**Briscoe Honored**

Mary Beth Briscoe, executive director of finance for the UAB Health System, was recently named national secretary/treasurer for The Healthcare Financial Management Association.

**UAB Emergency Medicine Residency Addresses State Physician Shortage**

The UAB Emergency Medicine Residency Program’s first class of six residents has graduated — four of these emergency medicine physicians will practice in Alabama, one joining the UAB faculty full time and three accepting part-time appointments.

“Alabama has a serious lack of board-certified emergency physicians,” Emergency Medicine Residency Program Director Edward Jedd Roe, MD, says. “Emergency departments in Alabama typically operate with only 10% to 20% of ED physician staff as board-certified emergency physicians, compared with 60% to 70% nationally. Obviously, Alabama needs more residency-trained, board-certified emergency physicians, and our program is addressing that need.”

States with numerous metropolitan areas tend to attract more board-certified emergency physicians, while more rural states do not,” Dr. Roe adds. “Consequently, family physicians staff many rural Alabama hospital emergency departments.”

**SNAPSHOTS**

**DISCHARGE AND MARKET SHARE DATA FOR TOP 5 NEUROLOGY DRGs**

Selected Hospitals in Birmingham MSA — April 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRG</th>
<th>UAB</th>
<th>St. V</th>
<th>Brookwood</th>
<th>MCE</th>
<th>Montclair</th>
<th>Princeton</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 - Degenerative Nervous System Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 - Stroke with Infarction</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 - Seizure and Headache, Age &gt;17 w CC</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - Seizure and Headache, Age &gt;17 w/o CC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>524 - Transient Ischemia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20.4</td>
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# Represents discharge volume
% Represents highest market share for Birmingham MSA (Blount, Calhoun, Etowah, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, and Tuscaloosa counties)
Source: State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). SHPDA conducts a discharge survey every April.
Prepared by UABHS Department of Strategic Planning
According to the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the need for emergency medicine as a specialty emerged in the 1960s, when the public demanded improved care in hospital emergency departments. In the 1970s, emergency medicine became the 23rd recognized medical specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Emergency Medicine trainees begin in their second postgraduate year (PGY), after completing either a transitional PGY 1 residency or preliminary medicine residency. “Because emergency medicine physicians must be proficient in acute-care aspects of most disciplines, our 3-year program exposes them to critical-care aspects of anesthesiology, toxicology, trauma, burns, pediatrics, obstetric, gynecology, medical and surgical subspecialties, prehospital care, and more,” Dr. Roe says. “Because of increased patient volume in the new University Hospital Emergency Department, we have increased our residency positions from six to eight.”

The program has become increasingly popular with medical students, as well, Dr. Roe reports. “Eleven School of Medicine (SOM) at UAB students chose emergency medicine residencies last year, and two of them will join our class next July. “Since all 11 candidates matched for an emergency medicine residency, we are pleased they did so well,” he says. “As emergency medicine continues to grow and achieve recognition, we hope to see such a continued level of interest in our program from SOM students.”

Malcolm Joins Radiology

UAB Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiology Robert E. Koehler, MD, announces the appointment of Ian G. Malcolm, MD, as assistant professor.

A graduate of the University of Otago School of Medical Sciences in New Zealand, Dr. Malcolm completed a residency at Auckland Hospital in New Zealand, followed by a pulmonary radiology fellowship and faculty appointment as assistant professor at UAB. He is board certified in diagnostic radiology.

Dr. McDowell Remembered

Birmingham native, noted vascular surgeon, and Professor of Surgery Holt Andrews McDowell, Jr., MD, died on July 4. A graduate of the School of Medicine and member of Alpha Omega Alpha, Dr. McDowell completed surgical training at UAB under Champ Lyons, MD, and was a faculty member at UAB for 36 years, retiring in 1999. Dr. Mc-
Briscoe Honored  

continued from page 1

Management Association (HFMA). HFMA is the nation’s leading membership organization for more than 34,000 health care financial management professionals employed by hospitals, integrated delivery systems, managed care organizations, ambulatory and long-term care facilities, physician practices, accounting and consulting firms, and insurance companies.

A HFMA member since 1984, her involvement with the national association includes serving on the Managed Care Forum Advisory Council (1996-1999), the National Advisory Councils (1999-2000), the Board of Directors (2000-2003 and 2005-2006), the Audit & Finance Committee (2005-2006), and the Executive Committee (2005-2006). In addition, Briscoe served the Alabama Chapter as vice president, treasurer, secretary, president-elect, and president. She has received the Follmer Bronze, Reeves Silver, Muncie Gold, and Medal of Honor Merit Awards. She is also a fellow of The American College of Healthcare Executives and a certified public accountant.

Phone-Free Paging

The UAB Call Center’s Smart Web interface, www.ccweb.uab.edu, provides UAB and University Hospital staff 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 SEND PAGE 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 non-UAB 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.

Cooper Joins Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Todd M. Cooper, DO, assistant professor, has joined the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, according to UAB Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics Sergio Stagno, MD, and Professor and Director of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Thomas H. Howard, MD.

A graduate of the University of Georgia in Athens and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Dr. Cooper completed a pediatric internship and residency at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He joins UAB after having served a pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Dr. Cooper’s clinical interests center on treatment of children with relapsed leukemia and on stem cell transplants. His research interests include developmental therapeutics and developing clinical trials utilizing new drug development.

He is currently accepting patients at the pediatric hematology and oncology clinic at Children’s Hospital and may be reached at 939-9285 for academic and administrative calls and at 939-9938 for patient appointments; e-mail tcooper@peds.uab.edu.
Health Care Professional Liability Insurance —
What Physicians Need To Know

When are physicians provided health care professional liability insurance through UAB’s Professional Liability Trust Fund (PLTF)? As residents or fellows employed by UAB, they receive coverage for claims arising out of services provided on behalf of UAB or the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF).

A policy committee administers the trust, and a claims committee composed of physicians, legal counsel, and risk managers manages all claims. Coverage in the PLTF is triggered by the date of an occurrence, the date of the bodily injury allegedly arising out of the provision, or failure to provide, health care services.

“One of the primary benefits of having your professional liability coverage in a trust, rather than with a commercial carrier, is ‘occurrence based’ coverage,” explains Jeannine Bailes, director of insurance and risk finance. “This is distinct from coverage under most commercial professional liability policies. These are triggered by the date a claim is made, which can be many years after the services that gave rise to the claim were provided.

“The PLTF’s occurrence trigger also means that coverage for a claim arising out of services provided while at UAB/UAHSF ‘goes with you’ if/when employment is terminated or residency training ends,” Bailes continues. “And, there is no need to buy ‘tail coverage,’ which would be necessary if you were insured under a ‘claims made’ commercial policy.”

“In exchange for the protection provided by the PLTF, residents have several responsibilities,” advises Linda Mittleman, director of Risk Management.

These include:
◆ Completing an accurate application to the PLTF (blue form) and advising Risk Management if the information changes.
◆ Paying the premium charged for coverage each year (generally paid by the department).
◆ Notifying Risk Management as soon as possible of any incident that may result in a claim against you or UAB/UAHSF. Notification includes incidents that occur at University Hospital, The Kirklin Clinic®, Children’s Hospital, Cooper Green Hospital, and any satellites. Physicians must also notify Risk Management promptly upon receipt of a Summons and Complaint related to professional services. “Failure to do so may result in the plaintiff filing a default judgment against you,” Mittleman explains.
◆ Cooperating with Risk Management in the investigation and disposition of any complaints, claims, or suits that arise.

Physicians should feel free to contact a risk manager for advice before discussing any adverse outcomes with a patient or their family or representative or before responding to a complaint regarding the outcome of services provided, Mittleman says.

For questions regarding the Trust Fund and the coverage it provides, contact Bailes at 934-5552. For questions regarding specific claims and/or litigation management, contact Mittleman at 934-5551.