In the News

M-POWER CLINIC
FLOURISHING

A Tribute to Medical Students’ Initiative

UAB medical students have been interested in developing a clinic where students and UAB physicians could provide medical care and preventive health services for underserved and indigent patients in an ambulatory setting. From the students’ perspective, the objectives are twofold:

- Active participation in the care of metropolitan Birmingham’s underserved, uninsured population.
- Creation of an educational opportunity for first- and second-year medical students to utilize and polish their clinical skills with experienced physicians in an environment where they are active participants.

‘Development of this clinic from an idea to reality has required much student time and effort but has finally come to fruition,” says Department of Medicine Clerkship Director Craig J. Hoesley, MD.

On February 7 the free clinic was launched in an existing Birmingham clinic, the M-Power Clinic. The M-Power Clinic, a free clinic accepting uninsured patients, was established in 2001 with the leadership of local churches and private physicians. The patient population is largely Hispanic for the clinic located at 4022 4th Avenue S. Additional information about the M-Power Clinic is online at www.mpowerministries.org/medical_clinic.html.

To date, the M-Power Clinic has been open only 2 nights a week (Tuesday and Thursday), but with the collaboration of UAB medical students, the clinic is now open on Wednesday evenings as well. For now, the UAB student clinic will meet bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings from 4 to 7 PM. “We are seeking UAB Department of Medicine faculty, fellows, and other volunteers to serve as preceptors for students,” Dr. Hoesley says. Translators are on site for each clinic, but bilingual preceptors/volunteers are welcomed.

The clinic and faculty participation have been cleared with UAB Risk Management, and preceptors will maintain their professional liability coverage while working at the clinic.

“Faculty should support the truly impressive efforts and spirit of our medical students in developing this clinic, and the best way we can do that is to volunteer our time and skills,” Dr. Hoesley says. If you are interested in volunteering or have additional questions about the clinic, contact Dr. Hoesley at choesley@uab.edu or 205.934.7090.

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES, AND METABOLISM DIVISION NEWS

Jeffrey E. Kudlow, MD, professor of medicine, has stepped down as director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism after 17 years of distinguished service. He was recruited to UAB from the University of Toronto in 1989 to serve as division director.

The University of Alabama Trustees appointed him to the Ruth Lawson Hanson Chair of Medicine in Diabetes and Metabolism in 1990, and he holds secondary appointments in the departments of cell biology and physiology and biophysics. He is a senior scientist in the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center and is principal investigator on NIH grants researching growth factor involvement in pituitary function and proteasome regulation by O-glycosylation. He received the Max Cooper Award for Excellence in Research in 2003.
Stuart J. Frank, MD, is serving as interim director of the division. Dr. Frank received his MD degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed a fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and was a medical staff fellow/senior staff fellow in the Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch of the NICHD. He joined UAB in 1991 and is currently a professor in the departments of medicine, cell biology, and physiology and biophysics. His research, aimed at understanding growth hormone (GH) receptor signal transduction and structure/function relationships and mechanisms of generation of the GH binding protein, is supported by grants from the NIH and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Frank also serves as director, Basic Science Section of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, and as chief of the Endocrinology Section of Medical Service at the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Frank chairs the School of Medicine Faculty Council.

Department of Medicine Chair Edward Abraham, MD, has appointed William E. Dismukes, MD, to chair the search committee for director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. Other committee members are: Anupam Agarwal, MD; Carol M. Ashton, MD; S. Louis Bridges, MD, PhD; Kenneth L. McCormick, MD; Sara L. Morgan, MD; Richard S. Rosenthal, MD; and Denise Thornley-Brown, MD.

2007 School of Medicine Art Show Winners

The UAB School of Medicine (SOM), in conjunction with the Alabama Alpha Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA), the national medical honor society, recently announced the winners of the 2007 SOM Art Competition. All 75 entries from medical students, residents, and faculty are on display through May 31 in the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences of UAB Historical Collections, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences.

The seventh annual event aims to increase medical students' exposure to the arts and humanities, actively involve them in UAB's historical collections, and showcase SOM talent.

Jurors for the competition included Brett M. Levine, director, UAB Visual Arts Gallery; Stephen Smith, PhD, director, medical student services; Stefanie T. Rookis, curator and assistant professor, Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences; and Christin N. Collier, fourth-year medical student and AΩA president.

Founded in 1902, the national AΩA society promotes medical school scholarship, encourages high standards of character and conduct, and recognizes outstanding achievement in medical science, practice, and related fields.

The Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, located on the third floor of Lister Hill Library, is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Art Show Winners

Students
First Place — “Natural Elements 3 of 7,” photography, Micah A. Howard, MS-1
Second Place — “Portrait of My Father,” watercolor on plywood, Elise Piñero Salerno, MS-2
Third Place — “Callaway Gardens 2005,” photography, Sylvia H. Yoo, MS-4

Residents
First Place — “Twirl of the Hips,” cast iron, Benjamin M. Stronach, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery
Second Place — “Into the Chaotic,” cast iron, Benjamin M. Stronach, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery
Third Place — “Buckingham Fountain, Chicago,” Bijay N. Pandey, MD, Neurology

Faculty
First Place — “Man Post-Nuclear-Bomb Exchange,” print of original watercolor on cardboard, Richard B. Shepard, MD, emeritus professor of surgery
Second Place — “Untitled,” pine needle-raffia basket, Helen Kim, PhD, associate professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology
Third Place — “Blue Raft,” photography, Lisa Ann Oestreich, MD, assistant professor, Family and Community Medicine

Jurors’ Choices
“Temps D’Alimentation,” photography, Catherine G. Brooke, MS-1
“Cotton Modules: St. Stephens AL,” photography, Ashley N. Coleman, MS-4
“Going Home,” clay, Nicole M. Loo, MS-2
“Van Gogh Squares,” oil pastel, Caroline Ragheb, MS-1
UAHSF Announces 2007 GEF Awards

The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF) and its General Endowment Fund (GEF) Committee have awarded $2.8 million in research grants for the 2007 calendar year.

A commitment totaling $5 million (including the GEF Awards) was designated to support strategic initiatives and recruitment. After careful evaluation by the respective review group committees, recommendations for approval were made to the GEF Committee and then to the UAHSF Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

“The Health Services Foundation is an integral part of the UAB community,” UAHSF President Ray L. Watts, MD, says. “Our goal is to help ensure the success of all School of Medicine [SOM] and related departments and divisions. In fact, I do not know of another medical school faculty practice plan that invests in open, peer-reviewed grants of such magnitude to support its academic mission,” says Dr. Watts, who also is Department of Neurology chair.

The grants fund initiatives in four categories: new clinical care initiatives, laboratory research, patient-oriented research, and medical education. The awards enable university-wide projects benefiting UAB and the SOM.

Recruitment of top physician-scientists also is a key priority. UAHSF designated $750,000 for the GEF Scholar Award Program to attract and retain outstanding SOM scientists and clinicians. This year, the Scholars Award Program is offering five $150,000 awards to enhance recruitment packages for exceptional faculty under the direction of Senior Vice President and SOM Dean Robert R. Rich, MD.

An additional $1.5 million will be allocated to key Strategic Plan Initiatives under the direction of Dr. Rich and Dr. Watts.

2007 School of Medicine Alumni Awards

Hettie Butler Terry Community Service Award for outstanding service to the community – Michael S. Saag, MD

During his infectious disease fellowship at UAB, Dr. Saag, director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, conceived the concept of a HIV outpatient clinic dedicated to providing comprehensive patient care in conjunction with clinic trials, basic science, and clinical outcomes research. He established the 1917 Clinic in 1988.

Within the clinic structure, he established a clinical trials unit, a data manage...
ment center, and a clinical specimen repository to support activities of the UAB Center for AIDS Research. The clinic became a hub for the center’s clinical, basic science, and behavioral researchers, creating a dynamic interface between patients and investigators.

Garber Galbraith Medical-Political Service Award for outstanding service to the medical profession – W. Jefferson Terry, MD

A Mobile pediatric urologist, Dr. Terry cofounded Alabama’s Young Physician Section of the American Medical Association (AMA), chaired the Medical Association of the State of Alabama’s (MASA) health access task force, and was president of the Alabama Urology Society, chair of the Alabama Independent Physician’s Association, chair of University of South Alabama Children’s and Women's Hospital, and vice president of MASA. He has served on Alabama’s AMA delegation for the past 11 years and is now vice chair and on the AMAs Council on Medical Service.

Distinguished Service Award for superior accomplishments and contributions to the School of Medicine – Charles A. McCallum, DMD, MD

Dr. McCallum, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, received his MD degree and completed 4 years of residency at UAB. He served as dean of the dental school, vice president for health affairs, director of the medical center (1977-1986), and as UAB president (1987-1993). He holds the rank of distinguished professor emeritus and is mayor of Vestavia Hills.

Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of medicine and demonstration of the high principles of the medical profession – F. Carden Johnston, Jr, MD

Past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics and former pediatric emergency medicine physician, the Children’s Hospital of Alabama, Dr. Johnston is professor emeritus in the Department of Pediatrics. He served as clerkship director and departmental outreach coordinator for the Department of Pediatrics. He coordinated the Practical Day of Pediatrics (for 10 years) and a mini-residency program in pediatric emergency medicine. He was instrumental in developing the advanced pediatric life support course and created health information television videos called “KidCheck,” which ran weekly for 10 years nationwide. These 600 short videos emphasize prevention and help parents recognize serious disease early, identify and manage common problems at home, and make appropriate decisions about when to call a physician.