**Director’s Comments**

William P. Vaughan, M.D., MBA  
Director, Bone Marrow Transplantation Program

In this issue we will emphasize some of the projects and directions underway which will allow the UAB BMT Program to continue to grow in the challenging times that lie ahead. During the past 5 years the total number of Blood and Marrow Transplants performed in the US and Canada have fallen dramatically. This decrease is seen in both autologous and allogeneic transplants. Major centers have seen their numbers fall by 1/3 or more.

The reasons for the decline are many, including the decline in transplants done for breast cancer non-hodgkin lymphoma and chronic myeloid leukemia, as well as pressure from third party payers to avoid high-risk transplants in order to achieve benchmark outcomes.

During this time the UAB BMT program has continued to grow. We are now one of only 7 programs in the country doing more than 100 transplants per year. Our growth has resulted from several strategic decisions. First, was our emphasis on building allogeneic transplant expertise including matched unrelated, partially matched family member and cord blood transplants. Second, was our commitment to expand our capability to full service in Pediatric transplantation. The third major reason has been our commitment to leadership participation in the evolution

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**Best Abstract & Poster Award**

Daniel H. Gardner  
Information Systems Specialist-II

The UAB BMT Program's presentation at the ASBMT Tandem Meeting in Orlando, Florida in February--A quality-controlled real-time, single-entry, BMT

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of the science and practice of marrow transplantation.

We were one of the first centers in the country to go completely to peripheral blood source for matched related donor allogeneic transplantation. We were one of 3 centers involved in the early development of intravenous busulfan as a substitute for the less reliable and more difficult to administer oral form. We have led the way in developing pharmacokinetics directed therapy to reduce the toxicity of preparative regimens without the consequence of increased relapse rates.

Expanding our research activities, recruiting new faculty and continuing to improve the quality, efficiency, and humanity of our patient care are underway to insure that our program will remain certified by every major payer, continue to meet all of the marrow transplant needs of all the patients in our region, and continue to be recognized by our peers as a top ten center in quality and innovation as well as volume.

Best Abstract & Poster Continued from page 1

clinical data system with multiple outputs capability--was voted “Best Abstract & Poster” for the Data Management section. The presentation included enlarged copies of system forms & reports (with sample data and system processes) as well as a description and an explanation of the system’s benefits.

This data system has made possible the efficient collection and output of clinical data for chart documentation; registry, regulatory and managed care reporting; and as a foundation for research.

Dan Reports:
“It was my pleasure to represent our work, and hope to have similar opportunities (in this & other ways) in the future.”

“My thanks to all in the BMT Program for their contribution to the development of these systems over the past few years. It is my hope to be able to continue this development--with ever-increasing scope & ease of use in the time to come.”

Research

UAB Bone Marrow Transplant physician Kenneth Lucas has initiated a new study for patients with relapsed or chemotherapy refractory Hodgkin’s disease. This study, “A Phase I Pilot Trial to Evaluate the Toxicity of Epstein Barr Virus Specific T-Lymphocytes for the Treatment of Relapsed/Refractory Hodgkin’s Disease”, takes advantage of the fact that approximately 50% of all cases of Hodgkin’s disease are positive for the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV). Patients with tumors that are positive for EBV can receive EBV-specific cytotoxic T-lymphocytes (CTL) from HLA matched or partially matched donors. Individuals enrolled on this study are typically those who have relapsed after an autologous stem cell transplant, or who cannot receive further intensive therapy for their disease.

For further information please contact Dr. Ken Lucas at 205-975-7412.
It looks like 2002 is already a very busy year for the Bone Marrow Transplantation Team. On February 14th of this year the Life South National Donor Day was held in an attempt to increase donor awareness and donor recruitment for the National Registry. Many new donors were found including: Jeanie McKay, Janet Broome and myself.

In addition, on March 9th Team Alabama walked to raise money for the upcoming Transplant Olympics that will be held in Orlando, Florida in June 2002. Our Unit has committed to raise $1,000 for the upcoming games. Donor awareness and Transplant fund raising are only a few of the many ways our people demonstrate their commitment to providing life saving service to others.

In May 2002, Diana Tate, a UAB 10-year BMT survivor, who has come back to work as a BMT outpatient nurse, will be feted as one of 4 outstanding BMT nurses at the Oncology Nursing Society National Meeting in Washington D.C. Congratulations Diana!

Wendy

New Telephone Voice Menu

The Bone Marrow Transplantation Program went to a new voice menu effective March 29, 2002. The (205) 934-1908 main line now allows you the opportunity to select the physician, nurse coordinator, BMT unit, or the BMT administrative office. This new system eliminates the need to transfer your call and saves time. When you dial the main line you will be given the following options:

- Option –1 BMT Inpatient/Outpatient Unit
- Option –2 BMT Consultation/Nurse Coordinators
- Option –3 BMT Physicians/Administration

The pleasant voice you will hear is our very own Gloria Coleman (Office Associate – II)
Referring Physicians

We are very grateful to all of our referring physicians. We appreciate their trust and confidence and pledge to always provide the highest quality of care to their patients. In addition, we are ready to provide information on new medical procedures, research protocols, and CME opportunities. Also, referring physicians and health professionals can call the medical information service 24-hours a day, 7-days a week for consultations, and information.

Nationwide
1-800-UAB-MIST
(1-800-822-6478)
Birmingham Metropolitan Area
934-6478

A trained health-services representative will route your call to the appropriate UAB physician or other health-care specialist.

Bone Marrow Transplantation Program
http://www.health.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=22806

Adult referrals (205) 934-1908
Janet Broome, RN (Senior Coordinator)
Wendy McCay, RN (Coordinator)
or
(Ask to speak to the Physician directly)
Dr. William Vaughan Dr. Donna Salzman
Dr. Richard Lopez Dr. Alejandro Garcia

Pediatric referrals (205) 939-8925
Kathy Langley, RN (Coordinator)
or
(Call Pediatric BMT unit at (205) 936-9373 and page the attending MD on call)
http://www.chsys.org
(select specialties, then Lowder Stem Cell Transplant unit)

Questions or Comments?
Please send your questions or comments regarding this newsletter to Rick Carroll email: rcarroll@uabmc.edu

Future Issues

July 2002
Meet Dr. Alejandro Garcia

Research Activities
(Melissa Shackelford, RN, BSN, MPPM)