Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

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Vision

The Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care will continually strive to be one of the best-combined geriatric/gerontology and palliative care research, education, and clinical programs in the United States.

The Division will provide leadership and core faculty for innovative, integrated, interdisciplinary, cost-effective primary care, and specialty clinical services that meet the needs of older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness in all current and emerging health care settings; outpatient clinics; the home; assisted living facilities; the acute care hospital; day care or partial hospital; rehabilitation units; hospice; and the nursing home.

The Division will provide high quality educational experiences for medical students, residents, fellows, practicing physicians and other health care professionals and students that will enable them to practice state-of-the-art, compassionate, and cost-effective care for older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness in all health care settings.

The Division will train physicians and other health care professionals to conduct research that will answer important questions related to aging, age-related disorders, the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of the problems of older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness.

The Division will promote and conduct research that generates unique and fundamental knowledge that improves the health and quality of life for our patients in Alabama and throughout the nation.

Mission

The Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care serves older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness by providing leadership and core faculty for innovative models of clinical care; teaching and instructing students, fellows, and trainees; and conducting research that generates new knowledge contributing to the advancement of science and the quality of life. We carry out these activities in an interdisciplinary and caring manner that always respects the dignity of those we serve.

Values

The Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care is dedicated to helping aging individuals and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness attain their greatest productivity and the highest possible quality of life.

- We are committed to excellence in the accomplishment of all activities relevant to our mission.
- We recognize that excellence can be obtained only through teamwork and the acceptance of responsibilities by all Division members.
- We are committed to educating others in the care of the elderly and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness as well as developing knowledge in areas relevant to the problems and challenges of these populations. We are committed to providing a supportive work environment that recognizes and encourages innovation and initiative.
Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

The Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care at the University of Alabama at Birmingham serves older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness by providing leadership and core faculty for innovative models of clinical care; teaching and instructing students, fellows, and residents; and conducting research that generates new knowledge contributing to the advancement of science and the quality of life. Faculty and staff are dedicated to carrying out these activities in a caring manner that always respects the dignity of those we serve.

The Division includes 30 physicians and 13 PhD basic and social-behavioral scientists who work together to achieve their common goal of becoming one of the best such programs in the United States. The Division consists of four sections (Geriatric Medicine, Palliative and Supportive Care, Social and Behavioral Science, and Basic Science) and works closely with other programs in aging at UAB, our affiliated VA Medical Center and Childrens of Alabama. Division faculty provide leadership for a number of interdisciplinary centers and programs including the Atherosclerosis Research Unit, Birmingham/Atlanta VA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC), Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging, Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research, Dementia Care Research Program, Geriatric Education Center, Gerontology Education Program, Southeast Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine, Public Policy and Aging Program, and the Translational Nutrition and Aging Research Program.

The Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care provides primary care and specialty services that meet the needs of older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness. UAB Highlands houses the Division’s Geriatric Clinic. The Camellia Medical Group at the William Clifford and Margaret Spain McDonald Clinic offers concierge medical services. The Continence Clinic at the Kirklin Clinic offers comprehensive evaluation and treatment of urinary and bowel incontinence. Outpatient palliative and supportive care services are offered at the Kirklin Clinic and the 1917 Clinic. An Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit is based at UAB Highlands and Geriatric consults are offered at University Hospital. Palliative care inpatient units and consult services are available at the University Hospital, the VA, and Children’s Hospital of Alabama. VA-based programs include the Birmingham/Atlanta Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) Fall Prevention and Continence Clinics, an outpatient Geriatric Evaluation and Management Clinic, geriatric hospital consultations, Home-Based Primary Care, and Palliative Care Program including the Safe Harbor inpatient unit, and outpatient and home-based palliative care. The Division provides medical directorships for community-based continuing care communities, a Geriatric Health Center, assisted-living, geriatric care management, and several hospice providers.

The Division provides training in geriatric medicine and palliative care for medical students and medical residents. Division faculty members also provide services and medical education on the General Medicine Wards of the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center (BVAMC), the University Hospital, and in the VA outpatient clinic. The Division offers fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine that is designed to prepare internists and family medicine physicians for an academic career in Geriatric Medicine and to provide leadership for health care programs that serve the needs of older adults. The clinical fellowship offers clinical experiences at UAB and the Birmingham VA Medical Center including an Acute Care for Elders inpatient unit, inpatient and outpatient geriatric consults, primary care and outpatient geriatric consults, community nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and subspecialty services including geriatric psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, and palliative care. Also offered is the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program which is devoted to training leaders in academic Palliative Medicine. The programs offers a unique clinical experience, with rotations in inpatient palliative care at UAB Hospital, the Birmingham VA Medical Center, and The Children’s Hospital of Alabama, ambulatory palliative care through the UAB Palliative and Supportive Care Clinics and the UAB HIV Palliative Care Clinic, and in-home and nursing home hospice care through community hospices and nursing homes.

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Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care (Continued)

Many Division faculty are active in research activities that focus on mobility, urinary and fecal incontinence, Alzheimer’s disease and related memory problems, nutrition, geriatric heart failure, end-of-life care, advanced illness management, functional outcomes of geriatric health care, supportive care and survivorship and quality improvement. Basic biomedical research initiatives include studies of cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in atherosclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease including the role of monocytes and macrophages, endothelial cells, apolipoproteins, dietary factors, and the anti-atherosclerotic and anti-inflammatory activity of peptide mimics of apolipoproteins. Many of the apolipoprotein mimetics have been patented and two companies (Bruin Pharma, LA and LipimetIX LLC, Boston, MA) have been working on bringing them to bedside. Both companies have performed initial clinical trials. The apoA-I mimetic peptide has now been genetically produced in tomatoes, concentrates of which have shown efficacy in inhibiting atherosclerosis and certain types of cancer. The apoE mimetic peptides have shown promise in human clinical trials and are in Phase II of clinical trials.
Division Faculty

Division Director

Cynthia J. Brown, MD, MSPH, AGSF
Professor and Director, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
Director, Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging,
VA GRECC Investigator
Medical Director, Fall Prevention and Mobility Clinic, BVAMC

M.D. Degree: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1996
MSPH: University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2006
Residency: Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Yale University School of Medicine, 1996-1999
Chief Resident: Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Yale University School of Medicine, 1999-2000
Fellowship: Geriatrics & Clinical Epidemiology, Yale University School of Medicine, 2000-2003
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1999, 2009
Geriatric Medicine, 2001, 2011

Research/Education Interests: Mobility-related problems among older persons including falls and immobility during hospitalization

Geriatric Medicine Section

Kellie L Flood, MD
Associate Professor and Director, Geriatric Medicine Section,
Geriatric Quality Officer, UAB Hospital

M.D. Degree: University of Texas Southeastern Medical School, 1996
Residency: Washington University School of Medicine/Barnes-Jewish Hospital, 1996-1999
Fellowship: Geriatrics and Gerontology, Washington University School of Medicine, 1999-2000

Research/Education Interests: Interprofessional team models of care, care transitions, ACE units, geriatric oncology

Donna M. Bearden, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit and UAB Hospitalist Program

M.D. Degree: University of South Alabama School of Medicine, 1987
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Alabama Hospital
Fellowship: Geriatrics and Gerontology, University of Alabama Hospital
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1990, 2000, 2010
Geriatric Medicine, 1994, 2009
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2010

Research/Education Interests: Improving acute care for geriatric patients
Katrina J. Booth, MD  
Assistant Professor and Medical Director, UAB Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit  
Associate Director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program

M.D. Degree: University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2008  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Chicago  
Fellowship: Geriatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2011, Geriatric Medicine, 2013

Research/Education Interests: Inpatient geriatric medicine, medical education

Sameer Davaluri, MD  
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Geriatrics Clinic

M.D. Degree: Siddhartha Medical College, NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India, 2003  
Residency: Family Medicine, University of Alabama, Huntsville, AL, 2011  
Fellowship: Geriatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2012  
Certification: Family Medicine, 2011

Research/Education Interests: Primary care for older adults

Andrew S. Duxbury, MD  
Professor and Staff Physician, Geriatric Medicine Section, BVAMC,  
Staff Physician, VA Home Based Primary Care

M.D. Degree: University of Washington, 1988  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of California Davis  
Fellowship: Geriatrics, University of California Davis  

Research/Education Interests: Geriatric health services - delivery and management; dementia and caregiving issues for dementia patients; computer applications in medical education; home based medical care for the elderly; bioethics and geriatric medicine; preventive health care of older individuals
Kathleen N. Fix, MD  
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, VA Home Based Primary Care Program,  
Medical Director, UAB Geriatric Health Center at Fairhaven Retirement Center

Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor  
M.D. Degree: University of Nebraska Medical Center, 1982  
Residency: University of California San Francisco Medical Center at Fresno  
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1985  
Geriatric Medicine, 1990, 2000  
Research/Education Interests: Dementia, assisted living care and home care

Patricia S. Goode, MSN, MD  
Gwen McWhorter Endowed Professor of Geriatric Medicine  
Medical Director, UAB Continence Clinic  
Director, Geriatric Education  
Director, VA Birmingham/Atlanta GRECC

M.D. Degree: University of Alabama School of Medicine, 1986  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Alabama Hospital, 1989  
Fellowship: Geriatrics, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1991  
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1989  
Research/Education Interests: Fecal and urinary incontinence, quality of life in older adults including at end-of-life

Marianthe D. Grammas, MD  
Assistant Professor and Medical Director, UAB Geriatrics Clinic,  
Staff Physician, UAB Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit, Inpatient Geriatrics Consultation Service, and UAB Geriatric Clinic, Tinsley Harrison Faculty Teaching Scholar

M.D. Degree: University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile, AL  
Residency: Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT (Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics)  
Fellowship: Section of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital  
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2011; Geriatrics, 2012  
Research/Education Interests: Polypharmacy/safe prescribing in older adults, medical education, quality improvement, patient and family centered medicine
Caroline N. Harada, MD
Associate Professor and Director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program
Staff Physician, UAB Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit and Inpatient Geriatrics Consultation Service,
Assistant Director, Introduction to Clinical Medicine Course, University of Alabama School of Medicine
VA GRECC Investigator

M.D. Degree: Yale University School of Medicine, 2001
Residency: University of Chicago Hospitals, 2004
Fellowship: University of Chicago Hospitals, 2006
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2004, 2014
Geriatric Medicine, 2005
Palliative Medicine, 2008

Research/Education Interests: Inpatient geriatrics, dementia, medical education

R. Preston Harrison, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, Camellia Medical Group

M.D. Degree: University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1996
Residency: Internal Medicine, Baptist Medical Center, 1999
Internship: Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL, 1999
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1999, Recertified 2009

Research/Education Interests: Geriatrics

Clare I. Hays, MD
Associate Professor and Medical Director, Fair Haven Nursing Home

M.D. Degree: Medical College of Virginia, 1981
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1984
Geriatric Medicine, 1990, 2000, 2011
Certified Medical Director, 2005, 2010

Research/Education Interests: Nursing home care, medical education
Gorman R. Jones, III, MD  
Professor and Eleanor E. Kidd Endowed Chair in Primary Care and Medical Director, Camellia Medical Group  

M.D. Degree: University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Certifications: Internal Medicine, 1995 and 2005  

Research/Education Interests: Preventive care and geriatrics  

Alayne D. Markland, DO, MSc  
Associate Professor and Director, VA Geriatric Assessment Clinic,  
Chief, Geriatrics Section, BVAMC  
Staff Physician, UAB Continence Program  
VA GRECC Investigator  

D.O. Degree: University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas, 1998  
MSc Degree: University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis Medical Center, 2002  
Fellowships: Geriatrics, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, 2005  
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2001  
Geriatric Medicine, 2014  

Research/Education Interests: Clinical research in comparative effectiveness and outcomes related to bladder and bowel dysfunction  

Kendra D. Sheppard, MD, MSPH, CMD  
Assistant Professor and Medical Director, Fairhaven Retirement Center,  
Staff Physician, Geriatrics Section, BVAMC  

M.D. Degree: Meharry Medical College School of Medicine, 2005  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Louisville, 2008  
Fellowship: Geriatric Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2009  
Certifications: Internal Medicine, 2008  
Geriatric Medicine, 2009  

Research/Education Interests: Transitional care, particularly of nursing home residents, interprofessional education, educational intervention and evaluation
Samina Uddin, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Geriatrics Clinic

MD Degree: Chittagong University, Bangladesh
Residency: Family Practice, 2004
St. Mary's Medical Center, Evansville, Indiana
Certification: Family Medicine, 2006
Geriatric Medicine, 2007

Research/Education Interests: Geriatrics

Jay B. Whatley, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, Camellia Medical Group

MD Degree: University of Alabama School of Medicine, 2004
Internship: Internal Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, 2004-2005
Residency: Internal Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, 2005-2009
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2007

Research/Education Interests: Geriatrics

Palliative and Supportive Care Section

Rodney O. Tucker, MD, MMM
Associate Professor and Director, Palliative and Supportive Care Section
Chief Experience Officer, UAB Health System

MD Degree: UAB, 1989
MMM Degree: University of Southern California, 2009
Residency: Caraway Methodist Medical Center, 1992 Chief Resident: Caraway Methodist Medical Center, 1993
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1992, 2012
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2000, 2010

Research/Education Interests: Palliative care in non-oncology populations, patient experience and satisfaction and health care systems
Dilip S. Babu, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, BVAMC Palliative Care Service

M.D. Degree: University of Vermont, 2010
Residency: Internal Medicine, St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, 2012
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative & Supportive Care, 2014
Certification: Internal Medicine Board Eligible

Research/Education Interests: Palliative medicine

Cynthia H. Baker, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Palliative Care Inpatient Service,
Corporate Medical Director, Alacare Home Health and Hospice

M.D Degree: University of South Alabama, 1996
Residency: Carraway Methodist Medical Center
Fellowship: Geriatric Medicine, UAB, 2000
Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative Care, 2001
Certification: Internal Medicine, 1999, 2010
Geriatric Medicine, 2001, 2011
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2003, 2010

Research/Education Interests: End-of-life care

Michael D. Barnett, MD, MS
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, Palliative Care Service
Director, Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

M.D Degree: University of Kentucky, 2006
Residency: Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, University of Alabama School of Medicine, 2006-2009. Chief Resident, 2009-2010
Fellowship: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2011
Certification: Pediatrics, 2010
Internal Medicine, 2011
Palliative Medicine, 2012

Research/Education Interests: Education in palliative care, communication skills training in medical education
Jennifer L. Courtney, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Palliative and Supportive Care Service

MD Degree: University of Louisville, 2004
Residency: University of Louisville, 2007
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, 2014
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2008
Hospice & Palliative Medicine Board Eligible

Research/Education Interests: Palliative medicine

Melanie T. Farrell, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician
Birmingham VA Medical Center

MD Degree: Wake Forest University School of Medicine, 2007
Residency: Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, 2010
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative & Supportive Care, 2013
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2011
Hospice & Palliative Medicine, 2014

Research/Education Interests: Palliative medicine

Heather L. Herrington, MD
Associate Professor and Staff Physician,
UAB Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit, Inpatient Geriatrics Consultation Service,
and UAB Palliative and Supportive Care Service

MD Degree: University of Alabama School of Medicine, 2001
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Texas, Houston, 2004
Fellowship: Geriatric Medicine, Harvard Medical School, 2005
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2004
Geriatric Medicine, 2005
Palliative Medicine, 2008

Research/Education Interests: Palliative medicine, inpatient geriatrics, delirium, end of life care in dementia, medical education
John L. Holcombe, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, UAB Palliative and Supportive Care Service

MD Degree: University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, SC, 1982
Residency: Family Medicine Residency, Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, MI, 1985
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2012

Research/Education Interests: Dementia-pathophysiology, treatment, prognostication

Elizabeth A. Kvale, MD
Associate Professor and Staff Physician, UAB and VAMC,
Interim Director, BVAMC Palliative Care Service,
Medical Director, UAB Palliative and Supportive Care Outpatient Service,
VA GRECC Investigator

M.D. Degree: Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, 1994
Residency: University of Missouri, 1997
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative Care, 2004
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2012

Research/Education Interest: Supportive care of cancer patients, cancer in the elderly, end-of-life care, health services research

Jessica S. Merlin, MD, MBA
Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases and
Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
Medical Director, UAB HIV/Palliative Care Clinic

M.D. Degree: University of Pennsylvania, 2005
MBA Degree: The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2005
Residency: University of Pennsylvania, 2008
Infectious Diseases Fellowship, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, 2011
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2008, Infectious Diseases, 2010
Hospice and Palliative Care, 2012

Research/Education Interests: Intersection of HIV and palliative care; adherence and retention in HIV care, chronic pain and symptom management, international health
Ashley C. Nichols, MD
Assistant Professor and Medical Director, UAB Inpatient Palliative Care Services
Staff Physician, UAB and Children’s of Alabama Palliative and Supportive Care

M.D. Degree: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, 2006
Residency: Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, University of Alabama School of Medicine
and Children’s of Alabama, 2010
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine—Pediatric track, UAB Center for Palliative and
Supportive Care, 2011
Certifications: Internal Medicine, 2010
Pediatrics, 2010
Hospice & Palliative Medicine, 2012

Research/Education Interests: Hospice and palliative medicine, implementing palliative care
in chronic pediatric illness (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy), medical student and resident
education, medical humanities, medical missions

Sam J. Perna, DO
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, VAMC and Children’s of Alabama
Medical Director, Pediatric Palliative Care Service, Children’s of Alabama

DO Degree: University of Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine
Residency: Broward General Medical Center/Nova Southeastern University, 2006
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative Care, 2008
Certification: Family Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine, 2006, 2014
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2010

Research/Education Interests: Pediatric palliative care, medical bioethics, hospice home

Neal J. Steil, MD
Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, VAMC and UAB Hospitalist

MD Degree: University of Kentucky, 2006
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Alabama School of Medicine, 2009
Fellowship: Palliative Medicine, UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care, 2010
Certification: Internal Medicine, 2009
Hospice and Palliative Medicine, 2010

Research/Education Interests: Palliative care and hospice
Social and Behavioral Science Section

Kathryn L. Burgio, PhD (Director)
Professor and Director, Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research
Founding Director, UAB Continence Program
Associate Director for VA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC)
Director, VA Special Fellowship in Advanced Geriatrics

PhD Degree: Psychology, University of Notre Dame, 1981
Postdoctoral: Behavioral Medicine, Gerontology Research Center, National Institute on Aging

Research/Education Interests: Behavioral geriatrics, incontinence and related disorders, palliative and end of life care

Virginia Grissom Bradley, PhD
Associate Professor and Director, Dementia Care Research Program

PhD Degree: Medical/Clinical Psychology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1997
Postdoctoral: Medical Psychology, Duke University Medical Center
Certification: Licensed Clinical Psychologist, 1998
Health Services Provider Psychologist, 1998

Research/Education Interests: Mild cognitive impairment, vascular cognitive impairment, evaluation of interventions to maintain daily living skills

Richard E. Kennedy, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor

MD Degree: University of Mississippi, 1994
Residency: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 1998
Fellowship: Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry, 1999
PhD Degree: Biostatistics, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2008
Postdoctoral: Statistical Genetics, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2011
Certification: Psychiatry, 2001
Psychosomatic Medicine, 2005

Research/Education Interests: Cognition in medical illnesses, dementia, biomarkers of neuropsychiatric disease
Julie L. Locher, PhD, MSPH
Professor and Director, Translational Nutrition and Aging Program
Associate Director, Nutrition and Obesity Research Center,
Public Policy, Nutrition, and Energetics, Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging

MSPH Degree: Health Care Organization and Policy, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2005
MA Degree: Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, 1988
PhD Degree: Medical Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1999

Research/Education Interests: Food and eating behaviors and nutrition and aging policies and programs, nutritional issues of head and neck cancer patients

Angela G. Rothrock, PhD
Assistant Professor and Associate Director, Geriatric Education Center
Associate Director, UAB Donald W. Reynolds Program
Assistant Director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship

BA Degree: Psychology, Auburn University, 1996
Certificate: Aging Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2000
PhD Degree: Lifespan Developmental Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005

Research/Education Interests: Gerontology and geriatric education curriculum development and evaluation

Patricia L. Sawyer, PhD
Associate Professor and Assistant Director, Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging
Associate Director, Geriatric Education Center
Director, Gerontology Education Program

BA Degree: Spanish, UCLA
Secondary School Teaching Credential (Spanish, Mathematics, and Social Sciences)
MA Degree: Medical Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1993
PhD Degree: Medical Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham. 1996

Research/Education Interests: Mobility in older adults, aging in place, health disparities
Beverly R. Williams, PhD  
Assistant Professor and VA GRECC Investigator  

BA Degree: Sociology/History, Salve Regina College, 1968  
MA Degree: Sociology/Anthropology, University of Southern Mississippi, 1981  
M Ed Degree: Secondary Education (Social & Behavioral Science), UAB. 1991  
PhD Degree: Medical Sociology, UAB. 2002  
Postdoctoral: UAB Postdoctoral Fellowship, Clinical and Behavioral Training in Gerontology (CBTG) funded by the National Institute on Aging, 2002-2005  
UAB Graduate Certificate in Gerontology, 2004

Research/Education Interests: Qualitative research, end-of-life care, geriatric bereavement, narrative gerontology, health disparities, and religion/spirituality

Basic Science Section

C. Roger White, PhD  
Professor and Director  
Basic Science Section

PhD Degree: Physiology & Biophysics, 1989  
Postdoctoral: Vascular Biology and Hypertension, UAB, 1993

Research/Education Interests: Mechanisms of oxidative injury to the vasculature under conditions of acute and chronic inflammation; HDL function in the context of Type 2 diabetes

G. M. Anantharamaiah, PhD  
Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
Associate Director Administration, Atherosclerosis Research Unit

PhD Degree: Biologically active peptides, Bangalore University, India, 1978  
Postdoctoral: Enzymes in peptide synthesis, Ohio State University, 1977

David W. Garber, PhD  
Professor,  
Atherosclerosis Research Unit

PhD Degree:  Physiology, The Pennsylvania State University, The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, 1981
Postdoctoral:  The Medical College of Pennsylvania, Department of Physiology/Biochemistry

Research/Education Interests:  Atherosclerosis, apolipoprotein metabolism, endocrine disorders, intermediary metabolism

Nassrin Dashti Hubbard, PhD  
Professor Emerita  
Atherosclerosis Research Unit

PhD Degree:  University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, 1976
Postdoctoral:  Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

Research/Education Interests:  Structure-function relationship of human apolipoprotein B; regulation of hepatic and intestinal lipoprotein biogenesis

Medha P. Manchekar, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Atherosclerosis Research Unit

PhD Degree:  Structural Organization and Recombination of Plant Mitochondrial Genomes, Auburn University, 2000
Postdoctoral:  Atherosclerosis Research Unit, Department of Medicine, UAB

Research/Education Interests:  Structure and assembly of apolipoprotein A-1 and apolipoprotein B containing lipoproteins
Jere P. Segrest, MD, PhD
Professor and Director, Center for Computational and Structural Biology
Director, Atherosclerosis Research Unit

M.D. Degree: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, 1967
Residency: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
PhD Degree: Biochemistry, Physical Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, 1969
Certification: Anatomic Pathology, 1974

Research/Education Interests: Detection/prevention/treatment/research of lipid disorders