About Dr. Harold Alper
Dr. Harold Alper began practicing in 1947 and was named to the UT College of Medicine faculty as Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery in 1976. He was instrumental in founding the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Speech and Hearing Center in the early 1950’s, and he pioneered microscopic surgery and laser surgery in Chattanooga. Dr. Alper’s community service included work as the president of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society, the Chattanooga Jewish Welfare Foundation and the Jewish Community Center.

About the Award Ceremony
The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga, in conjunction with the Baroness Foundation and an endowment from the family of the late Dr. Harold Alper, has established the yearly ceremony and Grand Round lecture.
About the Lecture

The Alper Humanitarian Award ceremony includes a lecture that highlights the importance and role of humanism in medicine. This year’s lecture is titled:

“Humanism in Medicine from a Global Perspective”

Keynote Speaker:

Yank Coble, Jr, MD

Director and Distinguished Professor
Center for Global Health & Medical Diplomacy

Dr. Yank Coble is Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Global Health and Medical Diplomacy, University of North Florida, Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Florida. He is former Chair of the Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, and Professor of Medicine and Family Medicine, University of Florida. Dr. Coble is Past President of The World Medical Association (WMA) and Chair and Editor of the WMA Caring Physicians of the World Initiative. Over the past three years, he chaired Regional Meetings of National Medical Associations on their most pressing health issues in Johannesburg, Santiago, San Jose, Costa Rica, Shanghai, Chennai, Bangkok, Prague, Amelia Island, FL, Tokyo, and Fontainebleau, France. From 2002 to 2007, Dr. Coble served on the USA and WMA Delegations to the World Health Assembly.

Presently Dr. Coble is Chair of the Healthcare and Bioscience Council of Northeast Florida and serves on the boards of Research!America, the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research and Medicine, and the Campaign for Public Health. He is President Emeritus of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) and is former President of the American Medical Association and the American College of Endocrinology.

Dr. Coble’s leadership in medical research and healthcare quality includes former Commissioner to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Chair of the AMA Council on Science and Public Health, Chair of the Physicians Consortium for Performance Improvement, member of the Advisory Committee to the Director, National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Policy Board, and on the National Quality Forum Board and the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

Dr. Coble was named Master in ACP and AACE, honorary Professor of Medicine, Shanghai University Medical School, Distinguished Alumnus Award of Duke University Medical School, and Doctorate of Human Letters, University of North Florida. He is a member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

Born in Burlington, NC, Dr. Coble obtained his medical degree at Duke University Medical School. Upon completion of medical residency at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center, he was an NIH International Research Career Development Program awardee serving in Cairo, Egypt, Ibadan, Nigeria and London, England, the National Cancer Institute and the Vanderbilt Medical School. He received a degree in Clinical Medicine of the Tropics from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology.

An endocrinologist in Jacksonville, FL for over 35 years, Dr. Coble is active in community as well as medical affairs. He served on the Founding Boards of the Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. and Leadership Jacksonville, as President of Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. and Treasurer of Leadership Jacksonville, and Boards of the Jacksonville Arts Assembly, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida, and Koger Equity, Inc.

About the Alper Humanitarian Award

The Dr. Harold Alper Humanitarian Award is presented to a graduating Resident at the UT College of Medicine Chattanooga who has consistently demonstrated the humanistic qualities for which the late Dr. Harold Alper was known: integrity, exemplary compassion for patients, families & colleagues, community service, and humanitarian qualities during residency.

The 2014 Alper Humanitarian Award Nominees

This year’s Alper Humanitarian Award nominees include 6 residents from 5 UT College of Medicine programs:

Kyle Cunningham, MD – Surgery
Gergory Nieckula, DO – Internal Medicine
Steven Peterson, MD – Emergency Medicine
James Ragins, MD – Internal Medicine
Philip Sutherland, MD – Family Medicine
Andrea Ward, MD – Transitional Year

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