**White Coat Ceremony**

Dr. Seaberg places a doctor’s white coat on a new student at the White Coat Ceremony to kick off the beginning of medical school for 165 new UTCOM students.

*Photo by Kyle Kurlick*

**NIH Research Meeting with Rep Fleischmann**

Dr. Seaberg and several Internal Medicine faculty & staff met with Congressman Chuck Fleischmann to discuss funding for NIH Research.


**Chattanooga Stroke Conference**

The Seventh Annual Erlanger Stroke Conference convened on Friday, 13 September at the Chattanoogan Hotel at 8 AM. The Conference was sponsored by the Erlanger Southeast Regional Stroke Center, Thomas Devlin MD, PhD Medical Director.

The new Erlanger CEO Kevin Spiegel opened the Conference with greetings and remarks about his own experience in building a stroke care team in Memphis. This year the Conference theme was “STROKE AND NEUROVASCULAR DISEASE IN WOMEN” and featured guest speaker, Cheryl Bushnell MD, Director of the Wake Forest Baptist Stroke Center, in Winston-Salem.

“The Conference focus this year on stroke and women’s health is timely and pertinent” says Dr. Thomas Devlin, Medical Director of the Erlanger Southeast Regional Stroke Center. “Women suffer more strokes than men and in some respects, it is a different disease. Almost twice as many women die from stroke than men, with a mortality even higher than breast cancer”.

Women present with different risk factors than men do and these risks have to be managed very carefully. These include cardiac disease risk, and hormone replacement therapies. Symptoms of an impending stroke are different in women than men and less likely to be reported and correctly diagnosed by physicians.

“The medical system needs to address these discrepancies between men and women more effectively “ says Dr. Devlin. “The aim of the Erlanger Stroke Conference this year is to accelerate progress on this front. But patients have to be educated as well so they can better recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke.”

Dr. Cheryl Bushnell is an expert in the field of women and stroke and opened conference proceedings with her Keynote Address.
IHI Open School Meeting

The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga and Erlanger sponsor an Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School Chapter at our campus. The mission of the IHI Open School is to advance health care improvement and patient safety competencies in the next generation of health professionals worldwide. To oversee patient safety and quality improvement direction for the chapter, the IHI Open School meets the first Tuesday of each month and the Open School Steering Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month.

On a national and now international scale, the IHI Open School concept was launched in September 2008, and provides students of medicine, nursing, public health, pharmacy, health administration, dentistry, and other allied health professions with the opportunity to learn about quality improvement and patient safety at no charge. The online, educational community features a growing catalog of online courses, extensive content and resources, and a network of local Chapters that organize events and activities on campuses around the world.

Leaders of the Steering Committee include Robert Fore, EdD, DIO; Woods Blake, MD, Erlanger Chief Clinical Quality Improvement Officer; Jan Keys, RN, Erlanger Chief Nursing Officer; James Creel, MD, Erlanger Chief Medical Officer; Debbie Reeves, RN, Erlanger Patient Safety Officer; Paul Courtwright, MD, Resident Leader, Emergency Medicine; William Crowe, CNP, UT Department of Medicine Quality Coordinator; Jeanie Dassow, MD, OB/GYN Faculty; Heath Giles, MD, Surgery Associate Program Director; Alan Kohrt, MD, Chair, Department of Pediatrics; Victor Kolade, MD, Associate Program Director, Surgery; Sudave Mendiratta, MD, Program Director, Emergency Medicine; Anna Royer, MD, Surgery Resident; Michael Shepherd, MD, Family Medicine Faculty; Philip Sutherland, MD, Family Medicine Resident; and Pamela Scott, Director for Graduate and Medical Student Education. In addition, third year UTCOM medical students have joined the Steering Committee including Angela Stephenson, Jarius Anderson, and Sean Murnan.

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Dr. Yium’s Retirement Party

A retirement reception was held for Dr. Jackson Yium on September 19, 2013 in the Atrium of the Erlanger Medical Mall. Guests attending the reception included close friends of Dr. and Mrs. Yium, faculty, staff and representatives from Erlanger Health System. Dr. Yium retired after more than 35 years of distinguished service at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and Erlanger Health System.
**Minority Health Fair and Shoe Drive**

The annual minority health fair was held on August 17, 2013, at the East Gate Shopping Center and it was a great opportunity for Erlanger/UT College of Medicine to become acquainted with members of the community and to provide sound medical advice for healthy living. UT COM’s department of Internal Medicine provided blood pressure and blood glucose screenings. The department was also able to provide information about the University of Medical Associates clinic for the participants who were not insured and who did not have a PCP. Approximately 350 participants were screened and educated. This year’s health fair was a great success.

The Shoes for Orphan Souls is an annual shoe drive sponsored by the Moody Radio Station during the month of August and aims to collect shoes for orphans around the world. Drs. Kolade and Thomas of the UTCOM Department of Medicine organized the drive at Erlanger/UTCOM and it was a huge success. We collected over 40 pairs of new shoes and over 50 pairs of socks for boys and girls around the world. We are excited about next year’s drive and getting more of the campus involved!

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**Family Practice in the Sports Barn Triathlon**

Several UT faculty, staff & associates from Family Practice participated in the Sports Barn Triathlon.

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Promise Trial enrolls 10,000\textsuperscript{th} patient

The PROMISE clinical research trial at the UTCOM has enrolled its 10,000\textsuperscript{th} patient. PROMISE stands for PROspective Multicenter Imaging Study for Evaluation of Chest Pain, and the trial is a multi-center prospective observational trial that compared coronary CT angiography to other standard-of-care stress tests for evaluating acute chest pain presenting subjects to try and determine which test produces the best long-term results in this patient population. More information about the trial can be found by typing the identifier # NCT01174550 into the search area of the www.clinicaltrials.gov website.

There were around 200 sites enrolling internationally, and the target number for enrollment was 10,000. At the end of the trial we were informed that our site enrolled the 10,000\textsuperscript{th} subject thus closing the trial to enrollment and successfully achieving their target number. Key personnel that were critical for the trial’s success at our site were: Dr. Robert Huang, Dr. Pradeep Jacob, Carol White NP, Kerrie Davis NP, Donna Carroll, RN and a host of other clinical staff at Erlanger Baroness Medical Center where the subjects were recruited from the Adult Emergency Department and the Hospital’s Chest Pain Observation Unit. Dr. Harry Severance was the Principal Investigator for our site for the trial.

Dr. Joseph Cofer to head the American Board of Surgery

Dr. Joseph Cofer, of Chattanooga, has been elected lead of the American Board of Surgery, the national certifying board for general surgeons and related specialists.

Cofer is a general surgeon with University Surgical Associates who practices at Erlanger hospital. He is the first Chattanooga surgeon to head the 76-year-old doctors’ group, the 28,000-member association that oversees the testing and certification of surgeons nationwide.

A native of Beckley, West Virginia, Cofer grew up in Chattanooga, graduated from Georgia Tech and the University of Tennessee at Memphis and served as a naval flight surgeon. He completed his residency in Chattanooga and completed a fellowship in liver and kidney transplantation at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

In Chattanooga, he worked to create the community medical assistance program, “Project Access,” which provides free medical care to low-income individuals. Cofer previously served as president of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery and as surgeon champion for the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program at Erlanger.
**Dr. Schmitt appointed President-Elect of ASGE**

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) announces the appointment of Colleen M. Schmitt, MD, MHS, FACG, FASGE, of the Galen Medical Group, Chattanooga, TN, to president-elect. Dr. Schmitt assumed her duties in May during Digestive Disease Week in Orlando, FL. Her term will continue through May 2014 at which time she will become president. She became a member of ASGE in 1994 and has served on a number of committees. From 2005-2009 she served as chair of the Health and Public Policy Committee and was a member of the Research Committee for several years. Since e1994, Dr. Schmitt has been a reviewer for ASGE’s peer-reviewed scientific journal GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and was a member of the Editorial Review Board from 1999 to 2004. She is also a Fellow of the ASGE.

**Dr. Panda featured in HealthScope Magazine**

Dr. Mukta Panda was featured in HealthScope Magazine for her compassion and commitment to humanism. Click here or visit http://www.healthscopemag.com/bringing-back-the-black-bag/ to view the entire article.

**Dr. Yium’s Retirement**

Dr. Jackson Yium has had a long and distinguished career with the University of Tennessee College of Medicine – Chattanooga and Erlanger Health System, beginning in 1973 as an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine with the University of Tennessee Clinical Education Center. In 1973, he was appointed Director of the Nephrology/Hemodialysis Unit at Erlanger and Medical Director of the Dialysis Clinic, Inc. in Chattanooga. He has served in many roles during his tenure with the University and Erlanger including Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Professor of Medicine – Head of the Nephrology Section and Co-Director of the Erlanger Regional Kidney Transplant Center.

Prior to joining the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Dr. Yium held faculty appointments at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri and at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He received his MD degree from the University of Texas School of Medicine, Galveston, Texas in 1962 followed by a General Medicine Internship at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He completed Medicine Residency programs at Barnes Hospital and at Baylor College of Medicine, and a Nephrology Fellowship at Baylor.

Dr. Yium was recognized as the outstanding teaching physician and faculty member multiple years during his tenure. He was recognized as “Best Doctor in American, Southeast Region” in 1996 and among America’s Top 100 Physicians in Nephrology in 2004. He was a founding member of the Ethics Committee at Erlanger and received a commendation resolution by the Erlanger Board of Trustees, the Erlanger Health System Executive Management and Medical Staff in 2006 for his service to patients, families and staff. In 2007, he was awarded the Augustus McCravey, MD award in recognition of a lifetime of excellence in Medical Education.
14th Annual Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium

The 14th Annual Nuts and Bolts Research Methods Symposium was held on August 16. The Dean’s Office would like to thank all of this year’s presenters for their contributions: Victor Kolade, Francis Fesmire, Shauna Lorenzo-Rivero, Elizabeth Dale, Sara Edeiken, Robert Vandewalle, Daniel Stanley, and Jenny Holcombe. Handouts are still available on www.utcomchatt.org/nutsandbolts.

Research Week: April 21-25, 2014

Research Week has been scheduled for April 21 – 25, 2014. As usual, presentations and an awards dinner will occur on the final day. Information about the 2014 Research Week, including timelines for abstract submission and review, has been posted at www.utcomchatt.org/researchweek.

Onboarding Volunteer Research Assistants

On July 29, a new process for onboarding volunteer research assistants was announced. Dr. Seaberg sent the following memorandum to all faculty and staff involved in research:

In an effort to facilitate research activities on the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga (UTCOMC) campus, I would like to invite faculty investigators to sponsor volunteers interested in serving as research assistants. Volunteers might be pre-medical or medical students, physicians waiting for residency, or other community members interested in clinical research.

Liability coverage for volunteers will be provided by the State of Tennessee Claims Commission at no cost to faculty investigators; however, the coverage is only available if the individual is officially appointed a volunteer position in the IRIS system. The following procedure has been established to onboard all volunteers working with UTCOMC faculty members:

1. Volunteer must complete an application on the UTCOMC website (a Serve as a Volunteer Research Assistant page has been created) and forward correspondence from the faculty investigator, confirming willingness to serve as a sponsor and dates of service.

2. Amy Hutcherson, Director of Research Compliance and Sponsored Projects, will work with the volunteer to complete all paperwork required by Erlanger’s Office of Volunteer Services and UTCOMC. She will also ensure that volunteers complete required training modules related to the protection of human subjects (i.e., CITI courses) and HIPAA policies.

3. Once the volunteer has completed all requirements, the faculty investigator will be notified and an identification badge will be issued.

Please note that the process outlined above applies to all volunteers working with UTCOMC faculty members, even if the research is not funded through UTCOMC. Other than confirming their willingness to serve as a sponsor, faculty investigators will not need to do anything to onboard volunteers; Dr. Hutcherson will take care of everything.
Tribute to Mark Parsons, MD

Dr. Mark Parsons passed away at the age of 57 after a battle with cancer. Dr. Parsons was a Pediatric Cardiology faculty at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga. Dr. Parsons was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Ooltewah, and was a veteran of the United States Army. He completed his fellowship at Venderbilt University, completed his residency at Letterman Army Hospital, and attended medical school at Vanderbilt. Beyond his calling as a physician, Dr. Parsons dedicated his life to caring for others and treasured his liberal arts education, considering himself more than just a scientist but also a man of faith and lover of literature. He leaves behind to cherish his memory his loving wife of thirty-three years the Reverend Lou Tucker Parsons, one daughter Lisa, one son William, mother Frances, two sisters Janet & Jennifer, and one brother Alan.

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CME Opportunities
Upcoming Opportunities to earn Continuing Medical Education credits

AMA Credit Designation: The University of Tennessee College of Medicine designates these live activities for a maximum of [the number of] AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ [indicated above]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Featured Sessions

Death with Dignity Legislation & Physician-Assisted Suicide • Speaker: Dennis Plaisted, PhD
October 8, 2013 • 12-1pm • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger Baroness Campus
1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ • Click Here for More Info about the HPP series

Internal Medicine Grand Rounds • 8:15-9:15am • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger Baroness Campus
October 10, 2013 • DPP4 - Glucagon Like Peptides • Speaker: David Huffman, MD
October 17, 2013 • New Therapies in Diabetic Nephropathy • Speaker: James Tumlin, MD
October 24, 2013 • JOINT Pediatrics: Hydration Toxicity in the ICU: Fluid is a Drug • Stuart Goldstein, MD
November 14, 2013 • Acute Lung Injury/Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome • Ben deBoisblanc, MD
December 12, 2013 • Yium Endowed Lecture: Phosphorus, The Good, Bad & Ugly • Wadi Suki, MD
December 19, 2013 • The White House Physician • Speaker: Gary Malakoff, MD, FACP
1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ • Click Here for More Info about the HPP series

Annual Conferences (one-time offerings)

Wildwood Pain Management Seminar (39th annual)
October 9-13, 2013 • Joint Sponsor/Location: Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hospital, Wildwood, GA
26.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Click Here for More Info and to Register

Tennessee Dermatology Society Annual Meeting
November 9-10, 2013 • Biltmore Inn, Asheville, NC • Joint Sponsor: Tennessee Dermatology Society
8 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Click here for More Info and to Register

Rotating Courses (offered various times and locations throughout the year)

Avoiding Electronic Health Record (EHR) Pitfalls
2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company
October 16, 2013 • 12-2pm & 6-8pm • Millenium Centre, Johnson City, TN
October 17, 2013 • 12-2pm & 6-8pm • Meadowview Conference Center, Kingsport, TN
Click here to Regsiter and for More Info

Preparing the Physician for Deposition & Trial
2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company
October 29, 2013 • 12-2pm • Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg, TN
Click here to Register and for More Info

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CME Opportunities - Continued

Private/Internal CME Courses
(for the professional development of your employees)

Leadership Development Institute
11.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: LifeWings Partners, LLC
Click here for More Info and to schedule a session at your hospital or organization

Teamwork Skills Workshops
3.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: LifeWings Partners, LLC
Click here for More Info and to schedule a session at your hospital or organization

Regularly-Scheduled Series
(offered the same days & times each month)

All RSS meetings below have been approved for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

**Contact the coordinator for each series about their attendance policy before attending**

Healthcare Principles in Practice (Dean’s Office series)  
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds  
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds  
Orthopaedic Surgery Journal Club  
Orthopaedic Surgery M&M Conference  

Surgery Grand Rounds  
Surgery Morbidity & Mortality Grand Rounds  
Erlanger Pediatrics Grand Rounds  
Erlanger Tumor Board Conferences  
Redmond Weekly Cardiology Series

Click here for more info about UTCOM Regularly-Scheduled Series, to attend, etc.

Click here or visit www.utcomchatt.org/cme to Sign up for the bi-weekly CME E-Newsletter

Click here to browse CME Opportunities at the Knoxville campus Office of CME
Click here to browse CME Opportunities at the Memphis campus Office of CME

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Publications: Articles


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Comments, articles and announcements for the COMmunicator can be submitted in a publishable format to billreynolds@uthsc.edu

Content submissions are due by the last day of every third month

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