



inforMED

School of Medicine at UAB

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Senior Vice President &
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HOW TO...GRANTS.GOV WORKSHOP

Presented by the Office of Grants
and Contracts Administration
Monday, April 17, 2006
9:00 – 10:30
West Pavilion, Classroom E
Registration is not required

CONGRATULATIONS!

Endowed Chairs

W. Timothy Garvey was appointed to the
Charles E. Butterworth, Jr., M.D.
Professorship in Nutrition Sciences

Marca L. Sipski was appointed to the
Women's Committee of the Spain
Rehabilitation Center Endowed Chair in
Rehabilitation Neuroscience Research

Professor Emeriti Appointments

Herbert C. Cheung, Biochemistry &
Molecular Genetics

William Dismukes, Medicine

Myung-Hi Kim Oh, Pediatrics

Annual Extramural Awards Over \$200,000 1/1/03-3/31/06

Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics

Igor Chesnokov-*"The Role of Origin
Recognition Complex in the Cell Cycle"*

Medicine

Graciela Alarcon-*"Aspreva Lupus
Management Study (ALMS) Protocol No.
WX17801"*

Philip D. Bell-*"Calcium Entry Regulated
By Cilia in Polycystic Disease"*

Philip D. Bell-*"Cellular Mechanisms for
Tubuloglomerular Feedback System"*

Yiu-Fai Chen-*"ANP Modulates Cardiac
Remodeling via Cardiac Fibroblasts"*

Qiang Ding-*"The Role of FAK Related
Non-Kinase (FRNK) in Fibrosis"*

Mona Fouad-*"Community Health
Advisors in Action Program (CHAAP)"*

Kevin W. Harris-*"Breast Cancer
Microvesicles as a Novel Plasma
Biomarker and Therapeutic Target"*

Raymond E. Ideker-*"Computer Assisted
Mapping of Ventricular Fibrillation"*

Peter Komlosi-*"Paramacular Signaling to
the Juxtaglomerular Vasculature"*

Richard D. Lopez-*"Innate Anti-Breast
Cancer Activity of Gamma/Delta T-Cells:
A Novel Biological and Clinical Approach
to the Treatment of Relapsed or
Refractory Breast Cancer"*

Taking Notice

The Birmingham News recently reported that during a meeting of the Leadership Birmingham Members Association discussions focused on whether the community has taken full advantage of UAB's research enterprise as it relates to the state's economy and reputation. The community has always acknowledged and enjoyed UAB's economic influences as the state's largest employer. But it appears an outside competitor has a different appreciation of UAB's influence.

During the meeting Mike Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Research Alliance expressed envy of the various resources available in Birmingham, namely UAB. Yet, he also mentioned that the Atlanta area is enjoying \$500 million in benefits from the private-state government partnership that the Georgia Research Alliance represents in comparison to \$11 million that the Alabama Research Alliance has only been able to accumulate since its inception in 2002. Georgia's alliance has been successful in leveraging monies, recruiting eminent scholars to Georgia research universities (including my previous institution – Emory School of Medicine) and attracting new business ventures. UAB's muscle is the intellectual base. That proof is reflected in the growth of the campus boundaries, research funding, quality of the students and postdocs and outstanding patient care.

Birmingham area business leaders have taken notice and have debated the issue of how to capitalize on UAB and the city's future. In fact, business leaders are looking to fund a study to determine what a Birmingham-area research alliance could accomplish, if substantial funds are available. Governor Bob Riley is an outstanding advocate of UAB's research enterprise and is actively looking for ways to increase support. The state, the city of Birmingham and local private supporters have been generous with contributions as evidenced in the Shelby Biomedical Research Building construction.

Strategic planning initiatives at the university, SOM and Health System levels are defining the necessary measures needed to improve the education, patient care and research missions. This month, the SOM executive committee will convene during a small retreat to present the proposed implementation committee and to discuss implementation strategies, such as prioritization and funding, for each of the thirty recommendations outlined in the research strategic plan. The new chairs of Anesthesiology, Medicine, Neurobiology and Psychiatry will give presentations outlining their departmental visions and Health System leaders will update us on the progress of the Health System strategic plan. The proposed new curriculum of medical student education, scheduled for implementation in 2007, will also be discussed in detail.

Last month, I had the opportunity to present a brief version of the research strategic plan to members of the Rotary Club. I sensed in the response of many audience members, who posed excellent questions at the conclusion of my presentation and privately afterwards, genuine enthusiasm and support for what we hope to accomplish in our research mission over the next several years.

Center Updates

The UA Board of Trustees recently approved the establishment of the **Mucosal HIV and Immunobiology Center** in the Department of Medicine.

Larry W. Moreland-*"Building Infrastructure in the GCRC"*

James A. Posey, III-*"A Phase I/II Open Label Study of Capecitabine with Concurrent Radiotherapy for Patients with Locally Advanced, Unresectable Pancreatic Cancer"*

Barry K. Rayburn-*"A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase 3 Study of the Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE5) Inhibitor Tadalafil in the Treatment of Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"*

Ashita Tolwani-*"A Multi-Center, Randomized, Controlled, Double-Blind, Phase II Study to Assess Safety and Efficacy With The Renal Assist Device (RAD) in Patients With Acute Renal Failure"*

Thomas R. Unnasch-*"Ecology of Encephalitis Viruses in the USA"*

C. Mel Wilcox-*"Long-Term Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Lanzoprazole in the Treatment of Zollinger-Ellison and Other Acid Hypersecretors"*

Microbiology

John F. Kearney-*"Regulation of B Cell Clonal Diversity"*

Suzanne Michalek-*"Development of a Mucosal Vaccine Against F. Tularensis"*

Peter Prevelige-*"Biophysical Studies of HIV Assembly and Maturation"*

Neurology

Nita Limdi-*"Pharmacogenetic Optimization of Anticoagulation Therapy"*

Louis Burt Nabors-*"Post-Transcriptional Regulation Requires Phosphorylation of HuR in Gliomas"*

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Benjamin Chi-*"Evaluation of Antiretroviral Therapy Impact in Zambia"*

Jeffrey Stringer-*"Help Expand Antiretroviral Therapy for Children and Families (HEART)"*

Pathology

Joanne T. Douglas-*"Armed Replicating Ad for Breast Cancer Bone Metastasis"*

William Grizzle-*"Biomarker Reference Laboratory, EDRN"*

William Grizzle-*"Prognostic And Diagnostic Factors In Epithelial Cancers"*

Pediatrics

Craig Wilson-*"ATN Coordinating Center"*

Physiology & Biophysics

Ahsan Husain-*"The Vascular Chymase-Angiotensin II System"*

Qin Wang-*"The functional Relevance of Alpha2A - Versus Alpha2B - AR Trafficking Itineraries in Alpha2AR Modulation of CV Function"*

Psychiatry

Xiaohua Li-*"GSK3: Neural Modulators and Mood Disorders"*

With \$2.5 million in initial funding from the NIH, the center's main focus is to advance knowledge and develop strategies for combating various mucosal diseases such as HIV-1, *H. pylori* infection, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The director of the center is **Phillip Smith**. The Board has also approved changing the name of the **Center for Research in Women's Health** to the **Center for Women's Reproductive Health** to reflect women's reproductive health over the life span as well as the long term implications for their children. The center is under the direction of **John Hauth**. Congratulations Philip and John!

Kudos

UAB continues to garner national and international recognition. Without your efforts, UAB could never gain the recognition that we have seen in the past month, such as:

- the #19 position of **Best Places to Work for Postdocs** according to *The Scientist*
- the hospital's recertification as a **Magnet Hospital for Nursing Excellence** by the American Nurses Credentialing Center – one of only 17 in the Southeast
- the SOM's ranking of **22nd among America's Best**, according to *U.S. News and World Report* – its highest ranking in UAB history.
- the School of Dentistry **ranking 10th in research funding** from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research – a jump from the #19 position last year

Fund-raising Events

For those of you looking for ways to incorporate some community service into your exercise regime consider participating in some of the fund-raising activities benefiting UAB and the community. Below is a calendar of scheduled events for the month of April.

- **April 17** – Second Annual Golf Tournament – benefiting the establishment of a Comprehensive Diabetes Center. Visit <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=91497> for more information.
- **April 22** – Alabama Kidney Foundation Annual Walk – benefiting kidney disease research and treatment. Contact Norma Stewart (normag@uab.edu or 934-3589) for more information.
- **April 28** - Eighth Annual Sporting Clays Classic - benefiting the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Visit www3.ccc.uab.edu for more information.
- **April 29** – March of Dime WalkAmerica – benefiting research and clinical programs at UAB and elsewhere aimed at fighting infant prematurity in Alabama and across America. Visit www.walkamerica.org for more information.