**Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Day**

On behalf of Robert Fore EdD, Associate Dean/DIO, and David Seaberg MD, Dean, please join us in congratulating the residents, mentors, and nurses who were involved in the 2nd annual Patient Safety & Quality Improvement Day held on May 15, 2015 in Probasco Auditorium. All 15 presentations were very good, and the judges appreciated the hard work shown by those involved.

The **first place award was presented to Timothy Stevens, MD**, Surgery Resident, for his quality improvement project, “Effects of implementing a standardized surgical patient handoff system.” Also involved with the project are W. Heath Giles, MD, Associate Program Director for Surgery; Eric Nelson, MD, Colon and Rectal Surgery Faculty; and Michael Biderman, PhD, UTC Faculty who assisted with statistics for the project.

The **second place award was presented to Grace Nguyen, MD**, Pediatrics Resident, for her quality improvement project, “Eczema Action Plan.” Her faculty mentor Karla Garcia, MD helped with her project.

The **third place award was presented to Jessica Thomas, MD**, Family Medicine Resident, for her quality improvement project on “Tobacco Cessation.” Also involved in her project were team members and fellow residents, Andrea Martinelli, MD, and Rebekah Kollar, MD; and several UT Family Medicine Faculty mentors.

An **honorable mention was presented to Eileen Shrum, RN, BSN**, Nurse Manager at the Erlanger East Emergency Department. Her other team members included Gail Henton (Artist); Martha Rhoades, Systems Analyst at Erlanger East, and the Erlanger East ED Staff.

Special thanks to our three judges for the event, Woods Blake MD, Alan Kohrt MD, and Susan Thul, DNP, and to John Stroud, Erlanger AV Specialist, for printing the posters for each of the 15 projects were displayed in the back of the Erlanger Medical Mall (near Outpatient Imaging Registration) the week after. Please congratulate all of your residents who presented.
Global Health Elective Month in Rural Haiti (2nd)

The Global Health Elective at the UTCOM Chattanooga completed its second month of International Education in March of 2015. The Global Health Elective is a one-month International, clinical elective open to UTCOM students and residents working at Erlanger Hospital. The elective was approved by Dean David Seaberg and CEO Kevin Spiegel in the spring of 2014, and its first trip left on June 2, 2014.

In this March 2015 elective, Drs. Christy Aguirre and Sathish Chandra from Family Medicine joined medical student Christine Carter and faculty members Dr. Michael Shepherd and Dr. Dassow for this second annual trip. Over 600 patients were evaluated and treated for a variety of illnesses including malaria, malnutrition, diabetes, cervical dysplasia, Chikungunya, chronic abscesses, and H. Pylori infection.

Course Director Dr. Paul Dassow reports that “much of the success needs to be attributed to Aid for Haiti (AFH), our partner in this new endeavor. They provide all of our logistic support including housing, transportation, and translators. Their attention to detail and knowledge of customs and practices in the area has resulted in an effective and efficient partnership for education and clinical work.”

Research opportunities abound. Data was collected on H. Pylori prevalence during the June 2014 trip and a research poster was submitted to a national primary care symposium. A new Electronic Medical Record configured for work in low resource environments was piloted and initial experience was presented at the recent Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Conference. Future inquiries are planned for determining short course H. Pylori treatment outcomes and STI disease burden.

The experience gained during the Global Health Elective has positively impacted both team members and those they have served. Dr. Aguirre commented upon return that, “I now have much more confidence treating illness based on my clinical skills and not relying so much on technology to back me up.” Christine Carter was so motivated to help the Haitians understand more about their health that she has created a 6-part patient-centered health curriculum that will be translated into Creole by one of the AFH nurses. Plans are underway to build and strengthen the partnership between Potino and UTCOM/Erlanger to improve this population’s health. Any residents or students who have an interest in participating in the Global Health Elective are encouraged to contact Dr. Paul Dassow at paul.dassow@erlanger.org. Current plans for the 2015-16 academic year are for February 2016.
More than 100 faculty, staff, and administrators from UT and Erlanger participated in the Patient Safety Conference held on May 6, 7 & 8, 2015. The meeting/simulation was a 1-day course offered from 8:00am-4:00pm on three consecutive days, and was a collaborative effort with the VA National Center for Patient Safety, UT College of Medicine, and the UTC School of Nursing.

The morning consisted of lectures emphasizing the importance of patient safety, team work, communication and design of equipment/supplies & processes, and the afternoon consisted of interactive simulations and breakout exercises that applied the morning skills in real-world scenarios.

A special thanks to: the VA National Center for Patient Safety for sending Douglas Paull MD, Miriam Schwartz MD, and Linda Williams MSI to teach the course; the UTC School of Nursing for hosting the course in their impressive simulation lab and for the administrative support of Chris Smith PhD, Susan Thul DNP, Amy Gaglia BSN, and Rosebelle Peters MSN; and to the UT College of Medicine for the administrative support of David Seaberg MD, Robert Fore EdD, Pam Scott, and Bill Reynolds MBA.
Family Practice chosen for AAFP Smoking Cessation Award

The UT Family Practice has been approved and selected as one of six sites for a research project called “AAFP Multi-State Office Champions Behavioral Health and Tobacco Cessation Project”. The American Academy of Family Physicians offers the award for a research opportunity on the effectiveness of the advice of the Family Physician in getting patients to stop smoking. We will receive a $1,000 grant initially to begin the project, and after certain criteria are met we will receive another $1,000. The project involves querying the patients on whether or not they smoke, advising them to stop smoking, initiating a modality of behavioral modification, and after several months questioning the same patients to see if they have successfully stopped smoking.

We were included in this study of only six sites because of the high rates of smoking in the population that we serve and the willingness of our faculty and staff to initiate such a behavior modification program. We are just beginning the project, have obtained expedited IRB approval, and are corresponding with the research staff at the AAFP and expect to complete the study by the end of 2015. Michael Shepherd, MD is the designated Physician Champion for the initiative, and Catrice Walker, LPN is the Office Staff Champion.

Dr. Worthington honored with Outstanding Physician Award

The Tennessee Medical Association has honored J. Mack Worthington, MD, FAAFP, professor and chair of Family Medicine with an Outstanding Physician Award. The award is given annually by the TMA House of Delegates to member physicians, who through their illustrious medical careers, make an impression among their colleagues, peers and on the profession of medicine.

Dr. Worthington is actively involved in the at UTHSC. Besides chairing the Department of Family Medicine in Chattanooga, he serves as program director for Geriatric Medicine and clerkship director. Dr. Worthington has practiced family medicine for more than 30 years. He has served as president of the Memphis-Shelby County Academy of Family Physicians, president of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians, president of the Chattanooga-Hamilton Medical Society, and president of the TMA.

“I was both surprised and honored to have been selected for this award,” Dr. Worthington said. “I am thankful for my family and those in my practice who have allowed me to participate with the Tennessee Medical Association to improve the medical care for our patients and make the medical profession more enjoyable for physicians in Tennessee.”
Dr. Fore recognized for 30 years of service to the ACCME

Robert C. Fore, Ed.D, FACEHP, CCMEP, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Dean for CME, celebrated 30 years as a volunteer accreditation surveyor for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Fore performed his first survey of the Mississippi State Medical Association in May 1985 and has since performed over 100 surveys for the ACCME, Florida Medical Association, and Medical Association of Georgia. He is a Fellow in the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions and a Certified CME Professional by the National Commission on Certification of CME Professionals.

Graham McMahon, MD, MMSc, president and CEO of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education thanked Dr. Fore for his “. . . remarkable commitment and service to CME over three decades.” Kate Regnier, MA, MBA, executive vice president added “on behalf of all of us here at the ACCME, congratulations on this momentous length of service to our accreditation system.”
Continuing Medical Education Opportunities

Upcoming Opportunities to earn Continuing 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. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Annual Conferences (one-time offerings)

**Internal Medicine Update** (2nd annual) - Emerging Therapies in Diabetes & Obesity
September 10, 2015 • 2.5 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • The Chattanoogan Hotel (Chattanooga, TN)
Click here for more info and to register or visit www.utcomchatt.org/imu

**Tennessee State Pediatric Conference**
September 26, 2015 • The Chattanoogan Hotel (Chattanooga, TN)
6.75 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • The Chattanoogan Hotel, Chattanooga, TN
Click here for more info and to register or visit www.tnaap.org/calendar_events/event/12/

Featured Sessions from our regularly-scheduled series

**Healthcare Principles in Practice** • Click Here for more info about the series
September 8, 2015 • Case Closed: Diagnostic Errors • Wendy Longmire, MD
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • 12:00-1:00pm • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger, Chattanooga, TN

**Internal Medicine Grand Rounds** • Click Here for more info about the series
August 13, 2015 • Advancing Quality Care in Rheumatoid Arthritis • Jeffrey Curtis, MD, MS, MPH
August 20, 2015 • ICD-10 Required Training • Provided by Erlanger Health System and Anthelio
September 10, 2015 • New Advances in the Treatment of Obesity • Christopher Sanborn, MD
September 17, 2015 • TBD • Jody Haddock, MD
September 24, 2015 • Treatment Strategies for Progressive Chronic Kidney Disease • William Mitch, MD
October 8, 2015 • Treatment and Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism • Christian Ruff, MD, MPH
October 15, 2015 • Patient-Focused Care in Advanced NSCLC • Thomas Stinchcombe, MD
October 29, 2015 • New Agents & Strategies in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia • William Wierda, MD, PhD
December 3, 2015 • GI (TBD) • Charles Wilcox, MD
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • 8:15-9:15am • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger, Chattanooga, TN

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

**Leadership Development Institute**
11.5 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Host Organization: LifeWings Partners, LLC
Click here for More Info and to Register

**Teamwork Skills Workshop**
3.75 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Host Organization: LifeWings Partners, LLC
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Regularly-Scheduled Series

(offered the same days & times each month)

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

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

Healthcare Principles in Practice  (Dean’s Office series)
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds
OB/GYN Friday Morning Conferences
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
Hutcheson Tumor Board Conferences
Redmond Hospital Weekly Cardiology Series

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

Accreditation: The University of Tennessee College of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Articles Published by UT Faculty & Associates

Adams (Stephen), Ward (Chad), and Garcia (Karla). “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.” American Family Physician. 2015, Volume 91, Number 11.


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

Content submissions must be received by the last day of every third month

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