INTRODUCTION
The Best Minds Create the Best Medicine

It’s a simple fact, yet a powerful one. To bring the best medicine to the people of Alabama, health care leaders joined academic leaders. It was a case of great minds thinking alike. They shared their experience, their insights, and a commitment to use their expertise to work toward a healthy, hopeful future.

The result is the UAB Health System. A partnership of knowledge and compassion, of great minds and great medicine. A partnership for life.

Dear Reader:
You are about to read a success story. In just a few years, the UAB Health System has brought new life to health care and to our community. In doing so, we have changed countless lives for the better.

During our first five years, we provided hundreds of thousands of patients with superior personal care. We boosted the economy by reinvesting net revenues from patient visits in purchases, construction, and more. Our renowned research initiatives led the way to groundbreaking treatments. Finally, we cared for communities across Alabama through charity care worth $257,482,000.

This year, thanks to the enormous efforts of our valued physicians and health professionals, we plan to do even better. I invite you to learn more about our many contributions and how they can change your life for the better. We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

David J. Fine
Chief Executive Officer
UAB Health System

Carol Z. Garrison, Ph.D.
President
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Chairman
UAB Health System Board of Directors
University Hospital is a nationally known 908-bed teaching hospital, Alabama’s major tertiary care facility and the centerpiece of the UAB Medical Center.

The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C., is a nonprofit closed-group physician practice. Today it includes more than 700 physicians offering clinical and research services in more than 30 specialties and over 30 centers of excellence.

VIVA HEALTH is a health management organization providing care to members through a statewide network of physicians and hospitals. VIVA HEALTH has demonstrated positive financial results for every quarter since December 1999. These results are likely to continue as VIVA HEALTH focuses on the health insurance needs of UAB employees and their families and the Medicare Choice program.

I.M. Pei, The Kirklin Clinic® Designed by noted architect I.M. Pei, The Kirklin Clinic® consolidates all aspects of outpatient care for more than 30 medical specialties.

The Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital is the only specialty hospital in Alabama entirely dedicated to advancements in ophthalmology.

The University of Alabama Hospital in Alabama is entirely dedicated to advancements in health care. The Callahan Eye Foundation is a nonprofit alliance promoting closer cooperation between the two partners.

Two Partners, One Vision

What is the UAB Health System? It’s proof that cooperation and collaboration bring immeasurable rewards.

In 1996, the UAB Health System was created in a joint operating agreement between the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF). Both entities already shared a history of close collaboration and a long tradition of innovation and community service. By joining forces organizationally, these entities leveraged their ability to share knowledge and combine resources to dramatically expand their services— and their horizons — to impact lives.

Today the UAB Health System is a strong, comprehensive network of care reaching every part of Alabama. Dedicated to developing and providing high-quality, innovative health care, the UAB Health System’s renowned physicians and facilities offer a complete range of primary and specialty services attracting patients from around the world. A network of this magnitude involves vast numbers of people, buildings, diagnostic and therapeutic technology and more. But one of the UAB Health System’s greatest assets is its people, including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and some of the nation’s finest clinicians.

The UAB Health System is the nation’s leading academic health care provider. The University of Alabama at Birmingham, together with UAB, is a member of the UAB Health System, an organization that brings together all the resources of the University of Alabama System. By leveraging their ability to share knowledge, combine resources and expand services, the University of Alabama System, through the UAB Health System, is an example of the power of an academic health care provider in attracting patients from around the world, improving health care delivery and bringing new treatments and therapies to patients and communities.

MAKING MEDICAL HISTORY

1945 The School of Medicine moves from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, creating the University of Alabama Medical Center.

1969 UAB becomes an autonomous institution within the University of Alabama System.

1973 The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation is established as a not-for-profit professional corporation.

1977 Russell Ambulatory Clinic opens, consolidating UAB and UAHSF outpatient services.

1981 UAB and UAHSF sign an affiliation agreement.

1986 UAB and UAHSF make a commitment to build a primary care clinic. UAHSF participates in the founding of Complete Health HMO.

1992 The UAB/UAHSF primary care facility, The Kirklin Clinic®, named for pioneering heart surgeon John Kirklin, M.D., opens. Complete Health is sold, and the resulting funds create an endowment producing $6-10 million per year for research.

1996 The UAB Health System is founded with a joint operating agreement between the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and the UAHSF.

1997 VIVA HEALTH joins the UAB Health System. The Eye Foundation Hospital, later renamed for its founder, Alston Callahan, M.D., joins the UAB Health System.

2000 Ground is broken for a new University Hospital facility, launching a major replacement and renovation project.

The UAB Health System sets an institutional goal of assisting School of Medicine efforts to join the nation’s top 10 NIH-funded academic health centers.

2001 The UAB Health System and the Children’s Health System establish CWH, a nonprofit alliance promoting closer cooperation between the two partners.

2002 The Kirklin Clinic® at Acton Road opens, expanding UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center services and other specialty care to Birmingham’s southern suburbs.

UAB Medical West is established when the UAB Health System and Bessmer Carraway Medical Center sign an agreement bringing the community hospital under UAB management.

2004 The new University Hospital is scheduled for completion.
System’s major achievements is its ability to conduct all its activities based on six strategic imperatives:

- Achieve the highest quality workforce.
- Align systems and stakeholders.
- Enhance the quality of service.
- Improve competitive position.
- Promote healthy communities.
- Support premier education and research.

These imperatives drive programs and services throughout the system, constantly building it into something even better. With that in mind, it’s no wonder that today the UAB Health System is the provider Alabamians turn to for world-class care.

Top 10 By 2010

With all its success, the UAB Health System is not content to stand still. In 2000, its leaders welcomed a new era in health care with a bold challenge—to help the School of Medicine at UAB join the nation’s top 10 academic health centers in funding received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Currently UAB is 16th, but the NIH already ranks several individual departments among America’s top 10.

The rewards of meeting this ambitious objective are priceless. By strengthening clinical and research activities, the UAB Health System will be able to recruit renowned faculty and specialists, enhance its already vast pool of knowledge, and obtain additional funding to work on developing new treatments and cures. But the ultimate winner is the patient, who will directly benefit from the additional expertise and medical breakthroughs that will result.
Mindpower = Medicine

The UAB Health System brings together physicians and scientists, research and practice, expertise and compassion. It is a constant collaboration that creates powerhouses of ingenuity—internationally recognized programs and services that help translate the most promising advances in care from bench to bedside.

While each innovation is revolutionary, one of the most unusual seems like pure magic. With the wave of a high-tech wand, physicians may soon be able to monitor patient heart activity online. UAB was one of the first 10 medical centers to use the technology in a recent clinical trial conducted by the UAB Division of Cardiovascular Disease.

Known as the Chronicle, the device includes a small implant in the patient’s chest to monitor various physiological data such as heart rate and intracardiac pressures, a major indicator of abnormal heart function. When the patient moves the computerized wand over the implant, it captures the data and transmits it to the physician via the patient’s phone line and the Internet. Because the device delivers valuable information in real time, specialists can continuously monitor patients at home, react immediately to changes, and adjust medications before hospitalization is necessary.

In heart care and countless other fields, the UAB Health System helps turn scientific data into solutions as exciting as the Chronicle. It’s no easy trick. But it’s a process with the power to transform lives through one-of-a-kind care.

One of the newest advances in diabetes treatment may soon become one of the most important. UAB transplant immunologist Judith Thomas, Ph.D., has developed a method of temporarily returning the immune system to an immature state—like that of a newborn baby—allowing time for transplanted pancreatic islet cells to “heal in” without danger of rejection. When the immune system returns to full strength, it doesn’t recognize the new cells as foreign tissue. Thomas’s approach could prove to be an effective “cure” for type 1 diabetes.

In the UAB interdisciplinary prostate and breast cancer clinics, patients can discuss their options with oncologists, surgeons, radiation specialists, and other experts. These and nearly every other UAB program bring together teams of physicians to pool their unique knowledge and work together on diagnoses and treatments. The benefit for patients is more advanced care and more comprehensive treatment.

The Core Of Cutting Edge

The UAB Health System’s core funds help support programs and services with the potential to gain national prominence. By funding growth in specific areas, the entire system reaps the benefits of added prestige and patients. Currently, core funds are invested in cardiovascular care, neuroservices, women’s services, oncology, industrial medicine, dermatology, and the transplant center.
The Cycle Of Success

Blending the best minds in medicine with an academic setting creates an environment ripe for research and discovery. Scientific study is a crucial element of the UAB Health System’s success because it not only brings immeasurable benefits to patients, but it also helps the institution make great strides toward its goals.

To efficiently harness the power of ideas and realize their full value, the UAB Health System follows a model known as the “research-revenue cycle.” As shown here, the cycle begins as research projects at UAB generate respect within the scientific community and public interest through the news media. That attention brings new patients to the UAB Health System, which increases revenues, and attracts eminent clinicians and researchers who are instrumental in obtaining funding from the federal government and industry. The new revenue and funding support is then invested in new research projects, which launch the cycle’s next round.

The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center has received three prestigious grants from the National Cancer Institute that illustrate how the research-revenue cycle works to UAB’s advantage. In this case, the cycle began with the Cancer Center, recognized as a leader in developing new methods of preventing, diagnosing, and treating the disease in all its forms. The center’s tradition of translational research was the crucial factor that attracted internationally known specialists to join its faculty. In turn, the presence of this strong team of experts encouraged the National Cancer Institute to present the three Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grants to UAB.

The highly competitive SPORE grants support research with the promise and potential to make an immediate impact on cancer incidence and mortality. Today UAB is the only institution in the nation with SPORE grants for both ovarian cancer and breast cancer, making the university a national leader in women’s cancer research and treatment. UAB recently received a third SPORE grant for brain tumor research, one of just two awarded nationwide. Only two other institutions—Johns Hopkins University and MD Anderson Cancer Center—have received more SPORE grants than UAB.

The $34.5 million infusion of funding from the three grants is already accelerating the research-revenue cycle, sparking new research in chemoprevention, gene therapy, mechanisms of hormonal resistance, targeted immunotherapy, oncogenes, and pretargeting radioimmunotherapy. In addition, this research will continue to attract more cancer experts and, as the cycle continues, more patients to UAB.

The momentum driving the research-revenue cycle is making UAB one of the nation’s premier institutions for women’s cancer and brain tumor research. But the cycle’s greatest reward will be a brighter, healthier future for families everywhere.
Seeing the Future Of Care Today

The UAB Health System also plays a vital role in jumpstarting research through the UAHSF general endowment. Created by the sale of the Complete Health HMO in 1994, the endowment contributes several million dollars each year for a broad range of faculty research and clinical initiatives.

In fact, the UAHSF general endowment fund recently awarded $1,970,622 to support research, medical education, and clinical initiatives. In addition, the fund committed $500,000 to a new initiative, the Scholar Award Program, which provides $100,000 grants for exceptional faculty recruits considering UAB.

The futuristic Clinical Imaging Management System (CIMS) is an endowment fund success story. Developed jointly by the UAB Health System and Emageon Inc. with support from the endowment fund, CIMS is a Java-based system that allows digital medical images to be archived and sent to any clinician’s desktop computer. Physicians in the Clinical Neurosciences Service are already using the time- and money-saving CIMS, and it may eventually be utilized throughout the UAB Health System to help distribute important information.

Because CIMS will play such an important role in melding information technology with compassionate health care, it has become part of the Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. In addition, the UAB Health System was nominated for the Computerworld Smithsonian Award for the development of CIMS.

Putting Science To Work

UAB Health System staff are the crucial link in bringing the benefits of discovery to the patient’s bedside. As part of the systemwide performance improvement strategy, all UAB medical professionals are empowered to use innovations in care to develop and expand programs, drive efficiency, and improve clinical quality and effectiveness.

■ Rheumatology— UAB led clinical trials of a new treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. Clinical trials are under way on innovative drugs that have the potential to inhibit the inflammation that leads to the disease.

■ Gastroenterology— Monoclonal antibodies are being used to block chemical reactions that cause inflammatory bowel disease.

■ Ophthalmology— The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama is awarding $3 million or more in grants to UAB each year to support advances in eye-related research, education, and patient care.

■ Radiation Oncology— UAB is the principal investigator for 29 sites on a project to develop better therapy for head and neck cancer.

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Breakthrough Care

From the Ground Up

In the summer of 2000, UAB broke ground on the new University Hospital. But even before construction began, the extraordinary building was breaking new ground in health care.

It’s one of the first medical facilities in the country to be designed by physicians, nurses, and other caregivers working in collaboration with project architects. Over thousands of hours, UAB faculty and staff traded white coats for blueprints and shared their unique insights on the ways that floor plans, technology, and even furniture can affect patient care. The result will be no ordinary hospital.

When it opens in 2004, the new facility will seamlessly blend the most advanced care with maximum patient comfort— and literally take UAB’s capabilities to new levels. Each of its nine stories is designed as a “platform of care,” housing the most common diagnostic and treatment services a patient might need on one floor. This revolutionary layout means patients may not have to be transported to different floors to get the care they need, reducing stress and enhancing their sense of security. And because the new arrangement improves the efficiency of patient flow, operations, and cost of care, it also offers important benefits to caregivers.

The new University Hospital will continue to attract the renowned clinicians and staff and support the research and educational initiatives that place UAB among America’s leading academic health centers. But more importantly, building the new facility will build new hope for patients, for all Alabamians, and for the future of health care.

New space and technologies create new opportunities. Here are just a few of the exciting innovations designed for the new University Hospital:

- Diagnostic and treatment spaces will cluster near patients to simplify delivery of care.
- Spacious operating suites with flexible designs can be rearranged to accommodate medical technologies of today and tomorrow, including robot-assisted surgery.
- The building’s heavy concrete frame will be able to support the largest MRI magnets.
- A greatly expanded emergency department will feature triage areas, dedicated elevators to the heliport, and bedside computers for instant registration and lab results.
- Most intensive care units will feature comfortable private rooms for patients and families.

UAB’s Next Great Advance

In Care

- Space: 850,000 square feet
- Facilities: Emergency Services, Surgery Units, Imaging Units, Intensive Care and Acute Care Units (192 Beds), Support Services, Heliport, Skybridge Access to Entire Medical Center
- Cost: $275 Million
- Opening: 2004
Innovation Everywhere

Operating rooms and research centers aren’t the only places where dedicated professionals make advances that touch lives. From billing offices to boardrooms, thousands of UAB Health System employees search constantly for ways to make the patient experience as simple and convenient as possible.

Recent improvements have affected every aspect of health care delivery. Computer upgrades speed information processing. More efficient methods of purchasing and maintaining equipment help lower costs. Patient access is easier than ever. Today staff at all levels are better trained, and new customer service initiatives are under way. And that’s just the beginning. The UAB Health System has achieved so much so fast due to the spirit of cooperation. In much the same way that UAB specialists work together, the Health System’s diverse units collaborate to devise the best, most creative solutions for specific needs.

As a result of this commitment to constantly improve, the UAB Health System is making a positive impact among consumers. In recent MedTrax opinion surveys, Birmingham-area residents ranked UAB the best hospital overall and the hospital with the best doctors. Consumers also named UAB the health care provider with the most advanced technology and ranked it best for primary and outpatient care. UAB also earned the highest marks for cancer, heart, and neurology care. The Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital at UAB was rated best for eye care. Rankings such as these attract distinguished faculty, research support, new patients, and new prestige to the university.

The Management Services Organization (MSO) brings together all business functions related to patient appointments and billing. The creation of this specialized unit increases efficiency and gives patients one convenient point of contact for information, answers, and important services. The University HealthSystem Consortium selected the MSO as a case study for excellence in fee-entry, coding, billing, and collection processes, calling it one of two “better performers” in professional billing among 30 participating institutions.
The Rewards That Matter

The many partnerships within the UAB Health System—between UAB and the UAHSF, among departments, divisions, faculty, and staff serve as an engine of ingenuity. Exciting ideas and medical advances are born here, propelling UAB to national prominence and new benchmarks in care, which in turn attract new patients and eminent physicians. The future of health care for the people of Alabama has never been more promising, and for UAB Health System employees, it’s a reward for a job well done.

In less than a decade, The Kirklin Clinic® has become Alabama’s premier center of specialty outpatient care, averaging more than 400,000 patient encounters each year. In its first survey by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, The Kirklin Clinic® received an outstanding score of 97. The facility offers services in over 30 specialties and houses more than 700 physicians and 1,200 nonphysician employees.

Recently University Hospital was the only academic hospital in Alabama listed among the 100 Top Hospitals for Cardiovascular Services (HCIA-Sachs). In the same year, it also was the only Birmingham hospital to win the Consumer Choice Award for Cardiovascular Services (National Research Corporation).

University Hospital received the Alabama Quality Award, which is based on Malcolm Baldrige’s national quality criteria of customer commitment, innovation, reliability, and sensitivity to employees and the community.

The American Nurses Association named University Hospital a “nursing center of excellence” and awarded it the elite Magnet hospital certification. UAB is the first and only hospital in Alabama and one of only three in the Southeast to earn the Magnet designation, awarded to fewer than 50 of 5,500 hospitals nationwide.

University Hospital continues to bring home prestigious honors for its quality patient care. For the past three years, it has been the only Birmingham hospital to win the Consumer Choice Award (National Research Corporation). The most recent winners—122 hospitals nationwide—were announced in Modern Healthcare magazine.
ACHIEVEMENTS

The Alabama Productivity Center honored University Hospital with its Award of Excellence in Continuous Productivity and Quality Improvement. The award recognizes health care organizations committed to ongoing quality improvement in leadership, strategic planning, and patient and employee satisfaction.

The UAB Center for AIDS Research was recently rated the best in the nation by peer review. Its scientists were responsible for the monumental discovery of the origin of HIV-1, which is shedding new light on current research to develop new methods of preventing and treating the disease.

The most recent edition of The Best Doctors in America includes 167 UAB physicians in virtually every specialty, representing 24 percent of the full-time UAB medical faculty.

The kidney transplant program is ranked among the two largest in the nation by the United Network of Organ Sharing, with more than 6,000 transplants performed. Other milestones include up to 900 liver transplants, more than 600 heart transplants, over 200 lung transplants, and more than 20 heart/lung transplants. For extrarenal transplants (including heart, lung, liver, and pancreas transplants), UAB routinely ranks in the upper echelon of transplant centers internationally.

A Healthy Prognosis

The outlook for health care in Alabama has never looked better. With unique people and programs, knowledge, and compassion, the UAB Health System continues to strengthen the bonds between patient and doctor, between health care and hope. It’s a true partnership for life.
The success story of the UAB Health System's first five years is an inspiring one. Now you can help write the next chapter.

With your private philanthropic support and gifts of your volunteer time, you can become a partner in the UAB Health System's award-winning medicine that touches the world. An investment in UAB provides you, your family, and the community with new facilities, new conveniences and services, and new technologies that will help UAB continue as the area's first choice for health care— and impact the lives of all Alabamians. To become a UAB Health System partner, please call 205.975.0838 or visit www.uab.edu today.