experts in cancer genetics.

Get abstract submission information and register online at www.ccc.uab.edu.

Cancer conference set for Oct. 1-2

UAB physicians Scott MagnASON, M.D., and Robert CerbALo, M.D., will present during the Alabama Cancer Registrars Association annual education conference, Oct. 1-2 in the Liberty Park Hilton Garden Inn. The conference will focus on Commission on Cancer (CoC) data collection and reporting changes that will be implemented in 2010. CoC surveyor Fredrick Greene, M.D., will present the AJCC standard changes and CoC liaison Cynthia Boudreaux will present the collaborative staging changes. Learn more about the conference and register at www.alabamacra.com.

Read of a new path for cancer care in UAB Magazine

One day — the first day — can make all the difference for newly diagnosed cancer patients. UAB’s Comprehensive Cancer Center is making those initial steps easier with a new program that includes same-day visits with multiple specialists, treatment plans within a week and even volunteers to guide patients through the medical center.

UAB Magazine reveals how the initiative helps patients save time and stress and provides them with comprehensive, compassionate care.

Read more online at www.uab.edu/uabmagazine.

Preventing TB in HIV-positive people costs less than treatment

The cost of preventive antibiotic tuberculosis (TB) therapy for patients infected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is generally less expensive than the reported cost of treating newly confirmed TB cases, research shows. “The data analysis was conducted to help establish feasible and effective ways to manage patients with HIV infection and TB in a developing country,” said Bryce Sutton, Ph.D., an economist in the UAB School of Business and co-investigator, whose findings were published in The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

The research found that the cost of preventing a single case of TB with intensive screening and preventive treatment with antibiotics in HIV-infected patients prior to their exposure to the disease was approximately $950. Compare that to a cost range of $900-$1,500, which is the previously reported range for treating a new smear-positive TB case in a developing country setting after adjusting for inflation.

Seminar examines research plans for grant applications

Cancer Center Director Emeritus Albert LoBuglio will lead a seminar to teach practical skills for developing and writing research plans for grants and extramural funding opportunities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 in Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium. Register at sept2809us.eventbrite.com.

Direct questions to Melissa McBrayer at mcbrayer@uab.edu. Lunds is not provided, but you may bring your own. Learn more about the Center for Clinical and Translational Science Scientific Writing Seminars and other training opportunities at www.cts.uab.edu.

Seminar reveals research plans for grant applications

The role of specific proteins in the brain to develop a test that potentially could identify those at highest risk for suicide so they could be steered to therapy.

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Intramural grant program applications now available

The Center for Clinical & Translational Science and the Council of University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers (UWIRCs) are seeking applications for their collaborative Translational Research Intramural Grant Program.

It is anticipated that this program will fund at least six one-year grants of up to $60,000 each. The RFP and pre-proposal application materials are available at www.cts.uab.edu/pages/pilot_rfp.aspx. All pre-proposal applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. Please direct questions to Melissa McBrayer at mcbrayer@uab.edu.

Lecture reflects on complementary, alternative medicine

Eric W. Boyle will examine the recent history of complementary and alternative medicine at the National Institutes of Health during the Reynolds Lecture Series at noon Tuesday, Sept. 22 in the LHL Ireland Room. Boyle is the Stetten Fellow in the History of Biomedical Sciences and Technology of Medicine, NIH.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Box lunches are served. A list of upcoming lectures is online at www.uab.edu/reynoldslecture.

Abstracts for CCC retreat due Sept. 28

Abstracts submitted for presentation as a poster in the research competition for the 13th annual Cancer Center retreat are due by Sept. 28. This year’s retreat on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel will feature presentations by experts in cancer genetics.

Get abstract submission information and register online at www.ccc.uab.edu.

Cancer conference set for Oct. 1-2

UAB physicians Scott MagnASON, M.D., and Robert CerbALo, M.D., will present during the Alabama Cancer Registrars Association annual education conference, Oct. 1-2 in the Liberty Park Hilton Garden Inn. The conference will focus on Commission on Cancer (CoC) data collection and reporting changes that will be implemented in 2010. CoC surveyor Fredrick Greene, M.D., will present the AJCC standard changes and CoC liaison Cynthia Boudreaux will present the collaborative staging changes. Learn more about the conference and register at www.alabamacra.com.

Read of a new path for cancer care in UAB Magazine

One day — the first day — can make all the difference for newly diagnosed cancer patients. UAB’s Comprehensive Cancer Center is making those initial steps easier with a new program that includes same-day visits with multiple specialists, treatment plans within a week and even volunteers to guide patients through the medical center.

UAB Magazine reveals how the initiative helps patients save time and stress and provides them with comprehensive, compassionate care.

Read more online at www.uab.edu/uabmagazine.

Preventing TB in HIV-positive people costs less than treatment

The cost of preventive antibiotic tuberculosis (TB) therapy for patients infected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is generally less expensive than the reported cost of treating newly confirmed TB cases, research shows. “The data analysis was conducted to help establish feasible and effective ways to manage patients with HIV infection and TB in a developing country,” said Bryce Sutton, Ph.D., an economist in the UAB School of Business and co-investigator, whose findings were published in The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

The research found that the cost of preventing a single case of TB with intensive screening and preventive treatment with antibiotics in HIV-infected patients prior to their exposure to the disease was approximately $950. Compare that to a cost range of $900-$1,500, which is the previously reported range for treating a new smear-positive TB case in a developing country setting after adjusting for inflation.

Seminar examines research plans for grant applications

Cancer Center Director Emeritus Albert LoBuglio will lead a seminar to teach practical skills for developing and writing research plans for grants and extramural funding opportunities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 in Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium. Register at sept2809us.eventbrite.com.

Direct questions to Melissa McBrayer at mcbrayer@uab.edu. Lunds is not provided, but you may bring your own. Learn more about the Center for Clinical and Translational Science Scientific Writing Seminars and other training opportunities at www.cts.uab.edu.

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October 9
Friday, 8 p.m.
David Sedaris

October 14
Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Jim Lauderdale
Bluegrass Trio

October 16
Friday, 8 p.m.
Loretta Lynn

October 30
Friday, 8 p.m.
Jewel with
Special Guest
Meiko

This Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee has received five Grammy Awards, 23 W.C. Handy Blues Awards (the most of any artist), and the Presidential National Medal of Arts.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for a season kickoff party in the Haskell Courtyard with live music from Tennessee Hollow, Dreamland BBQ, and cash bar.

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