# History of Palliative Care at UAB

At UAB, the origins of the Palliative Medicine Program began with a specific physician champion and nurse champion, Dr. John Shuster and Dr. Pamela Fordham. (At the BVAMC, the origins of the Palliative Care Unit named Safe Harbor were under the direction of Dr. Amos Bailey and included a separate committee of individuals and timetable from that of the UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit which is the main focus of this summary.) The need for a palliative care program arose out of an identified need for additional supportive care services for oncology patients with high symptom burden and distress. Noted below are the important dates and timeline of the progression and growth of the UAB Palliative Medicine Program and Center for Palliative and Supportive Care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 1998</td>
<td>UAB Palliative Medicine Program established within Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine with Dr. John Shuster as Director</td>
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<td>May 1999</td>
<td>UAB Health Services Foundation/General Endowment Fund awards $250,000 for establishment of Supportive Care Clinic</td>
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<td>May 2000</td>
<td>UAB Health Services Foundation/General Endowment Fund awards $330,000 for establishment of Palliative Medicine Research Core</td>
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<td>June 2000</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awards $450,000 for establishment of state-wide coalition Alabamians for Better Care at Life’s End (ABCLE)</td>
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<td>July 2000</td>
<td>First professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program</td>
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<td>November 17, 2000</td>
<td>University of Alabama Board of Trustees establishes UAB Center for Palliative Care as a specialized Center of expertise</td>
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<td>July 2001</td>
<td>UAB Hospice placed under leadership of UAB Center for Palliative Care</td>
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<td>July 2001</td>
<td>Second professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program</td>
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<td>January 2002</td>
<td>Palliative Medicine Program adds two additional faculty members, Drs. Cynthia Baker and Rodney Tucker</td>
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<td>June 2002</td>
<td>Palliative Care Clinic and specialty Palliative Care HIV Clinic begins</td>
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<td>July 2002</td>
<td>UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program enrolls third group of professionals in training (two fellows)</td>
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October 2002  First proposal to UAB Health System Administration regarding potential inpatient unit beds within University Hospital

October 2002  First annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care

December, 2002  Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

July 2003  Fourth professional class of fellows enters Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (one fellow)

September 2003  Pam Fordham DSN receives HRSA grant to begin the palliative care nursing specialty at UAB

November 2003  Palliative Care Unit Workgroup established and begins regular planning meetings

November 2003  Second annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care

February 2004  UAB Center for Palliative Care receives significant philanthropic grants, primarily from breast cancer survivor group “Climb for the Cause”

March 2004  UAB Hospice sold to Wiregrass Hospice, Inc. to establish fund for UAB Center for Palliative Care

March 2004  UAB Palliative Care workgroup members attend PCLC site at Massey Cancer Center/ VCU

July 2004  Protective Life Corporation awards $55,000 for establishment of palliative care interdisciplinary team and palliative care coordinator position

August 2004  UAB Center for Palliative Care and the Palliative Medicine Program transferred to Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and joined with the Birmingham VA Medical Center/Safe Harbor Project. Multi-source funding secured from Department of Medicine, UAB Health System, and Comprehensive Cancer Center. All faculty in Palliative Medicine form new Palliative Care Section within Division and includes Drs. Bailey, Tucker, Baker, Kvale, Williams, and Griffin.

September 2004  First Palliative Care Coordinator hired for UAB Palliative Care Program through partial funding of Protective Life Clinical Initiative Award Program.
October 1, 2004  Dr. Christine Ritchie assumes role as Director of Center for Palliative Care and Palliative Care Section, Division of Gerontology and Geriatrics as Dr. John Shuster moves to a Research Professor position at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center.

October 2004  Third annual fundraising event for Center for Palliative Care raises approximately $31,000

November 2004  UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program receives funding grant of $150,000 from AAHPM and National Hospice Foundation

December 2004  UAB Inpatient Palliative Care Unit business plan and capital budget approved by University of Alabama Board of Trustees

February 2005  Internal Marketing and External Development Plan along with Case Statement for Development and Program Expansion complete—First directed philanthropic gift for palliative care unit renovation of $150,000 obtained

July 1, 2005  Fifth class of fellows enter UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows)

October, 2005  Establishment of Center for Palliative Care Steering Committee

November 4, 2005  Dedication of Safe Harbor Unit at BVAMC

November 15, 2005  Fourth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

2006  Amos Bailey M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

March, 2006  Center for Palliative Care Steering Committee transitions to Community Advisory Board

March 5, 2006  Dedication of UAB Palliative and Comfort Care Unit

April 26, 2006  Approval granted for voluntary accreditation of Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

July 1, 2006  Sixth class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (two fellows)

October 1, 2006  Division name officially changed to Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

October 5, 2006  Fifth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care
November 1, 2006  Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

2007  Christine Ritchie M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

February 9, 2007  Palliative and Comfort Care Unit conference room dedication ceremony

March 19, 2007  Celebration event commemorating first anniversary of PCCU opening

March, 2007  Greater Birmingham Community Palliative Care Fellowship Fund established

April 19, 2007  Spring Garden Party fundraising event sponsored by Dr. & Mrs. Kirby Bland and The Steve Morton Family

April 23-24, 2007  Mt. Sinai site visit

May 21, 2007  First Nurse Practitioner hired for Palliative and Comfort Care Unit

July 1, 2007  Seventh class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows)

November, 2007  UAB named one of eight national Clinical Scholars training sites through American Academy of Hospice & Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)

November 28, 2007  Circle of Life Award site visit

December 11, 2007  Awarded a 2-year grant by the Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation for the development of a Holistic Care Coordination Program

2008  Christine Ritchie M.D. serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

January 1, 2008  Off-cycle professional enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

January 24, 2008  Fourth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

February, 2008  Faculty member Amos Bailey M.D. elected to AAHPM Board of Directors
April 14, 2008  Center receives notification of receiving a Circle of Life Citation of Honor award to be presented at the American Hospital Association/Health forum Leadership Summit July 25, 2008

March 10, 2008  Second Nurse Practitioner hired for Palliative and Comfort Care Unit

May 5, 2008  Holistic Care Coordinator hired for outpatient services

June 1, 2008  Fellowship accreditation application submitted to Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

July, 2008  Eighth class of fellows enters UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (two fellows)

July 9, 2008  Palliative Care Leadership Center site visit

July 25, 2008  UAB Center for Palliative Care and Birmingham VA Medical Center receives Circle of Life Citation of Honor

July 23, 2008  Designated as a Palliative Care Leadership Center (PCLC) by the Center to Advance Palliative Care

August 18, 2008  First Certified Physician Assistant hired for Palliative and Supportive Care Outpatient Programs

January 21, 2009  RRC for Family Medicine approves Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program accreditation application for one year, effective July 1, 2009

January 30, 2009  Fifth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

February 2-6, 2009  First AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

March 2-6, 2009  Second AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

April 6-10, 2009  Third AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

May 5-6, 2009  First PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific training class which involved eight facilities from VISN 7.

July 1, 2009  Ninth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (three fellows) Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program accreditation effective date.

August 18-19, 2009  Second PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific training class which involved nine facilities from VISN 11.
August 25-26, 2009  Third PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific reverse-site training class which involved six facilities from VISN 22.

September 20, 2009  Artini’s fundraising event benefiting the Center for Palliative Care Art Therapy Partnership

November 2-3, 2009  Fourth PCLC training successfully completed. This training class was from Christus Santa Rosa Hospice in Santa Rosa, TX.

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2010  Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

January 11-12, 2010  Fifth PCLC training successfully completed. This was a VA-specific reverse-site training class which involved six facilities from VISN 17.

January 25-29, 2010  Fourth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 2010  Received notification of funding from Children’s Health System to initiate pediatric focused fellowship track as fourth approved fellowship position

February 1-5, 2010  Fifth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 8-12, 2010  Sixth AAHPM Clinical Scholars Program participant trained

February 6, 2010  Sixth annual fundraising event for UAB Center for Palliative Care

March, 2010  Christine Ritchie M.D. elected to American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Board of Directors

April 12-13, 2010  Sixth PCLC training successfully completed. This was a four-person team from Cape Fear in North Carolina.

May, 2010  Twelfth anniversary of the establishment of the Palliative Medicine Program within the Department of Psychiatry under the direction of John Shuster M.D.

June 21, 2010  Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System approves name change from Center for Palliative Care to Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

July 1, 2010  Tenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Training Program (four fellows). First year for pediatric track.

September 30, 2010  Second annual Artinis fundraising event benefiting the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care Art Therapy Partnership
November 1, 2010  First International Scholars Observership Program trainee, Dr. Min Chul Kim from Korea, begins 4-month observership

November 17, 2010  Tenth anniversary of University of Alabama Board of Trustees establishment of the UAB Center for Palliative Care as a specialized Center of expertise

November 19, 2010  WrestleBirmingham fundraising event

January 18, 2011  Second International Scholars Observership Program trainee, Dr. Hyo Sook Park from Korea, begins 12-month observership

April 13, 2011  Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program completes its first accreditation site visit by ACGME

July 1, 2011  Eleventh class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (two fellows)

September, 2011  Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH announces departure from UAB as Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care to take a position at UCSF

September 26, 2011  Fellowship program receives five year continued accreditation from ACGME

October 1, 2011  Third professional joins the eleventh class of fellows in the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (total of three fellows in this class)

November 1, 2011  Roll out of new Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants

November 8, 2011  Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program awarded a Hearst Foundations fellowship grant for academic year 2012 through the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. UAB is one of ten recipients in the first round of these awards over the course of a three-year period.

November 9, 2011  Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH was awarded the status of Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

November, 2011  Palliative and Supportive Care Clinic moves from McDonald Clinic to the Kirklin Clinic

November 30, 2011  Pam Fordham DSN retires from UAB and as Deputy Director of the Center
2012  Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM serves as Program Chair for annual assembly of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

January 1, 2012  Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM assumes role of Interim Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

January 11, 2012  Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program receives final feedback on its April 2011 site visit. ACGME issued a five year continued accreditation, in addition to a commendation with no citations to the program.

January 12, 2012  Official opening of Palliative and Supportive Care Clinic at the Kirklin Clinic

February 6-10, 2012  First physician completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care

March 11, 2012  Christine Ritchie M.D. MSPH leaves service as Director of the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

April, 2012  CMS innovation award to extend palliative care across the cancer continuum in the UAB Cancer Network

April 9-13, 2012  First CRNP completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care

July 1, 2012  Twelfth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (2 fellows)

December 13, 2012  Carolyn C. Hunter Endowed Support Fund for Excellence in Education for the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care was established


March 27, 2013  First lecture held in the Deane K. Corliss Palliative Care Education and Lectureship series

July 1, 2013  Thirteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)

August 26-30, 2013  First chaplain completes training in the UAB Clinical Training Academy in Palliative Care
January 16, 2014  The national Hospice and Palliative Nursing Association (HPNA) approved an HPNA Central Alabama Provisional Group for Chapter Charter status.

February 2014  Center for Palliative and Supportive Care receives largest donation to date. This gift was in the amount of $2.5 million dollars from an anonymous donor.

May 7, 2014  UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care receives Circle of Life Citation of Honor

July 1, 2014  Fourteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)

July 1, 2015  Fifteenth class of fellows enters the UAB Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program (4 fellows)

August 18, 2015  UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care selected as a partner in CAPC’s community-based palliative care initiative

December 2015  Christine S. Ritchie, M.D., Endowed Chair in Palliative Care Leadership established. Rodney Tucker M.D. MMM first chair holder