DIRECTOR’S NOTES

At the end of 2011, the CMBD submitted a UWIRC competitive renewal grant with a request for funding to continue the advancement of our Center through 2011-2012. I am excited to report that we received sponsoring support from the Schools of Dentistry, Engineering, Health Professions, Medicine, and Optometry. I want to thank the Deans for their support and I look forward to continuing a close working relationship with each of them and their faculty to advance bone research at UAB.

Furthermore, we have been working in conjunction with Dr. Sarah Morgan, Director of the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic, to create a “Community Leadership Council” of the CMBD. This council will consist of thoughtful, charismatic community leaders that will meet four times a year to advise on community outreach and fundraising opportunities, with each Council member contributing their individual expertise and thinking to the current and future community outreach and fundraising efforts of the CMBD. While serving to increase awareness of the CMBD through public outreach and the creation of strategic community relationships, the Council will also advise Center Directors of different available opportunities to generate revenue streams through avenues such as philanthropy and fundraising, in order to fund critically important programs and activities. The volunteer community leaders will each serve a two year term. It is anticipated that a founding Board can be convened this spring, with the first fund raising activities commencing in the summer of 2012. At the first meeting, the Board will formulate and approve the mission statement and specific goals.

Finally, congratulations to the UAB Kirklin Clinic Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic/DXA Facility, which has been awarded re-accreditation from the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) through 2014. This is very exciting news, as very few facilities are accredited in the US. As the President of the ISCD, Dr. Sarah Morgan said that it was “important to me for our clinic to have this prestigious designation.” ISCD is an international non-profit professional society linking multiple disciplines with an interest in bone mass measurement and assessment of skeletal integrity. In earning ISCD accreditation, skeletal assessment facilities communicate to their community, patients and other stakeholders that their facility has attained a significant measure of excellence in the provision of skeletal assessment services. ISCD DXA Accreditation Standards cover four core areas: personnel, DXA quality assurance and quality control, scan acquisition and analysis and scan interpretation and reporting. ISCD is an independent international accreditation body and a leader in defining quality and performance issues in skeletal assessment. For additional information on ISCD visit www.iscd.org.

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Please join me in welcoming our newest CMBD faculty recruit, Michael S. Stalvey, MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Stalvey comes to UAB from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he held an Assistant Professor position in the Departments of Pediatrics, Cell Biology and the Gene Therapy Center. His primary research and clinical focus is on endocrine disorders associated with cystic fibrosis (CF). Dr. Stalvey has quickly gained the respect of the CF community through his efforts in both the basic science and clinical research arena.

Dr. Stalvey received his MD at the University of Florida College of Medicine, where he subsequently completed his residency and fellowship. During his fellowship, he developed the first animal model for the study of CF related diabetes (CFRD). Additionally, while at UF, he served as Assistant Professor of Pediatric Endocrinology from 2006-2008. He was later recruited to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 2008 by his long-time CF mentor Dr. Terence Flotte. There, he studied under Dr. Gary Stein in the field of bone metabolism. During his time at UMass, he built a basic understanding of the mechanisms involved in the effect of CFTR deficiency on bone health. His preliminary work demonstrates alterations in proliferation and differentiation of CFTR deficient osteoblasts. Dr. Stalvey’s current efforts focus on furthering the understanding of the CFTR contribution through the study of additional in vitro analysis, as well as the development of new in vivo animal models. He has proved himself to be a young physician scientist with exceptional potential in the fields of cystic fibrosis and bone disease.

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