

History of Palliative Care at UAB

At UAB, the origins of the Palliative Medicine Program began with a specific physician champion and nurse champion, Dr. John Shuster and Dr. Pamela Fordham. (At the BVAMC, the origins of the Palliative Care Unit named Safe Harbor were under the direction of Dr. Amos Bailey and included a separate committee of individuals and timetable from that of the UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit which is the main focus of this summary.) The need for a palliative care program arose out of an identified need for additional supportive care services for oncology patients with high symptom burden and distress. Noted below are the important dates and timeline of the progression and growth of the UAB Palliative Medicine Program and Center for Palliative and Supportive Care.

May 1998	UAB Palliative Medicine Program established within Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine with Dr. John Shuster as Director
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May 1999	UAB Health Services Foundation/General Endowment Fund awards \$250,000 for establishment of Supportive Care Clinic
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May 2000	UAB Health Services Foundation/General Endowment Fund awards \$330,000 for establishment of Palliative Medicine Research Core
June 2000	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards \$450,000 for establishment of state-wide coalition Alabamians for Better Care at Life's End (ABCLE)
July 2000	First professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program
November 17, 2000	University of Alabama Board of Trustees establishes UAB Center for Palliative Care as a specialized Center of expertise

July 2001	UAB Hospice placed under leadership of UAB Center for Palliative Care
July 2001	Second professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

January 2002	Palliative Medicine Program adds two additional faculty members, Drs. Cynthia Baker and Rodney Tucker
June 2002	Palliative Care Clinic and specialty Palliative Care HIV Clinic begins
July 2002	UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program enrolls third group of professionals in training (two fellows)

October 2002	First proposal to UAB Health System Administration regarding potential inpatient unit beds within University Hospital
October 2002	First annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care
December, 2002	Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program
July 2003	Fourth professional class of fellows enters Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (one fellow)
September 2003	Pam Fordham DSN receives HRSA grant to begin the palliative care nursing specialty at UAB
November 2003	Palliative Care Unit Workgroup established and begins regular planning meetings
November 2003	Second annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care
February 2004	UAB Center for Palliative Care receives significant philanthropic grants, primarily from breast cancer survivor group "Climb for the Cause"
March 2004	UAB Hospice sold to Wiregrass Hospice, Inc. to establish fund for UAB Center for Palliative Care
March 2004	UAB Palliative Care workgroup members attend PCLC site at Massey Cancer Center/ VCU
July 2004	Protective Life Corporation awards \$55,000 for establishment of palliative care interdisciplinary team and palliative care coordinator position
August 2004	UAB Center for Palliative Care and the Palliative Medicine Program transferred to Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and joined with the Birmingham VA Medical Center/Safe Harbor Project. Multi-source funding secured from Department of Medicine, UAB Health System, and Comprehensive Cancer Center. All faculty in Palliative Medicine form new Palliative Care Section within Division and includes Drs. Bailey, Tucker, Baker, Kvale, Williams, and Griffin.
September 2004	First Palliative Care Coordinator hired for UAB Palliative Care Program through partial funding of Protective Life Clinical Initiative Award Program.

October 1, 2004	Dr. Christine Ritchie assumes role as Director of Center for Palliative Care and Palliative Care Section, Division of Gerontology and Geriatrics as Dr. John Shuster moves to a Research Professor position at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center.
October 2004	Third annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care raises approximately \$31,000
November 2004	UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program receives funding grant of \$150,000 from AAHPM and National Hospice Foundation
December 2004	UAB Inpatient Palliative Care Unit business plan and capital budget approved by University of Alabama Board of Trustees
February 2005	Internal Marketing and External Development Plan along with Case Statement for Development and Program Expansion complete—First directed philanthropic gift for palliative care unit renovation of \$150,000 obtained
July 1, 2005	Fifth class of fellows enter UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows)
October, 2005	Establishment of Center for Palliative Care Steering Committee
November 4, 2005	Dedication of Safe Harbor Unit at BVAMC
November 15, 2005	Fourth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care
2006	Amos Bailey M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
March, 2006	Center for Palliative Care Steering Committee transitions to Community Advisory Board
March 5, 2006	Dedication of UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit
April 26, 2006	Approval granted for voluntary accreditation of Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program
July1, 2006	Sixth class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (two fellows)
October 1, 2006	Division name officially changed to Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
October 5, 2006	Fifth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

November 1, 2006	Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program
2007	Christine Ritchie M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
February 9, 2007	Palliative and Comfort Care Unit conference room dedication ceremony
March 19, 2007	Celebration event commemorating first anniversary of PCCU opening
March, 2007	Greater Birmingham Community Palliative Care Fellowship Fund established
April 19, 2007	Spring Garden Party fundraising event sponsored by Dr. & Mrs. Kirby Bland and The Steve Morton Family
April 23-24, 2007	Mt. Sinai site visit
May 21, 2007	First Nurse Practitioner hired for Palliative and Comfort Care Unit
July 1, 2007	Seventh class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows)
November, 2007	UAB named one of eight national Clinical Scholars training sites through American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)
November 28, 2007	Circle of Life Award site visit
December 11, 2007	Awarded a 2-year grant by the Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation for the development of a Holistic Care Coordination Program
2008	Christine Ritchie M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
January 1, 2008	Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program
January 24, 2008	Fourth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care
February, 2008	Faculty member Amos Bailey M.D. elected to AAHPM Board of Directors

April 14, 2008	Center receives notification of receiving a Circle of Life Citation of Honor award to be presented at the American Hospital Association/Health forum Leadership Summit July 25, 2008
March 10, 2008	Second Nurse Practitioner hired for Palliative and Comfort Care Unit
May 5, 2008	Holistic Care Coordinator hired for outpatient services
June 1, 2008	Fellowship accreditation application submitted to Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
July, 2008	Eighth class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (two fellows)
July 9, 2008	Palliative Care Leadership Center site visit
July 25, 2008	UAB Center for Palliative Care and Birmingham VA Medical Center receives Circle of Life Citation of Honor
July 23, 2008	Designated as a Palliative Care Leadership Center (PCLC) by the Center to Advance Palliative Care
August 18, 2008	First Certified Physician Assistant hired for Palliative and Supportive Care Outpatient Programs
January 21, 2009	RRC for Family Medicine approves Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program accreditation application for one year, effective July 1, 2009
January 30, 2009	Fifth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care
February 2-6, 2009	First AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained
March 2-6, 2009	Second AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained
April 6-10, 2009	Third AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained
May 5-6, 2009	First PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific training class which involved eight facilities from VISN 7.
July 1, 2009	Ninth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows) Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program accreditation effective date.
August 18-19, 2009	Second PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific training class which involved nine facilities from VISN 11.

August 25-26, 2009 Third PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific reverse-site training class which involved six facilities from VISN 22.

September 20, 2009 Artini's fundraising event benefiting the Center for Palliative Care Art Therapy Partnership

November 2-3, 2009 Fourth PCLC training successfully completed. This training class was from Christus Santa Rosa Hospice in Santa Rosa, TX.

2010 Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

January 11-12, 2010 Fifth PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific reverse-site training class which involved six facilities from VISN 17.

January 25-29, 2010 Fourth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 2010 Received notification of funding from Children's Health System to initiate pediatric focused fellowship track as fourth approved fellowship position

February 1-5, 2010 Fifth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 8-12, 2010 Sixth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 6, 2010 Sixth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

March, 2010 Christine Ritchie M.D. elected to American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Board of Directors

April 12-13, 2010 Sixth PCLC training successfully completed. This was a four-person team from Cape Fear in North Carolina.

May, 2010 Twelfth anniversary of the establishment of the Palliative Medicine Program within the Department of Psychiatry under the direction of John Shuster M.D.

June 21, 2010 Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System approves name change from Center for Palliative Care to Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

July 1, 2010 Tenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (four fellows). First year for pediatric track.

September 30, 2010 Second annual Artinis fundraising event benefiting the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care Art Therapy Partnership

November 1, 2010 First International Scholars Observership Program trainee, Dr. Min Chul Kim from Korea, begins 4-month observership

November 17, 2010 Tenth anniversary of University of Alabama Board of Trustees establishment of the UAB Center for Palliative Care as a specialized Center of expertise

November 19, 2010 WrestleBirmingham fundraising event

January 18, 2011 Second International Scholars Observership Program trainee, Dr. Hyo Sook Park from Korea, begins 12-month observership

April 13, 2011 Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program completes its first accreditation site visit by ACGME

July 1, 2011 Eleventh class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (two fellows)

September, 2011 Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH announces departure from UAB as Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care to take a position at UCSF

September 26, 2011 Fellowship program receives five year continued accreditation from ACGME

October 1, 2011 Third professional joins the eleventh class of fellows in the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (total of three fellows in this class)

November 1, 2011 Roll out of new Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants

November 8, 2011 Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program awarded a Hearst Foundations fellowship grant for academic year 2012 through the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. UAB is one of ten recipients in the first round of these awards over the course of a three-year period.

November 9, 2011 Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH was awarded the status of Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

November, 2011 Palliative and Supportive Care Clinic moves from McDonald Clinic to the Kirklin Clinic

November 30, 2011 Pam Fordham DSN retires from UAB and as Deputy Director of the Center

2012	Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
January 1, 2012	Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM assumes role of Interim Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care
January 11, 2012	Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program receives final feedback on its April 2011 site visit. ACGME issued a five year continued accreditation, in addition to a commendation with no citations to the program.
January 12, 2012	Official opening of Palliative and Supportive Care Clinic at the Kirklin Clinic
February 6-10, 2012	First physician completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care
March 11, 2012	Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH leaves service as Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care
April, 2012	CMS innovation award to extend palliative care across the cancer continuum in the UAB Cancer Network
April 9-13, 2012	First CRNP completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care
July 1, 2012	Twelfth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (2 fellows)
December 13, 2012	Carolyn C. Hunter Endowed Support Fund for Excellence in Education for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care was established
January 18, 2013	Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program awarded a renewal of the Hearst Foundations fellowship grant for academic year 2013—2014 through the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.
March 27, 2013	First lecture held in the Deane K. Corliss Palliative Care Education and Lectureship series
July 1, 2013	Thirteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)
August 26-30, 2013	First chaplain completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care

January 16, 2014	The national Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association (HPNA) approved an HPNA Central Alabama Provisional Group for Chapter Charter status.
February 2014	Center for Palliative and Supportive Care receives largest donation to date. This gift was in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars from an anonymous donor.
May 7, 2014	UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care receives Circle of Life Citation of Honor
July 1, 2014	Fourteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)
July 1, 2015	Fifteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)
August 18, 2015	UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care selected as a partner in CAPC's community-based palliative care initiative
December 2015	Christine S. Ritchie, M.D., Endowed Chair in Palliative Care Leadership established. Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM first chair holder