

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**MARNIX E. HEERSINK**  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM



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## AS I REFLECT ON MY FIRST YEAR AS DEAN,

I am grateful for all the people who helped make it so memorable, from my colleagues in the Heersink School of Medicine, UAB, and UAB Health System leadership to our department chairs to countless staff members, trainees, alumni, and supporters. I am fortunate to be surrounded each day by people whose deep commitment to our school's tripartite mission in clinical care, medical education, and biomedical research fuels our excellence.

The world of health care and academic medicine is evolving rapidly, driven by advancements in science, technology, and the changing needs of our communities. However, our values are steadfast, and they will continue to guide us no matter the challenges and opportunities we encounter.

One of my most welcome priorities in my first year as dean was touring the state to meet with alumni and supporters at a series of receptions hosted by our Medical Alumni Association. These were ideal venues to share our plans for our school, and I was gratified by the enthusiasm and interest that so many attendees shared with me.

This Annual Report is another way to share some of the Heersink School of Medicine's many outstanding achievements of 2023. They are among the myriad reasons I am proud to lead this institution and am excited for the boundless possibilities that lie ahead.

### **ANUPAM AGARWAL, M.D.**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICINE AND DEAN  
JAMES C. LEE JR. ENDOWED CHAIR  
UAB MARNIX E. HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



## BY THE NUMBERS

1,785

FULL-TIME  
FACULTY

7,000+

FACULTY  
AND STAFF

813

MEDICAL  
STUDENTS

366

NIH-FUNDED PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATORS

1,125

RESIDENTS  
AND FELLOWS

363

GRADUATE BIOMEDICAL  
SCIENCES PH.D. STUDENTS



**UAB IS RANKED IN THE TOP 1% OF  
ALL NIH-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS,  
INCLUDING PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
THE HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
IS RANKED #12 AMONG PUBLIC  
UNIVERSITIES FOR NIH FUNDING**

## LEADERSHIP

# WELCOMING OUR NEW DEAN

On February 3, 2023, Anupam Agarwal, M.D., was announced as senior vice president for Medicine and dean of the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, after having served in the roles in an interim capacity since June 2022.

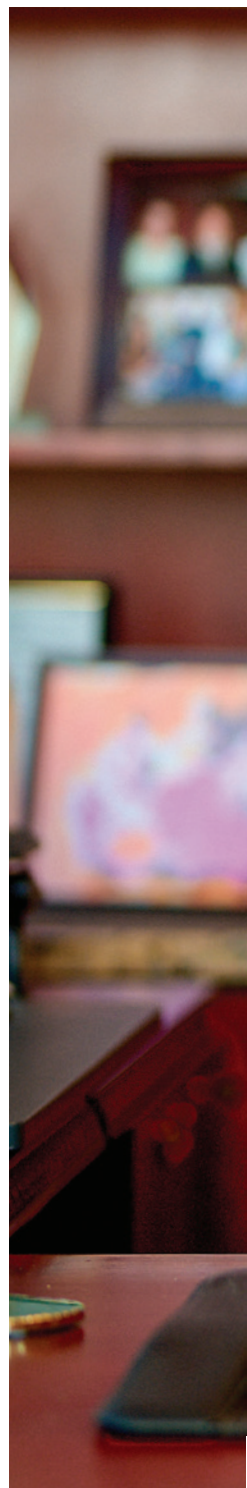
Agarwal held a series of leadership positions at the school since joining UAB in 2003. Most recently he served as executive vice dean from 2014-2022 and directed the Division of Nephrology from 2008-2021. He also serves as the program director of the National Institutes of Health-funded O'Brien Center for Acute Kidney Injury Research, one of seven such centers in the nation. His contributions providing critical insights regarding acute kidney injury have been recognized through honors including election

to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and the American Clinical and Climatological Association. He served as president of the American Society of Nephrology in 2020.

Agarwal says his vision for the school boils down to investing in people. "We have highly talented and committed faculty and staff as well as medical students, graduate students, residents, postdoctoral and clinical fellows, our nursing staff, our APPs (advanced practice providers)—our people at every level are high quality. They have a shared vision and goals that are aligned with the collaborative spirit of our institution, and that is our greatest strength."

## THE FULL STORY

Read more about Agarwal's leadership journey at [go.uab.edu/leadersjourney](https://go.uab.edu/leadersjourney)











## PHILANTHROPY

# NEW COMMITMENT BRINGS NAMING GIFT TO \$100 MILLION

In December 2023, longtime UAB supporter Marnix E. Heersink, M.D., committed an additional \$5 million to his transformational \$95 million gift that named the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine in 2021, bringing the total naming gift to \$100 million. The gift was already the single largest philanthropic commitment in university history, and it will now have even greater impact.

The new gift will target a variety of programs for immediate investment, including strategic recruitment efforts, and it will bolster UAB's Research Strategic Initiative – Growth With Purpose, which is establishing a road map to multiply the positive impact the institution's research enterprise has on people and help us reach \$1 billion in research expenditures (learn more on page 27).

The Heersink naming gift will ultimately support the creation of as many

as 20 new endowed positions to enhance the recruitment of elite faculty. In the first year of the gift alone, the Heersink School of Medicine established and awarded five Heersink Endowed Chairs and one Heersink Endowed Professorship.

Dr. Heersink is a Dothan, Alabama, eye surgeon, innovator, and entrepreneur, and he has served on the executive boards of the Alabama/Florida Council of Boy Scouts and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, among many other philanthropic activities. Mary Heersink is a longtime member of the Heersink School of Medicine's Board of Visitors as well as the Advisory Board of the Master of Science in Global Health Program, a joint initiative among McMaster University in Canada, Maastricht University in the Netherlands, Manipal University in India, and Thomassat University in Thailand.





## LEADERSHIP

# MARRAZZO TAPPED TO SUCCEED FAUCI

On August 2, 2023, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that Jeanne Marrazzo, M.D., was chosen to succeed Anthony Fauci, M.D., as the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Marrazzo served as the director of the UAB Division of Infectious Diseases since 2016. She is internationally recognized for her research and education efforts in the field of sexually transmitted infections, especially as they affect women's health. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Marrazzo has chaired the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Council and the ABIM Infectious Disease Specialty Board.

Marrazzo became a trusted expert for numerous national media outlets during the COVID-19 pandemic,

appearing frequently on CNN and other networks and in national print publications like The Washington Post.

As NIAID director, Marrazzo oversees NIAID's budget of \$6.3 billion, which supports research to advance the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. The organization supports research at universities and research organizations around the United States and across NIAID's 21 laboratories.

NIAID also has a unique mandate to respond to emerging and re-emerging public health threats at home and abroad. The NIAID research response to outbreaks of infectious diseases, from HIV to Ebola to COVID-19, has led to new therapies, vaccines, diagnostic tests, and other technologies.

## GROWTH

# INFORMATICS BECOMES A DEPARTMENT

The Heersink School of Medicine welcomed its 28th academic department, the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (DBIDS), on January 1, 2024. Initially established as the UAB Informatics Institute in 2015, one of the new department's goals is to create and apply methods to assist in the advancement of informatics research.

"It seems everyone needs informatics in their work and life these days, but the truth is we still have a long way to go in understanding not only how to meet information needs but what, exactly, those needs are," says James Cimino, M.D., inaugural chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Data Science. "Informatics research seeks to answer those questions to develop new theories, methods, and tools. UAB is our living laboratory for evaluating solutions to help clinicians, patients, families, administrators, and trainees succeed in their own endeavors."

Being a department will provide more opportunities for DBIDS to compete for research funding for projects with informatics components, while also expanding the number of educational programs it can offer.

With previously successful acquisition of large grants such as the Alabama Genome Health Initiative and the National COVID-19 Cohort Collaborative, DBIDS aims to become one of the most globally recognized biomedical research departments.

# CLINICAL CARE

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION

In summer 2023, UAB began temporary and long-term expansions of UAB Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), as unprecedented demand for emergency medical services continues to grow. UAB Hospital has seen a 20 percent growth in ED patient volume in the last five years and expects more patient volume growth in the coming years.

Temporary expansion renovations began in June 2023, which created nine new exam rooms and temporary waiting room space in the hospital's North Pavilion. In August 2023, UAB Hospital installed two leased mobile treatment units outside the ED. The units provide 16 additional patient care spaces.

Long-term plans for the \$73 million expansion of ED will include renovations to the first floor of the North Pavilion, turning the adjacent atrium into clinical care space, and the construction of a new three-story space in the drop-off drive of North Pavilion. With 66,030 new square feet of construction anticipated, the project will provide 59 new exam rooms and additional imaging capacity for emergency clinical care.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey called the expansion an "investment in vital public services for our state," with lawmakers allocating \$50 million in state funds towards the project.

## NEW HEALTH SYSTEM CEO

On February 3, 2023, Dawn Bulgarella was named CEO of the UAB Health System and CEO of the UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance, after serving in those roles in an interim capacity since June 2022. In her uniquely integrated CEO roles, she is responsible for combined annual budgets in excess of \$5 billion.

Bulgarella, a certified public accountant, joined UAB in 1993. Her more than 35-year career is highlighted by accomplishments in academic medical center administration, financial management, and strategic planning. She spent 15 years in operations before becoming the senior associate dean of Finance and Administration in the Heersink School of Medicine and ultimately the first president and CFO of the UAB Health System. Most recently, she served as president of the UAB Health System and CFO for the UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance.

The Birmingham Business Journal named her one of the Top Birmingham Women in 2021, Birmingham's CFO of the Year in the Large Enterprise category in 2020, and among the Who's Who in Birmingham Healthcare annually since 2015. Bulgarella also received a Women of Impact award from Yellowhammer News in 2019. She mentors women in health care, serves on numerous health care boards throughout Alabama, and routinely speaks about health care finance and leadership.







## CLINICAL CARE

In 2023, **U.S. News & World Report** ranked UAB Hospital the best hospital in Alabama in addition to naming it among the best hospitals for maternity care.

# UAB HOSPITAL IS THE **8TH** LARGEST HOSPITAL IN THE NATION AND AMONG THE **TOP 5** LARGEST PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE U.S.

## ACCOLADES

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150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare, Becker's Healthcare

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Best Hospital Designation, Women's Choice Awards

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Top 100 for Consumer Loyalty, NRC Health

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OVERALL  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT

- **22,983** full- and part-time employees
- **37,314** jobs supported
- **\$78.4M** in charity care provided
- **\$138M** in state and local tax revenues attributable to Health System presence

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## CLINICAL VISITS

\*FY22 DATA

- **54,000** surgeries performed
- **4,019** babies delivered
- **680,000** imaging exams performed
- **143,000** emergency department patient visits
- **169,000+** primary care and family medicine patient visits
- **24.9M** medication doses dispensed







## CLINICAL CARE

# UTERUS TRANSPLANT

In May 2023, the UAB Comprehensive Transplant Institute and UAB Medicine's uterus transplant program helped a woman born with congenital absence of the uterus deliver a healthy baby boy. The woman became the first patient to give birth via uterus transplant outside of a clinical trial.

"The birth of UAB's first uterus transplant program baby is an incredible milestone not just for the patient and the field, but for our multidisciplinary team here at UAB, as this marks our ability as an institution to offer another option for patients who are experiencing uterine factor infertility," explains Paige Porrett, M.D., Ph.D., the inaugural director for Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation in UAB's Comprehensive

Transplant Institute and associate professor in Department of Surgery. "At UAB, we're committed to bringing this emerging therapy forward to patients in need, making it as accessible, safe and simple as possible for women who have never had an option to bear their own biological child."

UAB's uterus transplant program is one of only four uterus transplant programs in the United States and the first program in the world to open outside of a clinical research trial. Three healthy babies have been born to date in the uterus transplant program, "all thanks to the exceptional work of the many members of our broad multidisciplinary care team," says Porrett.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**FIRST** in the world to open outside of a clinical research trial

**ONE** of four programs in the United States

# MEDICAL EDUCATION

## EXPANDING THE INCOMING CLASS SIZE

To meet the needs of our state and to address a nationwide shortage of physicians, the Heersink School of Medicine intends to increase the incoming class size to 190 students for the 2024-2025 academic year. The school hopes to continue to grow the student body over time, with approval from the Board of Trustees and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), our accrediting body.

According to Craig Hoesley, M.D., senior associate dean for Medical Education, “The reason we are doing this is to address physician workforce needs. Alabama is a medically underserved state, and, as a state institution, we have a special responsibility to address that problem.”

Following Board of Trustees approval, another requirement is ensuring the necessary physical infrastructure to accommodate more students. But, Hoesley says, “perhaps more importantly, we have to ensure we can provide effective clinical experiences to train more students across our four campuses. There is already a lot of competition for preceptor opportunities with osteopathic schools, physician assistant and nurse practitioner programs—there are a lot of learners competing for opportunities to engage in the clinical arena. We want to make sure we do not add more students than we can effectively train, so that is the reason for the gradual increase over several years.”

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## PROMOTING PRIMARY CARE

In September 2023, the Department of Family and Community Medicine announced that it had been awarded a \$15.9 million Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant that will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of medical student education, particularly in the school’s mission to develop the next generation of primary care physicians from underserved backgrounds. Through the grant the department aims to provide a number of scholarships to students, continue working with Heersink School of Medicine Regional Campuses and Federally Qualified

Health Center partners, and build more pathway programs to primary care.

“Our success in securing this grant is a testament to the strong foundation we have built through programs such as CU<sup>2</sup>RE, our pre-medical initiatives, faculty development programming, and more,” says Department of Family and Community Medicine Chair Irfan Asif, M.D. “It is a reflection of our collective passion for advancing medical education and addressing the pressing need for primary care physicians in underserved communities.”











## MEDICAL EDUCATION

# HEERSINK FAMILY ACTIVE LEARNING CENTER LAUNCHES

Made possible by a gift from the Heersink Family Foundation, the Heersink Family Active Learning Center officially launched for the fall 2023 semester. The curriculum utilized in this space with first and second-year medical students emphasizes team- and case-based collaborative learning, a departure from the traditional lecture format of medical school.

The space is comprised of 35 tables that seat six students in small groups. Each table offers a digital screen that allows students to mirror content from their own devices during learning sessions. The instructor can highlight that content on all classroom screens, connecting members of small groups across the space. The screens can also display class material from the instructor, such as

“Questions @UAB” (QAB), where multiple-choice, board-style questions are posed for students to answer anonymously through electronic polling. If less than 80 percent of the class selects the correct answer, time is provided for group discussion to work toward the correct answer. Each small group table within the space is also equipped with a microphone that can broadcast to the entire classroom.

“Students work together to answer questions and solve complex medical problems, which allows them to work on communication and teamwork while also digging into the information and applying basic science facts,” says William Brooks, Ph.D., assistant dean for Preclinical Education.

# FOUR CAMPUSES. ONE MISSION.

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Huntsville

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Birmingham

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Tuscaloosa

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Montgomery

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#### CLINICAL TRAINING SITES

UAB Hospital  
UAB Hospital–Highlands  
Birmingham VA Health Care System  
Children’s of Alabama  
Montgomery Campus  
Huntsville Campus  
Tuscaloosa Campus  
Selma Family Medicine

**1,125 RESIDENTS  
AND FELLOWS IN 95  
ACCREDITED TRAINING  
PROGRAMS AT 8 SITES**

# 813 STUDENTS IN 10 RIGOROUS PROGRAMS

- M.D.

M.D./MBA

M.D./Ph.D.

M.D./MPH

M.D./MSHA
- M.D./MSPH

Bachelor/M.D.

Primary Care Track

Rural Medical

Blaze to M.D.

## 2023 INCOMING CLASS

109 female students	21-42 student age range
77 male students	158 Alabama residents
48 undergraduate institutions represented	28 out-of-state residents
73 undergraduate fields of study	30 underrepresented in medicine*
509 average MCAT score	20 dual-degree students

\*Race, ethnicity, and gender data are reported for informational purposes and not used in admissions decisions

## MATCH RESULTS



# 100% MATCH RATE

Students matched at **78 institutions** in **31 states**, and 34% matched into primary care specialties.

### TOP SPECIALTIES

- 22 Internal Medicine

19 Family Medicine

16 Surgery
- 11 Pediatrics

11 Neurology

10 Anesthesiology

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION

## XENOTRANSPLANTATION BREAKTHROUGH

For the first time in a human, genetically modified pig kidneys provided life-sustaining kidney function during the course of a planned seven-day study, while using current standard-of-care immunosuppression drugs.

The peer-reviewed findings from a study conducted in February 2023, published August 16, 2023, in *JAMA Surgery*, extend another pioneering UAB pre-clinical human research model study in a recipient experiencing brain death. It also advances the science and promise of xenotransplantation as a therapy to potentially cure end-stage kidney disease—just as a human-to-human allotransplant can.

“The kidneys functioned remarkably over the course of this seven-day study,” says UAB transplant surgeon-scientist Jayme Locke, M.D., MPH, director

of the Division of Transplantation and lead author of the *JAMA Surgery* paper. “We were able to gather additional safety and scientific information critical to our efforts to seek FDA clearance of a Phase I clinical trial in living humans and hopefully add a new, desperately needed solution to address an organ shortage crisis responsible for tens of thousands of preventable deaths each year.”

The published findings are another major xenotransplant achievement by Locke and her team. They came 19 months after the groundbreaking, peer reviewed, UAB xenotransplant research study, published in January 2022, in which genetically modified pig kidneys were successfully transplanted into a recipient after brain death.

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## CLINICAL TRIALS ACHIEVEMENTS

Clinical trials are pivotal in advancing treatments and moving science forward, ultimately helping practitioners provide better care and improving patient outcomes. The UAB-led Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy (CHAP) trial won the Herbert Pardes Clinical Research Excellence Award and received a Top Ten Clinical Research Achievement Award from Clinical Research Forum, and was named the David Sackett Trial of the Year by the Society of Clinical Trials for 2023. This multicenter, randomized trial aimed to evaluate the benefits and potential harms of pharmacologic treatment of mild chronic hypertension in pregnancy, and was led by principal investigator Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Mary Heersink Institute of Global Health, associate dean for Global and Women’s Health, and a professor in the Department

of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The study was initially published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in May 2022 and provides, for the first time, evidence that treating mild chronic hypertension with medications is both safe and beneficial for the mother and the baby, and has led to changes in national guidelines.

Two events celebrated UAB’s clinical trials programs in 2023. Clinical Trials Day took place on May 18, 2023, recognizing our progress in clinical research as well as the individuals whose commitment to their work makes these advancements possible. On July 28, 2023, the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB hosted the inaugural O’Neal Iron Strong Awards. The ceremony celebrated nine cancer survivors who benefitted from clinical trials and helped advance the knowledge of cancer care.





THE HEERSINK SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE IS RANKED #27  
IN NIH FUNDING AND #12  
AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
IN THE U.S.

**\$611M**

TOTAL RESEARCH  
FUNDING

**\$273M**

TOTAL NIH FUNDING

FIVE YEAR CHANGE

↗ **6.2%**

↗ **\$17M**

**366**

NIH-FUNDED PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATORS

FIVE YEAR CHANGE

↗ **7.6%**

↗ **28**

\*Preliminary data

INNOVATION AT UAB

<b>123</b> intellectual property disclosures	<b>3</b> start-ups launched
<b>40</b> licenses executed	<b>12</b> start-ups approved, poised for launch
<b>47</b> provisional patent applications filed	<b>\$6.12M</b> revenue generated
<b>18</b> U.S. patents issued	

LARGEST NEW NIH AWARDS

<b>\$13.5M</b>	<b>Sixto Leal, M.D., Ph.D.</b> Enhancing SEBLAB (Southeastern Biosafety Lab Alabama Birmingham) Research Productivity, Operations, and Core Laboratory Support
<b>\$11.3M</b>	<b>Jennifer Pollock, Ph.D.</b> Early Life Stress-Induced Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Disease Risk and Resilience
<b>\$11.1M</b>	<b>Maria Pisu, Ph.D.</b> Center for Cancer Control in Persistent Poverty Areas
<b>\$8.9M</b>	<b>Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D.</b> Offspring Neurodevelopment and Growth after Early Antihypertensive Therapy or Preeclampsia in Women with Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy
<b>\$7.2M</b>	<b>J. Edwin Blalock, Ph.D.</b> Pathogenic Exosomes in COPD

\*By total dollars awarded









## RESEARCH & INNOVATION

# RESEARCH GROWTH

In July 2023, UAB President Ray Watts, M.D., announced a bold new initiative to set the course of the future of UAB's research enterprise. UAB's Research Strategic Initiative – Growth With Purpose will establish a road map to multiply the positive impact the institution's research enterprise has on people and help us reach \$1 billion in research expenditures, up from \$713 million in FY22 and nearly \$775 million in FY23.

UAB's research leadership team is working with consultants on a two-phased approach. First they will identify UAB's capacity to achieve growth goals, strategic funding opportunity areas, opportunities to enhance the research organization, resources required for success, and an optimized path for competitive growth in the clinical trials portfolio. Then they will develop the

path forward, which will be summarized in a strategic plan, highlighting near- and long-term investment priorities, roadmap timing, and key metrics and milestones to measure progress toward these strategic goals.

The announcement of the \$1 billion research expenditures goal follows the Heersink School of Medicine's 2022 announcement of four new Research Focus Areas: Disruptive Technology Empowering Precision Health (D-TECH), Infection, Inflammation, Immunity and Immunotherapy (I-4ward), Brain Health and Disease Across the Lifespan, and Health Equity. These focus areas align well with the NIH-wide strategic plan that was announced in 2021 and form a strong foundation for the future growth and impact of our school's already exceptional research programs.

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# HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2023

## Chronic Pain-Induced Depression Breakthrough

Chronic pain often leads to depression that is clinically difficult to treat. For the first time, researchers identified the underlying mechanism that drives those depressive systems, according to a study published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, co-led by Lingyong Li, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine.

## Cooper Green Mercy Health Groundbreaking

Cooper Green Mercy Health broke ground on a new building for its clinical operations on January 9. Under an agreement between the Jefferson County Commission and the UAB Health System, the Cooper Green Mercy Health Services Authority was created to manage Cooper Green in April 2020. The new and improved building will replace the current clinical building, which dates to the early 1970s.

## UAB Comprehensive Smell and Taste Clinic Launch

The UAB Comprehensive Smell and Taste Clinic began seeing patients January 23 and is projected to be the first specialized clinic for patients suffering from olfactory dysfunction in Alabama. Officials estimate that over 60 percent of people who have contracted the SARS-CoV-2 virus are affected by post-infectious olfactory disorder, and data shows 46 percent of patients report extended smell loss.

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FEBRUARY 2023

## Metahealth Symposium

The Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation hosted a Metahealth Symposium on February 28, the first in the United States on the topic and possibly the first worldwide to be held both in person and in the metaverse. All presenters delivered their talks simultaneously to a live audience and through the Beame platform as digital avatars, visible on any virtual reality headset, the Beame smartphone app, or a laptop or desktop computer.

## Neurofibromatosis Consortium Funding Extended

A \$25 million award from the Department of Defense (DoD) extended funding for the Neurofibromatosis Clinical Trials Consortium (NFCTC). The new 10-year, \$25 million award comes from the DoD through the Neurofibromatosis Research Program, one of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D., associate dean of Genomics and chief genomics officer at the Heersink School of Medicine, is the principal investigator of the NFCTC and leads the NFCTC Operations Center at UAB.

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## **New UAB Callahan Eye Clinic**

UAB Callahan Eye opened February 1 in Homewood, Alabama, with its newest provider, John Owen, M.D., who has practiced in the Homewood area for more than 15 years. The clinic is the 19th clinic location in Callahan's growing portfolio of ophthalmic and optometric care.

## **Type 1 Diabetes Advancement**

For the first time, humans with newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetes, or T1D, received two treatments called GABA and GAD that have shown promise in animal studies and in isolated human pancreas islets. This UAB-led clinical trial, published in Nature Communications, focused exclusively on children with recent onset T1D.

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APRIL 2023

## **Alabama's First Simultaneous Bilateral Adrenalectomy**

On April 27, a team of UAB surgeons completed Alabama's first simultaneous bilateral adrenalectomy. A bilateral adrenalectomy removes both adrenal glands and can provide relief to patients who have an excess of the hormone cortisol, which can be caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland. The procedure is considered if the tumor's location is too dangerous for removal or if a previous pituitary operation was unsuccessful.

## **Inaugural Montgomery Health Policy Meeting**

The inaugural Montgomery Health Policy Meeting, sponsored by Heersink School of Medicine's Montgomery Regional Medical Campus, took place April 13, 2023. Speakers included Marc Kahn, M.D., MBA, dean of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine and vice president for Health Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Geeta Nayyar, M.D., MBA, the chief medical officer at Salesforce; Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative; and David Whitcomb, M.D., Ph.D., professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, who delivered the annual S. Rexford Kennamer Distinguished Lecture in Internal Medicine.

## **Talladega Superspeedway Partnership**

UAB Medicine was named the official medical provider for Talladega Superspeedway, a three-year partnership in which UAB Medicine personnel provide medical care for competitors and fans at the Superspeedway. UAB Medicine began offering medical services to NASCAR's biggest track during the April 21 race weekend.

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MAY 2023

## **Bush Hills Connection Complex Completed**

On May 26, Live HealthSmart Alabama (LHSA), a UAB initiative facilitated by the UAB Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center, celebrated the completion of the Bush Hills Connection Complex and Urban Garden. LHSA works to remove barriers to making healthy choices, with a specific focus on reducing barriers in education, nutrition, physical activity, and prevention and wellness. The Bush Hills Connection Complex is a welcoming place for residents, with a community center including a full kitchen, recreation center, auditorium, and courtyard garden patio and farm stand.

## CMS Administrator Visit

On May 18, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, visited UAB to discuss health equity with experts from across the Heersink School of Medicine, UAB, and UAB Medicine.

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JUNE 2023

## McMaster University Visit

On June 29, several UAB and Heersink School of Medicine leaders traveled to McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, alongside Marnix Heersink, M.D., whose 2021 gift named the Heersink School of Medicine, to share overviews of each institution's innovative programs and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

## UAB Health System Women Executives Recognized

Dawn Bulgarella, chief executive officer of the UAB Health System and CEO of the UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance, and Brenda Carlisle, CEO of UAB Hospital, were included in Becker's Hospital Review's list of 177 Women Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know, 2023.

## WHO Adopts Food Fortification Resolution

The 76th World Health Organization World Health Assembly adopted a resolution calling for mandatory folic acid food fortification along with other micronutrients to combat preventable micronutrient deficiencies, such as spina bifida and neural tube defects. The resolution was introduced in May 2022 by the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Prevention of Spina Bifida, which was cofounded by Jeffrey Blount, M.D., director of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at UAB and Children's of Alabama.

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JULY 2023

## Studying Cancer in Persistent Poverty Areas

The National Cancer Institute awarded the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB and the UAB Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center (MHERC) \$9.6 million over five years to participate in its Persistent Poverty Initiative. UAB is one of only five institutions selected to join the NIH's first major program to address how structural and institutional factors of persistent poverty relate to cancer. UAB will establish the Center for Cancer Control in Persistent Poverty Areas to study ways to improve prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in the center's designated areas.

### **Award Continues CARDIA Study**

UAB received \$36.7 million from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to continue the Birmingham field and coordinating centers for the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults study. Since the study began in 1985, CARDIA data have been published in over 1,000 papers that have generated nearly 58,000 citations. The CARDIA coordinating center, led by James Shikany, DrPH, professor in the Division of Preventive Medicine, will receive \$29 million to facilitate and oversee study activities for the next 10 years.

### **Master's in Global Health Launch**

The Heersink School of Medicine and the UAB School of Public Health launched a new joint master's degree in global health. Graduates will be equipped for impactful professional global health careers through the multi-institutional program, a collaboration between the UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health, the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health, the Global Health Consortium, of which UAB is a member, and other international partners.

### **New ACL Repair Procedure**

UAB Sports and Exercise Medicine is the first site in Alabama to offer a new procedure for ACL repair. The Bridge-Enhanced ACL Repair is the first medical advancement allowing the body to repair its own ACL. With this procedure, the patient's ACL is restored, and an implant can bridge the gap between the torn ends of the ACL. Within eight weeks, the implant is absorbed and replaced with cells, collagen, and blood vessels from the patient's body. The tissue continues to strengthen over time.

### **Point-of-Care Ultrasound Initiative**

The UAB Department of Family and Community Medicine launched its Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Initiative, using \$2 million in federal grant funds to give every Heersink medical student access to point-of-care ultrasound, or POCUS, units. The department distributed 600 devices for use by students, as well as 100 devices for community preceptors who welcome students into their clinics.

### **Spinal Cord Stimulator Therapy for Chronic Pain**

UAB Hospital is the first in Alabama and among the first in the United States to offer a new treatment for chronic pain that has not been resolved by conservative treatments. It involves using a spinal cord stimulator that sends electrical impulses into the spinal cord. The device responds to the spinal cord in real time and can adjust the electrical output 50-100 times per second based on what is happening in the spinal cord.

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Global Health Symposium

The Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health hosted its inaugural Global Health Symposium: Promoting Equity in Global Health Partnerships, September 28-29. The symposium is a forum to discuss best practices for global health partnerships, promote multi-directional research, training, service, and capacity-building collaborations, and provide a backdrop for participants to engage in dialogue and activities to strengthen partnerships.

## Kidney Research Expansion

The UAB-UCSD O'Brien Center for Acute Kidney Injury Research joined the newly formed O'Brien Kidney Consortium as one of its seven National Resource Centers (NRCs). The \$4.4 million U54 grant recognizes the Center's 15-year legacy of exceptional research in acute kidney injury, a health issue that affects more than 13 million people in the U.S. In addition, UAB investigators received a \$5.86 million U24 award to streamline the efforts of the seven NRCs in the O'Brien Kidney Consortium.

## Supreme Court Justice Visits UAB

On September 18, the Department of Surgery hosted the annual George Yang Endowed Lecture in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, featuring Patrick Jackson, M.D., the chief of the Division of General Surgery at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and a professor of surgery at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is married to Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who joined her husband for a Q&A session after his lecture and participated in several events on and off campus.

## UAB Medicine Acquires Birmingham Office Building

The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees approved the \$16 million purchase of the Daniel Building in downtown Birmingham by the UAB Medicine Enterprise. The 19-story Daniel Building includes approximately 316,000 square feet of office space and is conveniently located only a few blocks from The Kirklin Clinic, The Whitaker Building, and the Heersink School of Medicine's Lyons-Harrison Faculty Office Tower, as well as other UAB Hospital buildings.

## UAB Visits the Netherlands

Several UAB and Heersink School of Medicine leaders traveled to the Netherlands from September 17-26 alongside Dr. Marnix and Mary Heersink, whose gift named the Heersink School of Medicine. They met with leaders from several prominent Dutch universities to share areas of expertise and discuss potential collaborations.

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OCTOBER 2023

### Civil Rights Movement 60th Anniversary

On October 11, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. Raegan Durant, M.D., associate dean of Diversity and Inclusion, spoke with Herschell and Majella Hamilton and Isaac Ravizee, Jr., M.D. The Hamiltons are family members of Herschell Lee Hamilton, M.D., a Birmingham physician known as the “Battle Surgeon” and “Dog-Bite Doctor,” who provided medical care to those injured during the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham.

### Portrait Unveiling

On October 27, Heersink School of Medicine and UAB Health System leaders, faculty, staff, and supporters gathered at Volker Hall for the unveiling of the official portrait of former Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean Selwyn Vickers, M.D., FACS.

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NOVEMBER 2023

### Health Care Innovation Boot Camp

The Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation hosted the Health Care Innovation Boot Camp. Providers learned how technology is driving health care transformation; strategies to ensure one’s business grows and remains competitive; how to organize for innovation using the propriety NQ360 approach; necessary tools for implementing innovation successfully; and how to use problem discovery, ideation, user innovation, and customer sense-making.

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DECEMBER 2023

### New Sports and Exercise Medicine Clinic

The UAB Sports and Exercise Medicine service line opened its new clinic at UAB Hospital-Highlands on December 4. Patients now have greater accessibility to existing clinical programs, like nonoperative and surgical sports medicine, and numerous subspecialties, including sports nutrition, cardio sports medicine, exercise in pregnancy, and physical medicine and rehabilitation in sports.

# PHILANTHROPY

As demonstrated by the transformational gifts shared here, our donors continued to invest generously in the excellence of our faculty, facilities, and programs in 2023. We are deeply grateful for their support.

## THE YEAR IN PHILANTHROPY

<div>\$65,373,619</div> <div>TOTAL GIFTS</div>	<div>\$11,456,566</div> <div>TOTAL PLANNED GIFTS</div>
<div>\$10,652,641</div> <div>ALUMNI GIFTS</div>	<div>\$5,158,496</div> <div>MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS</div>
<div>14</div> <div>NEW ENDOWED CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS</div>	<div>7</div> <div>NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED</div>
<div>241</div> <div>CUMULATIVE ENDOWED CHAIRS AND PROFESSORSHIPS</div>	<div>153</div> <div>CUMULATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS</div>



The **Seawright Endowed Chair in Global and Maternal Health** was established by Dr. Alfred Seawright to support the Mary Heersink Global Health Institute. The endowed chair will enable the institute to recruit and/or retain a faculty member who will advance the institute's programs in maternal health.

A gift from Heersink School of Medicine Board of Visitors Co-chair Gail Cassell, Ph.D., and her husband Ralph Cassell established the **Cassell Family Bi-directional Training Program** (pending approval by the UA System Board of Trustees) for the Mary Heersink Global Health Institute. In partnership with Partners in Health/Socios En Salud, the program supports bidirectional training of physicians in a clinical UAB Fellowship Program and physicians in senior training from Peruvian medical schools in Lima, Peru.

Maryam (Mimi) Head, a longtime Board of Visitors member, established the first endowed position in the school's Department of Medical Education, the **Head Family Endowed Professorship for Medical Education**. This endowment is supporting Craig Hoesley, M.D., in his position as Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

Benjamin and Luanne Russell established the **Benjamin Russell Endowed Chair in Geriatrics** at the Benjamin Russell Center for Advanced Care. The center is located at Russell Medical in Alexander City, a member of the UAB Health System. The endowed chair will be established in the UAB Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care and will support an expert faculty member who will serve as the center's medical director and develop new models of care, education, and practice.

The **Hilda B. Anderson Endowed Chair in Nephrology** was established by Charles Anderson Sr., and the Anderson family's continued generosity has increased the corpus of the chair. The chair was held by Anupam Agarwal, M.D., who previously served as director of the Division of Nephrology before becoming senior vice president for Medicine and dean of the Heersink School of Medicine. The chair is now held by Timmy Lee, M.D., a professor in the division.

Norvell Ogden established the **Margaret Gardner Ogden Endowed Professorship** in the Department of Neurology to recruit or retain a scholar whose research, clinical, and/or educational achievements have earned distinction in the field.

Pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk provided funding in support of the **Live HealthSmart Alabama Selma Regional Expansion** to create and implement targeted policy, systems, and environment changes to promote good nutrition, physical activity, and prevention/wellness in Selma. Fueled by a network of more than 100 partners, trusted community relationships, proven revitalization strategies, and layered programming, LHSA strives to decrease the incidence of chronic disease and improve health equity across the state.

Robert Bourge, M.D., professor and vice chair in the Division of Cardiovascular Disease, and Cutessa Bourge made an additional gift to elevate a previously established endowed professorship to the **R.C. Bourge Endowed Chair in Advanced Heart Disease**. The new endowed chair will serve to sustain the division's long history of excellence by enabling the recruitment or retention of an exemplary faculty member.



Live HealthSmart Alabama, a UAB initiative that is facilitated by the UAB Minority Health and Health Equity Research Center, celebrated the completion of the Bush Hills Connection Complex and Urban Garden on May 24, 2023. The community improvements were made in partnership with Bush Hills Connections, Inc. and BL Harbert International. Read more at [go.uab.edu/bushhillsopening](https://go.uab.edu/bushhillsopening).





# MILESTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

70  
YEARS

## Birmingham VA Health Care System

On March 16, 1953, the Birmingham VA Health Care System (BVAHCS) opened its doors. Today, it is a level 1A acute tertiary medical and surgical care center with 10 community-based outpatient clinics in Anniston-Oxford, Bessemer, Childersburg, Guntersville, Gadsden, Huntsville, Jasper, Shoals, and two in Birmingham. The BVAHCS's more than 3,000 staff members serve over 71,000 veterans in Alabama. The Heersink School of Medicine is the primary clinical affiliation and longtime partner of BVAHCS. Each year, almost 700 Heersink School of Medicine residents rotate at BVAHCS, and over 115 medical students rotate at BVAHCS each academic year. Research at the BVAHCS is conducted in collaboration with UAB scientists.

50  
YEARS

## Medical Alumni Weekend

On March 10-11, 2023, the Medical Alumni Association hosted the 50th Annual Medical Alumni Weekend. The event included Mini Medical School; updates from medical education leaders; a tour of the Reynolds-Finley Historical Collections; the 44th Annual Reynolds-Finley Historical Lecture, "A Century of Maternity Care: Alabama's Highlights and Challenges," presented by Jenny Luke, historian, former RN, and certified nurse midwife; the Alumni Awards Ceremony and 50-year class reunion for the Class of 1973; and continuing medical education sessions on women's health; and other activities.

50  
YEARS

## University of Alabama Health Services Foundation

Founded in 1973, the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C. (UAHSF) comprises multiple clinics and a network of community based clinics that offer medical services in over 35 specialties, as well as administrative, technical, and support departments. UAHSF plays a vital and visible role in delivering expert care within UAB's internationally-known academic medical center. UAHSF is known for high-quality patient care and the compassion, dedication, and excellence of its employees.

**40**  
YEARS

### **Critical Care Transport**

In 1983, UAB physicians realized that patients with significant medical issues requiring transfer to UAB for advanced care needed a better transport system than an ordinary ambulance. That led to the creation of the CCT, a UAB Medicine-based, inter-facility transport program for patients in the United States and worldwide who require transport from one medical facility to another. It is equipped with a jet aircraft—a flying ICU—and three ground ambulances—rolling ICUs—as well as the necessary critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, and physicians. More than 60,000 patients have been transported between hospitals since the CCT was established.

**15**  
YEARS

### **Comprehensive Diabetes Center**

The UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center (UCDC) is a collaborative effort between UAB, Children's of Alabama, and supporters in the Birmingham community. It was established in 2008 with a mission to perform cutting-edge research, train future clinicians and researchers, and develop novel treatment approaches. Today, the UCDC is comprised of over 200 faculty members from 10 different schools and numerous departments. It also serves as the umbrella for various research programs and awards, including the prestigious P30 Diabetes Research Center, U01 Human Islet Research Network grants from the National Institute of Health, and several research core facilities.

**10**  
YEARS

### **Department of Neurosurgery**

Founded in 1954 by James Garber Galbraith, M.D., as the UAB Division of Neurosurgery within the Department of Surgery, the Department of Neurosurgery became the Heersink School of Medicine's 24th academic department in 2013. James Markert, M.D., MPH, served as the director of the Division of Neurosurgery from 2006-2013, when he became the inaugural chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Serving UAB Hospital, Children's of Alabama, Medical West, The Kirklin Clinic, UAB Highlands, and the Birmingham VA Medical Center, the department has performed more than 44,000 cases and conducted more than 180,000 outpatient clinic visits.

**5**  
YEARS

### **All of Us Research Program**

Since 2018, more than 675,000 Americans—including 25,000-plus Alabamians—have joined the All of Us Research Program, an NIH initiative that aims to gather health data from a million or more people to advance research and precision medicine. UAB leads the All of Us Southern Network, composed of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. About 80 percent of All of Us participants represent communities that have been historically underrepresented in medical research, and nearly 50 percent of All of Us participants identify with a racial or ethnic minority group.



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# FACILITIES

UAB and the Heersink School of Medicine continue to make progress on improving existing facilities and new construction projects that will support and enhance our educational, clinical care, and research missions. As of fall 2023, there are approximately 55 ongoing construction and improvement projects across the Heersink School of Medicine campus, including the following.

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## Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data Sciences Building

The 175,000-square-foot building will bring together researchers, equipment, and staff for the Hugh Kaul Precision Medicine Institute, the Informatics Institute, and translational scientists from many different departments. It will include space for computational research, research support, offices, administrative and scientific collaboration, and meeting spaces. UAB broke ground on the project in April 2022 and construction is expected to be completed in fall 2024.

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## Biomedical Research & Psychology Building

Planning is underway for an eight-story, 229,000-square-foot building that will house research-intensive departments from the Heersink School of Medicine and the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) Department of Psychology. It will contain both wet and dry research laboratories and research support spaces and provide the flexibility necessary for investigators from various fields and disciplines. To support these investigators, Volker Hall will undergo a 21,000-square-foot expansion. The project is supported by \$152 million in federal funding as well as Heersink School of Medicine and CAS funding.

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## McCallum Basic Health Science Building

A hub for basic science research, McCallum has undergone both internal and exterior renovations. Updates to research labs on the eighth and ninth floors were completed in March 2020, and exterior renovations have given the 37-year-old building a sleek, modern look. The last phase of the McCallum renovation is scheduled to finish in fall 2024.



## Volker Hall

Renovations to the Volker Hall Education Tower have transformed the building's second floor into the Heersink Family Active Learning Center. The tower's sixth floor was transformed into administrative and small group spaces for use by faculty, students, and staff. Phase one of our two-part renovation to improve student space on the fourth and fifth floors was completed in October 2023, offering improved student relaxation spaces. Phase 2 should be completed in one-to-two years offering improved small group, classroom, and study spaces.

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### LOOKING AHEAD

With philanthropic support from the Heersink family, Volker Hall's main entrance will undergo a transformation that will create gathering space for students, faculty, and staff from the health professions schools that use Volker Hall for training. It will also provide an improved ground level entrance. Construction is anticipated to begin mid-2024.

# APPOINTMENTS & HONORS

**Peter Anderson, DVM, Ph.D.**, professor in the Department of Pathology, was elected as a founding member of the Association of Pathology Chairs' Academy of Distinguished Pathology Educators and was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.

**Dean Assimos, M.D.**, emeritus professor and founding chair of the Department of Urology, received the 2023 Karl Storz Lifetime Achievement Award from the Endourological Society for his contributions to the field of urology.

**Nicole Bentley, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, received the 2023 Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society of Clinical Investigation and became president-elect of the Neurosurgical Society of Alabama.

**Surya Bhatt, M.D., MSPH**, associate professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

**Mary-Ann Bjornsti, Ph.D.**, professor and former chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, began her term July 1 as president of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), the largest coalition of biological and biomedical research associations in the United States.

**Arthur Bordreaux, M.D.**, clinical professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, became president of the Academy of Anesthesiology, an invitation-only anesthesiology organization started almost 100 years ago.

**Herbert Chen, M.D., FACS**, the UAB Department of Surgery Fay Fletcher Kerner Endowed Chair, and **Helen Krontiras, M.D.**, director of the Division of Breast and Endocrine Surgery, were recognized by the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation. Chen received the 2023 Association of Women Surgeons Past President Honorary Member Award and Krontiras received the 2023 Dr. Sally Abston Association of Women Surgeons Distinguished Member Award.

**Yuying Chen, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, received the Margaret Nosek Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's Spinal Cord Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group.

**Rachel Cowan, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, co-chaired the World Health Organization Global Wheelchair Service Guidelines Develop Group and co-authored the Wheelchair Service Guidelines, which were launched at the April 2023 meeting of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics.



**Anindya Dutta, Ph.D.**, chair of the Department of Genetics; **David Kimberlin, M.D.**, professor and co-director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases; and **Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate dean for Global Health and Women's Health and professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, were elected to the Association of American Physicians.

**Boni Elewski, M.D.**, chair of the Department of Dermatology, was awarded the 2023 Outstanding Educator in Psoriatic Disease Award by the National Psoriasis Foundation and the Medical Professionals Awards Committee.

**Mona Fouad, M.D., MPH**, senior associate dean for Diversity and Inclusion and director of the UAB Minority Health and Health Equity Research Center, was elected to the National Institutes of Health's Advisory Committee to the Director Working Group on Diversity.

**Mark Hadley, M.D.**, professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, was chosen as the 2023 William Henry Hudson Distinguished Lecturer of the Southern Neurosurgical Society.

**Karin Hardiman, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, was appointed as a standing member on the National Institutes of Health's Bioengineering, Technology, and Surgical Sciences Study Section.

**David Joseph, M.D.**, professor of the UAB Department of Urology, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Urological Association for his exceptional dedication to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Board of Urology, and the field of pediatric urology.

**Andrea Kane, M.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Neonatology, received a 2023 Inspiration Award from the American Medical Association Women Physicians Section.

**Peter King, M.D.**, professor in the Department of Neurology, received the Wolcott Award for Excellence in Clinical Care Delivery from the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs.

**Jianmei Leavenworth, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, was selected to the 5th Annual Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network Leadership Institute.

**Brenessa Lindeman, M.D., FACS**, associate professor in the Division of Breast and Endocrine Surgery, was named a member of the Macy Faculty Scholars Class of 2023 and was accepted into the Association of Women Surgeons' Shining Star Leadership Program.

**Sadis Matalon, Ph.D.**, distinguished professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, was named a fellow of the International Union of Physiological Sciences Academy and was chosen to deliver the American Physiological Society's 2024 Walter B. Cannon Memorial Award Lecture.

**Andre McShan, M.D., MPH**, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, was selected to serve on the American Heart Association 2023-2024 Southeast Board of Directors.

**Amit Momaya, M.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, was appointed to a three-year term on the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Research Committee and was listed in Becker's Orthopedic Review's 10 Sports Medicine Leaders to Know.

**Desiree Morgan, M.D.**, professor and vice chair of Faculty Affairs in the Department of Radiology, was appointed to the American Board of Radiology's Board of Governors.

**Rakesh Patel, Ph.D.**, director of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Pathology, was selected as the chair of the NIH Training and Workforce Development Study Section starting in October 2023.

**Kristen Riley, M.D.**, professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, became president of the 2023-2024 Executive Council of the Southern Neurosurgical Society.

**Gene Siegal, M.D., Ph.D.**, interim chair of the Department of Pathology, was elected as interim chair and president of the International Society of Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology.

**HaoSheng Sun, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, was recognized as a 2023 Freeman Hrabowski Scholar, an extension of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the largest private biomedical research establishment in the country.

**S. Justin Thomas, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, was elected as the 2024 president of the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine.

**Teresa Wilborn, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, interim chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, was inducted into the American Association of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

**Jianyi "Jay" Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**, chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, was awarded the 2023 Leader in the Field of Regenerative Medicine Award from the International Forum of Translational Science.

## DEAN'S LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Anupam Agarwal, M.D.**  
Senior Vice President for Medicine and  
Dean; James C. Lee Jr. Endowed Chair



**Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.**  
Senior Vice Dean; Associate Vice  
President for Medicine and Basic  
Sciences



**Alex Boles, MBA**  
Assistant Dean for Finance and  
Administration



**Megann Bates Cain, MPPM**  
Assistant Vice President for  
Development



**Herbert Chen, M.D., FACS**  
Senior Associate Dean for  
Academic Affairs



**Jason Daniel, MBA**  
Senior Executive Officer for Finance  
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University of Alabama Health Services  
Foundation, P.C.



**Victor Darley-USmar, Ph.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean for Research  
Compliance and Administration



**Paige Dorman, MA**  
Executive Director of Communications



**Mona Fouad, M.D., MPH**  
Senior Associate Dean for  
Diversity and Inclusion



**Craig Hoesley, M.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean for  
Medical Education



**Keith (Tony) Jones, M.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical  
Affairs; UAHSF President; Chief  
Physician Executive, UAB Medicine



**Robert Kimberly, M.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical  
and Translational Research



**Jean Ann Larson, Ph.D.**  
Senior Associate Dean for Leadership  
Development; Chief Leadership  
Development Officer, UAB Medicine



**Ryan Outman, MA**  
Executive Officer for Finance and  
Administration



**David Rogers, M.D., MHPE**  
Chief Wellness Officer, UAB Medicine

# LEADERSHIP

## ASSOCIATE & ASSISTANT DEANS

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and Rural Health

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Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs

### **Thomas Buford, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, Research

### **Raegan Durant, M.D., MPH**

Associate Dean, Diversity and Inclusion

### **Richard Friend, M.D.**

Regional Dean, Tuscaloosa Regional Campus

### **Alice Goepfert, M.D.**

Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education

### **Christina Grabowski, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, Admissions and  
Enrollment Management

### **Alecia Gross, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs  
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### **Caroline Harada, M.D.**

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Medical Education

### **Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D.**

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Regional Dean, Montgomery Regional  
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### **Roger Smalligan, M.D.**

Regional Dean, Huntsville Regional Medical  
Campus

### **Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, Global and Women's Health

### **Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, Students

### **Alex Boles, MBA**

Assistant Dean, Finance and Administration

### **William Brooks, M.D.**

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### **Latesha Elopore, M.D., MSPH**

Assistant Dean, Medical Education  
Diversity and Inclusion

### **Cristin Gavin, Ph.D.**

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Biomedical Education

### **William Geisler, M.D., MPH**

Assistant Dean, Physician Scientist  
Development

### **Brenessa Lindeman, M.D., FACS**

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### **Todd Peterson, M.D.**

Assistant Dean, Students

### **Rubin Pillay, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Dean, Global Health Innovation

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Assistant Dean, Clinical Simulation

### **James Willig, M.D., MSPH**

Assistant Dean, Clinical Education

### **Carlton Young, M.D.**

Assistant Dean, Medical Student  
Diversity and Inclusion

### **Majd Zayzafoon, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Dean, International  
Medical Education

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

### **Dan Berkowitz, M.D.**

Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

### **David Bedwell, Ph.D.**

Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

### **Jianyi (Jay) Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**

Biomedical Engineering

### **James Cimino, M.D.**

Biomedical Informatics and Data Science  
\*Effective January 1, 2024

### **Bradley Yoder, Ph.D.**

Cell, Developmental, and Integrative Biology

### **Boni Elewski, M.D.**

Dermatology

### **Marie-Carmelle Elie, M.D.**

Emergency Medicine

### **Irfan Asif, M.D.**

Family and Community Medicine

### **Anindya Dutta, Ph.D.**

Genetics



## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS (CONT.)

**Craig Hoesley, M.D.**  
Medical Education

**Seth Landefeld, M.D.**  
Medicine

**J. Victor Garcia-Martinez, Ph.D.**  
Microbiology

**Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Neurobiology

**David Standaert, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Neurology

**James Markert, M.D., MPH**  
Neurosurgery

**Warner Huh, M.D.**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Brian Samuels, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

**Steven Theiss, M.D.**  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Bradford Woodworth, M.D., FACS (interim)**  
**Justin Taylor, M.D., Ph.D. (effective May 31, 2024)**  
Otolaryngology

**Gene Siegal, M.D., Ph.D. (interim)**  
Pathology

**Mitchell Cohen, M.D.**  
Pediatrics

**Teresa Wilborn, Pharm.D., Ph.D. (interim)**  
Pharmacology and Toxicology

**Vu Nguyen, M.D., MBA**  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

**Adrienne Lahti, M.D.**  
Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology

**James Bonner, M.D.**  
Radiation Oncology

**Cheri Canon, M.D.**  
Radiology

**Herbert Chen, M.D.**  
Surgery

**Soroush Rais-Bahrami, M.D. (interim)**  
Urology

## UAB HEALTH SYSTEM

**Dawn Bulgarella, MSHA, CPA**  
Chief Executive Officer, UAB Health System  
Chief Executive Officer, UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance

**Reid Jones**  
Chief Executive Officer, UAB Medicine  
\*Retired September 30, 2023

**Brenda Carlisle**  
Chief Executive Officer, UAB Hospital

**Susan Jennings**  
Chief Financial Officer, UAB Health System

**Lou Baverso, MBA**  
Chief Operating Officer, UAB Health System

**Charles Fry**  
Chief Risk Officer, UAB Medicine; Vice President & Secretary, University of Alabama Health Services Foundation

**Keith (Tony) Jones, M.D.**  
President, University of Alabama Health Services Foundation; Chief Physician Executive, UAB Medicine; Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Heersink School of Medicine





## **BOARD OF VISITORS**

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Sheri Cook  
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Maryam (Mimi) Head  
Mary Heersink  
Gordon Lee  
James Lee III  
George Lundberg, M.D.

## **UAB HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

### **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Produced by UAB Heersink School of  
Medicine Communications

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Birmingham, AL 35294-3412  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Birmingham, AL  
Permit #2020

