Dr. Ehara Comes To UAB

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Dr. Robert Stanley

The chair of Iwate Medical University’s Radiology Department is an unlikely editorial fellow. But when Japanese radiologist Shigeru Ehara, MD, took a 16-hour plane ride to Birmingham, it wasn’t just to spend time with his colleague, UAB Professor of Radiology Robert J. Stanley, MD. As recipient of the American Journal of Roentgenology’s (AJR) first Lee Rogers International Fellowship, Dr. Ehara spent August at UAB learning to be editor of an electronic journal.

As the first Rogers fellow, Dr. Ehara used hands-on experience to hone the principles of medical writing, manuscript preparation and editing, peer review, the ethics of scientific journalism, and journal publication and printing. A visit to the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) headquarters and

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Art And Science Of Disease

Former School of Medicine Dean Clifton K. Meador’s ninth book, Symptoms of Unknown Origin — A Medical Odyssey, highlights a master clinician’s thoughtful journey toward a fuller understanding of patients’ symptoms and the stories their illnesses reveal.

At the end of his UAB deanship, Dr. Meador says, “I decided to redirect my clinical interests from pure endocrinology to a broader look at illness, particularly at patients with symptoms but no obvious medical disease. I had begun to ask myself, ‘If these people do not have a medical disease, then what is their problem?’”

DR. MEADOR TO SIGN BOOKS

Noon, September 30
The Little Professor Book Center
2717 South 18th Street Homewood

4 PM, September 30
UAB Bookstore
Hill University Center
1400 University Blvd.

On return to his alma mater, Vanderbilt University, where he now serves as director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt program, he began with a systematic approach, defining “symptoms of unknown origin” as those of “more than a month’s duration for which there was no apparent medical disease.” His odyssey led early on to the conclusion “that the prevailing biomolecular model of disease is too restrictive for clinical use. His 10-step plan for dealing with these patients “puts equal value on physical, psychological, social, and spiritual information.”

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Barkley To Host UAB Minority Health & Research Center Benefit

GALA AIMS TO IMPROVE MINORITY HEALTH STATUS

Former NBA all-star, health advocate, and CNN number-one “sports hero pick” Charles Barkley is putting his weight behind a UAB effort to improve the health status of minorities. Barkley, a commentator for TNT network who has made a significant contribution to research and educational projects, will host the inaugural UAB Minority Health and Research Center (MHRC) Gala, September 30 at the Wynfrey Hotel at the Galleria.
The black-tie affair, which includes a reception and seated dinner, will begin at 6:30 PM. Ticket information is available at 934-4307 or www.uabmhrc.com.

UAB Professor of Medicine and MHRC Director Mona Fouad, MD, says Barkley initially showed an interest in helping the center when he spoke at one of its conferences in 2003.

“Mr. Barkley continually emphasizes his wish for African Americans to enhance their health and for their young people to strive to become physicians, teachers, and scientists,” she says. “He has learned that despite steady improvements in the overall health of the United States, racial and ethnic minorities continue to experience a lower quality of health services, are less likely to receive routine medical procedures, and have higher rates of severe illness and death than non-minorities.

“This gala will be an opportunity to celebrate his ongoing commitment to the needs of the most vulnerable Alabamians,” she adds. It also will provide a focus for individuals and corporations that want to help UAB address such disparities as access to health care, lifestyle issues, cancer detection and treatment, and the compatibility and availability of organ transplantation among minorities in Alabama.

“As I’ve made the transition from sports to on-air commentary, I’ve begun to talk about serious and sensitive issues, such as race and education,” Barkley says. “I feel an obligation to speak up about issues affecting our communities, and one of these is the health status of African Americans and how to raise their level of health.”

Barkley’s charitable foundation has contributed funds to the MHRC to establish the Charles Barkley Health Disparities Fund to provide financial support for outreach, educational, and investigative projects related to obesity and diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension, stroke, cancer and minority organ donation. He will announce the initial awards at the September 30 event.

Prior to joining UAB, Dr. Kim was on staff at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for 21 years, and most recently was assistant professor of diagnostic radiology at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dr. Kim’s clinical interests center on neuroradiology. He may be reached at 934-3920; e-mail ykim@uabmc.edu.

**Announcing Faculty Senate Review Of UAB Chairs**

The Faculty Senate will be conducting a review of UAB departmental chairs during September and October. The review is a charge to the Senate in the UAB Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, a necessary component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ accreditation process, and a source of important information for these administrators and the faculty they serve.
UAB faculty are an integral element in the review process and play a significant role in molding current and future UAB initiatives.

The Senate will utilize the national online administrator assessment tool developed by the Individual Development & Educational Assessment (IDEA) Center at Kansas State University. The IDEA assessment tool was used at UAB for dean evaluations in 2003 and for evaluation of the president and provost in 2004.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE

UAB faculty will receive an e-mail message from the Faculty Senate chair describing the process for the biennial review and when to expect the direct e-mail message from IDEA. Faculty should receive the message near the end of September or shortly thereafter. Please take a few minutes to provide thoughtful and sincere assessment of the chair when you receive this link to the IDEA assessment form. All information is confidential. For small departments, a high response rate is critical, since to maintain faculty anonymity, IDEA will not send a report if there are fewer than six faculty responses. Summary tables of the results will be shared with the faculty in December.

The faculty is central to the university’s progress, and its feedback is critical to ensuring UAB’s continued initiatives.

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Dr. Ehara’s specific goal is to consolidate several small unsustainable Japanese journals into a single national Japanese Journal of Radiology during the next 5 to 10 years. “Low-profile Japanese radiology journals suffer from inadequate manuscript submission. We hope to have a high-quality journal, as measured by the Citation Index and impact factor,” Dr. Ehara states.

As part of the global spread, Japanese and Chinese AJR versions will appear this fall as two quarterly journals. “Content has been selected from current AJR papers that two editorial panels selected as most relevant to practices in each respective nation,” Dr. Stanley continues. For example, the Japanese editor chose four articles dealing with research and biostatistical methodology for the first issue, while the Chinese editor focused primarily on clinically focused articles.

TWO LEADERS

A graduate of the Tohoku University School of Medicine in 1979, Dr. Ehara served as a resident in radiology at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital in New York from 1982 to 1989, as a fellow/associate in orthopaedic radiology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and as a clinical assistant in radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. He has written close to 300 papers, book chapters, and other medical publications, both in English and Japanese. Dr. Stanley hopes future Rogers Fellows will be similarly academically oriented radiologists, with strong interest in scientific publishing and holding positions of comparable influence in their countries of origin.

A past president of the ARRS, in 2003, Dr. Stanley was named editor-in-chief of the AJR, the official journal of the ARRS. It reaches 23,000 radiologists in the USA and abroad. Media from the Wall Street Journal to The New York Times often cite press releases from AJR articles.

Dr. Stanley pioneered the change to a Web-based, online process of manuscript submission, review, and publication. Under his leadership, based at UAB, the AJR has grown in size and
The book is filled with fascinating cases that exemplify Dr. Meador’s growing understanding about how to listen to and respect patients’ stories and how to guide and coach them into uncovering previously hidden correlations; for example, the secretary’s diarrhea induced by an embezzling boss; and the divorcing mother with abdominal pains.

Using a fruitful technique, he asks patients to log symptoms in a daily diary, a method that uncovered, for instance, that Jim, a physician, developed gynecomastia after sexual intercourse with his wife, who had been using an estrogen cream for atrophic vaginitis, and that Agnes’s diarrhea was related to use of a certain toothpaste. And he describes cleverly how to deal with especially frustrating patients – those intent on defeating the physician by staying sick.

Dr. Meador concludes, “It is time we studied the doctor-patient relationship systematically and found better ways to be in tune with the diverse human beings we see in our practices. If we are successful, fewer patients will be labelled with diseases they do not have and more will be guided toward healthier lives.” Written in an engaging manner, this book provides an impressive step towards achieving those goals.

**Art And Science Of Disease**

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