LUPTON FELLOW

UAB’s Department of Pathology has named School of Medicine student Nicole Mims the 2004 Lupton Fellow. The postgraduate year fellowship offers experience in both clinical and anatomic pathology. Once she completes her fellowship, Mims will return for third-year medical studies.

After graduating from Huntsville’s Grissom High School, Mims was accepted into the School of Medicine’s Early Medical School Acceptance Program, where she began medical studies following completion of a BA degree in philosophy at UAB.

“The fellowship has given me the opportunity to acquire clinical experience and to gain knowledge and exposure to pathology,” says Mims, who feels the fellowship has enhanced her preparation for the final years of medical school. In the future, she plans to pursue a career in pathology because she enjoys the academics, as well as the precision, pathology offers.

The Department of Pathology is excited about the experience each Lupton Fellow receives in academic and clinical aspects of pathology, according to C. Bruce Alexander, MD, professor and vice chair of pathology and director of the pathology residency program.

Charles Lupton, Jr., MD, for whom the fellowship is named, served as chairman of the department for 14 years before retiring in 1982. He died in August 2000.

SNAPSHOT

January is Cervical Cancer Screening and Cervical Health Awareness Month. In Alabama, 88.2% of women aged 18 years and older report having had a Pap test within the past 3 years. At a rate of 92.2%, black non-Hispanic women have the highest rate of cervical cancer screening in Alabama, higher than the national rates.

WOMEN REPORTING A PAP TEST WITHIN THE PAST 3 YEARS, BY RACE, AL AND US, 2002

Source: Alabama Cancer Facts and Figures, 2004
Prepared by the UABHS Department of Strategic Planning

Kirklin Reappointed Editor In Chief

James K. Kirklin, MD, UAB professor of surgery and director of cardiothoracic transplantation, has been reappointed by the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation to a second 5-year term as editor in chief of the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation. The

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monthly journal is dedicated to the science and treatment of advanced heart and lung failure. Among Dr. Kirklin’s accomplishments at the journal:

- During his first term as editor in chief, the journal moved to a totally electronic submission and peer-review system;
- Manuscript submissions to the journal rose to all-time high; and
- Publisher Elsevier Mosby in Philadelphia is working with Dr. Kirklin to initiate a monograph series that will produce an annual 250-page text focused on advanced heart and lung failure therapies.

Griffin Joins Psychiatry

UAB Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology and Director of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry F. Cleveland Kinney, MD, PhD, announces the appointment of Fred L. Griffin, MD, as associate professor.

Prior to joining UAB, Dr. Griffin practiced for 20 years in Dallas, Texas, where he was on the clinical faculties of University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in the Department of Psychiatry and the Dallas Psychoanalytic Institute. Most recently, he was in private practice in Missoula, Montana.

A graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Dr. Griffin completed a psychiatric internship and residency at Timmellawn Psychiatric Hospital in Dallas, where he also served as chief resident.

Subsequently, Dr. Griffin graduated from the New Orleans Psychoanalytic Institute in Louisiana, and recently completed a 3-year program in psychoanalytic critical thinking and writing, which was sponsored by the Washington Psychoanalytic Foundation. Dr. Griffin is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Griffin’s clinical interests center on teaching psychodynamic psychotherapy, on the practice of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis, and on the physician-patient relationship in general medicine. His current research focuses on the nature of psychotherapeutic and psychoanalytic process, and on the use of imaginative literature to inform clinical work in psychotherapy and in primary medicine.

He is accepting patients at the Center for Psychiatric Medicine and may be reached at 975-7891 for academic and administrative calls and patient appointments; e-mail flgriffin@uabmc.edu.

DIAL 911 FOR UAB POLICE

When you dial 911 on the UAB campus, it automatically rings the UAB Police Station.

PULSEBEATS

HEALTH-CARE SPENDING SLOWED IN 2003

A government report in the January issue of Health Affairs finds that while health-care costs grew more slowly in 2003 than during the previous 7 years, 2003’s $1.7 trillion health-care price tag for the first time “topped 15%” of the gross domestic product. Overall health-care spending grew 7.7% in 2003, compared with 9.3% in 2002. The report attributes the decline to “state cutbacks in the Medicaid program and a slower increase in drug spending.”

Health Care Advisory Board, January 11, 2005

Hamrick Joins Radiology

UAB Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiology Robert E. Koehler, MD, announces the appointment of Kay M. Hamrick, MD, as assistant professor.

Dr. Hamrick graduated magna cum laude from Birmingham-Southern College and completed her MD degree at the School of Medicine at UAB, where she also completed a pathology internship, a radiology residency, and a vascular interventional radiology fellowship.

Subsequently, she was on staff at UAB for 9 years before joining the University of Texas at Houston Medical School as visiting associate professor, Lyndon Baines Johnson General Hospital in Houston as director of the section of vascular interventional radiology, and Tomball Regional Hospital in Texas as codirector of the cath lab. She returns to UAB from Pensacola, Florida, where she was in private practice.

Dr. Hamrick is certified by the American Board of Radiology, with advanced certification in vascular and interventional radiology. Her clinical interests center on breast cancer detection and...
breast interventional procedures; her current research focuses on breast MRI and MRI-guided procedures.

She is accepting patients at The Kirklin Clinic® and may be reached at 975-4850 for academic and administrative calls: e-mail kmhamrick@uabmc.edu. For patient appointments, call 731-9380.

**ACCOLADES**

The Association of American Medical Colleges honored two UAB programs at its 2004 Annual Meeting.

**UAB Health System Marketing Communications** received an Award of Distinction in Special Projects for the “Medicine That Touches the World” advertising campaign. **UAB Magazine’s Kathleen Yount** was awarded The Robert G. Fenley Writing Award - Basic Science Staff Writing for “The Adaptive Brain.”

The award was presented at the Kennedy Center in Boston, Massachusetts, to Gary Mans and Debbie Hunter-Snow, who also presented a session on developing an integrated communication plan for the new hospital to the Group on Institutional Advancement.

**UAB’s Alzheimer Center Wins 5-year Renewal**

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) awarded the UAB Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) a $5 million, 5-year grant continuation. A leading center for research aimed at preventing and managing Alzheimer disease (AD), ADRC offers comprehensive treatment for patients with the disease and related disorders. The grant provides faculty and staff salaries and laboratory equipment and funds AD research and treatment.

“UB has a long history of involvement with Alzheimer disease, from patient care to basic research to family and community outreach,” says Lindy Harrell, MD, PhD, professor of neurology and ADRC director. “Since its origin in 1991, the center has been dedicated to improving the quality of life of patients and families with AD and related disorders through clinical care, research, and education.

“There is a definite need for better understanding of the degenerative processes involved in Alzheimer disease. Our researchers have advanced understanding of the disease’s clinical presentation and biology and have identified potential targets for therapeutic intervention,” Dr. Harrell says.

Accepting both physician and self-referrals, the ADRC provides testing, diagnosis, treatment, annual follow up, and opportunities to participate in genetic studies and clinical trials investigating new AD treatments that may yield critical clues in the fight against this devastating disease, which is expected to dramatically increase in incidence along with an aging population.

**NEW IMAGING INITIATIVE**

NIA, in conjunction with other federal agencies and private organizations, recently launched a $60 million, 5-year Alzheimer Disease Neuroimaging Initiative. The initiative will investigate whether serial magnetic resonance imaging, positron emission tomography, biological markers, and clinical and neuropsychological assessment can be combined to measure progression of mild cognitive impairment and early AD. UAB neurologist Edward Zamrini, MD, is principal investigator for the UAB arm of the study, which will begin recruiting 800 participants at 50 North American sites this April.

ADRC studies also include a placebo-controlled trial of quetiapine for psychosis and agitation in AD patients with parkinsonism; investigation of the safety and efficacy of simvastatin for slowing AD progression and of high-dose folate and vitamins B6 and B12 for slowing cognitive decline; and, in addition, an evaluation of genetic and nongenetic AD risk factors.

Patients, caregivers, families, and friends of Alzheimer disease patients are encouraged to contact the ADRC at 934-3847 for more information.

**HIGHWIRE PRESS**

The Stanford University-sponsored search and e-alert service, called HighWire Press, pushes selected information to your e-mail box, allowing users, for example, to track the table of contents of favorite journals, monitor publication of articles and issues matching criteria selected, and search more than 750 full-text journals. [http://highwire.stanford.edu](http://highwire.stanford.edu)

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).
PIN Changes

Changes to the PIN ADMIT TO screens enable users to more appropriately select the correct patient type. Medicare guidelines require an initial admit type order on the patient chart. To comply with federal guidelines, it is important to enter an initial admit type order and select the appropriate planned patient type. The new screen, which will assist with the type selection, offers the following choices:

**Bedded Outpatient:** Register To
- Ambulatory Surgery <A>
- Labor/Delivery <V>
- Interventional/Diagnostic Services <Q>

**Observation Outpatient:** Place patient on observation status

**Inpatient:** Admit as inpatient

**Change patient type**

Users can press F5 for the definitions of these choices from the PIN ADMIT TO screen. Here are the definitions:

**Bedded outpatient:** An outpatient occupying a bed and receiving outpatient services but not admitted for acute inpatient care. It is anticipated the patient will receive services the same day and be discharged within 24 hours. This category includes ambulatory surgery, labor/delivery outpatients, and interventional/diagnostic services.

**Observation outpatient:** An outpatient occupying a bed to determine need for inpatient admission, which should be made within 24 hours. Observation status may also be used following an outpatient procedure if an unexpected event calls for observation.

**Inpatient:** A patient occupying a nursing unit bed and in need of acute care services. It is anticipated the patient will need to remain in the hospital for more than 24 hours and meet applicable intensity of services/severity of illness criteria for inpatient admission.

Users can also change patient types from this screen. When changing patient types, keep in mind:

- A bedded outpatient may become an observation patient or an inpatient. Either change requires a PIN order to change patient type.
- An observation patient may not be changed to a bedded outpatient status.
- An inpatient may be changed to either a bedded outpatient or observation status only if the inpatient order was entered in error. This must be documented. Either change requires a PIN order to change patient type and documentation in the medical record of the initial inpatient status having been an error.