At the School of Medicine at UAB, two watchwords guide our progress: **Innovation and integration**.

As one of the country’s foremost academic medical centers, we continually search for new and better ways to execute our multi-part mission: to train the next generation of leaders in medicine and biomedical sciences; generate groundbreaking scientific discovery to improve human health; provide world-class patient care to the citizens of our city, state, region, and beyond; meet our social responsibility to enhance access to care for all people; and advance our role as an economic engine for our city and state.

Even as we strive to innovate, we also seek to integrate and align our resources so that progress in one mission area leverages and elevates the others. For example, when the UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science receives a nearly $34 million grant renewal (page 14), our research mission moves forward. But the grant also benefits patient care by supporting our efforts to develop new treatments for a host of diseases. Such an investment also attracts additional talented people to UAB, which boosts our local and state economy. Similarly, when we integrate service learning into our medical school curriculum (pages 5 and 7), we not only enhance our students’ training through real-world, real-time patient encounters, but also provide much-needed care to underserved and vulnerable people and communities.

This annual report highlights these and many other noteworthy developments from the 2014/2015 academic year. While each individual success is worthy of celebration, the combined force of these achievements propels us toward a future of excellence.

Yours sincerely,

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS
Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean
James C. Lee Endowed Chair
UAB School of Medicine

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**ABOUT THE DEAN**

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, became Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine at UAB on October 15, 2013. Dr. Vickers, a member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine), is a world-renowned surgeon, pancreatic cancer researcher, pioneer in health disparities research, and a native of Alabama.
Herbert Chen, M.D., an internationally recognized surgeon-scientist and medical educator, became Chair of the Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief of UAB Hospital. He came to UAB from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, where he served as Chair of the Division of General Surgery and holder of the Layton F. Rikkers, M.D., Chair in Surgical Leadership, and professor in the departments of surgery, biomedical engineering, and pediatrics.

Dr. Chen is a specialist in endocrine surgery, specifically in thyroid disease, hyperparathyroidism, adrenal neoplasms, and neuroendocrine tumors. He is currently a principal investigator of 10 active grants, including those from the National Institutes of Health, American Cancer Society, and American Association for Cancer Research.

James J. Cimino, M.D., was named director of the new UAB Informatics Institute in the School of Medicine and a co-director at the UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science. He was formerly chief of the Laboratory for Informatics Development at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Cimino is also co-editor of the most influential informatics textbook, *Biomedical Informatics: Computer Applications in Health Care and Biomedicine, Fourth Edition*.

Informatics, Dr. Cimino explains, is “the art and science of organizing knowledge of human health and disease, and making it useful for problem solving.” In practice, that means having a librarian’s fixation on order and classification, a computer scientist’s formal representation of data and knowledge, and a physician’s eye for pinpointing the key details in a sea of observations. His position as director of the Informatics Institute will allow him to play a leading role in the development of everything from new software to new educational programs, such as planned graduate degree programs in informatics.

**WELCOME ABOARD**

People are our most valuable asset. Assembling an exceptionally talented and diverse faculty is essential to meeting our commitment to offer medical students a thriving academic atmosphere, advance scientific research for the benefit of human health, and provide world-class clinical care to our patients. The following are just a few of the outstanding physicians and scientists we were honored to welcome to the UAB family in the last academic year.
“My goal is to create an internationally renowned center for informatics research, development, training, and service. When I heard ‘institute director’ and understood the breadth of what Dean Vickers was looking for, I knew UAB was the place to be,” he says.

Renowned geneticist and scientist Haydeh Payami, Ph.D., joined the UAB Department of Neurology as the John T. and Juanelle D. Strain Professor of Neurology. She previously served as senior research scientist at the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center and professor of molecular genetics at the State University of New York.

Dr. Payami’s research focuses on the genes that interact with environmental factors in the development and progression of Parkinson’s disease. Her goal is to develop ways to predict who is at risk for the disease and the factors they should avoid. She is also working to identify genes that influence how the body responds to Parkinson’s drugs, so that treatment can be personalized for each patient.

Dr. Payami is the founder and lead investigator of the NeuroGenetics Research Consortium, which has amassed the most unique Parkinson’s data set of its kind on the planet. With a joint faculty appointment at the HudsonAlpha Institute in Huntsville, Ala., she is doubling her DNA collection and tapping into the latest genetic sequencing and analysis systems. She also will add 2,000 patients and 2,000 healthy controls from UAB’s renowned Parkinson’s clinics.

Jianyi “Jay” Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., a national leader in myocardial bioenergetics, biomaterial, and stem cells for cardiac repair, was named Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and holder of the T. Michael and Gillian Goodrich Endowed Chair of Engineering Leadership. In 2014, the Department of Biomedical Engineering became a joint department in the UAB Schools of Medicine and Engineering.

Dr. Zhang came to UAB from the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he was the Engdahl Family Foundation Chair in Cardiovascular Regenerative Therapies and professor of medicine, biomedical engineering, and electrical and computer engineering. He is currently the principal investigator of three NIH R01 grants, and he is co-principal investigator for another program-project grant.
Longtime faculty members Dr. Craig Hoesley and Dr. Caroline Harada assumed new roles in the Department of Medical Education.
Medical Education

CULTIVATING CLINICAL SKILL AND COMPASSION

Tomorrow’s best physicians are training at UAB today. As we mold the next generation of leaders in medicine, we want to instill in them the drive to help solve the greatest health challenges we face. Accomplishing this requires not only honing students’ clinical skills, but also tapping into their innate empathy and passion for serving others. An expanded roster of service learning resources is helping to foster our students’ clinical abilities as well as their compassion for patients as people.

NEW LEADERSHIP BRINGS FRESH PERSPECTIVES

In July 2015, Craig J. Hoesley, M.D., professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, was appointed Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Chair of the Department of Medical Education. In this role, Dr. Hoesley oversees all aspects of medical education—including the offices of Medical Student Services, Undergraduate Medical Education, Graduate Medical Education, Continuing Medical Education, and the Medical Scientist Training Program—as well as student services for the school’s campuses in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Hoesley has deep roots with the School of Medicine. He came to UAB in 1992 as an internal medicine resident, serving as Chief Medical Resident before completing a fellowship in infectious diseases. He joined the faculty in 1999 and became a full professor in 2009. He directed internal medicine clerkships for seven years and was appointed associate dean for undergraduate medical education in 2008.

Last year also saw the introduction of a new education leadership position, part of our effort to enhance service learning opportunities for medical students. Caroline N. Harada, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Care, was named Assistant Dean for Community-Engaged Scholarship. The position is designed to formalize the integration of service learning—now a mandatory part of the curriculum and one the students have enthusiastically embraced—into the School of Medicine experience. In her new role, Dr. Harada oversees the new Office of Service Learning as well as the school’s Learning Communities initiative.

Two new assistant deans also joined the Department of Medical Education. James H. Baños, Ph.D., who became Assistant Dean for Student Success, now leads the Office of Student Success in helping students with academic advising and tutoring and in overcoming personal and academic challenges. Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D., joined the department as Assistant Dean for Students. In his new role, Dr. Van Wagoner works mainly with third- and fourth-year students as they make their plans for residency matching, helping them define their career paths and advising them on the best steps to take.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Now in place at all four School of Medicine campuses in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, and Montgomery, Learning Communities serve as students’ emotional, social,
Medical Education

and intellectual home throughout medical school. These faculty-led small groups are aimed at fostering mentoring relationships between students and faculty and interpersonal connections among students. They meet monthly to discuss topics such as “Mindfulness and Resilience” and “Difficult Conversations with Peers.” Learning Communities are named after significant figures from the School of Medicine’s history and after donors who have made gifts to support the program.

Learning Communities include students from each year of medical school, giving first-year students the chance to interact with and learn from those in their second, third, and fourth years. They are designed to address topics that are more suited for small group discussion as well as to foster a sense of belonging. Perhaps most importantly, they also enable students to know and be known by a faculty mentor.

“Life happens when students are in medical school, and it’s important that our students are surrounded by a community that can support them,” says Jason P. Noah, M.Ed., Program Director for Student Success. “It’s a community when you want it, and a community when you need it.”

ADMISSIONS ADVANCEMENT

The School of Medicine added a new technique to the fall 2014 admissions interview process. The Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) assesses qualities essential to being a physician that extend beyond academic ability, such as maturity, compassion, and adaptability. Applicants work their way through a series of stations in which they are presented with realistic scenarios and have to devise solutions, a process that reveals important insight into critical thinking, communication, ethics, and decision making. Applicants also complete a station gauging teamwork that involves working with another applicant or an actor.

The addition of the MMI is part of a movement toward a holistic admissions model, which considers both academic and non-academic factors in evaluating applicants. “The MMI and holistic admissions model aren’t just about which applicants have the best grades and scores, but which ones will make the best doctors,” says Nathan B. Smith, M.D., Assistant Dean for Admissions.

THE BUSINESS OF MEDICINE

The School of Medicine has partnered with UAB’s Collat School of Business to create a new M.D./M.B.A. program that will launch in 2016. The four-year program will offer courses in accounting and finance, economics, marketing, management, health care innovation, operations, and supply chain management, as well as information technology and business strategy, all with a focus on health care. Students who choose the M.D./M.B.A. route often plan careers with both clinical and administrative responsibilities. M.D./M.B.A. holders can operate clinics more efficiently, manage a health care organization, head a research project, or advocate for patients and work to improve the health care system.

The degree program is structured specifically not to interfere with the
rigorous first two years of medical school. Students start business classes the summer before medical school, and the remaining courses are offered at strategic intervals after the second year of medical school. Students are automatically enrolled in the business courses they need, and their books and materials are supplied to them. They also are paired with mentors with dual degrees.

“Students in this program will have even more opportunities to learn about their field of choice, which in turn will make them that much more competitive, both in their applications to residencies and in their ultimate entrance into the job market,” says Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE
In 2015, the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) launched a program chapter headquartered at the UAB School of Medicine with additional support provided by UAB’s Schools of Dentistry, Health Professions, Nursing, and Public Health. The Alabama chapter is ASF’s 13th U.S.-based program and the only one in the Southeast. The fellowship is an important addition to the school’s service learning resources, and recruiting is under way for the first class of fellows.

Schweitzer Fellows are graduate students in health care fields, social work, law, education, and other professions. They spend a year designing and implementing service projects that address the root causes of health disparities in under-resourced communities, while also fulfilling their academic responsibilities. The process of completing their fellowship projects teaches Schweitzer Fellows how to work with others in allied fields. As Schweitzer Fellows develop professionally, this skill is critical to their ability to affect larger-scale change among vulnerable populations.

Student Body Stats 2014/2015
Total Students: 781
M.D./Ph.D. Students: 64
Female: 331
Male: 450
Average Age: 25
Underrepresented in Medicine: 64

2014 Entering Class
Number of Applicants: 3,000
Candidates Interviewed: 456
Number Matriculated: 186
Average MCAT Score: 30
Age Range: 21-33
103 Male, 83 Female
47 Undergraduate Colleges Represented
37 Degrees of Study

Match Day 2015
Students Matched: 180
Match Rate: 97%
Primary Care: 43%
Non-Primary Care: 57%
Students pursued residencies at 78 institutions in 34 states
Dr. J. David Sweatt and his research team have identified a brain mechanism that is critical to the process of memory and learning.
Innovation & Discovery

BUILDING ON STRENGTHS

After months of consultation among faculty and leadership, the UAB School of Medicine identified five research focus areas that align with federal scientific funding priorities, build on our existing strengths, and, most importantly, have the greatest potential to improve patient care. These cross-cutting focus areas are: Fundamentals of Basic Science Discovery; Personalized Medicine and Genomics; Informatics; Inflammation, Infection, and Immunity (I-3); and Outcomes and Effectiveness, Health Disparities, Global Health, and Population Health. Below are a few notable examples that demonstrate the strength and breadth of our research enterprise across these core areas.

BASIC SCIENCE DISCOVERY
NEW MEMORY AND LEARNING MECHANISM DISCOVERED

UAB researchers led by J. David Sweatt, Ph.D., the Evelyn F. McKnight Endowed Chair for Learning and Memory in Aging, Chair of the Department of Neurobiology, director of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute and the Civitan International Research Center, and winner of the 2015 Dean’s Excellence Award for Research, have discovered a novel mechanism in the brain involved in the formation of memory and learning. In findings reported online in the journal *Nature*, the research team describes the role of a histone subunit known as H2A.Z.

Histones are proteins that band together in groups of eight to form a core protein required for memory formation. In a healthy person, one of these eight core histones is replaced by the histone subunit H2A.Z at the time a memory is laid down in the hippocampus.

The researchers removed H2A.Z in mouse models by means of a genetically engineered virus so that the H2A.Z exchange could not take place. They then measured the mice's memory response to a perceived threat. To their surprise, memory improved in the animal models in which the H2A.Z exchange had not taken place.

“This was unexpected, since we hypothesized that H2A.Z would be a necessary part of memory formation,” Dr. Sweatt says. “This gives us an intriguing new target for therapies for conditions involving memory loss or poor memory formation.”

One possible next step would be to develop H2A.Z inhibitors that might help with declining memory associated with aging or dementia. Dr. Sweatt also speculates that H2A.Z may serve as a sort of suppressor of unpleasant or painful memories.

“In that case, the ability to either inhibit or promote H2A.Z may play a valuable role in blocking or treating PTSD in the aftermath of traumatic experiences.”

BASIC SCIENCE DISCOVERY
BIOMARKERS TO PREDICT SUICIDE

Yogesh Dwivedi, Ph.D., Elesabeth Ridgely Shook Endowed Professor and director of translational research in the Department of Psychiatry’s Mood Disorders Program, is searching for a biomarker that will indicate the likelihood of a person’s attempting suicide. Such a biomarker is also crucial for testing the effectiveness of potential new drugs to treat the psychiatric illness.

Dr. Dwivedi was awarded a five-year, $3.5 million grant from the
Innovation & Discovery

National Institute of Mental Health to follow up on preliminary experiments that identified a few select microRNAs (miRNAs) that may serve as potential biomarkers associated with suicide ideation. The current study is looking for changes in miRNAs when the drug ketamine is given to treat suicidal psychiatric patients. Ketamine is a powerful anesthetic that, at smaller doses, can lower suicidality in just 15 minutes.

Over the next five years, Dr. Dwivedi will recruit 60 healthy controls, 60 depressed subjects, and 60 depressed subjects who have suicidal ideation or have attempted suicide within the past month. Depressed patients will get a sub-anesthetic dose of ketamine, and then provide a blood sample. They will undergo suicide-risk assessment at five intervals after the ketamine administration, and blood samples collected at each interval will be processed to sequence neuron-derived miRNAs.

“This will tell us whether we can really look at miRNAs as biomarkers for treatment response,” Dr. Dwivedi says. “We will also look to see if any miRNA correlates with childhood trauma, which is a very important factor in suicide.”

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE
RACE INFLUENCES BLOOD THINNER DOSAGE

A study published online in Blood, the Journal of the American Society of Hematology, demonstrates that clinical and genetic factors that affect dose requirements for warfarin, the most widely used blood thinning medication, vary by race. Researchers led by Nita Limdi, Ph.D., Pharm.D., professor in the Department of Neurology and interim director of UAB’s Hugh Kaul Personalized Medicine Institute, identified several factors that can influence dose requirements, including the presence of genes that help the body break down warfarin (CYP2C9) and help to activate clotting (VKORC1).

Investigators analyzed 1,357 patients (595 African-Americans and 762 European-Americans) treated with warfarin, calculating and comparing their recommended dose according to both race-adjusted dosing models and race-specific dosing models. The researchers found that, while genetic factors accounted for a larger proportion of the dose variability for European-American patients, clinical factors accounted for larger dose variability in African-Americans. They also noted that gene variants may have a different effect on dose across race groups. For example, European-Americans with a variant of CYP2C9 (CYP2C9*2) required less of the drug according to race-specific dosing models, yet African-Americans did not. While all participants, regardless of race, who carried VKORC1 required lower dose, according to race-specific dosing models, the proportional dose reduction was greater among European-Americans.

Researchers recommend that race-specific equations, rather than race-adjusted equations, be used to guide warfarin dosing. “This study brings to attention the need to conduct studies in racially diverse populations,” Dr. Limdi says. “It is the first step to developing race-specific algorithms to personalize therapy.”
INFORMATICS
TURNING BIG DATA INTO ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

Every few years, the medical literature doubles in size, but, according to James J. Cimino, M.D., director of the UAB Informatics Institute, “if doctors and nurses aren’t able to put that information to use, we have wasted a huge amount of money.”

One of his first projects at UAB will be to implement infobuttons—a technology he developed at Columbia University in the 1990s—in the UAB Hospital electronic health record (EHR) system. Infobuttons aren’t simply links to resources, they are aware of the context of the doctor-patient interaction. “If the doctor is looking at a drug order for a young adult female, it’s programmed to say, ‘here are the questions that you may have—what’s the proper dosing? what about effects on pregnancy?’ Each question is actually a link to a resource to get you the answer, to automate that process.”

Another of Dr. Cimino’s main goals is to unlock the data in EHRs which, he says, is not being leveraged fully. “A basic problem with EHRs is that the notes doctors write are not that helpful when you’re trying to re-use them for research or decision support.” That is because, “today’s EHRs are heavily oriented toward ‘diary’ functions. They’re all just recording the things that are happening to or with the patient, and then returning that same information when asked.” Part of the solution, says Dr. Cimino, is to build systems that can more accurately assist in the “reasoning and strategies” used by physicians.

While systems such as infobuttons have to become smarter at knowing what information doctors and nurses need, Dr. Cimino says, “We also have to teach EHR users why the way they document is important, that there’s a reason we’re asking the questions in this particular way.”

I-3
DEFINING LINKS BETWEEN INFLAMMATION AND PARKINSON’S

A group of UAB researchers has set a two-year target to put an interdisciplinary team in place and have the necessary results in hand to support the development of a Parkinson’s Disease Research Center of Excellence at UAB. Only nine such NIH-supported centers—also known as Morris K. Udall Centers—exist today.

UAB will focus on neuroinflammatory mechanisms in Parkinson’s disease. The team will probe how the body’s immune system may contribute to the pathology seen in the brains of Parkinson’s disease patients and to the development and progression of the disease.

Only recently have researchers begun to suspect an important role for inflammation in the disease. Research in this area could lead to therapies that can slow the
progression or stop the disease mechanisms of Parkinson’s—a vital need since no such therapies exist.

UAB scientists David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., the John N. Whitaker Endowed Chair in Neurology; Etty “Tika” Benveniste, Ph.D., the Charlene A. Jones Endowed Chair in Neuroimmunology; and Andrew B. West, Ph.D., the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Endowed Professor in Neurology, are leading the team, bolstered by a two-year exploratory P20 NIH grant.

Two mouse model systems have been engineered to have elevated levels of the protein alpha-synuclein in their brains to provoke innate immune responses. These model systems can differentiate between the activation of brain-resident immune cells and the infiltration of immune cells from outside the brain. This will lay the groundwork for targeting some of the control systems of these immune responses for therapeutic benefit.

The team will also develop a pipeline to human subjects, so researchers can obtain blood from patients newly diagnosed with Parkinson’s. “We see about one to three patients a month with newly diagnosed Parkinson’s disease at the Comprehensive Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Clinic, which has about 6,000 patient visits a year,” Dr. Standaert says. “We need to catch them in that window when they are just diagnosed, before any treatment. This would be difficult to do at a smaller center, but we’re big enough to do it.”

Fresh blood is needed to isolate monocytes, which are innate immune system cells that reside outside of the brain. The monocytes will be purified the same day the blood is drawn and immediately tested to see if they have been activated for an immune response. “We can get patient blood samples at the clinic, take them to the lab, and study them that afternoon,” Dr. Standaert says. “Very few places can do that.”

I-3

PARTNERSHIP MAY SPUR MENINGITIS BREAKTHROUGH

Meningitis research efforts two decades in the making could soon come to fruition through a partnership between UAB investigators and Children’s of Alabama, with assistance from the UAB Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. “Viral meningitis generally is not serious and often is treated symptomatically, but bacterial meningitis is potentially life-threatening and requires immediate intervention and treatment with antibiotics,” says Scott R. Barnum, Ph.D., professor in the UAB Department of Microbiology.

Dr. Barnum’s work with bacterial meningitis dates back nearly 20 years, when his team was looking at production in the brain of proteins in the complement system, a critical part of the immune system. “When we looked at the levels of complement...
proteins in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with bacterial meningitis, we found that certain proteins were elevated compared to the levels found in meningitis caused by a virus or other pathogen,” Dr. Barnum says. “We patented this observation with the aim of developing a diagnostic test for discriminating between the two types of meningitis.”

Dr. Barnum and co-inventor Dr. Theresa Ramos have teamed up with Children’s and industry partners to bring that goal to a reality. “A test that could rapidly and inexpensively discriminate between bacterial and viral meningitis would be a valuable tool for the emergency room physician. We would love to see the test be used in underdeveloped parts of the world where limited resources prevent timely and accurate diagnosis of most diseases, including meningitis.”

OUTCOMES & EFFECTIVENESS
PATIENT NAVIGATORS HELP IMPROVE CARE AND REDUCE COSTS

UAB presented an observational study at the 2015 American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting that indicates a rapid decline in Medicare costs and patient resource utilization during implementation of a lay navigation program.

The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center’s patient navigation initiative, Patient Care Connect, was created in 2012 with the support of a $15 million Health Care Innovation Challenge Grant Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

“The goals of the program are to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and inpatient intensive care unit days, encourage evidence-based clinical pathways, adopt earlier use of hospice care, reduce use of chemotherapy in the last two weeks of life, and provide the highest quality of life for people diagnosed with cancer,” says Edward E. Partridge, M.D., Evalina B. Spencer Chair in Oncology, director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, and principal investigator of the study.

UAB examined 30,589 Medicare patients receiving cancer care across the Network from January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2014. Lay navigation started in March 2013, and by the end of 2014 about 25 percent of eligible Medicare patients were navigated.

The study evaluated health care utilization with hospitalizations, ER visits, ICU admissions, and hospice admissions for all eligible
Innovation & Discovery

Medicare patients. In addition, during implementation, the study analyzed the cost to Medicare for the overall medical care received by these patients. The results of the study indicate a dramatic trend toward a clinically significant reduction in health care utilization and Medicare costs, with substantial impact during initial phase, survivorship, and the last six months of life.

“Certainly, some of these trends cannot be fully attributed to the Patient Care Connect Program,” says Gabrielle B. Rocque, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and medical director of the Patient Care Connect Program. However, “lay navigators have the potential to identify patient needs, communicate with the care team, and contribute to better care and lower health care costs.”

MAJOR GRANT RENEWAL ADVANCES CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

This summer, the National Institutes of Health awarded the UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UAB’s CTSA) $33.59 million over four years to support the center’s three-part mission: To accelerate the translation of laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients; to train a new generation of clinical and translational researchers; and to engage communities in clinical research efforts. With this grant renewal, the CCTS can continue to accelerate the delivery of new drugs, methodologies, and practices to patients at UAB and throughout a partner network of 11 institutions in the Southeast.

“The NIH’s support of our expansive partner network, encompassing 11 regional academic and medical institutions throughout Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, will allow us to further grow our scope of practices and research resources as we look to tackle health disparities in our region,” says Robert P. Kimberly, M.D., Director and Principal Investigator of the CCTS, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, and the Howard L. Holley Research Chair in Rheumatology.

NIH Rankings Rise

$156.3 MILLION

The School of Medicine secured more than $156.3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health in fiscal year 2014, elevating the school’s national ranking to No. 26, up from No. 31 the previous fiscal year. NIH funding for the university as a whole rose more than 20 percent in fiscal year 2014, totaling $225 million (including contracts), up from $188 million in FY 2013. The increase placed UAB 10th in NIH funding among public universities.
### NIH COLLABORATIVE AWARDS
- **Beth Lewis, M.D., MSPH, Medicine,** $2 million/year  
  *Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study (MOST) (second renewal)*
- **Sadis Matalon, Ph.D., Dr.Sc. (Hon.), Anesthesiology,** $734,836/year  
  *Bromine Inhalation Induced Lung Injury: Novel Mechanisms and Treatment Strategies*
- **Mohammad Athar, Ph.D., Dermatology,** $733,530/year  
  *Blocking Arsenicals-Induced Cutaneous Injury*
- **Robin G. Lorenz, M.D., Ph.D., Pathology,** $723,159/year  
  *Medical Scientist Training Program*

### NIH RESEARCH AWARDS
- **Marcas M. Bamman, Ph.D., Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology,** $1,099,922/year  
  *National Resource Center for High-Impact Clinical Trials in Medical Rehabilitation*
- **Kevin S. Harrod, Ph.D., Anesthesiology,** $717,682/year  
  *Targeting MMP9 to Improve Outcomes in Serious Influenza Infections*
- **Yogesh Dwivedi, Ph.D., and Rick C. Shelton, M.D., Psychiatry,** $710,508/year  
  *Plasma Exosomal MicroRNAs as Promising Novel Biomarkers for Suicidality and Treatment Outcome*
- **J. David Sweatt, Ph.D., Neurobiology,** $669,855/year  
  *Biochemical Mechanisms of Neural Plasticity*
- **Gareth R. Dutton, Ph.D., Medicine,** $602,170/year  
  *Fixed Versus Variable Energy Reduction During Behavioral Obesity Treatment*

### AWARDS FROM OTHER SPONSORS
- **Mansoor Saleh, M.D., Irshad H. Chaudry, Ph.D., and Jeffrey D. Kerby, M.D., Ph.D., Medicine,** $10,064,138  
  *Surviving Blood Loss: First in Human Studies to Assess Safety & Physiologic Effects of Synthetic Ethinyl Estradiol-3-SO4 in Healthy Subjects both Euvolemic and Following 1-2-% Iatrogenic Blood Loss*
  *Department of Defense (lead contract)*
- **Mark T. Dransfield, M.D., Medicine,** $2,641,501/year  
  *Beta Blockers for the Prevention of Acute Exacerbations of COPD*
  *Department of Defense*
- **Mona N. Fouad, M.D., M.P.H., Medicine,** $943,212/year  
  *Birmingham REACH for Better Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Birmingham REACH for Better Health*
- **Anath Shalev, M.D., Medicine,** $699,294/year  
  *Repurposing of Verapamil as a Beta Cell Survival Therapy in Type 1 Diabetes*
  *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation*
- **Sonya L. Heath, M.D., Medicine,** $620,077/year  
  *Expanded Human Immunodeficiency Testing for Disproportionately Affected Populations*
  *Alabama Department of Public Health*
Dr. Smita Bhatia is working to help cancer survivors avoid and manage the “late effects” that can be linked to many cancer therapies.
CONFRONTING CANCER’S LATE EFFECTS

Even after it is defeated, cancer can cast a lifelong shadow. “When you follow cancer survivors long-term, you find that they have a very high rate of chronic health conditions,” says Smita Bhatia, M.D., M.P.H., a pediatric oncologist and director of the School of Medicine’s new Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship and associate director for cancer outcomes research at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Often, these health problems can be traced back to cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation, and even surgeries. Because these complications can occur many years after treatment has ended, they are called “late effects.” For example, research shows that patients who take a particular type of chemotherapy drug known as anthracyclines have a high risk of developing congestive heart failure years later.

That is why UAB has established special survivorship clinics. “In order to provide the most comprehensive long-term care to our survivors, we need care plans,” Dr. Bhatia says. “These are essentially a summary of all the treatment that the patients received for their particular cancer, along with recommendations for long-term follow-up in order to detect complications.”

Survivorship clinics are staffed by physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, psychologists, and dietitians who provide comprehensive and tailored care to survivors, Dr. Bhatia says. “For example, we do heart tests in order to detect heart failure at an earlier stage only among patients who received treatments that are toxic to the heart. Mammograms are recommended for patients who received radiation to the chest at a young age, and who are at risk for breast cancer.”

The survivorship model can be extended to care for patients with many different chronic health conditions, Dr. Bhatia says. These include patients with sickle cell disease, HIV, congenital heart disease — “any chronic condition where the health care providers can coordinate the care of the patient as a whole, consider the entirety of their health, and provide complete and comprehensive care long-term.”
Patient Care

EXCELLENCE IN STROKE CARE
UAB has been named a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. The designation places UAB among an elite group of providers recognized as industry leaders that is responsible for setting the national agenda in highly specialized stroke care.

UAB, which is the first hospital with Comprehensive Stroke Center certification in Alabama, has eight expert stroke physicians and the most board-certified vascular neurologists in the state, along with 350 nurses specially trained in stroke care. Our Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit is one of the largest in the U.S., and UAB Hospital also boasts a dedicated stroke unit. UAB treats more than 1,100 strokes a year.

KIDNEY CHAIN ADDS NEW LINKS
The longest living-donor kidney transplant chain to take place at one institution has reached a new milestone with the completion of 56 transplants. The UAB Kidney Chain was started in 2013 by the generosity of one altruistic donor, Paula Kok, who approached UAB about donating a kidney despite not having an intended recipient. Her gift began a chain of transplants that now involves people from 11 states.

UAB is home to the South’s leading incompatible kidney transplant program and the only one of its kind in the Southeast. It fills a major need in Alabama, which has the second highest number of people on the kidney transplant waiting list (more than 3,700) of any state in the country. UAB has performed the second highest number of living-kidney transplants and highest number of African-American kidney transplants in the U.S.

CARING FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY
This summer, the UAB Department of Psychiatry opened a mental health and wellness clinic designed for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning individuals.

“There is a dramatic need for a clinic that will serve the mental health needs of the LGBTQ community in Birmingham,” says James Meador-Woodruff, M.D., Psychiatry Department Chair and the Heman E. Drummond Endowed Chair of Psychiatry. “Studies have shown that members of this community are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide. It is incumbent on UAB, as an academic medical center, to find ways to deliver the best possible care to all individuals in our society, and this clinic will help us achieve that aim.”

UAB has created curricula for all medical students in the care of LGBTQ patients. Psychiatric residents and fellows also receive additional, intensive training on managing the mental health concerns of this population.

BREAKTHROUGH HEART PROCEDURES
In July 2014, Bill York became the first patient in Alabama to receive a MitraClip device, a new minimally invasive treatment option used to aid patients suffering from mitral valve disease.
regurgitation who are not good candidates for open heart surgery. **Oluseun Alli**, M.D., director of the Structural Heart Program in the Section of Interventional Cardiology, and **Massoud Leesar**, M.D., professor of medicine and section chief of Interventional Cardiology, performed the procedure.

“There are a lot of Mr. Yorks out there who need help, who suffer from severe mitral regurgitation, can’t find relief from medication, and are not good candidates for surgery,” Dr. Alli says. “We’re proud to be the only center in Alabama and one of only a handful of centers in the United States to offer this device.”

“I feel great for an old man,” York says. “My breathing is so much better now. It’s exciting to feel good again.”

On December 17, 2014, George “Mac” McAllister became the first person outside Japan to receive the Evaheart Left Ventricular Assist Device. This heart assist device helps bridge severe congestive heart failure patients to transplant. McAllister’s milestone surgery, which was performed by **James K. Kirklin**, M.D., John W. Kirklin Chair of Cardiovascular Surgery, assisted by **William L. Holman**, M.D., professor of surgery, launched the U.S. Pivotal Trial, which includes up to six sites along with UAB. **Salpy Pamboukian**, M.D., associate professor of medicine and section chief of the Advanced Heart Failure, Transplantation and Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program, is the principal investigator for the UAB site.

“It takes a lot of courage to be the first person to go through this kind of experience,” Dr. Pamboukian says. “Mr. McAllister was unwavering, and the good news is he has done so well since the implant that he is now a candidate for a heart transplant.”

**CHIEF QUALITY RESIDENTS**

As part of the ongoing effort to expand quality across the clinical enterprise, UAB Medicine started a Chief Quality Resident Program in 2014. Led by Chief Medical Officer **Loring Rue**, M.D., and Associate Chief Medical Officer **Ben Taylor**, M.D., the program enhances residents’ practical understanding of the quality improvement concepts and techniques necessary to build and sustain high-quality patient care.

In addition to their primary residency duties, the 10 residents chosen for the inaugural year of the program were given the opportunity to attend monthly lectures, participate on a clinical effectiveness redesign...
Patient Care

team, complete a quality and patient safety project, and audit UAB Quality Academy courses for a semester. “Our intent is to expose them to the quality process so they can better understand how the things they learn in the curriculum are applied on the front lines of a large, complex organization,” Dr. Taylor says. “It’s an opportunity to connect with leaders and learn some of the things they don’t teach you in medical school.”

ADVANCES IN PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

UAB has become the first medical center in the Southeast to offer the latest major advancement in prostate cancer screening technology—magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasound fusion-guided biopsy.

Jeffrey W. Nix, M.D., and Sorosh Rais-Bahrami, M.D., assistant professors in the UAB Department of Urology, studied the MRI-US image fusion as fellows at the National Cancer Institute. They are among a select few urologists in the U.S. trained to utilize the technology.

Drs. Nix and Rais-Bahrami say this new technology offers a “targeted biopsy,” in which tissue samples are drawn directly from suspicious areas as identified on MRI. This is an improvement from the traditional method of random, systematic sampling that is essentially performed blindly in different regions of the prostate.

Studies of this new technique have shown that it increases the overall cancer detection rate and the high-risk cancer detection rate. It also improves staging—the process of determining how much cancer is in the body and where it is located—for patients who are considering active surveillance. “The technique is expected to be especially helpful in cases of men who have had negative biopsies who are still suspected of having cancer because of elevated prostate-specific antigen levels, patients with enlarged prostates, and patients for whom active surveillance is recommended,” says Dr. Rais-Bahrami.
A FAMILY’S JOURNEY
Throughout spring and summer 2015, UAB News followed the journey of Crystal and James Burford as they prepared for the birth of their third child, Jeremiah James (JJ). JJ was diagnosed with hypoplastic left-heart syndrome, a serious heart defect, by physicians in UAB’s Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine when Crystal was four months pregnant. The condition occurs when the left ventricle fails to fully develop, and the heart can’t pump oxygen-rich blood to the rest of the body. “We see approximately 10 to 20 babies who have hypoplastic left-heart syndrome or related variants every year,” says Waldemar A. Carlo, M.D., pediatric cardiologist at Children’s of Alabama and assistant professor in the UAB Department of Pediatrics. Treatments for HLHS include three major surgeries before the age of 5—the first occurring within one week of birth. Children’s of Alabama is the only hospital in the state that treats pediatric patients with complex heart defects.

JJ cleared a significant hurdle by responding well after his first surgical procedure, known as the Norwood, six days after his birth. His second heart surgery, known as the Glenn, took place July 21. After some setbacks in recovery, including a collapsed lung and days spent on a ventilator, JJ was allowed to go home more than two weeks after surgery. He will have a third surgery, known as the Fontan, sometime between the age of 2 and 5. “We’ve had to enjoy his babyhood in the hospital,” Crystal says. “With my first two [children], I wanted to get them to the next step so quickly. With Jeremiah, it’s different. I don’t want him to grow up so fast. It’s not like the other two, but it’s worth it for him.”

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
JULY 2014
• Becker’s Hospital Review names the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center one of the “100 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Oncology Programs.”
• UAB Hospital continues to rank No. 1 in both Alabama and Birmingham on the U.S. News & World Report 2014-2015 Best Hospitals list. Nationally ranked specialties include:
  - Diabetes and Endocrinology (No. 39)
  - Ear, Nose and Throat (No. 46)
  - Gynecology (No. 20)
  - Neurology and Neurosurgery (No. 30)
  - Orthopedics (No. 31)
  - Rheumatology (No. 11)
  - Nephrology (No. 26)
  - Urology (No. 28)

OCTOBER 2014
• Becker’s Hospital Review names UAB Medicine as “One of the 150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare.”

JANUARY 2015
• UAB Medicine received a 2015 Women’s Choice Award as one of “America’s Best Hospitals for Obstetrics.”

FEBRUARY 2015
• UAB Hospital is selected as one of “100 Hospitals With Great Women’s Health Programs” for 2014 by Becker’s Hospital Review.

MAY 2015
• UAB Hospital is the only Alabama hospital to be named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s list of “100 Great Hospitals in the United States.”

JUNE 2015
• The Women’s Choice Award names UAB Hospital to the fifth annual list of “America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience.”
From left: Dr. Wayne Finley, Sara J. Finley, and Dr. Randall Finley established the Sara Crews Finley, M.D. Leadership Scholars Program in honor of a genetics pioneer and beloved faculty member at UAB.
HONORING FAMILY
The late Sara Crews Finley, M.D., co-founded the first medical genetics program in the southeastern U.S. at UAB with her husband, Wayne H. Finley, M.D., Ph.D., and was co-director of UAB’s Medical Genetics Laboratory for more than 30 years. She also guided and advised hundreds of applicants as a member of the School of Medicine admissions committee. To honor her legacy of innovation and mentorship, Dr. Finley’s family— daughter Sara J. Finley, J.D., son Randall W. Finley, M.D., and Dr. Wayne Finley—established the Sara Crews Finley, M.D., Leadership Scholars Program to support medical students who demonstrate exceptional academic and leadership abilities. The scholarship includes full tuition for the third year of medical school and is renewable for the fourth year.

“My mother was a highly respected leader in all aspects of her personal and professional life,” says Sara J. Finley. “We felt that a leadership scholarship in medicine was the most appropriate way to recognize her enduring legacy.”

Ryan B. Khodadadi, Class of 2017, is the inaugural recipient of the scholarship and received a new white coat with special insignia identifying him as the Sara Crews Finley, M.D. Leadership Scholar.

Sara J. and Randall Finley honored their father’s passion for medical history with a gift to rename the Reynolds Historical Library, a collection of more than 13,000 rare books and manuscripts pertaining to the history of medicine and dating from the 14th century, as the Reynolds-Finley Historical Library. In addition, they have established an endowed support fund to enhance the Reynolds Historical Lectureship, which has been renamed the Reynolds-Finley Historical Lectureship.

ADVANCING PERSONALIZED MEDICINE
A $7 million gift from the Hugh Kaul Foundation is accelerating UAB’s progress toward becoming a national leader in an emerging science. The newly named Hugh Kaul Personalized Medicine Institute will enhance the delivery of personalized medicine—which uses an individual patient’s genetic profile to guide decisions about preventing, diagnosing, and treating disease. The institute will assemble and support UAB researchers and clinicians in collaborations aimed at discovering new knowledge in fields as diverse as cardiovascular disease, transplantation, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases, immunology, and the neurosciences.

The Kaul Foundation gift will enable UAB to support existing faculty, recruit new physicians and scientists, and build an administrative infrastructure to facilitate more federal and private research grants. Educating physicians, trainees, and the broader biomedical community,
including bioethicists, will build partnerships, advance the concept of personalized medicine and, ultimately, enhance patient care.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
A $3.75 million gift from Dowd and Susan Ritter of Birmingham and Research to Prevent Blindness is helping the Department of Ophthalmology recruit a world-class scientist to join its roster of international experts in the study of blinding diseases. The gift commitment to establish the Research to Prevent Blindness/Susan and Dowd Ritter Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology Research is the result of a unique, dynamic philanthropic collaboration. Two of the department’s key supporters, Research to Prevent Blindness—the world’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to funding eye research—and the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama, the department’s largest donor, recognized that
they could leverage their philanthropic impact on research by turning to a private philanthropic partner for equal support. The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when the Ritters pledged to provide the crucial third matching gift.

“RPB’s partnership with the Ritters and the EyeSight Foundation provides an opportunity at a critical juncture for expansion of the department’s research program,” says Christopher A. Girkin, M.D., MSPH, holder of the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama Endowed Chair of Ophthalmology and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology. “This endowed chair will enable us to recruit another stellar individual who will add even more depth and breadth to our already outstanding research faculty.”

A LEGACY OF GIVING
Several programs across the School of Medicine that have touched his life will benefit from generous gifts and pledges from retired OB/GYN Gunavant N. Shah, M.D. The Dr. Gunavant N. Shah, Mrs. Gunvanti G. Shah, and Dr. Parul Shah Nguyen Endowed Medical Scholarship honors Dr. Shah’s late wife, Gunvanti Shah, who served as director of the cytotechnology program in the UAB School of Health Professions until 2000.

The Shahs’ daughter, Parul Shah Nguyen, M.D., earned her medical degree and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UAB. In recognition of the training his daughter received, Dr. Shah designated a portion of his planned gift to support educational and training needs for obstetrics and gynecologic care.

In another connection, Dr. Shah received a kidney transplant at UAB, performed by former Department of Surgery Chair Arnold G. Diethelm, M.D. In recognition of the transplant, as well as the excellent follow-up care he received from Robert S. Gaston, M.D., holder of the Robert G. Luke Endowed Chair in Transplant Nephrology and director of the UAB Comprehensive Transplant Institute, and Vineeta Kumar, M.D., associate professor of medicine and medical director of the UAB Incompatible Kidney Transplant Program, part of

Dr. Shah’s planned gift will create the Dr. Gunavant N. Shah, Mrs. Gunvanti G. Shah, and Dr. Parul Shah Nguyen Endowed Support Fund in Organ Transplantation. The fund will support various aspects of the transplant programs, particularly organ transplantation training.
Highlights & Honors

JULY 2014
David B. Allison, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Science in the UAB School of Public Health with secondary appointments in the School of Medicine’s Departments of Genetics and Medicine and the Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging, is named a fellow of The Gerontological Society of America.

The Center for Palliative and Supportive Care Ambulatory Program receives a Citation of Honor celebrating innovation in palliative and end-of-life care from the American Hospital Association’s Circle of Life Award program.

The UAB School of Medicine achieves the highest level of accreditation available to a medical school in the United States by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

Casey T. Weaver, M.D., the Wyatt and Susan Haskell Professor of Medical Excellence in the Department of Pathology, is elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.

AUGUST 2014
Ben V. Branscomb, M.D. FACP, FCCP, professor emeritus in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, and Michael S. Saag, M.D., the Jim Straley Endowed Chair in AIDS Research and director of the UAB Center for AIDS Research, are inducted into the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology receives the 2014 Best Paper in Basic Science award from the American Urogynecologic Society and the International Urogynecological Association for “Genetic Contributions to Urgency Urinary Incontinence in Women.”

SEPTEMBER 2014
Anupam Agarwal, M.D., Director of the Division of Nephrology and Executive Vice Dean of the UAB School of Medicine, is elected to the Council of the American Society of Nephrology.

OCTOBER 2014
His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama hosts a dialogue at UAB’s Neuroplasticity and Healing Scientific Forum, featuring leading experts in the brain’s healing power and how the brain changes.

NOVEMBER 2014
Etty “Tika” Benveniste, Ph.D., the Charlene A. Jones Endowed Chair in Neuroimmunology of the Department of Cell, Integrative and Developmental Biology, is appointed interim Senior Associate Dean for Research Administration and Development in the UAB School of Medicine. (Dr. Benveniste has since been appointed to the position.)
Kirby I. Bland, M.D., former Fay Fletcher Kerner Chair of the Department of Surgery and surgeon-in-chief of UAB Health System, is named the 2014 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, the highest honor bestowed by the UAB Academic Health Center.

Robert M. Centor, M.D., professor of medicine and regional dean of the School of Medicine’s Huntsville Regional Medical Campus, is elected to Mastership by the American College of Physicians, one of the highest honors available to internists.

Bruce R. Korf, M.D., Ph.D., the Wayne H. and Sara Crews Finley Chair of Medical Genetics, and Chair of the Department of Genetics is named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

JANUARY 2015

James J. Cimino, M.D., is named the inaugural director of the Informatics Institute in the UAB School of Medicine.

Will Ferniany, Ph.D., CEO of UAB Health System, is named to the board of directors of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Jean-Francois Pittet, M.D., professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, is named editor-in-chief of the flagship journal of the International Anesthesia Research Society, Anesthesia & Analgesia, beginning in March 2016.

Five faculty members are named the inaugural James A. Pittman Jr., M.D., Scholars, a new program organized to recognize the contributions of junior faculty: André Ballesteros-Tato, Ph.D., Beatriz León Ruiz, Ph.D., Lizhong Wang, M.D. Ph.D., J. Michael Wells, M.D., and Adam R. Wende, Ph.D.

FEBRUARY 2015

Jennifer S. Pollock, Ph.D., professor of medicine and endowed scholar in the Division of Nephrology, receives the Bodil M. Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award from the American Physiological Society.

Gene P. Siegal, M.D., Ph.D., the Robert W. Mowry Endowed Professor in Pathology and interim chair of the Department of Pathology and division director of Anatomic Pathology, is named the 2015 recipient of the Robbins Distinguished Educator Award from the American Society for Investigative Pathology.
MARCH 2015

Charles W. Hoopes, M.D., is named the new chief of the Section of Thoracic Transplantation, where he leads efforts in heart and lung transplantation, as well as artificial heart and lung devices.

Charles W. Hoopes

Kenneth G. Saag, M.D., M.Sc., the Jane Knight Lowe Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology and director of the Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education in the UAB School of Medicine, is elected to the Association of American Physicians.

Kenneth G. Saag

Lisa M. Schwiebert, Ph.D., professor of cell, integrative, and developmental biology and associate dean for postdoctoral education, in the graduate school is named the 2015 Becky Trigg Outstanding Woman UAB Faculty Member.

Lisa M. Schwiebert

The 2015 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools” ranks the UAB School of Medicine No. 37 (up six places). The school’s Primary Care Program ranks No. 17, up from 22, and the Center for AIDS Research is ranked No. 10.

April 2015

UAB is named a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

Gustavo R. Heudebert

The Department of Anesthesiology changes its name to the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, a move to reflect the comprehensive scope of services the department provides to patients before, during, and after surgery.

The Department of Anesthesiology

Sumanth D. Prabhu, M.D., the Mary Gertrude Waters Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine; Steven M. Rowe, M.D., professor of pulmonary, allergy, and critical care medicine and director of the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Center; and Anath Shalev, M.D., the Nancy R. and Eugene C. Gwaltney Family Endowed Chair in Juvenile Diabetes Research, are the 2015 recipients of the Max Cooper Award for Excellence in Research.

Sumanth D. Prabhu, Steven M. Rowe, Anath Shalev

As past president of the American Physiological Society, David M. Pollock, Ph.D., Endowed Professor in Nephrology Research, participates in the signing of a memorandum of understanding with leaders of the Cuban Society of Physiological Sciences, which formalizes an agreement for the exchange of scientific information and resources between the two organizations.

David M. Pollock

Gustavo R. Heudebert, M.D., FACP, Professor of Medicine and Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education, becomes governor of the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Gustavo R. Heudebert
Steven M. Rowe, M.D., MSPH, professor of pulmonary, allergy, and critical care medicine and director of the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Center, is elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Michael S. Saag, M.D., the Jim Straley Endowed Chair in AIDS Research and director of the UAB Center for AIDS Research, is named Associate Dean of Global Health in the UAB School of Medicine.

MAY 2015

The American College of Emergency Physicians names David C. Pigott, M.D., RDMS, FACEP, professor and vice chair for academic development in the Department of Emergency Medicine, as Spokesperson of the Year for his communications efforts with the news media during the Ebola crisis in the fall of 2014.

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean of the UAB School of Medicine, is elected president of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract.

JUNE 2015

Robin G. Lorenz, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Medical Scientist Training Program, is named Associate Dean for Physician Scientist Development in the UAB School of Medicine. Dr. Lorenz is tasked with creating the Physician Scientist Development Office to support and enhance the training of UAB physician-scientists.

Ona Faye-Petersen, M.D., professor in the Department of Pathology, is named president-elect of the Society for Pediatric Pathology.

Chad Steele, Ph.D., professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, is named Assistant Dean for Research Administration, a new position in the UAB School of Medicine created to facilitate successful onboarding for newly recruited and promoted research faculty.

UAB Hospital is re-verfied as a Level I Trauma Center through May 1, 2018, an achievement that recognizes dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients. UAB has been continuously certified as a Level 1 Trauma Center since 1999. Level I is the highest level of adult trauma care and indicates that the hospital provides the full spectrum of care needed to treat a wide variety of injured patients, from the pre-hospital phase through the rehabilitation process.
UAB School of Medicine Leadership

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS
Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean
James C. Lee Endowed Chair

Anupam Agarwal, M.D.
Executive Vice Dean
Marie S. Ingalls Endowed Chair in Nephrology Leadership

Etty “Tika” Benveniste, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Research Administration and Development
Charlene A. Jones Endowed Chair in Neuroimmunology

S. Dawn Bulgarella, MSHA
Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Finance, UAB School of Medicine
Chief Financial Officer, UAB Health System

Mona N. Fouad M.D., M.P.H.
Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Craig J. Hoesley, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
Chair of the Department of Medical Education

Robert P. Kimberly, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research
Howard L. Holley Research Chair in Rheumatology

David A. Rogers, M.D., MHPE
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development
UAB HEALTH SYSTEM

Facilities include:

- **UAB Hospital** The centerpiece of the UAB Health System, licensed for 1,157 beds and one of the largest and most advanced public hospitals in the nation. It was established in 1945 as the teaching hospital for what now is the UAB School of Medicine.

- **UAB Hospital-Highlands** A general acute care facility providing emergency care, orthopaedics, pain management, occupational medicine, and the region’s first coordinated care unit for geriatric patients.

- **The Kirklin Clinic of UAB Hospital** Houses 33 distinct clinics of multidisciplinary teams.

- **Spain Rehabilitation Center** One of the Southeast’s foremost providers of comprehensive rehabilitation care with nationally recognized programs designed to address all aspects of a patient’s rehabilitation.

- **Women & Infants Center** Designed with patient comfort and family-centered care in mind and providing advanced medical technology dedicated to healthy and high-risk pregnant women and newborns, as well as women receiving care for various gynecological problems, including cancer.

- **Center for Psychiatric Medicine** Provides inpatient clinical services including addiction recovery, child and adolescent treatment, and geriatric psychiatry in a dedicated facility.

- **The Kirklin Clinic at Acton Road** Offers a multidisciplinary approach to cancer and heart/vascular care.

- **UAB Primary Care Clinics** Includes metro area neighborhood clinics in Hoover, Inverness, and Gardendale. For convenience, UAB physicians also are available at primary care locations in Leeds, Huntsville, Montgomery, Selma, and Tuscaloosa.

- **UAB Callahan Eye Hospital** Provides the latest in ophthalmic microsurgery, corneal transplantation, laser cataract surgery, and an emergency department dedicated to treating trauma to the eye. Home to the nation’s first Level I ocular trauma center.

- **UAB Urgent Care** A walk-in clinic for patients with pressing medical needs, open seven days a week with no appointment necessary and conveniently located near UAB in midtown Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

A nonprofit, more than 1,200-member physician practice including The Kirklin Clinic and The Kirklin Clinic at Acton Road and serving UAB Medicine through more than 30 centers of excellence. Since 1996, the General Endowment Fund of the HSF has awarded more than $61.5 million to UAB faculty for 286 projects to support innovation in clinical care, medical education, laboratory research, and patient-centered research.
Financial Statement

Fiscal Year 2015

School of Medicine Sources of Funds

- Federal Grants Direct: $170.5M
- Other Grants Direct: $41.6M
- Clinical Enterprise (UH, HSF, HS): $166.5M
- Indirect Expense Recovery: $33.2M
- Tuition: $21.2M
- State Appropriations (Including Earmarks): $82.5M
- Philanthropy: $32.5M
- Other: $98.5M

School of Medicine Uses for Funds

- Clinical + Joint Health Sciences Departments, Centers, and Regional Campuses: $328.4M
- Grants: $212.1M
- Space: $31.1M
- SOM Infrastructure

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