UAB Endocrinology And Lipid Clinics Join Forces

Combining UAB’s Lipid and Endocrinology Clinics allows endocrinologists Fernando Ovalle, MD, and Richard Rosenthal, MD, to offer comprehensive care for patients with diabetes, hypoglycemia, thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, and gonadal disorders, bone and calcium problems, and complex lipid abnormalities.

For 18 years, cholesterol expert and Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry Jere Segrest, MD, PhD, directed the Lipid Clinic, most often focusing on patients with complex and difficult-to-treat disorders. Albert Oberman, MD, professor of preventive medicine, also evaluated and treated these patients until his retirement last summer.

Dr. Segrest ended full-time involvement with the clinic to concentrate on directing the Center for Structural and Computational Biology, which began operation last November. He is no longer seeing patients, but is attending Thurs-

day morning clinic conferences to discuss individual cases and offer advice. “When Dr. Segrest decided to devote more time to the new center, it made sense for us to see his patients, since many individuals with lipid abnormalities have coexisting diabetes, obesity, or metabolic syndrome — all conditions we have experience managing,” Dr. Rosenthal says. “Patients get comprehensive treatment for the cluster of disorders that often accompany endocrine and lipid abnormalities and can still benefit from Dr. Segrest’s expertise.”

Patients who are not reaching recommended cholesterol or triglyceride goals and those who cannot tolerate lipid-lowering medications may benefit from evaluation in the clinic, Dr. Rosenthal says. “While statins remain the mainstay of cholesterol treatment, some newer agents make tighter control possible. The July 2004 update to the National Cholesterol Education Program’s ATP III guidelines suggests reducing LDL cholesterol to less than 70 mg/dL is an option for very high-risk patients — those who have had a recent heart attack, cardiovascular disease combined with either diabetes, severe or poorly controlled risk factors (such as continued smoking), or...
the metabolic syndrome. Drugs such as ezetimibe and colesuevelam make this an attainable goal for some patients who need aggressive control."

The Endocrinology/Lipid Clinic meets on the first and third Thursdays each month on the fourth floor of The Kirklin Clinic®. “Sometimes physicians may feel a patient’s therapy is ‘stuck,’ and we’re available for consultation in those cases,” Dr. Rosenthal says. “Physicians can refer patients to us for evaluation and are also welcome to present cases at our Thursday morning conferences.”

Physicians interested in attending a morning conference should e-mail Dr. Rosenthal at rrosenth@uabmc.edu.

OUTPATIENT THERAPY PLAN
OF CARE FORMS

GO ON CAREFLOWNET

Beginning May 1, Outpatient Therapy Plan of Care forms for Medicare patients will be transcribed into IPV/Horizon for physicians to sign electronically. Medicare requires these forms for all Medicare recipients receiving outpatient physical, occupational, or speech therapy at the time of initial evaluation and every 30 days thereafter. Currently, this requirement is fulfilled by faxing the Medicare 700 or 701 form to the physician for signature and then having the physician’s office fax it back to the therapy office — a procedure time-intensive for both the therapy and physician’s office staff.

In the new procedure, the Plan of Care will appear in the referring physician’s queue as “Work type: REHAB (PT, OT, or SLP) MEDICARE.” All that is required of the physician is to pull up the document, review the plan, and sign it electronically. Once signed, the document will automatically print in the therapy office.

PLEASE NOTE: In order for the therapy staff to route the form to the correct physician, it is important that the signature on the referral or prescription be legible. Please print your name under the signature.

IN THE NEWS

Alternative MBA Program Track For Scientists, Engineers

UAB is accepting applications for the new MBA for Scientists Program, an alternative offered by UAB’s School of Business. Deadline for application is May 1.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in the next 5 years, the need for scientists and engineers with advanced business degrees will grow 10% to 20%. In addition, thousands of scientists will endeavor to take their discoveries from the laboratory to the marketplace through entrepreneurial ventures.

To help fill this need, the School of Business established the specialized fast track, full-time, 1-year MBA program for persons with master or doctoral degrees in science-based disciplines. In addition to traditional MBA courses, students receive instruction in technology commercialization, intellectual property management, marketing and scientific due diligence, negotiation, and technology-based entrepreneurship.

FRUSTRATING

The program began as collaboration between the School of Business and Lisa Schwiebert, PhD, director of UAB’s graduate program in physiology and biophysics. “During the 6 years I have directed the graduate program, I have had to tell students relating to me their interest in business courses that concurrent education would distract from physiology training,” Dr. Schwiebert, associate professor of physiology and biophysics and liaison for the program, says. “This has been frustrating. One of my students who tried to juggle the dual curricula found it almost too much to handle.”

To address student desire for business education, Dr. Schwiebert proposed the program idea to UAB School of Business Dean Robert Holmes, PhD, who saw its benefits. “A high percentage of the alumnae from the graduate programs in joint health sciences, as well as engineering graduates, pursue careers in pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms,” Dr. Holmes says. “The alternative MBA program track will provide them with knowledge about business, finance, and management important to career success. The combination of a graduate degree in science, engineering, or another scientific field and a MBA is powerful. It will give these UAB graduates a competitive edge for the future.”

Dr. Holmes notes other universities offer MBA degrees to students in science-related fields through dual-degree programs in which students receive their training simultaneously. UAB’s program is different because students take the course in lock-step fashion after completion of the advanced science degree.
They move through the program in a **peer-group** surrounded by others with advanced degrees in science-related fields.

For more information, contact program faculty director Doug Ayers, PhD, in the School of Business, 205-934-8856 or days@uab.edu.

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**Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama Celebrates 10th Anniversary**

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama announces its 10th Anniversary Celebration: “Legacy of Survival & Courage.” The celebration and fundraiser kick off on May 1, with the Pink Ribbon Tee Party and Auction at Vestavia Country Club. Auction items will include trips, sports memorabilia, artwork, jewelry, and other items.

On Monday, May 2, the 10th Annual Drive Out Breast Cancer LPGA Pro-Am Golf Tournament will be held at Vestavia Country Club.

Since its inception in 1996, the foundation has raised more than $1.5 million for breast cancer research and has helped fund the DD Sokol and Tade Thuston Breast Cancer Research Labs at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. “The foundation board and its volunteers, many of whom have battled breast cancer, have galvanized their resources in the ongoing effort to finding a cure,” says Dolly O’Neal, foundation president.

This year’s sponsors include Merrill Lynch, Milo’s, Integrated Medical Systems, Colonial Properties Trust, CRC Insurance, EBSCO Media, Southern Living At HOME, Advantage Golf, Baker Donelson Law Firm, and Luckie and Co. Advertising. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, participating in the LPGA Pro-AM Golf Tournament, or donating, call (205) 871-GOLF or visit http://www.bcrfa.org.

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**School Of Medicine Among Nation’s Best — Again**

Five medical specialties at UAB are ranked in the top 20 nationally by the magazine: AIDS, 4th (up one ranking); women’s health, 8th; internal medicine 18th (up one ranking); geriatrics, 19th; and pediatrics, 19th. The school’s primary care program was 34th, up four spots.

Two programs in the School of Health Related Professions are included; the master’s degree program in health services administration ranks 10th, and the master’s program in physical therapy is 25th. The School of Engineering’s biomedical engineering program is 40th. Doctoral programs in the biological sciences are in the top 50.

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**Novak Joins Pathology**

UAB Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology Jay M. McDonald, MD, announces the appointment of Lea Novak, MD, as assistant professor with special interest and expertise in gynecologic pathology.

Dr. Novak graduated with honors from Charles University Medical School in Prague, Czech Republic, and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Thomayer Hospital in Prague. Before joining the faculty, she completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at UAB, as well as a surgical/renal pathology fellowship and had training experience in gynecologic pathology at Duke University in North Carolina, under the direction of Dr. Stanley Robboy.

Dr. Novak is interested in **laser confocal microscopy**, and her current research focuses on glomerular immune complexes in IgA nephropathy.

She can be reached at 934-6031 or by e-mail at novak@uab.edu.

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**HOSPITAL ON-CALL CHAPLAIN VIA PAGING**

Thomas T. Patterson, MRE, BCC, director of University Hospital’s Department of Pastoral Care asks hospital staff to contact the on-call chaplain through UAB paging when an emergency, urgent, or time-sensitive chaplain consult or referral is needed.

The Department of Pastoral Care continues to receive PIN requests marked urgent. PIN requests are printed by the Pastoral Care Office and responded to within 24 hours. While a chaplain is in the hospital at all times, the office is not staffed 24 hours a day; the on-call chaplain is available via paging. Please add a text message on M00568: Page on-call chaplain for all urgent referrals at beeper #7973.

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**CONSUMERS CAN GRADE THEIR HEALTH CARE**

Health Grades, Inc., is launching its nationwide Web site, **Compare YourCare**, aimed at engaging consumers in improving the quality of their health care. The interactive site poses questions to patients about recent physician visits and then offers a “grade” of care based on the data related to established treatment guidelines. Industry and insurance companies also can use the product to assess care.

[www.CompareYourCare.org](http://www.CompareYourCare.org)

To access a **Synopsis** article from the last 2 years, visit our Web site at [www.health.uab.edu/synopsis](http://www.health.uab.edu/synopsis). You can search by date or subject in the left sidebar.

UAB physicians: visit MSI, the password-protected Medical Staff intranet site, at [https://horizon.hs.uab.edu](https://horizon.hs.uab.edu).
ACLS/BCLS Recertification

University Hospital requires that every resident maintain current certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) throughout residency training. Courses for residents are scheduled throughout the year. Enrollment is limited, so those whose certification expires soon should register now to guarantee a slot for the course they need.

If your Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) certification has expired, you must take a recertification course before the ACLS provider course. If your ACLS certification has been expired for more than 60 days, you must take the 2-day ACLS Provider Course.

Course fees for certification or recertification are covered by the hospital. For specific details on the courses or to register, call Jacasta Wright in the Graduate Medical Education Department, 934-4793.

Phone-free Paging

The UAB Call Center offers automatically paging from your desktop. The Call Center Smart Web interface, www.ccweb.uab.edu, provides UAB and University Hospital employees with access to direct paging of both alpha and numeric pagers without operator assistance.

To place a page, enter the person’s name or title. If you do not know the person’s full name, the site offers a searchable database, using the % key as a wildcard for unknown letters or names. From the list supplied, click on the person’s pager icon and a paging screen will appear. You may check the paging status of the person before sending the message.

To send a message, select the click to type message icon, which pulls up a numeric or alphanumeric message screen. Enter the appropriate message and click send.

Internet pages can be sent to both UAB inhouse pagers and nonUAB pagers listed within the Call Center database. The site offers the ability to automatically page groups, including staff with varied types of paging devices. The system automatically updates associated paging groups as an adjunct to the on-call scheduling database and maintains archives for historical and confirmation purposes.

For more information, contact the UAB Call Center at 934-4607.