SNAPSHOT

DISCHARGE AND MARKET SHARE DATA FOR TOP 5 CARDIOLOGY DRGs
Selected Hospitals in Birmingham MSA — April 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRG</th>
<th>UAB</th>
<th>St V</th>
<th>Brookwood</th>
<th>MCE</th>
<th>Montclair</th>
<th>Princeton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124 - Circulatory Dis. Expt AMI, w/Cath &amp; Complex DX</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125 - Circulatory Dis. Expt AMI, w/Cath &amp; w/o Complex DX</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127 - Heart Failure and Shock</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143 - Chest Pain</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>527 - Percutaneous CV DX w/Drug eluting stent w/o AMI</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Represents discharge volume
% Represents highest market share for Birmingham MSA (Blount, Calhoun, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Tuscaloosa counties)
Source: State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). SHPDA conducts a discharge survey every April.
Prepared by UABHS Department of Strategic Planning

The facility is adjacent to University Hospital’s North Pavilion parking deck. A skywalk connects the hospital to the parking deck, allowing patrons to walk indoors for six or more city blocks to the many buildings comprising the hospital. “We are pleased UAB visitors will have an attractive, convenient place to stay, and that the campus will be able to take advantage of..." continued on page 2

The Courtyard by Marriott at UAB, downtown Birmingham’s first new hotel in 15 years, opened at 1820 5th Ave. South on July 11. The six-story hotel, owned and operated by Atlanta-based Noble Investment Group, features a street-front restaurant and bar, more than 2,200 square feet of meeting space, and guest rooms that include high-speed Internet access and other premium amenities designed for business and leisure travelers.

Curbing Hospital-acquired Infections

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL CRITICIZES HEALTH CARE WORKERS’ HYGIENE PRACTICES

Poor hygiene among health care workers is a significant cause of hospital-acquired infections, according to a June 6, 2005, New York Times editorial by Betsy McCaughey, former New York lieutenant governor and founder of the nonprofit Committee to Reduce Infection Deaths.

Hospital-acquired infections strike an estimated 2 million patients a year and result in more than 90,000 deaths, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports. Rates of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection have increased dramatically in the last 2 decades, and..." continued on page 4
of additional meeting and conference space,” Richard Margison, UAB vice president of financial affairs and administration, says. “We believe the facility’s presence in the heart of our medical district and the features it offers will be a real asset to our campus.”

“We are aggressively looking at development opportunities like the Courtyard by Marriott here in Birmingham, where we can invest in thriving and dynamic communities with strong leadership,” Nobel Investment Group President and CEO Mit Shah says. “We focus on developing first-class hotels in markets with high barriers to new competition and in locations that can act as a catalyst for other development in the immediate area.” The Marriott can be reached at 254-0004 or 254-8001 (fax).

Dismukes Is Interim Medicine Chair

William E. Dismukes, MD, was named Department of Medicine interim chair, effective August 1. As part of his plans, he intends to maintain the department largely on the same course former departmental Chair William J. Koopman, MD, followed over the past 10 years.

Dr. Dismukes is professor of medicine and of microbiology at the School of Medicine at UAB. In addition, he serves as Department of Medicine vice chair, Division of Infectious Diseases director, and, from 1982 to 2002, was UAB’s Internal Medicine Residency Training Program director. Gustavo Heudebert, MD, currently holds the endowed professorship named for him, the William E. Dismukes Endowed Professorship.

Educated at the Medical College of Alabama (now UAB) and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Dr. Dismukes has received honors and awards throughout his 35 years in academic medicine. He was named a Master teacher and a Laureate awardee by the American College of Physicians and, in 2001, was recipient of the Aventis Pharmaceutical Lectureship from the American Society for Microbiology for sustained fungal chemotherapy accomplishments. He also received the 2005 Maxwell Finland Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. For the past 29 years, Dr. Dismukes has served as principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Mycoses Study Group, a multisite consortium of investigators focusing on the natural history, prevention, and treatment of systemic mycoses.

Dr. Koopman stepped down as chair in August to rejoin the faculty and pursue research interests.

Reporting HIPAA Violations at UAB

UAB and the UAB Health System (UABHS) are committed to the highest standard of compliance to secure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of patients’ protected health information (PHI). UAB/UABHS employees and students in entities covered under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) are required to report security breaches including inappropriate access to and unauthorized release or transmission of a patient’s PHI.

Covered entities at UAB are the schools of Dentistry, Health Related Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Optometry, as well as the entire UAB Health System. Any UAB/UABHS employee or student who 1) suspects a HIPAA violation; 2) identifies an information security breach involving PHI; or 3) recognizes a potential vulnerability that might compromise protection of PHI should report such findings to any or all of the individuals below. This reporting requirement excludes permitted uses of PHI under HIPAA, such as those necessary for “treatment, payment, and operations.” For additional information about UAB/UABHS Privacy and Security Standards, review the HIPAA online course at www.HIPAA.uab.edu.

To report a suspected HIPAA violation at UAB/UABHS, contact:
◆ Your immediate supervisor, manager, or administrator;
◆ Your covered entity’s HIPAA privacy or security coordinators (EPC/ESC). (Go to www.HIPAA.uab.edu for the name of your EPC/ESC);
◆ UAB/UABHS HIPAA Privacy Officer Joan Hicks, jhicks@uabmc.edu, 934-4724;
◆ UAB/UABHS HIPAA Security Officer Terrell Herzig, therzig@uabmc.edu, 975-0072;
◆ UAB HIPAA coordinator C. Michael Brooks, EdD, mbrooks@uab.edu, 996-2644;
◆ Corporate Compliance, 975-0862.

California Alumnus Funds Montgomery Program Endowed Lectureship

S. Rexford Kennamer, MD, graduated from the 2-year program of the Medical College of Alabama in 1943. Recently, he made a generous gift to the School
of Medicine to establish the S. Rexford Kennamer, MD, Endowed Lectureship in Internal Medicine for the Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Dr. Kennamer, who has spent the majority of his professional life in California, was raised in Montgomery and is eager to help the cause of medical education in his hometown. The lectureship, which brings renowned physicians to the area, supports education for residents, fellows, faculty, and private practitioners in the Montgomery area.

On February 3, the Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency Program hosted the first S. Rexford Kennamer Distinguished Lecture Series. James T. Willerson, MD, of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, presented “Stem Cells in the Treatment of Heart Failure.” The lecture was held in the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in the Wynton Blount Cultural Park.

Montgomery Program Director W. J. Many, Jr., MD, says, “Our mission is to train young men and women to be highly competent and compassionate physicians, to provide quality and comprehensive patient care, and to serve the extended medical community through educational programs, clinical research, and related activities. We are grateful for the support of alumni, faculty, and friends that allows us to achieve our mission.” For more information on the Montgomery Internal Medicine Residency Program or how to make a gift, call 934-4469.

HEALTH SYSTEM WINS AHA KUDOS

The American Heart Association (AHA) recognized UAB Health System contributions at its annual Metro Board of Directors meeting in June. Marilyn Henry, University Hospital associate vice president, won the “Volunteer of the Year” award for heading up the Health System’s very successful 2004 HeartWalk campaign. Health System CEO David Hoidal accepted the “Corporate Award” on behalf of UAB Health System. A “Distinguished Service Award” was presented to Administrative Director of Cardiology Services Susan Conrad for leadership in coordinating the hospital’s goals for the 2004 HeartWalk.

Additionally, J Vann Martin, Mitsa Trigg, and Amy Cope from hospital facilities planning received “Special Service Awards” for the team that raised the largest sum of money at HeartWalk. Martin was the single largest fundraiser for the event.

The 2004 HeartWalk raised more than $805,000. Of that, UAB Health System presented more than $177,000, with the hospital raising some $70,000. The hospital hopes to raise $100,000 from the 2005 HeartWalk at the Summit on August 27.

LONG DISTANCE DIALING

For all in-state long distance calls, please dial 8+1+ area code+ number to receive UAB’s discounted price of $.04 per call vs $.09 per minute if “8” is not dialed first.

Use the “8” for all in-state long distance calls!

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE EXHIBIT CELEBRATES AMERICA’S FEMALE PHYSICIANS

Alabama profiles: In 1891, it was rare for any woman to become a board-certified physician, but when Halle Tanner Dillon passed the Alabama State Medical Examination, even The New York Times took notice. It stated Johnson passed this “unusually severe” 10-day written exam to become “not only the first colored female physician, but the first woman of any race” to officially practice medicine in Alabama.

Also read about Virginia Alexander, MD, who cared for coal and iron miners as a public health physician in Alabama during WW II. Also featured are UAB alumna Regina Benjamin, MD, and former UAB Distinguished Professor Harriet Dustan, MD. www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/

To access a Synopsis article from the last 2 years, visit our Web site at www.health.uab.edu/synopsis. You can search by date or subject in the left sidebar.

UAB physicians: visit MSI, the password-protected Medical Staff intranet site, at https://horizon.hs.uab.edu.
Curbing Hospital-acquired Infections continued from page 1

MRSA now accounts for more than 60% of all staph infections.

Denmark, Finland, and the Netherlands have curbed high MRSA rates with practices that include scrupulous enforcement of hand-washing policies, thorough cleaning of medical equipment and hospital rooms, use of gowns and disposable aprons, and testing incoming patients for MRSA, McCaughey says.

UAB Health System Infection Control Committee Chair Alan Stamm, MD, notes that University Hospital follows these same procedures and screens high-risk populations — newborns and trauma and burn patients — for MRSA. “Hand hygiene is of the utmost importance,” he notes. “Alcohol rubs, an effective alternative to soap and water, are widely available. Education of all health care workers in CDC’s Standard and Contact Precautions remains a priority.”

The editorialist also censures CDC for refusing to support public reporting of hospital infection rates, a charge CDC refuted in a June 12 letter to the editor that noted, “For public reporting of infections by hospitals, we are providing leadership to states to ensure meaningful and comparable data.”

Dr. Stamm notes, “There are real problems that must be overcome to ensure reported hospital infection rates are accurate and comparable and consequently useful to the public. To ensure meaningful data, we must address common definitions of infections, consistent methods of discovering infections, and risk adjustment to take into account the likelihood of infection in particular hospital patient populations.”

HAND HYGIENE GUIDELINES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued hand hygiene guidelines as part of an overall strategy to reduce infections in health care settings and promote patient safety. CDC guidelines note:

◆ Improved adherence to hand hygiene — handwashing or use of alcohol-based hand rubs — has been shown to terminate outbreaks in health care facilities and reduce transmission of antimicrobial-resistant organisms and overall infection rates.

◆ The use of gloves does not eliminate the need for hand hygiene. Likewise, the use of hand hygiene does not eliminate the need for gloves. Gloves reduce hand contamination by 70% to 80%, prevent cross-contamination, and protect patients and health care personnel from infection. Hand rubs should be used before and after each patient, just as gloves should be changed before and after each patient.

◆ To use an alcohol-based hand rub, apply product to palm of one hand and rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry.

◆ Alcohol-based hand rubs significantly reduce skin microorganisms, are fast acting, and cause less skin irritation.

◆ Health care personnel should avoid wearing artificial nails and keep natural nails less than one quarter of an inch long if they care for patients.

◆ Alcohol-based hand rubs take less time than traditional hand washing. In an 8-hour shift, an ICU nurse will save an hour of time by using an alcohol-based hand rub. Full CDC hand hygiene guidelines and other educational material are available at www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/.