Alper Award Ceremony & Lecture

Cynthia Haq, MD from the University of Wisconsin was the keynote speaker for this year’s Alper Humanitarian Award Ceremony on Friday, March 18, 2016. Her lecture was on “Promoting Humanism in Medicine: Local to Global”.

Cindy Haq is Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She has been a champion for health equity, primary health care, community health and family medicine throughout her career. She designs and leads socially accountable medical education programs and research initiatives to prepare health professionals to reduce health disparities in medically underserved communities.

Dr. Haq has developed programs in Pakistan, Uganda, Ethiopia, with the World Health Organization, and with governmental and non-governmental organizations. She was the founding director of the UW Center for Global Health. She is currently leading Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) in Milwaukee, WI to prepare medical students to become community engaged physician leaders. She has practiced full spectrum family medicine in Wisconsin and beyond.
**Med Rock Concert Fundraiser**

The 3rd annual Med Rock concert fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 12th at the Hush Hush Club. Med Rock is a battle of the physician bands and was started as a way to give back to the families of healthcare providers that work alongside physicians through scholarships for students (physician’s children excluded). Each competing band must have at least one physician band member, and the bands perform and compete for votes to raise funds for college scholarships.

Med Rock 2016 included four bands: The Itis Brothers, Double Trouble, Pump Daddies and BandAnna. BandAnna consisted of UT’s Michael Greer MD (professor), Steven Greer MD (PGY5), Grant Major MD (UT grad ’90), Ralston Major MD (UT grad ’15), Woody Major MD (PGY-1), and Anna Royer MD (PGY-6). Charles Campbell, MD also performed a song. Over $6,000 was raised in $1 votes, and the whole event raised $25,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales & audience votes. BandAnna was awarded the Med Rock trophy as the crowd favorite. This is more money than the event has raised in previous years, which will provide more scholarships for more local students and families. The presenting sponsor was the Alliance of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons, and Linda Benton, Publicity Chair for Med Rock, said, “We are so happy for Band Anna and so appreciative of UT & Erlanger’s support of this event.”.

**More about Med Rock:** Med Rock was founded by the Chattanooga Medical Alliance (physician’s wives), and scholarship applications are available online at Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. www.cfgc.org

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*From left: BandAnna, UT’s own Ralston Major MD, Woody Major MD, Grant Major MD, Anna Royer MD, and Michael Greer MD, and Steven Greer MD*

*UT’s Charles Campbell, MD*
Medtronic Clinical Study of AAA Stent Grafts

Several UTCOMC Surgery faculty will be participating in the Medtronic clinical study of the Endurant Evo AAA stent graft system. University Surgical Associates and Erlanger Health System were appointed one of 30 clinical settings across the world that will participate. The study will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the Endurant Evo AAA stent graft system. Mark Fugate, MD will be the primary investigator, and Richard Sprouse MD, Jeffrey Horn MD, Sachin Phade MD Michael Greer MD, and Dan Fisher MD will be sub-investigators for the trial.

Dr. Shah - Gold Foundation Humanism & Excellence in Teaching

Amit Shah, MD was selected by the members of the class of 2017 to receive the 2016 Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award based on his commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients & their families, students, and colleagues. Dr. Shah is a resident in the Department of Pediatrics at the UTCOMC. The award was presented on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the UT Health Science Center campus in Memphis. In addition to being recognized, Dr. Shah received a specially designed Arnold P. Gold Foundation label pin and a cash award.

Dr.’s Calvert & Dowden - TMA Leadership Lab Training Program

Justin Calvert MD and Jacob Dowden MD have been selected along with 21 other physicians from across the state to participate in the inaugural Leadership Lab training program.
Anna Royer, MD - Alper Humanitarian Award Winner

Anna Royer, MD from the department of Surgery was the winner of the 2016 Alper Humanitarian Award Ceremony & Lecture. The Alper Humanitarian Award is presented yearly 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, compassion for patients, families & colleagues, community service, and humanitarian qualities during residency. Dr. Royer’s nomination letter for the award was as follows:

This letter is to recommend Anna Royer, M.D. for the Harold Alper Humanitarian Award. Anna is a current PGY-6 Chief Resident in surgery at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga and is in good standing in the program. Anna is regarded as an outstanding surgical resident, served as House Staff Association President during 2014-2015, and is frequently seen teaching and mentoring junior residents and medical students.

Anna’s work ethic and bedside manner are exemplary and were recognized by medical students when she won the 2015 Resident Teaching Award. This is a very special award given to only one resident across all specialties each year. Anna’s willingness to teach, but more importantly be a mentor has made her a favorite among medical students. Much like Dr. Alper, Anna is a role model for the next generation of physicians.

Anna has been involved in multiple medical mission trips. She traveled abroad during medical school to provide care for others in need. I feel this shows her true character. Anna is very empathetic and shows compassion for patients and families. This is a true gift and not a trait I see in all residents or attending physicians. Anna has also displayed integrity throughout her residency. Surgery is demanding both from a mental and physical standpoint. Much is expected of a surgery resident and with that comes inevitable mistakes. However, it is much more dangerous to hide the mistake or lie to cover it up. Anna has always been truthful and openly admits when she makes a mistake. Alexander Pope famously wrote “to err is human.” I feel that admitting mistakes is humanitarian and is a quality needed by more healthcare professionals today.

Anna is the consummate perfectionist. As such, she has been very involved in quality improvement both within the UT system but also at the hospital and even resident level. Anna has been on the steering committee for our local IHI Open School since its inception. She spearheaded a calcium project with collaboration with the ED to identify the rate of hypercalcemia in Erlanger’s ED. She not only helped bridge the gap between the ED, surgery, nursing, and administration, but her efforts were awarded with the title of Gold Medal Paper at the Southeastern Surgical Congress. At the resident level, she has been on a national committee to improve the SCORE curriculum, which is the current curriculum used by the American Board of Surgery for in training and certifying exams. For these efforts she was runner up for the prestigious David C. Leach national award given to one resident per year.

Although Anna has a decorated resume with multiple awards, with this potentially representing yet another impressive achievement, they don’t tell the story of Anna Royer. I can say with all honesty that she is one of the most inspiring people I have ever met. She breathes fresh air into every situation and has a genuine love for every person she contacts. When I was a chief resident, Anna changed me. I felt like I was at the top of my game, but soon after rounding with her I realized how much I had to learn about acceptance, empathy, compassion, and the true humanitarian approach to medicine that we should all strive to achieve. Anna always stands up for what she believes, even when it will knowingly be met with adversity and possibly even hostility. Her courage and love for people make me want to be a better person, surgeon, husband, and father. I have no doubt that I will be a better program director because of her influence. Anna will graduate this year and no doubt leave a huge void in our program. Her contributions will likely go unnoticed by many. Anna’s gift is with people. She is not flashy; nor does she need our validation or recognition. But she deserves it.

- W. Heath Giles, MD, Residency Program Director and Assistant Professor of Surgery, UTCOMC

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Alper Humanitarian Award Nominees

Congratulations to these residents for being nominated for the 2016 Alper Humanitarian Award:

- Samirah Ashraf, MD  
  Pediatrics
- Kiran Busireddy, MD  
  Transitional Year
- Jacob Cautrell, MD  
  Internal Medicine
- Beth Claydon, MD  
  Family Medicine
- Kathleen Ellison, MD  
  Transitional Year
- Jonathan Miller, MD  
  Emergency Medicine
- Stanton Elseroad, MD  
  Emergency Medicine
- Vicky Ren, MD  
  Transitional Year
- Anna Royer, MD  
  Surgery
- Orlando Turner, MD  
  Internal Medicine
- Kiran Busireddy, MD  
  Transitional Year
- Jacob Cantrell, MD  
  Internal Medicine
- Beth Claydon, MD  
  Family Medicine
- Kathleen Ellison, MD  
  Transitional Year
- Samirah Ashraf, MD  
  Pediatrics
- Anna Royer, MD  
  Surgery
- Orlando Turner, MD  
  Internal Medicine
- Jonathan Miller, MD  
  Emergency Medicine

Special thanks to the Alper Family and to Cindy Haq MD, this year’s keynote speaker.

Top Row (left to right): Jason Miller MD, Orlando Turner MD, Kathleen Ellison MD, Samirah Ashraf MD, Cindy Haq MD, Anna Royer MD, Beth Claydon MD, Stanton Elseroad MD, Vicky Ren MD, Kiran Busireddy MD, and Jacob Cantrell MD. Bottom Row: Chess Alper MD, Carol Alper, and Jeffrey Alper.
Dr. Nathan Jung (first year urology resident) and Dr. Hugh Smith (preliminary surgery resident) represented the Department of Urology at the Southeast Section of the American Urological Association (SESAUA) in Nashville in March 2016. Dr. Jung presented two posters: “Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Ureteronecystostomy: A Single Center Experience” and “Nephron Sparing Surgery for Larger Renal Tumors: Outcome and Initial Experience”. Dr. Hugh Smith presented a video, “Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Diverticulectomy for Symptomatic Calyceal Diverticulum: Technique and Initial Experience” and DVD Titled “Botic-Assisted Laparoscopic Calyceal Diverticulectomy”. Dr. Amar Singh and Dr. Chris Keel are members of the SESAUA and attended the presentations. Drs. Jung and Smith were the first residents in the Department of Urology to present at an association meeting. We are very proud of their accomplishments.
Continuing 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 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)

**Resident Research Day**
May 13, 2016 • 4 CME/AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Probasco Auditorium (Erlanger Baroness Campus)
Click here for More Info

**ACEP Southeast Chapters Conference (33rd annual): Trauma**
June 6-9, 2016 • 21.5 CME/AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ • Sandestin Resort (Destin, FL)
Click here for More Info

**Trauma Symposium (9th annual)**
June 9-10, 2016 • 14.5 CME/AMA Category 1 Credits™ will be provided • Chattanooga Convention Center
Core concepts of Trauma Cadaver Lab on June 9, and Trauma & Critical Care Conference on June 10
Click Here for More Info

**Family Medicine Update (31st annual)**
June 15-18, 2016 • 25 CME/AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Marriott downtown (Chattanooga, TN)
Click here for More Info

**Tennessee Pediatric Conference (3rd Annual)**
September 17, 2016 • 5.75 CME/AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Franklin Marriott Cool Springs (Franklin,TN)
Click here for More Info

**Save the Date: Internal Medicine Update (3rd annual)**
September 28-October 1, 2016 • CME/AMA Category 1 Credits™ will be provided • Location TBD
Click Here for More Info

**Save the Date: Southern Surgeons Club Scientific Program**
May 1, 2017 • CME/AMA Category 1 Credits™ • room TBD, (Erlanger Baroness Campus)

Featured Sessions from our Regularly-Scheduled Series

**Healthcare Principles in Practice** • Click Here for more info about these talks and the series
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • 12:00-1:00pm • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger
No May 2016 session due to Annual Research Week and Patient Safety/Quality Improvement Day
June 14, 2016 • Measures of Association for Clinical Research • Rehan Qayyum, MD

**IHI Open School** • Click Here for more info about these talks and the series
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • 5:00-6:00pm • POB Dining Room, Erlanger Baroness Campus
May 3, 2016 • Patient Safety 105: Communicating with Patients After Adverse Events • Jan Keys, DNP

Continuing Education Opportunities continued on the Next Page >>
**Internal Medicine Grand Rounds** • Click Here for more info about the series
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • 8:15-9:15am • Probasco Auditorium, Erlanger
May 12, 2016 • Chronic Total Occlusions: The Last Frontier • Amir Kaki, MD
May 26, 2016 • Topic TBD • Transitional Year Residents joint presentation
June 1, 2016 • Jackson and Milli Yium & DCI Endowed Lecture • Tait Shanafelt, MD

**OB/GYN Faculty & Resident Development Series** • Click Here for more info about the series
1 AMA Category 1 Credit™ • Fridays 8-9am, 9-10am & 10-11am • Call (423) 778-7515 for meeting locations
May 6, 2016 • 8-9am • MFM Chapter Review: Gabbe Chapter 8 • Dr. Sunny
9-10am • OB Series: Fibroids in Pregnancy • Olukayode Akinlaja, MD
10-11am • Contract Law • Sean Lyons, JD
May 20, 2016 • 8-9am • Grand Rounds • Geoff Bowman, MD

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

**Teamwork Skills Workshop**
3.75 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: LifeWings Partners, LLC
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**Leadership Development Institute**
11.5 AMA Category 1 Credits™ • Joint Sponsor: LifeWings Partners, LLC
Click here for More Info and to Schedule one for your department or organization

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

Healthcare Principles in Practice (Dean’s Office series)
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds
OB/GYN Faculty & Resident Development Series
Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds
Orthopaedic Surgery Journal Club
Orthopaedic Surgery M&M Conference
Surgery Grand Rounds
Surgery Morbidity & Mortality Grand Rounds
Urology Faculty & Resident Development Series
Erlanger Tumor Board Conferences
Hutcheson Tumor Board Conferences
Redmond Hospital Weekly Cardiology Series

Click here for more info about these 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.

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Feedback, articles, announcements, etc 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.