

HISTORY OF SPAIN REHABILITATION CENTER (SRC) UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN BIRMINGHAM

The University of Alabama in Birmingham evolved from the Extension Center on the corner of 20th Street South and 8th Avenue South and the Hillman Hospital which was located in the block between 6th and 7th Avenues South on 20th Street South. In the late 1930's, the new Hillman Hospital was added in the middle and west part of the block, facing on 19th Street South. In the middle 1940's, the University of Alabama School of Medicine began in Birmingham; first with the two clinical years being offered, then the basic science years were added. The School of Dentistry and the Graduate School were added; these completed the core elements for development of the present University of Alabama in Birmingham. The Veterans Administration Hospital was built in the early 1950's, occupying the block between 7th and 8th Avenue South and 18th and 19th Street South; this was established as a Dean's Committee Hospital.

About June 9, 1958 the University of Alabama acquired 10 ½ blocks bounded by 6th Avenue South to 9th Avenue South and 15th Street South through 19th Street South making possible general expansion of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Long-range plans for the expansion of the University were drawn up and implementation of the expansion plans began.

In the early days of the development of the Medical Center, rehabilitation elements were represented in the Veterans Administration Hospital by a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation service which included a rehabilitation ward directed originally by Folke Becker, M.D., physiatrist.

In the early 1950's a Department of Physical Therapy, headed by Ms. Kay Carr, was established on the eleventh floor east in University Hospital. This was discontinued after a short time and a few pieces of equipment were left in place.

A physical medicine committee was established with Walter Frommeyer, M.D. (cardiologist) as first chairman, J. Garber Galbraith, M.D. (neurosurgeon) as second chairman. Members included Thomas Patton, M.D. (surgeon), Ralph J.W. Hobbs, M.D. (orthopedist), Samuel Little, M.D. (physiatrist). This committee and other members later on, worked toward development of a Department of Physical Medicine for University Hospital and later toward a Department of Physical Medicine in the Medical School. Mrs. Joan (Silverberg) Bergman R.P.T. joined the hospital staff in November 1955, and a physical therapy treatment program (on eleventh floor University Hospital) was activated in January 1956.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Spain, local philanthropists, had long been interested in medical rehabilitation. One of Mrs. Spain's family members had suffered a long-term physical functional problem and some of their immediate family had become the victims of poliomyelitis, fortunately with excellent recovery. Mr. Spain had been very active in the Rotary

Club and in the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults, which were developing outpatient rehabilitation centers throughout the State of Alabama and the Rotary Rehabilitation Center in Mobile. In 1955, George Deaver, M.D., physiatrist at the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in New York City gave a speech at the annual meeting of the ASCCA in which he remarked that, in his opinion, rehabilitation would make great progress in Alabama only when there was a diagnostic, evaluation, treatment and teaching center connected with the Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. Mrs. Spain attended this meeting, talked with Dr. Deaver and became convinced that this was an accurate statement of the problem. He continued his interest and action in support of expansion of a series of outpatient rehabilitation centers around the state. When land became available for expansion of the University of Alabama Medical Center, Mr. and Mrs. Spain decided that they would like to sponsor the construction of a teaching medical rehabilitation center affiliated with the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. They met with Joseph Volker, DDS, Vice-President of the University of Alabama (then chief executive officer at the Birmingham Campus) in 1959 to discuss this matter. Mr. Spain and Dr. Volker tell that in this meeting Dr. Volkler told the Spains that he much appreciated their interest in supporting the broad programs at the University; he then reviewed the long-range plans for expansion of the University of Alabama with the Spains and told them that development of a medical rehabilitation center was indeed on the list for expansion but was 10th or 12th in order of priority. Dr. Volker asked if Mr. Spain would be interested in supporting construction for the number 1 or 2 projects on the long-range plans instead of supporting the rehabilitation center construction. Mr. Spain advised Dr. Volker that he appreciated Dr. Volker's interest in supporting the other projects in order and asked Dr. Volker to be back in touch with him when construction of the rehabilitation center and the development of a broad medical rehabilitation program might be considered. Dr. Volker is reported as asking Mr. Spain to visit a while longer and said words to the effect: "Mr. Spain, I am happy to tell you that development of the rehabilitation center and program has just been moved from number 12 to number 1 priority in the long-range plans for the University of Alabama." Mr. and Mrs. Spain then made a contingent gift to the University of Alabama provided that matching funds could be obtained for the construction of the medical rehabilitation center, which was to be operated by the University of Alabama.

A Building Committee was appointed consisting of George A. Denison, M.D., Health Officer of the Jefferson County Department of Health, Chairman; Richard T. Eastwood, Ph. D., Executive Director of University of Alabama Hospitals; and Mr. Albion Knight, architect. Mr. Leslie Waller, representing State of Alabama Crippled Children's and Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and Mr. Spain were advisory to the committee and traveled with the committee on visits to the Medical Center, University of Florida in Gainesville, McGee Rehabilitation Center affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Bellevue Hospital, Institute of PM&R, and the Institute for Crippled and Disabled in New York City, the Kessler Rehabilitation Center in West Orange, New Jersey, the Ohio State Rehabilitation Center in Columbus for the purpose of planning and designing the rehabilitation center and outlining the broad space and program commitments. Daniel Construction Company of Birmingham was chosen for the construction. Planning activities were intense, consultations were held with numbers of people other than at

the centers listed above; Mr. Hertfelder attended a two week course on Rehabilitation Administration in September 1960, as well.

Hill-Burton funds for construction were made available in November 1961 and final planning was then accomplished. Ground breaking for the Spain Rehabilitation Center was on July 3, 1962 with Mr. and Mrs. Spain, Mr. and Mrs. William MacDonald and Mr. and Mrs. Chap Hodges (Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Hodges were daughters of the Spains) and the grandchildren attending, along with representatives from the University, State of Alabama and the Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Atlanta and Washington being present. Primary funding for the construction consisted of \$510,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spain, \$50,000 from the Foundation for Hearing and Speech and \$1,680,000 through the Hill-Burton program. Construction proceeded smoothly and the rehabilitation center was dedicated on April 26, 1964 with Dr. Howard Rusk being the principal dedication speaker.

There was 63,000 square feet of floor space on four floors. Bed space for 58 patients was provided, with space and equipment for nursing services, physical therapy, outpatient therapy, psychology services, speech and hearing services, vocational counseling, dietetics, dentistry, EMG laboratory, x-ray unit, physician and administrative offices, housekeeping, maintenance and storage.

As construction of the center was progressing, staff was being assembled and a program being developed. Changes in the hospital administration planning led Mr. Hertfelder to leave his assignment to be Administrative Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and A.C. Collier being named to assume the role of Administrative Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center in September 1963.

On March 4, 1963, Ms. Elsie McKibbin OTR, joined the Department of Physical Medicine of the University Hospital and Hillman Clinic to establish an occupational therapy unit in University Hospital to serve inpatients and outpatients.

In late 1963, John A. Thomas, M.D. joined the staff and faculty as the Acting Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and as Assistant Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Department of Medicine. Staff was assembled including Mr. Don Sessions PT, Elsie McKibbin OTR, Don Patrick, MS, as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Frances Burrell as Nursing Director. Frances Nelms RN as head nurse, Mary Price, MSW as Social Work Director and Frances Terrell, chief dietician at the University Hospital, as directing the Dietetics Department, and Sherman Raffel, PhD as chief psychologist.

Dr. Thomas resigned as Medical Director and in July 1964, William C. Fleming M.D. joined the University as Professor and Chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center. The Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center also served as Chief of the Service with respect to the University of Alabama Hospital and Hillman Clinic and as Medical Director of the curriculum in Physical Therapy.

October 1, 1964, the first outpatient was treated and on November 1, 1964, the first inpatient, Mrs. Barbara Phillips of Mount Olive, was admitted to the Spain Rehabilitation Center. Some 405 patients were served in the first year of operations by the Spain Rehabilitation Center. In the first four years of operations, some 1600 inpatients were served and there had been about 12,000 outpatient visits to SRC.

Part of the matching funds for construction of the center was contributed by the Foundation for Hearing and Speech and space in the basement and first floor was designed for use by speech and hearing personnel. Their staff was assembled, with the first director being Robert Roach, Ph.D. Outpatient services were offered by this group about the time of the dedication of the building and continues. This group participated in a full program of service, teaching and research. It has grown to become the present Department of Biocommunications.

All the heads of professional services were engaged in recruitment of staff personnel, preparing plans largely for service and training in the beginning and all chiefs of services gave large numbers of talks to civic organizations, on radio stations, T.V. programs, to church groups and to almost any group who expressed any interest in hearing about the operations of the Spain Rehabilitation Center. The School of Physical Therapy was established with Mrs. Joan Bergman, PT, being the first curriculum director. Plans were for the first two years of the curriculum to be offered at the Tuscaloosa Campus and the last two years to be offered here at the University of Alabama in Birmingham with the curriculum to be housed in the beginning in the Spain Rehabilitation Center. In the fall of 1964, the first three students began their work here at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, at the Spain Rehabilitation Center; two of them, Ms. Sylvia Berkin Rose and Julie Jefferies, graduated.

Since this was a unit affiliated with the University of Alabama in Birmingham, major areas of interest developed in line with the overall objectives and programs of the parent university: teaching, research and service. With respect to the Spain Rehabilitation Center, the original thrust was towards developing a broad based service activity on which the teaching and research could be based.

Teaching was very broad based and offered in all areas of professional activity within the center. In the nursing service, the new staff as it was gathered was trained in rehabilitation philosophy and techniques; as the operations began all the nursing supervisors from the University Hospital spent at least one week in the nursing program at the SRC to learn techniques which could be applied on their own services in a interest of mobilizing patients early and preventing certain problems from developing (such as pressure ulcers, joint contractures, disuse atrophy, etc.) Supervising nursing personnel from other local hospitals were also brought in for training. Nursing students from all of the nursing schools in the area were rotated through SRC to observe and to learn rehabilitation nursing techniques. Nursing personnel had input into all of the broad based training programs developed through the Spain Rehabilitation Center. Nursing post graduate education was developed.

In the physical therapy area, staff was gathered; treatment programs were established and broadened with time. Members of this service also functioned as faculty in the School of

Physical Therapy and used patients at SRC for teaching of P.T. students. In occupational therapy, also, staff and equipment were assembled. Routines for treatment programs were established and treatment was begun. Occupational therapists, physicians on the staff, and other participated in planning for development of a curriculum in occupational therapy. In July 1965, Mr. Larry Rogers joined the staff to supervise a pre-vocational evaluation area within the occupational therapy unit.

Several articles were written for publication in the Journal of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama for educational purposes (in such areas as problems associated with bed rest, etiology and prevention of pressure ulcers, etc.)

In the area of medical teaching the staff physiatrists had much personal contact with the medical students, nurses, interns, residents and faculty through consultations in the University Hospital, grand rounds and service meetings. Summer scholarships for medical students were established (funded through Vocational Rehabilitation Services.) Time was gained for teaching first year medical students broad introductory subjects with respect to rehabilitation (stroke, gait problems, amputations.) The medical staff attended rounds, participated in clinics and conferences, especially in the juvenile rheumatoid arthritis group. Dr. Becker of AVA Hospital also attended the rheumatoid arthritis clinic regularly. The Department of Physical Medicine had input in the Ann Jordan Conferences held by the rheumatology section of the Department of Medicine. A residency program was established for the University of Alabama in Birmingham in PM&R, later Rehabilitation Medicine. An affiliation with the Tuskegee VA Hospital for assisting in training in their residency program was established and physiatrists regularly went to Tuskegee VA Hospital to help in this program.

A number of post-graduate courses were held, being taught in a comprehensive pattern with instruction usually in medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, vocational counseling and social service, speech and hearing to describe the benefits of utilizing the team approach in rehabilitation medicine as well as in other areas of medical practice. The physiatrists participated in the establishment of the Southern Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, which was to become the Regional Chapter of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Fleming, Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center, was the second President of this group, succeeding Robert Bennett, M.D. of Georgia Warm Springs Foundation.

In the area of service, plans were established, personnel and equipment were assembled and outpatient treatment began in October of 1964 with inpatient services being offered November 1, 1964. There were many difficulties involved in obtaining funding for the development of service staff. The State of Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation Services offered invaluable support through their financial support towards both personnel and equipment in the early years.

An Orthotic Shop within the Spain Rehabilitation Center was opened in February 1966 with Steve Mullins responsible for this area.

The early program of development was designed to develop first an excellent service and teaching program and add a research program. The approach that was used for this was to begin with primarily descriptive type of research; a number of projects involving electromyography were initiated, completed and published. The Spain Rehabilitation Center physicians, nurses and other professional staff participated in a number of clinical trials on medications which were related to rehabilitation practice, sponsored by a number of drug manufacturers.

As we got into planning for the expansion of facilities at the Spain Rehabilitation Center, basic laboratory space was included in the planning.

In the early years, a number of broad based and cooperative projects were begun. The first was initiated in March 1965 and an emphysema research project directed by Ben Branscomb, M.D., with cooperation of our physicians, physical and occupational therapy, psychology and social service groups. Then in June 1965, the Birmingham Stroke Project based in Spain Rehabilitation Center, was funded through the Vocational Rehabilitation Service. This project had three co-Directors, Dr. Glenn Baird of the Epidemiology-Preventive Medicine group, Dr. James Halsey of the Neurology Service and Dr. William Fleming of the PM&R Service. A broad based advisory group assisted in the management of this project. The first active part of this project was the Fairfield Study which was begun in October 1965; this was an epidemiological sampling study and included clinical evaluation of numbers of persons with examinations being accomplished in the area of internal medicine, neurology and rehabilitation medicine. In the Stroke Project, there was also a joint study involving treatment outcomes of stroke victims with the principal participants being James Halsey, M.D. of Neurology Service and the Psychiatrists at the Spain Rehabilitation Center. A number of publications resulted from this study but unfortunately, the long-term (10 to 20 years) follow-up of the patient population was later abandoned. Cooperative efforts were made with the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology for a Cardiac Rehabilitation Service and Project; much planning and program write-up was accomplished but this project was discontinued after a short time.

The Medical Director and psychiatrists of the Spain Rehabilitation Center were involved in the Mental Retardation Planning Committee, which began in 1965 leading to establishment of the present Center for Development and Learning Disabilities in the University of Alabama in Birmingham. The Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center, representing the group, also participated as a member of the State-Wide Planning Committee for Vocational Rehabilitation in 1965; a long-term plan resulted from the efforts of this group. The Medical Director of Spain Rehabilitation Center, again representing the group, participated in the planning committee activities for the Comprehensive Cancer Center, presently located at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Another activity in which the Medical Director and the Administrative Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center was (with full support from the Center, University Hospital and University staff) participated was planning for the present Occupational Rehabilitation Center whose goals were to provide the vocational rehabilitation training aspects for patient-clients who had become involved in medical rehabilitation in the acute, sub-acute and long-term rehabilitation programs through UAB and other medical rehabilitation programs around the State. The Medical Director and the Administrative Director

participated actively in the early day of program development at the Occupational Rehabilitation Center and have continued to serve on the Board which is composed primarily of representatives of the Alabama Society for Crippled Children and Adults, the State of Alabama Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Although there was a large number of programs being developed and offered by the Spain Rehabilitation Center in the areas of teaching, service and research, a highly significant event occurred in June of 1966 when the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Spain Rehabilitation Center, was designated Medical Rehabilitation Research and Training Center #19 through Vocational Rehabilitation Service, H.E.W., Washington, D.C. This designation made possible continuing support for broad research and training programs in the area of medical rehabilitation. An advisory board was established and was quite effective. Staff expansion and development were possible. Program expansion became possible. With the availability of the two upper floors in the Spain Rehabilitation Center overall programs were much broadened.

In August 1968, construction began on the fourth and fifth floor addition to the building with funds being provided through Mr. and Mrs. Spain and with Hill-Burton-Vocational Rehabilitation matching funds. These additional floors were completed and put to use in 1969; inpatient bed space for 30 additional patients was included. Rheumatology Division of the Department of Medicine, under direction of Howard Holley, M.D., was allocated 20 beds for inpatients for use in their program of teaching, research and service. Space for a Maxillofacial Prosthetics Development Project (in conjunction with the School of Dentistry) was included.

As soon as the Spain Rehabilitation Center began to receive patients, it had an emphasis on treatment of spinal cord injury patients and it is of interest that in June 1965, Mr. Ernie Laird had high school graduation exercises conducted for him individually in the Spain Rehabilitation Center. There were many quite ill patients admitted to Spain Rehabilitation Center but it was not until October 10, 1965 that one of our patients succumbed while a patient within the Spain Rehabilitation Center.

A.C. Collier was the Administrative Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center from its opening until 1966 when he returned to administrative duties full-time in University Hospital. He was succeeded by Mr. Roy Vance. Mr. Vance was in turn succeeded by Mr. John Dunlop. Mr. Collier returned as Administrative Director in 1978.

William C. Fleming, M.D. was Medical Director from the opening of the Spain Rehabilitation Center until April 1, 1970 when he was succeeded by Edward M. Holmes, Jr. M.D. Dr. Holmes, meantime had assumed the Directorship of the Research and Training Center April 1, 1969.

Dr. Fleming had been Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from its establishment; he was succeeded as Chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine by John M. Miller, III, M.D. on July 1, 1970. Upon Dr. Holmes' untimely death, February 1971, John M. Miller, III, M.D. assumed the responsibilities of Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center on March 15, 1971.

In 1968, construction was begun for the fourth and fifth floor addition to the Spain Rehabilitation Center. This allowed expansion of inpatient services, office space, and research space. The addition was opened in 1969. This gave a total bed capacity of 78 inpatients. A 15 bed unit was designed as a pediatric area and Samuel L. Stover, M.D. joined the faculty to begin the pediatric rehabilitation program. On April 1, 1970, Dr. Ed Holmes became the Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and the Director of the Research and Training Center. Dr. Miller also replaced Dr. Fleming as the Chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. A Spain Rehabilitation Women's Committee was established to assist with fundraising and other patient activities. Dr. Holmes died on February 6, 1971 and Dr. Miller also became the Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and the Director of the Research and Training Center. In 1972, the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine was successful in its application to become a Model Spinal Cord Injury Center. This was coincidental in the same year in which Governor George C. Wallace received a gunshot wound causing paraplegia. The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine along with the University Hospitals assisted in the establishment of Lakeshore Hospital as a rehabilitation facility. An affiliation agreement was established and the department was responsible in the initial years for medical coverage at Lakeshore Hospital. The Medical Rehabilitation Research and Training continued to be successful in subsequent applications and grow in its amount of funding. In 1974, the pediatric area was closed as an established unit because of difficulty with occupancy rates. From that point on, children were integrated throughout the hospital when they required inpatient services. With the establishment of the Model Spinal Cord Injury Center, much of the activity within the Spain Rehabilitation Center, both in clinical care and research, began to focus more on spinal cord injury. In late 1974, Dr. Miller became ill and Dr. Stover was appointed as acting Chairman of the Department, Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and Director of the grant programs. Dr. Miller's untimely death occurred on February 29, 1976. In September 1976, Dr. Stover was appointed to the above positions. In 1975, the Urological Rehabilitation Research and Training Center was established on the east wing of the fifth floor after Immunology Research Department moved to the Cancer Institute. In 1974, prior to the opening of the Diabetes Hospital, 20 beds of the fourth floor of the Spain Rehabilitation Center were allocated to diabetic patients. In 1975, after the Diabetes Hospital opened and the patients were transferred to the Diabetes Hospital, Rheumatology received this allocation of 20 beds on the fourth floor. In 1981, with a change of the focus of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Programs, the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine was successful in applying for a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center with a core research area in spinal cord injury. In 1981, planning was also started for an addition to the Spain Rehabilitation Center with some initial funds made available through Governor Wallace and the State. With increasing recognition of work in spinal cord injury at the Spain Rehabilitation Center, responsibilities were given, in 1983, to the department to carry on the work of the National Spinal Cord Injury Data Management System, collecting data from 17 other model centers throughout the United States. This was a private effort by the model centers. In 1985, our institution was successful in applying for federal funding for that program and became known as the National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center. The affiliation with Lakeshore Hospital gradually deteriorated because of the discrepancy of an academic institution trying to work with a privately owned facility.

In 1986, the Mickey Pizitz pool was built, with the Spain Rehabilitation Center Women's Committee being the major donor and the University Hospital. In 1987, major renovations were made to the patient rooms on the third and fourth floors. With the changes of healthcare policy, a Day Treatment Program was established in early 1988 and plans were made to increase the general outpatient treatment program.

In 1988, the residency program attracted five residents and in 1989 the residency was filled for the first time with seven residents, (one funded by the VA Hospital). Dr. Jay Meythaler served as the Program Director, 1993 to 1996. In 1994, the program filled with 10 residents and in 2005 the program was increased and filled with 12 residents. Dr. Laura Kezar served as the Program Director from 1996 to 2007 when Dr. Amie Jackson became Program Director. We continue to train 12 residents annually at the Spain Rehabilitation Center. The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation received accreditation for a Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship in 1997 and graduated the first fellow in June 2000.

The Spain Rehabilitation Center celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Center in 1989 with a celebration. A reception was held in the Spain Rehabilitation Center dining room and the guest speaker was Dr. John DiTunno.

After Mr. A.C. Collier left his position as SRC Hospital Administrator, Mr. Hugh Gainer was appointed in 1982 and served until 1996 followed by Mr. Don Lilly and the present administrator, Mr. Jordan DeMoss.

In February 1989, the rheumatology service was moved to the Spain Wallace Building and the number of inpatient beds were decreased to 60 at the Spain Rehabilitation Center. In July 1989, the new addition to the Spain Rehabilitation Center was started in the east parking lot and expected completion for July 1990. Dedication for the new addition to the Spain Rehabilitation Center and the Civitan Building was held May 1991. The new addition provided growth for the Outpatient Clinic from two clinic rooms to 12 clinic rooms. It also provided additional office space, therapy space and research space.

Research gradually increased over the years at the Spain Rehabilitation Center and in 1989, the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine had research support of 2.2 million dollars and the Department of Biocommunications had support of \$500,000. Dr. J. Scott Richards was appointed Director of Research in 1987 upon the departure of long time Director of Research, Dr. Russ Fine. Dr. Richards led the research endeavors until his retirement in 2011. Dr. Candace Floyd was appointed Director of Research in 2012. She has a special interest in glial cell and neuro-recovery research which has recently opened new opportunities in the research arena. She was instrumental in the Department of PM&R receiving a \$400,000 line-item appropriation for spinal cord research in 2012 which led to the TJ Atchison Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

Dr. Stover retired as Chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in June 1994. Dr. Amie B. Jackson, who was serving as the Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation

Center, was named Interim Chair and in 1996 she was named Chair of the Department. She was also Fellowship Program Director for the Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship Program, 1997-2006 and Chief of Staff at UAB Highlands Hospital 2006-2010.

The UAB Board of Trustees approved the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine name to be changed to Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1996.

January 1998, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, in partnership with the Department of Surgery, purchased The Workplace, an occupational rehabilitation facility, housed on 11th Avenue South. The Workplace has since been relocated to the UAB Highlands facility. The Workplace not only provides services for occupational rehabilitation, on-the-job injuries but also provides physical therapy and services for physical medicine patients.

In 2002, The Mary Lewis Skilled Nursing Facility on the third floor of the Center for Psychiatric Medicine opened with ten beds. It was designed with the needs and wants of older patients and their families. Shirley Young, RN, MSN was administrator of the Facility and Dr. Kerry Maher provided care for the patients. Patients were also seen at UAB West. During 2002, the Department also sponsored the “Health for the Healer” program implemented by Sandra Frazier, MD. The program helps physicians gain personal insight into problematic behavior. The program continues to be successful at UAB under the Department of Physician Health.

In 2003, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation opened “Prosthetics South” in Mobile.

The Samuel L. Stover, MD Assistive Technology Laboratory was established and dedicated in October 2008. The lab was primarily funded by a grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation along with contributions from Spain Rehabilitation Center nurses and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The lab offers spinal cord injury patients a look at how technology can help overcome disabilities, particularly in using computers and other electronic equipment.

Dr. Robert C. Brunner, was named Medical Director of the Spain Rehabilitation Center in 2004.

In 2012, Dr. Amie B. Jackson married and her name changed to Dr. Amie B. McLain.

A “Reflection Room” is presently being built on the first floor of the Spain Rehabilitation Center and is tentative scheduled to open in the spring of 2014. The “Reflection Room” provides patients and/or families a place of quietness and meditation. Funds for the “Reflection Room” were made available by donations from the UAB Retirees Association, friends of Dr. Cecilio Nepomuceno, and Mrs. Edna Nepomuceno and family in memory of Dr. Cecilio Nepomuceno who was a physician at Spain Rehabilitation Center for 25 years.

The Spain Rehabilitation Center has grown immensely and continues to provide inpatient services in addition to numerous outpatient services. These services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, orthotics/prosthetics, wheelchair seating, clinic for women with disabilities, head injury, spinal cord injury, cancer, stroke, spasticity, neuro and clinical psychology, pain treatment, pressure ulcer, plastic surgery, , EMG, CP/spina

bifida, musculoskeletal and urology and sexual health. Our goal is to continue to serve the patient population in the areas of service, research, and teaching and to help those with physical ailments and disabilities have a more productive and comfortable life.