UAB’s Chiropractic Care Network

COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH SPINE DISORDERS

In 2003, the UAB Multidisciplinary Spine Care Network, or SpineNet, was established by the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Anesthesiology, and Neurology and the Divisions of Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic Surgery, offering patients suffering from spine conditions consultation with an interdisciplinary team of specialists committed to advancing treatment for spine problems. Designed to create an organized network of UAB Health System providers and support personnel, SpineNet’s goal is providing timely, expert consultation, rehabilitation, and surgical care to patients referred by community physicians.

An offshoot of this successful program, the UAB Chiropractic Care Network, is a pioneering effort fostering relationships between community chiropractors and UAB neurosurgeons for the care of patients with spine disorders.

Approximately 50,000 licensed chiropractic physicians in the United States see almost 32 million patients each year. “Chiropractors are assuming a valuable and appropriate role in the U.S. healthcare system. As evidence supporting the effectiveness of chiropractic medicine continues to emerge, neurosurgeons and chiropractors are working together to pinpoint sources of back, neck, arm, and leg pain, ensuring the right diagnosis and proper, cost-effective treatment,” Associate Professor and Chiropractic Care Network Director Thomas G. Spurlock, DC, says.

“Both chiropractic physicians and neurosurgeons have extensive training in spinal anatomy and biomechanics, diseases of the spine, and spinal neurology and care for many of the same degenerative spinal disorders at different ends of the disease spectrum,” he says. “While early-stage spine disease is often best addressed by chiropractors, late-stage disease involving potential or actual neurological compromise may require the attention of a neurosurgeon. Frequently, the intermediate stages of spine disease are where a cooperative effort between the chiropractor and neurosurgeon best benefits the patient.”

REAPING BENEFITS

Cooperative spine care offers early detection of spinal disorders, reduced likelihood of unnecessary or duplicative testing, continuity of care, and reduced risk for unnecessary surgery.

The Chiropractic Care Network also offers advantages to referring chiropractors and UAB physicians, Dr. Spurlock underscores. “While patients benefit from top quality, state-of-the-art
comprehensive and surgical care, chiropractic physicians gain easy access to UAB neurosurgeons and other healthcare specialists, including physiatrists, physical, rehabilitative, and occupational therapists, interventional pain anesthesiologists, and orthopaedic surgeons.”

Referring physicians also benefit from affiliation with UAB’s academic medical center, which has 14 of 17 medical specialties, including neurosurgery, in the top 50 of U.S. News and World Report’s 2004 annual “America’s Best Hospitals” issue.

“The network also assists UAB physicians by locating top Alabama chiropractic providers for treatment of nonsurgical musculoskeletal disorders and provides close working relationships and expeditious consultations,” Dr. Spurlock says.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Chiropractors and UAB neurosurgeons and other spine specialists strive to protect and restore biomechanical and neurological integrity of the spine. UAB’s surgical, nonsurgical, and noninvasive therapies treat a full range of spine conditions, including disc degeneration, osteoporosis, spinal cord injuries, and scoliosis and other spine deformities.

“When surgery is the best option, UAB surgeons use innovative tools and techniques, such as vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty, lumbar spinal fusion, and artificial discs, many performed as minimally invasive procedures,” Dr. Spurlock concludes.

At UAB, he completed a general surgery internship and residency, serving as chief administrative resident, and a surgical critical care fellowship.

During his surgical residency, he completed 2 years of research evaluating the effect fibroblast growth factor plays in the repair of orthopaedic injuries. In addition to being a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Reiff was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha prior to completing his trauma/critical care fellowship.

In addition to several book chapters and abstracts, Dr. Reiff has coauthored numerous manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals, including Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, Archives of Surgery, Shock, and The Journal of Trauma.

His clinical interests include trauma surgery and care of the critically injured. His current research focuses on combining information gained at scenes of motor vehicle collisions with the clinical presentation of injured patients to predict life-threatening injuries. Additionally, since 1998, he has worked with the Birmingham Regional Emergency Management System as a certified American College of Surgeons Advanced Trauma Life Support instructor.

Dr. Reiff may be reached at 976-4044 for academic and administrative calls and 934-6840 for patient appointments; e-mail dreiff@uab.edu.

AAMC, ASCO ASSESS FUTURE ONCOLOGY WORKFORCE

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) will partner with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to assess the future supply of clinical oncologists. Amid rising concern that the aging U.S. population will likely lead to an increased need for cancer care over the next 2 decades — 60% of cancer diagnoses occur in individuals aged 65 years and older — this study will analyze demographic changes and their impact on clinical oncology services.

The AAMC’s Center for Workforce Studies will conduct the research, working closely with ASCO’s Workforce in Oncology Task Force to analyze the results, expected by June 2006.

In related news, nearly 200 people — including physicians and other medical school faculty members, economists, and health policy researchers — attended AAMC’s first annual Physician Workforce Research Conference in May in Washington, D.C. National experts gathered to discuss impending issues such as predicting physician demand, conducting better research, setting policy agendas, and workforce implications for women and minorities on international students and global health and on specialties and practice patterns.

For more information, visit www.aamc.org/newsroom/pressrel/2005/050420.htm.
JUNE 27, 2005

R.S. Bush Award for Excellence in Research from the University of Toronto Department of Radiation Oncology; ASTRO-Gordon Research Conference Young Investigator Award; and the American Association for Cancer Research Scholar in Training Award. Based on his research proposal, he received a Mayo Clinic Clinician-Investigator Award to fund his project.

Dr. Nordal is certified in radiation oncology by the American Board of Medical Specialties and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He may be reached at 975-0222; e-mail rnordal@uabmc.edu.

Dr. Nordal Joins Radiation Oncology

UAB Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology James A. Bonner, MD, announces the appointment of Robert Allan Nordal, MD, MSc, FRCP, as assistant professor of radiation oncology and associate scientist in the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Nordal was recruited from Sunnybrook and Women’s College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

Dr. Nordal completed an honors degree in physics from McGill University in Montreal and BSc specialization certificate in genetics and MD degree at the University of Alberta. He interned at Regina General Hospital of the University of Saskatchewan, where he also obtained external funding and conducted cancer epidemiology research.

Dr. Nordal received his clinical training in radiation oncology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He held a clinical and research fellowship in radiation oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, where he earned a master of science degree in medical biophysics at the University of Toronto. His thesis research was on central nervous system radiation injury, and he has authored numerous publications on radiation responses in the central nervous system, among other topics.

His research interests include vascular responses to radiation and optimizing tumor targeting and combined modality treatment in lung and central nervous system tumors.

Dr. Nordal’s research endeavors have won him a number of prestigious honors and awards. Most recently, American Society of Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology (ASTRO) Basic Science Travel Awards; the Chair’s Award and

UPDATED INSECT REPELLENT GUIDELINES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated recommendations to help protect against mosquito-borne diseases. Regarding agents applied to the skin and clothes, CDC says those containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin have demonstrated a higher degree of efficacy than others. Oil of lemon eucalyptus, a plant-based repellent, provides protection similar to repellents with low concentrations of DEET when tested against mosquitoes found in the U.S. It has not been tested against mosquitoes that spread malaria or other internationally occurring diseases.

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm

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Excellence in Teaching:
Department of Medicine Outstanding Teaching Awards

TINSLEY R. HARRISON TEACHING AWARD
James E. Johnson, MD, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine

OUTSTANDING TEACHING DIVISIONS AWARD
Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM) (1st place)
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine (2nd place)
Division of Infectious Diseases (ID) (3rd place)

TOP TEN TEACHER AWARDS
James E. Johnson, MD (Pulmonary)
Gustavo R. Heudebert, MD (GIM)
Craig J. Hoesley, MD (ID)
Lisa L. Willett, MD (GIM)
Peter G. Pappas, MD (ID)
Kevin J. Leon, MD (Pulmonary)
Ashita J. Tolwani, MD (Nephrology)
William A. Curry, MD (GIM)
Robert M. Centor, MD (GIM)
Nancy E. Dunlap, MD, PhD (Pulmonary)
Michael R. Waldrum, MD (Pulmonary)

OUTSTANDING TEACHER PER DIVISION
Ami E. Iskandrian, MD, Cardiovascular Disease
Douglas C. Heimbürger, MD, Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics
Stuart J. Frank, MD, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
Miguel R. Arguedas, MD, Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Carlos Estrada, MD, GIM
Richard V. Sims, MD, Gerontology & Geriatric Medicine
Lisle M. Nabel, MD, Hematology & Oncology
William E. Dismukes, MD, ID
Anupam Agarwal, MD, Nephrology
Mark T. Dransfield, MD, Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine
Louis W. Heck, Jr., MD, Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology

WINNERS OF THE WALTER B. FROMMEYER, JR., FELLOWSHIP IN INVESTIGATIVE MEDICINE
Jeffery Curtis, MD, MPH
“Ethnic Differences in the Risk of Fracture and Related Vascular Events”
Sonia L. Heath, MD
“Generation and Maintenance of Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Responses”

ACCOLADES

Robert Centor, MD, director of the Division of General Internal Medicine, has been elected president of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). The society is the primary organization of academic general internal medicine. With 100 members, SGIM’s strategic goals include advocacy, support for professional success, innovation and excellence, a diverse and culturally competent workforce, and differentiation and unity.