Quality That “Touches Your World”

University Hospital will celebrate National Healthcare Quality Week October 17 through 21.

“Quality that Touches Your World is our 2005 theme because it speaks to the wonderful staff who work to ensure quality care for patients and improve the work environment for employees,” Quality Improvement (QI) Coordinator Fameka Leonard RN, MSN, says.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY WEEK

UAB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 18
7:30 AM Breakfast
Presentation: Ethics in Health Care, Arthur Boudreaux, MD

Wednesday, October 19
9 AM to 3 PM
Storyboard Contest and Refreshments

Thursday, October 20
11 AM and NOON
Lunch and Presentation 11 AM
National Consensus Guidelines, Pam Fordham, DSN
Lunch and Presentation NOON
Relief of Suffering Beyond Pain Control.
All events are in the West Pavilion.

Each year during Healthcare Quality Week, the hospital honors its dedication to continuous quality improvement, culminating this year in the ninth
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Amling Is Urology Division Director

Kirby I. Bland, MD, Fay Fletcher Kerner Professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, announces the appointment of Christopher L. Amling, MD, former chair of the Department of Urology at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, California, as professor and director of the Department of Surgery’s Division of Urology, effective October 1. Former Division Director Anton J. Bueschen, MD, who has served as director since 1973 (except for a 4-year hiatus between 1995 and 1999) will remain a division faculty member; he also stepped down as University of Alabama Health Services Foundation president on October 1, when Raymond L. Watts, MD, became president.

UAB Establishes Center For Rare Genetic Kidney Disease

UAB scientists hope the approval of a new multidisciplinary center will enhance understanding of autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), a genetic kidney disease.

Lisa Guay-Woodford, MD, was named first director of the UAB Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease Core Center, authorized by the UA System Board of Trustees. Guay-Woodford is professor of medicine and director of the Division of Genetic and Translational Medicine.

ARPKD occurs in 1 in 6,000-40,000 people, with a higher incidence in Finns and Afrikaaners. It is a chronic and progressive disease that causes eventual kidney failure and liver abnormalities. Approximately 50% of patients are diagnosed prenatally. There is no cure and early newborn death occurs in up to half of those diagnosed.

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UAB maintains a large registry for ARPKD patients and has 1 of 4 participating laboratories in an international ARPKD Consortium. Dr. Guay-Woodford’s group was one of the groups that identified the gene that causes the disease.

UAB’s center will serve as a unique resource to design and develop studies involving mechanisms of the disease, to enhance diagnostic specificity, and to expand therapeutic approaches.

Kazzi Joins Emergency Medicine

UAB Department of Emergency Medicine Chair Thomas E. Terndrup, MD, announces the appointment of Ziad Kazzi, MD, as assistant professor.

A graduate of American University of Beirut College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kazzi completed his MD degree at the American University of Beirut Medical School. His postgraduate training includes an emergency medicine residency at Emory University in Atlanta, where he served as chief resident. He subsequently completed a subspecialty fellowship in medical toxicology at Emory and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention through a joint fellowship program.

At UAB, Dr. Kazzi also works at the regional poison control center and is 1 of 3 toxicologists in Alabama. As the second medical toxicologist on staff, he joins Erica Liebelt, MD, director of UAB’s medical toxicology services, who developed and implemented the Clinical Toxicology Consultation Service in 2003 — a joint venture between UAB and Children’s Health System.

One of Dr. Kazzi’s main goals is to further develop the service. The 24 hour-a-day service is available through the UAB paging system or the Regional Poison Center located at Children’s Hospital.

In addition to other duties, Dr. Kazzi is a guest researcher with the radiation branch at CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health. His contributions and activities at the center include an investigational new drug application for treatment of acute radiation syndrome, recommendations to policymakers regarding available radiopharmaceuticals, Web casts, roundtable discussions, and didactics for first responders in chemical and radiological terrorism preparedness. Other research interests include assessment of surveillance methods and hospital preparedness for potential terrorist or Hazmat incidents.

Dr. Kazzi, an advanced Hazmat life support instructor, directed courses training first responders in the United States in the recognition and management of Hazmat casualties. Other past instructional experience includes work as a HAZWOPER provider and instructor with first-hand experience with personal protective equipment including Level A, B, and C suits, as well as decontamination and Hazmat incident response planning.

Most recently, Dr. Kazzi has been active in public health preparedness and plans on continuing this work by participating in community and hospital-based research, planning, and educational activities.

Dr. Kazzi may be reached by e-mail at zkazzi@uabmc.edu or by telephone at 996-5579.

VISIT THE SYNOPSIS WEB SITE

For an up-to-date-look at everything from Hurricane Katrina responses to inflammatory bowel disease, visit the Synopsis Web site. New features include upcoming conferences, features on newly appointed physicians, and much more.

To access a Synopsis article from the last 2 years, go to www.health.uab.edu/synopsis. You can search the archives by date or subject in the left sidebar.

Shelby Research Building Will Open In March

The first phase of the 310,000-square-foot Richard N. and Annette C. Shelby Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building is on schedule for occupancy in March. UAB secured nearly $50 million in federal funds, $25 million in state funds, $5 million each from the city of Birmingham and Jefferson County, as well as philanthropic funds, to construct the 12-floor facility.

Phase 1 marks completion of 7 levels, with phase 2 to follow in approximately 1 year, with completion of two additional floors, which are partially funded by $3.6 million from the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Research Resources. As funds become available, phase 3 will finish two more levels.

“The Shelby Building adds more than 10% to the university’s biomedical research space, which will enable us to expand our research enterprise and enrich Birmingham’s and Alabama’s economic development,” UAB Vice President of Research Richard Marchase, PhD, says. “The building will house nearly 100 principal investigators and 700 employees.”

A second facility, a five-story 100,000-square-foot research support building, is rising behind the Shelby Building and will house investigators’ support services.

Immunology Research, Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Research, the Interdisciplinary Neurosciences Program, and the Diabetes Re-
search Initiative Program will move into the new facility.

“Bringing together investigators with common interests from multiple disciplines will foster rapid interdisciplinary interactions and synergisms previously hampered by labs and offices scattered across campus, while promoting effi-

cient translational research from bench to bedside,” Marchase says.

CUH2A of Princeton, New Jersey, serves as architect for the project, and Hoar Construction is the general contractor.

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**EXPANDING RESEARCH, CLINICAL VOLUME**

Dr. Amling’s primary goal is strengthening the division’s academic reputation by broadening the scope of clinical and basic research. He plans to establish a basic science research laboratory for the division, focusing on urologic oncology. “We have the ability to become one of the premier urology programs in the country,” he says. “That potential for growth, as well as the impressive basic science research under way at UAB’s Comprehensive Cancer Center, were instrumental in my decision to join UAB. The Birmingham area also has an excellent patient population for study of prostate cancer — one of my main areas of research interest.”

During his time at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, Dr. Amling and colleagues established two large national prostate cancer outcomes databases: The Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR), a Department of Defense-funded database of more than 20,000 men, and the Shared Equal Access Research Cancer Hospital (SEARCH) database of 2,000 men that incorporates data from five Veteran’s Affairs hospitals. “The databases are useful tools for investigating questions in prostate cancer,” he says. “For example, we looked at racial variability and found African Americans have worse prostate cancer outcomes than whites. We also found a strong correlation between obesity and more aggressive prostate cancer. Obesity may be a significant cause of poorer outcomes among African American men, who often have higher body mass indices than white men.” Dr. Amling and colleagues published their findings on the link between obesity and prostate cancer in the Journal of Clinical Oncology (2004;22:439-445).

Dr. Amling also anticipates increasing the division’s clinical volume, particularly through the growing robotic prostatectomy program, which uses the da Vinci® surgical system to perform minimally invasive radical prostatectomies. “Robotically assisted radical prostatectomy offers patients the benefits of the laparoscopic technique — a less invasive procedure with a shorter recovery — without the long operating time and difficult learning curve for standard laparoscopic prostatectomy,” he says. “Offering patients the most advanced options in prostate cancer treatment will help expand our program, as will greater participation in clinical trials.”

A former captain in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, Dr. Amling joins UAB after completing 20 years of military service. In 1981, he won a full scholarship from the Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program to attend Oregon Health Sciences University, where he earned his MD degree, graduating cum laude. After a surgical internship, he completed the Naval Flight Surgery Training Program at the Naval Aero-

space Medical Institute in Pensacola, Florida, and served for 2 years as a naval flight surgeon. Following residencies in Duke University Medical Center’s Department of Surgery and Division of Urology, Dr. Amling completed fellowship training in urologic oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He joined the Naval Medical Center’s Department of Urology in 1997 and was appointed chair in 2004.

Dr. Amling is a diplomate of the American Board of Urology and recipient of numerous awards and honors. Military decorations include two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, one for service as a urologic oncologist and the second for clinical research activity. He was also awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for his work as residency program director and chair of the Department of Urology at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.
is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Urologic Association and the American Urologic Association Research Council. The author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, Dr. Amling serves as a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Urology, Urology, Cancer, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases.

His primary clinical interests are treatment of urologic malignancies, particularly prostate cancer, but also kidney, bladder, and testicular cancer, correlations between obesity and aggressive prostate cancer, and racial variations in prostate cancer risk.

For academic or administrative questions, call or e-mail Dr. Amling at 934-1461 or camling@surg.uab.edu. He is currently accepting patients at The Kirklin Clinic; call 975-0088 for appointments.

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annual Quality Day on Wednesday, October 19, with the hospital-wide Storyboard Contest. As the week’s centerpiece, the contest offers departments a chance to display QI activities in a visual form. It will be held from 9 AM to 3 PM in West Pavilion Conference Room E.

Storyboards demonstrate how participants select a process they target for improvement, collect data to establish a baseline, implement changes to enhance the process, and finally remeasure data to assess success, Leonard says. “Viewing these storyboards is motivating because they transform quality theory into real-life situations involving hospital patients and employees.”

Examples abound. One is the DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) Team. This multidisciplinary group assessed and investigated process issues and then educated hospital staff on improving DVT prophylaxis and treatment. Since implementation of DVT Team actions, the DVT-associated mortality rate has decreased substantially.

“Through Quality Week, employees realize they can positively impact the hospital processes,” Leonard says. “The storyboards are judged and prizes are given, but the main objective is recognizing all the diverse ways that quality is applied throughout the organization and celebrating the hard work employees do to make it happen.”

As UAB Health System Chief Strategy and Quality Officer Scott Buchalter, MD, says, “These projects increase awareness and appreciation of our emphasis on health care quality and are a way of celebrating our considerable successes.”

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