Interim Titles Removed for Top UTHSC Leaders

In January, UT President John Petersen announced plans to immediately remove the interim title designation for both Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, and Ken Brown, JD, MPA, PhD. Since mid-April 2007, Dr. Wall has served as interim chancellor and vice president for health affairs, while Dr. Brown has served as chief of staff and interim executive vice chancellor for the UT Health Science Center.

“The change for Pat requires board approval and I will submit that recommendation,” President Petersen said. “The change for Ken will take place immediately. Both have done excellent jobs in carrying out their responsibilities, and we appreciate their willingness to provide leadership going forward.”

President Petersen noted, “In December, we suspended the chancellor search while we explored issues we felt were important to our ability to conduct the search with maximum effectiveness.”

Soon after President Petersen’s recommendation, the executive and compensation committee of the board of trustees granted approval for Dr. Wall to carry the title of chancellor and its full responsibilities until a new permanent chancellor is hired.

“We will not resume the chancellor search process until we have enhanced the appeal of the position through the joint efforts of campus leadership and our community partners,” President Petersen stated. “We hope the search can be re-started within the next year and we expect to attract an exceptional leader.”

Chancellor
Hershel P. Wall, MD

Kennard Brown, JD, MPA, PhD

Hershel P. Wall, MD, (right) had been serving as interim chancellor since April 2007 when UT President John Petersen (left) made the announcement to the UTHSC campus.

Earlier this year the UT Board of Trustees approved the removal of the interim title in order to have time to enhance the appeal of the position.
Par for the course. That phrase had a much different connotation for me this time last year than it does now. News of my retirement seems to have been somewhat premature. Since July 2007, I’ve enjoyed the challenge of being the interim dean by helping support the students and the faculty of our college.

The health of our college is good but the landscape is changing, as all viable institutions must be able to do. Since last July, we have added two new programs to our menu of seven within the college. Our two newest areas are in their infancy, but have already been approved at the college and university levels and are awaiting final approval by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. This is the last step of the formal process for us to begin to recruit and admit students. Once this step is completed we will welcome the MS/MD in Health Policy and the MS/PhD in Clinical Translational Science Research. Both programs allow us to meet the challenges that are facing the health science field.

In addition to these new academic programs, the college has also acquired the Health Careers Program. Isaac Donkor, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has just been appointed by the college to lead this program. Dr. Donkor obtained his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa. After a year of postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, he accepted an assistant professor position at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. He joined the UT College of Pharmacy in 1994 and has maintained an active research program that has led to several publications in his discipline. Dr. Donkor works very well with students and has mentored several students from a variety of backgrounds. He has been honored by the Black Student Association for being an Outstanding Example for Promoting Academic Excellence at UT. He is also a former recipient of the Student Government Association Executive Council Excellence in Teaching Award. Constance Tucker, who is the coordinate for Health Careers, also joined the program in April. Tucker is an educational coordinator in the Office of Student Academic Support Services (SASS). Her expertise is in the educational development and learning styles of graduate students in health professions. She earned her master’s degree in Student Development in Postsecondary Education from the University of Iowa and her bachelor’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis. To contact Constance Tucker, e-mail her at ctucker9@utmem.edu or check out the Tennessee Institutes for Pre-Professionals Web site at www.utmem.edu/tip.

Although the program is under the umbrella of the College of Graduate Health Sciences, it also receives support from SASS. Our Health Careers Program is designed to help students who are underrepresented in higher education. Whether because of ethnicity or family financial and educational backgrounds, the program helps these underrepresented students choose and become prepared for careers within the health sciences.

The staff of the SASS has a long history of helping students prepare to gain admission to our various colleges. Thus, the CGHS and the SASS are continuing to work together to expand the horizons for the Health Science Center. We are expecting approximately 40 undergraduate students to participate in various levels of this program.

Level one is designed to acquaint students with careers in the health sciences by allowing them to shadow a health care professional during the summer. Students meet weekly to discuss and share their experiences. Level two students are selected by professional colleges and receive special training to help them prepare for the professional examination required for admission to our programs. Finally, level three students receive intense exposure to the rigors of professional educational programs, in part, to help prove that they are ready for the challenging curriculum they will face when they attend school in the coming fall. Those who successfully complete this level are ready to be admitted to the professional program of their choice. This later program has been highly successfully in that these students have historically gone on to complete their professional degree.
Welcoming New Faculty and Postdocs

For two days in late March, Dianna Johnson, PhD, associate vice chancellor for academic, faculty and student affairs, hosted the first orientation for new faculty and postdocs on the Memphis campus. The event brought together about 25 out of the Health Science Center’s current group of 80 postdocs, as well as 22 assistant professors hired since September. The goal of the event was two-fold: first, to provide a forum to introduce UTHSC top administrators to new faculty and “faculty-in-training” and; second, to offer valuable insight on strategies for achieving success in grant submissions.

“The intent of the orientation is to recognize that faculty and postdocs, who are our faculty-in-training, are one of the most important resources on our campus,” Dr. Johnson told the group. “You and our students are the future of this institution.” She noted that UTHSC has made significant strides in supporting postdoctoral initiatives this year. “Our postdocs group has joined the national postdocs association, and we’ve also been successful in obtaining insurance for UTHSC postdocs,” she said.

Israel Goldberg, PhD, president of Health Research Associates and a UTHSC grant consultant, made a presentation titled “Extramural Funding Opportunities for New and Future Faculty.” The PowerPoint presentation provided detailed information on how grant funding works. Dr. Goldberg answered questions about how much data is needed to support grant applications and how to respond when grant applications are rejected. His insights, based on realistic scenarios, spurred several follow-up questions from the audience.

Dr. Goldberg also made a presentation on “Funding for Training the Next Generation of Research Scientists: Training Grants.” In addition, Chanchai McDonald, PhD, assistant vice chancellor for educational technology and institutional research, spoke to the group about “Tools to Manage Your Basic and Clinical Research Career: The SLIM & PRIM Systems.”

Dr. Johnson and her team have requested feedback from everyone who attended the event in order to develop an even more dynamic and useful program in the future.

UT Wins Largest Research Grant

On April 3, President John Petersen announced the largest research grant UT or any other university in the state has ever received — a $65 million grant award from the National Science Foundation, which will enable UT to build and operate one of the world’s most powerful supercomputers.

The grant positions UT among the nation’s supercomputing elite, as well as brings tremendous opportunity, as UT and its partners at Oak Ridge National Laboratory will use it to solve the most pressing scientific questions facing the world, in areas such as climate change, cancer research, and energy solutions. Breakthroughs in these areas obviously have potential to improve quality of life for current and future generations, and they could happen at the University of Tennessee.

This machine will have the power to conduct 1,000 trillion calculations per second. Or, if every person on earth were simultaneously able to perform one calculation per second, it would take all of us two days to complete what this computer will be able to do in one second. That’s almost unimaginable speed and capacity.

The National Science Foundation is establishing this supercomputer here to support the nation’s research agenda. The team that successfully competed for the award is led by Thomas Zacharia, who is both UT vice president for science and technology and ORNL associate lab director for computing and computational sciences.

To learn more about the $65 million award and plans for putting it to use, visit http://www.tennessee.edu/system/news/nsf/.
**Home at Last**

To help the CGHS meet the needs of all its programs, the chancellor has made available a large suite of rooms on the fourth floor of the 920 Madison Building.

This space holds the offices of the dean, the assistant dean for finance, executive assistant for the IPBS program, an executive assistant, and two offices for the newly acquired Health Careers Program. There are nine rooms including an office/reception area, a large conference room that is being remodeled, four primary offices, and a shared office for the associate deans to conduct business.

This is the first time in many years that the college has had independent space. With this independence, the need to restructure the staff of the college has become necessary. We can no longer use the assistance of multiple individuals within the College of Medicine who have helped us conduct the business of the college for the last 10 years. We have always been a free-standing college with approximately 400 faculty and 300 students, but we now have our own space.

**UT Research Success Featured in 2008 Better World Report**

A product based on research conducted at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center has been selected by the 2008 Better World Project as one of the top 100 examples from across the globe of how innovation from academic research makes its way to the market.

The featured product — a compound called RX100, which is designed to protect the human body when it is exposed to radiation — was developed in 2004 at the UT Health Science Center by Gabor Tigygi, MD, PhD; Duane Miller, PhD; and Leonard “Rusty” Johnson, PhD. Studies have shown that the compound can prevent death if given before or after lethal radiation exposure, and even save life if administered 24 hours or longer after exposure. In addition to boosting the immune system and inhibiting organ failure, RX100 also protects rapidly growing cells, such as those in the bone marrow or the small intestine. Because it protects the lining and preserves the function of the intestine, it can prevent diarrhea and combat bacterial infections.

RxBio, Inc., a biotechnology start-up company headquartered in Johnson City, licensed the patented technology from the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) and continues to study and do further development on RX100. Applications of the substance abound in fields where radiation exposure is possible or even necessary, including health care and military or defense scenarios. RxBio is led by W. Shannon McCool, DPh, a pharmacy graduate of UTHSC and a seasoned entrepreneur with extensive experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

“RX100 is just one example of successful product ideas that are emerging from UTHSC and the university as a whole,” said Hershel P. Wall, MD, UTHSC chancellor. “Working with companies to license and further develop these products is consistent with our mission to improve human health for Tennesseans, as well as on a global scale.”

The Better World Project was launched by the Association of University Technology Managers in 2005 to increase public understanding of how academic research and technology transfer benefit individuals and communities around the world. Technology transfer is the process that takes a discovery made in a laboratory and turns it into a product that makes its way to the marketplace. UTRF harvests the discoveries and inventions of UT’s faculty and staff and seeks commercial outlets for those inventions. UT was the only educational institution in Tennessee that was highlighted in the project this year. The project’s publication is being distributed to members of the U.S. Congress, state officials and leaders of Fortune 500 companies. A mention of UT’s participation in cellulosic ethanol development was also included in the publication.

“Many people are unaware of the breadth of research conducted at the university and the positive impact of that research on society,” said Fred Tompkins, president of UTRF. “These discoveries not only can save lives, but they also contribute to a stronger economy by creating new jobs in our local community.”
Meet Our Graduates

What a year this has been. In December, 27 individuals graduated from the college; they represent the last group of students who could submit their thesis/dissertation using paper. Last May, 39 students graduated and they represented the first group of students that had to electronically submit their thesis/dissertation. Dr. David Armbruster, associate dean, for the last 10 years has been the driving force behind our college’s efforts to go digital with our students’ research. Under his leadership we were able to graduate the largest class of students in our college history, 39 students.

The Electronic Thesis/Dissertation (ETD) effort in our college actually began in 1997, with the first ETDs approved and put on the Web in 1998 (http://etd.utmem.edu). Larry Tague, research associate in the Department of Physiology, and several faculty as well as students have assisted throughout the years in developing policies and procedures for our ETD program. Our ETDs and tens of thousands of other ETDs from universities around the world are providing open access to graduate research that might otherwise languish and collect dust on library shelves. In addition to wider distribution of our students’ research, the ETD process helps teach our students to produce electronic journal articles and grant proposals that are critical to their future success. The following is a list of the December 2007 and May 2008 graduates.

Doctor of Philosophy

Joyce Addo-Atuah, (May) – HOPR
Kennard Brown, (May) – HOPR
Dina Jo Byers, (May) – Nursing
Fei Cao, (Dec.) – Molecular Sciences
Tyson D. Chappell, (Dec.) – Anatomy
Krishna Murali Divi, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Kimberly D. Grimes, (May) – Pharm. Sciences
Shi Jin, (Dec.) – Physiology
Payal Khandelwal, (May) – Molecular Sciences
Sun-Hon Kim, (May) – Anatomy
Vishal Lamba, (May) – Interdisciplinary
Cynthia Lancaster, (May) – Interdisciplinary

Teresa Liu, (May) – Interdisciplinary
Wei Liu, (Dec.) – Interdisciplinary
Belinda Mandrell, (May) – Nursing
Dana Manley, (May) – Nursing
Kevin L. Marrs, (Dec.) – IPBS
Annapoorna Mary, (Dec.) – Nursing
Roman Melnyk, (Dec.) – BMEI
Ioana Moisini, (Dec.) – Pathology
Fazlullah S. K. Nawazi, (May) – Molecular Sciences
Mohammed Mostafa Nooh, (May) – Molecular Sciences

Graduates...continued on page 6
Graduates...continued from page 5

Doctor of Philosophy

Siva Tej Sarva, (May) – Molecular Sciences
Jun Shen, (May) – Interdisciplinary
Nina Sublette, (May) – Nursing
Karthik Shanmuganatham, (Dec.) – Molecular Sciences
Lisa E. Tang, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Mark A. Tankersley, (May) – HOPR
JeriThea Tidwell, (May) – Nursing
Namrata Trivedi, (May) – Pharm. Sciences
Patricia Kellie Turner, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Marie ‘Van der Merwe, (Dec.) – Interdisciplinary
Fan Wang, (Dec.) – Pharmacology
Alina Nico West, (Dec.) – Interdisciplinary
Chaoju Xiao, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Xiaohu Xie, (Dec.) – Pharmacology
Lei Yang, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Xianghong Yang, (Dec.) – Anatomy
Raghunandan Yendapally, (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Zhoayang Ye, (in absentia) (Dec.) – Pharm. Sciences
Ji Zhang, (May) – Interdisciplinary
Ziwei Zhang, (May) – Molecular Sciences

Master of Science

Matthew Clemens, (Dec.) – BMEI
Chadi El Saleeb, (May) – Epidemiology
Peter Fishcher, MD, (May) – Epidemiology
Elias Giraldo, MD, (May) – Epidemiology
Bharathi Gogula, (May) – BEMI
Margaret Hastings, (May) – Epidemiology
Scott C. Russell, MD, (Dec.) – Epidemiology
Mohammad Reza Shouri, (Dec.) – Anatomy
Jin Xu, (Dec.) – Pharmaceutical Sciences
Sizhong Zhang, (Dec.) – BMEI

Master of Dental Sciences

Michael Kelly Agenter, (May)
Suzanne Coco, (May)
Kortne King Frederick, (May)
George Emil Hilal, (May)
Kelly-Gwynne Mason-Fergus (May)
Daniel Corey Sawrie, (May)
Brett Seshul, (May)

Right: UT and UT Health Science Center administrators gather before the 2008 May graduation at the FedEx Forum.

2007 December graduates of the College of Graduate Health Sciences line up at the commencement exercises held at the Cannon Center.
Travel Awards Allow Students to Share Research

The college is proud of the research performed by our students and supports the communication of their research with travel awards from the John Autian Student Enrichment Fund and the Lorraine and Alfred Kraus Enrichment Fund. The travel awards help our students defray the cost of presenting their research at national and international meetings. Congratulations to the students who received travel awards this year!

Joyce Addo-Atuah
Health Science Administration

Sudhir Aggarwal
Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences

Bahram Dahi
Biomedical Engineering and Imaging

Dian Dowling
Nursing

Yu Fukuda
Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences

Queen Henry-Okafor
Nursing

Meghan Hufstader
Nursing

Payal Khandelwal
Molecular Sciences

Dana Manley
Nursing

Rosemary McLaughlin
Nursing

Elizabeth J. Sander
Biomedical Engineering and Imaging

Reba A. Umberger
Nursing

Sizhong Zhang
Biomedical Engineering and Imaging

Ziwei Zhang
Molecular Sciences

Yu Zhao
Anatomy and Neurobiology

Nephi Zufelt
Biomedical Engineering and Imaging

One of the students, Yu Fukuda, received the additional honor of receiving the ABC2008 Young Investigator Award for her poster presentation during the 2nd FEBS Special Meeting ABC 2008. Congratulations Yu!
The 2008 Graduate Research Day, held May 2, was an outstanding success! Twenty-three students presented posters of their research in the GEB lobby and, as in the past, their work generated much interest and kudos.

Representatives from Applied Biosystems, Fisher Scientific and Genome Explorations helped sponsor the event and were present throughout the morning to talk with students and attendees.

A panel discussion in the morning also gave all of our graduate students the opportunity to enjoy breakfast as they explored career opportunities and choices. The panel consisted of Drs. Suzanne Jackowski from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Richard Magid from the UT Research Foundation, and Duane Miller from the College of Pharmacy. Ken Woody, president of Innova Memphis, Inc., also gave an inspiring luncheon seminar; Innova is a venture capital and management firm created by the Memphis BioWorks Foundation.

Six students were identified by faculty judges for the excellence of their poster presentations: John Fisher (IPBS), Ethel Pereira (IPBS), Elizabeth Sander (BMEI), Haopeng Wang (Interdisciplinary), Christy Wilson (BMEI), and Janice Zawaski (BMEI). These students received a cash prize in recognition of their achievement! The judges noted, however, that the decision was extremely difficult because of the tremendous quality of all the student presentations!

Postdoc Association Receives National Recognition

The UTHSC Postdoctoral Association (PhDA) recently received recognition as the best new postdoc association at the National Postdoc Association’s meeting in Boston.

Drs. Ian Brooks, president of PhDA, and Michal Zmijewski, PhDA vice president, received a certificate in honor of the award. They have been working with Dianna Johnson, PhD, associate vice chancellor for academic, faculty and student affairs, to get the organization up and running on campus. The award was also highlighted in the national newsletter, which can be found at http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/att/cf/%7b89152E81-F2CB-430C-B151-49D071AEB33E%7d/POSTDOCKETSpring08.pdf
Forget those Indiana Jones action-adventure movies of the 80s, where the hero escapes Nazis, ancient curses and giant rolling balls. Clark M. Blatteis, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology, is adding his own version of the adventurous scientist – minus the fedora and bullwhip – to the Living History Project, recalling his perilous escape from Europe as a child, his high altitude research in the mountains of Peru, his fever research in newborns and adults, and his upcoming involvement with the new UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Lab (RBL).


“The APS launched the Living History Project because of our desire to capture the memories and experiences of our senior members,” stated Martin Frank, PhD, APS executive director, who interviewed Dr. Blatteis at UTHSC. Dr. Frank said the society hopes to build an archive for future generations to mine for information about those who shaped the discipline. Each archive consists of a participant overview on the APS Web site with links to articles, publications, research and a link to watch the participant’s videotaped interview.

Dr. Blatteis’ story begins in Nazi Germany. German Jews were forcibly expelled from their own country to where they hoped would be a safe haven. His family had to leave Germany in 1939 when he was 7 years old, sailing on the luxury steam liner “St. Louis” to Cuba. Despite the passengers’ landing permits, they were not allowed to disembark in Cuba, and the ship was destined to sail up and down the coast of Florida. The passengers unsuccessfully sought asylum in the United States and elsewhere until, 30 days later, the ship of disheartened travelers returned to Germany. Fortunately, just before their arrival and certain internment, four other European countries agreed to host refugees. The story was reported worldwide then and later popularized in various books and the movie, “Voyage of the Damned.”

Clark’s remaining childhood, first in Brussels, then in southern France after hostilities began on the western front one year later, and, eventually, for eight years in Morocco, gave him the unique opportunity to grow up in diverse environments, quickly learning the lingua franca of the area; he is fluent in English, French, German and Spanish. The Blatteis family made their permanent journey to the United States in 1948, settling in New Jersey. Dr. Blatteis entered Rutgers University, graduated in 1954 and pursued his advanced degrees in physiology at the University of Iowa, where he met his future wife, Yolanda.
By Blatteis...

On graduating, he was drafted into the Army. After his military service, he traveled to his wife’s homeland in Peru to study the effects of high altitude on living organisms.

“I wanted to meet my wife’s family, so I applied for and was awarded a NIH-sponsored postdoctoral fellowship to study acclimatization to altitude,” said Dr. Blatteis. “I wanted to know if this was an inborn or an acquired trait.” Comparing various species of neonatal farm animals born in the Peruvian Andes and at sea level, he found that acclimatization to altitude is an inherent characteristic existent at both altitudes, probably because the oxygen level of the mother’s womb is low at both altitudes. “Babies born at sea level have, in essence, to ‘de-adapt’ to the low altitude,” he commented.

He then continued his fellowship at Oxford University to study the combined effects of altitude and cold exposure on the temperature regulation of neonates. Completing his fellowship, Dr. Blatteis returned to the military – this time as a civilian employee – continuing this research in the adult. “I eventually found that the body’s need to protect its blood flow to vital organs (brain, heart) during hypoxic hypoxia takes precedence in the cold over shunting it to heat-producing organs, allowing body temperature to drop,” he said.

In 1966, he came to UTHSC, still working on the research he’d been doing with the military. “In 1972, I began studying the ontogeny of fever,” said Dr. Blatteis. He explained that, while at Oxford, he had learned that infected newborns exhibit poor fever responses during their first two weeks of life. Said Dr. Blatteis, “While conducting this research, the question began to intrigue me: how does the body know it has to develop a fever?” His last two papers on this topic were published in the American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology Journal in September, marking the closure of a rewarding 35-year-long career in fever research. Now, at age 75, the next logical move for Dr. Blatteis should be retirement. However, he will soon be starting as core director of one of the projects involved in the new RBL: the Physiogenomics and Histopathology Core. “This will be a different kind of research for me than I am used to,” he explained, a bit excitedly. Will his adventure have a sequel?

Awarding Excellence in Teaching

In late April, more than 190 students, faculty and staff members gathered in the SAC for the 10th Annual Student Government Association Executive Council & Faculty Senate Awards Banquet. All of the award recipients were praised and applauded for their individual and collective efforts in pursuit of excellence on behalf of the Health Science Center.

The evening highlighted and awarded some of the hardest working and most dedicated members of the UTHSC faculty, students and staff. In an outpouring of gratitude, respect, warm smiles and occasional tears, award recipients accepted handshakes, hugs and applause for efforts exceedingly well done throughout the past year. Leadership, commitment and collaboration were the buzz words for the evening, used to describe so many who have accomplished so much in support of each other.

Teaching Awards in the College of Graduate Health Sciences were presented to John D. Boughter, Jr., PhD, assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology, and to J. Carolyn Graff, PhD, associate professor and director of primary nursing and public health.

Chancellor Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, closed the ceremony saying, “When we consider the strengths of the Health Science Center, the answer always includes students, faculty and your combined leadership. This Health Science tradition has been rich for almost a century, and we look forward to continuing for another century. Congratulations to you. I am very proud of you all.”
Dr. Ennis Named Chair of Anatomy, Neurobiology

Steve J. Schwab, MD, executive dean of the College of Medicine for the UT Health Science Center, has announced the appointment of Matthew Ennis, PhD, as the Simon R. Bruesch Endowed Professor and chairman for the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology in the College of Medicine.

The neurobiology program is an important part of Graduate Health Sciences’ Integrated Program in Biomedical Sciences, and as such, having Dr. Ennis assume the leadership of this department is extremely timely for the CGHS. “We welcome Matt to our leadership and look forward to continue working with the anatomy and neurobiology department under his guidance,” said Interim Dean Ed Schneider, PhD.

Dr. Ennis is a five-year veteran of UTHSC, having joined the faculty of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology as a professor in 2003. Dr. Ennis is a systems neuroscientist whose research focuses on neural networks involved in olfaction, taste and pain regulation. Since his arrival at UTHSC, he has been continuously funded by multiple research grants and is currently the principal investigator and a co-principal investigator on grants funded by the NIH. Other members of Dr. Ennis’s research team are also independently funded by NIH research grants.

Dr. Ennis noted that it is an honor and privilege to step into a leadership role in a department that has consistently ranked in the top-tier of neurobiology departments nationally. The most recent NIH research grant rankings in 2005 placed the department in the 12th position nationally among U.S. medical school neuroscience departments.

In addition to Anatomy and Neurobiology, UTHSC is home to an interdepartmental Neuroscience Institute, which represents researchers across basic science and clinical departments, as well as scientists at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the University of Memphis. “The vitality of neuroscience at UTHSC was the driving force that attracted me here five years ago. As we move forward the department looks to recruit outstanding neuroscientists who will complement and enhance our existing strengths, and to explore opportunities for new growth and collaborative neuroscience research and training across UTHSC,” Dr. Ennis said.

UTHSC Alumni Return as Invited Speakers

Two of our pharmacology alumni returned to campus this past year to give seminars and to meet with our students. Last fall, Debra Diz, PhD (1980), presented a seminar titled “The Brain Renin-angiotensin in Cardiovascular Control During Aging.” Debra is currently a professor in the College of Medicine at Wake Forest University and the director of Basic Science Research Programs, Hypertension and Vascular Disease Center.

She has had a successful career with sustained funding from the NIH and membership on various NIH study sections. She has also been very active in the American Heart Association. Drs. Diz and Schneider enjoyed a chance to reminisce about her days as a student when Dr. Schneider was a member of her dissertation committee.

In the spring, Ronald Smith, MS (1968) and PhD (1971), gave a seminar titled: “Renin-angiotensin System – A Historical Perspective.” During his visit he also gave a presentation to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows titled “Should I Consider a Career with a Pharmaceutical Company?”

Ron has had a successful career working for various pharmaceutical companies in senior leadership roles. He is presently global director for Scientific Affairs-Hypertension/Heart Failure for Merck & Co, Inc. Highlights of his career include being an internationally recognized expert in the area of angiotensin II receptor antagonist and antihypertensive drugs and an expert in the facilitation and review of investigator-initiated trials.
Two New Pharmacy Buildings

On December 7, the UT College of Pharmacy began what one alumnus called “another chapter in the continuation of a dream” as ground was broken for the new pharmacy building on the Memphis campus.

The six-story, 191,000-square-foot building is one of the new facilities under construction on the grounds of the UT-Baptist Research Park. Slated for completion in fall 2009, the new building will consolidate pharmacy faculty and staff who are currently housed in six different buildings on the Memphis campus.

College of Pharmacy officials also gathered in August to witness the opening of the new building in Knoxville. This new option for second- to fourth-year pharmacy students to study in Knoxville is designed to help head off the statewide shortage of pharmacists. The 15,000-square-foot Knoxville building will increase the number of qualified pharmacists entering the job market in East Tennessee.

Memphis Mental Health Institute and New Le Bonheur Building

The new Memphis Mental Health Institute (right) stands at the apex of Court Street, where the UT-Bowld Hospital and Dobbs building used to be. The official opening was September 24, 2007, and the first patients were admitted October 1.

The new 100,000-square-foot, three-story building features a layout with 75 beds. A corridor connects the Regional Medical Center (The MED) and MMHI. The project is the result of collaboration among the state of Tennessee/MMHI, Methodist Healthcare System, The MED, UTHSC and Shelby County government.

A ceremonious three-ton wrecking ball collided into the old MMHI (left) in November, signaling the demolition of the old building and the construction phase of the new hospital at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. The new hospital should take 30 months to construct; the grand opening is scheduled for summer 2010. The new Le Bonheur will encompass a 1-million-square-foot campus with 12 floors containing large, single-patient rooms, family lounges and natural light, all focused on family-centered care.
Cancer Research Building

The Cancer Research Building, which houses labs for three UTHSC colleges to focus on different types of cancer research, was officially opened in late September 2007.

Cutting the ribbon (left to right): Leonard R. Johnson, PhD, vice chancellor for research; Vicki Antwine, cancer survivor and accounting assistant in the UTHSC Office of Finance and Operations; Lawrence M. Pfeffer, PhD, scientific director of the Cancer Research Building; John Petersen, PhD, president of UT; Hershel P. Wall, MD, chancellor of the UTHSC; and Tiffany Seagroves, PhD, a cancer researcher from the College of Medicine.

RBL Leaders Continue to Communicate Efforts and Gain Support

Although the UTHSC Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL) won’t open until next year, Health Science Center leaders continue to engage in dialogue about the facility. Thanks to Congressman Steve Cohen’s support, in November President Bush signed H.R. 3222, the Department of Defense Appropriations conference report for FY2008. The report included $4 million in funding for UTHSC.

The resources will be used to underwrite basic research of emerging infectious diseases such as streptococcus, multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, and francisella. UTHSC plans to purchase high technology pathogen detection equipment for use in the RBL, where biomedical and biodefense research and training will take place.

More than four years ago, UTHSC began publicizing its intent to build the RBL and since that time, leaders have communicated progress of the project.

Recent RBL communication efforts included a town hall meeting in Memphis that provided an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to learn more about the new facility.

A video and floor plans of the building were presented to help the audience visualize the Biocontainment Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) lab. Although smaller BSL-3 labs have been on campus for years, the RBL will have an NIH affiliation, which will reveal new opportunities for collaboration and funding. This affiliation also mandates strict regulation and operating procedures.

For example, the building plans for the RBL went through three separate reviews with the NIH. The building began with the construction of 18-inch-thick concrete walls. The RBL is designed with a redundancy, building two of everything to allow for backup of all major systems.

The most modern electronic security measures, such as card readers and metal detectors, will supplement the 24-hour manpower that guards the facility. Written standard operating procedures that meet federal regulations will be located in the labs. The RBL will be used to conduct experiments on an as-needed basis but researchers will not maintain permanent offices at the site.

Once the structure of the RBL is in place, the facility will go through a rigorous commissioning process, which involves an independent, third-party evaluation of every aspect of the RBL.

The RBL team leaders are making themselves available to attend campus staff meetings, as well as meet with community organizations, to address any questions about the RBL. For a full description of the project, visit http://www.utmem.edu/research/rbl.
The University of Tennessee officially launched its $1 billion fundraising campaign on April 17 to enhance programs of excellence at all of the university’s campuses and institutes.

The Campaign for Tennessee — the most ambitious effort in the university’s 214-year history — places UT among the ranks of the nation’s largest public and private institutions that have sought this level of private support.

According to Hershel P. Wall, MD, chancellor, the UT Health Science Center’s goal within the UT System-wide Campaign is $180 million. “We are a little more than half-way to our goal, and our faculty and staff have given more than $10 million of the total through the Family Campaign,” he said.

Accompanied by Board of Trustees Vice Chair Andrea Loughry, UT President John Petersen announced that $704,076,696 has been raised. He made the announcement at a gathering of campaign volunteers held at Pratt Pavilion on the Knoxville campus.

“This is a historic day for the University of Tennessee and a time to celebrate the university’s successes. We extend our thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who’ve helped us achieve this unprecedented amount,” said Petersen. “We also look forward to a continued momentum to further engage alumni and friends in achieving the university’s goals.”

The campaign seeks support for initiatives that impact student access and success, research, economic development, outreach and goals for globalization.

Jim Haslam, along with his wife, Natalie, and Brenda Lawson of Chattanooga serve as co-chairs of the Campaign for Tennessee. “We have the distinct honor to be part of a powerful effort that will have an enormous impact on the state and its residents for many years to come,” said Jim Haslam, founder of Pilot Oil Corp. “Each day we have been reminded that the University of Tennessee family is a large one that extends all over the world. We have especially enjoyed meeting with supporters and learning more about the enduring connection that compels them to invest in the university’s future.”

Funds are raised through outright gifts and pledges, planned gifts and private grants for research.

For more information about the Campaign for Tennessee, please visit http://development.tennessee.edu/campaign/.

To make a gift, contact the Office of Development, UT Health Science Center, 62 South Dunlap, Suite 500, Memphis, TN 38103, or call (901) 448-5516.
Supporting the College Through a Gift Annuity

Many alumni and friends of the University of Tennessee have asked if there is a way to support the UT College of Graduate Health Sciences through a charitable gift annuity, which offers an opportunity to help the university while receiving a fixed payment for life. The University of Tennessee Foundation is excited to offer this new way to benefit you and the UT College of Graduate Health Sciences by entering into a charitable gift annuity agreement.

While gift annuities have been around for a long time, the UT Foundation has decided the time is right to begin the university’s first gift annuity program. A charitable gift annuity is a simple contractual agreement between you and the UT Foundation. In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, securities, or other property, the Foundation promises to pay you a guaranteed income, in quarterly installments, for your lifetime. Generally, individuals who establish a charitable gift annuity are interested in maintaining or enhancing their income with fixed payments. Other benefits include an income tax deduction for those who itemize, partial bypass of capital gains tax, and possible reduction of estate taxes.

The charitable gift annuity offers a guaranteed rate of return based on the age of the annuitant(s) when the gift is made. The minimum contribution is $25,000. Income beneficiaries must be at least 60 years old at the time the payments commence. The University of Tennessee Foundation will follow the rates (payout percentages) suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities, but donors may elect a lower payout if they wish.

We think you will be impressed by the many advantages a gift annuity offers. An attractive gift annuity rate is not the only advantage. Other benefits include:

- Guaranteed payments for your lifetime
- An immediate income tax charitable deduction
- In most instances, payments that are partially tax-free
- Capital gain tax reduction if the annuity is funded with appreciated assets

If you would like more information about charitable gift annuities available through the UT Foundation, please contact Bethany Goolsby, assistant vice chancellor for planned giving, at (901) 448-4941 or at bgoolsby@utmem.edu. Bethany is pleased to provide you an analysis showing the payments and tax benefits for your unique situation, in confidence and with no obligation.

Please consider making a charitable gift annuity that benefits you and makes a difference for the University of Tennessee College of Graduate Health Sciences.

Mileage Just Keeps Increasing

In October 2007 Lorraine and Fred Kraus’ 1972 Chevrolet Impala Convertible was sold. The orange-colored car became a campus icon as the emeritus professors of the College of Medicine parked the vehicle in A-lot for almost 20 years. The husband and wife researchers donated the car to the college last year.

The proceeds from the sale will now allow many of the next generation of molecular science students to travel to scientific meetings to present their work. Thanks to their generosity, the mileage associated with their Chevrolet Impala Convertible will just continue to increase.
Billy Wayne Perry (Biochemistry, PhD 1967) is a native of Portland, Tenn., which is located 40 miles northeast of Nashville. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a Master of Arts in organic chemistry from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tenn. He came to UT in the fall of 1961 to pursue his doctorate in biochemistry. His PhD dissertation was the study of the ratio of hemoglobin A to hemoglobin S in individuals with sickle cell trait. The chairman of his graduate faculty committee was Dr. Robert J. Hill. Other members of his committee were Dr. William E. Jefferson, Dr. Alkis J. Sophianopoulos, Dr. Clark M. Blatteis and Dr. Richard Moon.

After graduation he went to the Department of Clinical Pathology at the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UAB) in Birmingham. In the spring of 1970 he left UAB and went to the Department of Pathology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. There he was the associate director of laboratories and director of laboratory operations, director of clinical chemistry and toxicology, director of quality assurance and director of support services. He was a member of numerous college committees, national professional organizations and was a national inspector of clinical laboratories for the College of American Pathology. In addition to his service responsibilities, he taught clinical chemistry in the graduate and medical technology programs and to pathology residents.

He retired in October 2002 as associate professor. He moved to Tennessee in March 2005 and lives at 1068 Sierra Gorda Drive, Gallatin, Tenn., 37066. His telephone number is (615) 230-0959.
Healthy Cities Under the Tuscan Sun

Gently rolling hills covered with vineyards and splashed by the sun. Ancient Medieval villages dot the landscape. These are the romantic images evoked by mention of Tuscany, one of Italy’s most storied regions. Birthplace of the Renaissance with a rich heritage in the arts, Tuscany played a particularly fascinating role in medical history as well.

“The oldest and most important medical schools were in Italy. Up through the 18th and 19th centuries, even the English went there to study,” explained Professor James E. Bailey, Jr., MD, MPH. He organized a group of UT Health Science Center alumni and planned the curriculum for a study tour titled, “Search for the Healthy City.” Designed to involve participants in experiential learning through on-site education, the agenda took the group to some of the less-traveled places tucked in the Tuscan hills.

Guided tours and discussions led by faculty from London and Italy were highlights of the seminar, of course; but healthy living was woven throughout the 10-day excursion. As Dr. Bailey pointed out, “We walked our socks off. This was not a whistle-stop tour; we tried to practice what we preached.

“People in the Mediterranean region live longer, so one of the aspects we studied was the ‘slow food movement,’ the practice of taking one’s time while eating locally grown food prepared by hand,” he said. Many of the participants took cooking classes to learn techniques for healthy food preparation, and meals prepared for the group reflected the slow food approach.

“Positive lifestyle changes and options were reiterated throughout the courses,” noted participants Alison and Ed Franklin, MD, (UT COM ’60) adding, “Dr. Bailey must be a great teacher ... because the agenda was so well and carefully prepared.” Dr. Franklin also mentioned how much he enjoyed hearing various viewpoints on the wide range of topics covered in the seminar presentations and discussions.

Mary Stuart David, MD, (UT COM ’79) commented that this was one of the best meetings she’s ever attended. “It was as if all the attendees were speakers, and we had a wonderful group to learn from.” One of the reoccurring lessons learned was how often communities throughout the past thousand years faced the same sorts of problems and found similar solutions to what we experience today. In Padua, the group toured the oldest medical school in Europe and discussed the first book ever written on medical errors by one of the school’s professors in the 1500s. Dr. David observed, “We are still doing so much that has been done for the last 600 years. So many modern improvements make so little difference compared to just being able to do those same things better.”

Dr. Bailey is seeking a spectrum of attendees for this year’s Tuscan search scheduled for September 4 to 13. “We’re trying to involve leaders from a variety of disciplines related to health care: church leaders, architects, insurance executives, as well as physicians, nurses and other health care professionals,” he said. “Anyone who wants to learn from history and the classics in health services research about how to build healthier cities and more effective health systems is welcome to attend.”

For more information about the next “Search for the Healthy City Tour” please contact: Catherine Lewis at (901) 448-2561; clemis22@utmem.edu, or Dr. Bailey at (901) 448-5186; jeb@utmem.edu.
Dr. Eric C. Schreiber
August 16, 1921 – April 2, 2008

Submitted by his wife: The love of my life, my husband, Eric, died at home in Sequim, of age-related causes. He was 86 and had been in poor health for about two years. We had more than 33 years together and many happy times as well as some very serious health problems. Our children from both former marriages were always supportive of us and also gave us much happiness. Our pet name for each other was “mysh” which stands for make your spouse happy. Some people thought that his name was Mitch since I (Erica) always called him mysh. In addition, our homes have always been named “Mysherling”.

Eric was born in Oberthausen, Germany to Nikolaus Josef and Anna (Hofmann) Schreiber, and came to New York City when he was 5 years old.

During World War II, he served in the army from May 5, 1943 to October 15, 1945. He was a staff sergeant working as a radio repairman and mechanic, serving in Italy, North Africa, and France. He earned a good conduct medal, five bronze battle stars and one oversees bar.

Upon returning to the states, he attended Brooklyn Polytech Institute where he received his bachelor and master of science degrees. He completed his education at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, where he received his doctorate in pharmacology.

Most of his career was in the pharmaceutical industry in research – Charles Pfizer & Co., Wm. S. Merrell, and E. R. Squibb & Sons (now Bristol-Myers Squibb). He has more than 100 scientific articles published in domestic and international journals, 10 patents, and a book titled “The Metabolic Alteration of Drugs” (Marcel Dekker).

At the time he went to E. R. Squibb & Sons in New Jersey, Eric was director of drug metabolism. He was one of the creators and a fellow of the Drug Metabolism Section in the American Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics. This led to the acceptance of this discipline as another important tool in the testing of a new drug, which showed continued promise during advanced testing and preliminary toxicity evaluation. He developed the protocols used in the development program which helped to move the testing ahead faster to a conclusion. In 1975, he became director of the International Research Centre, Squibb Institute for Medical Research in Regensburg Germany. He also held a position of expert on technical and legal matters pertaining to drug use, and had consultancies in the USA and Germany.

Eric attended many of the Gordon Research Conferences, which were held in New Hampshire, and in 1973 was chairman of the Conference on Drug Metabolism.

In 1977, he took a position at the University of Tennessee medical school in Memphis as professor and researcher on the effect of drugs (PCP, etc.) on nursing mothers and babies, under a grant from The Burroughs Welcome Foundation. He also taught doctoral students.

He retired from The University of Tennessee in 1983 and moved to White Pine, Tenn. He enjoyed his time there sailing, swimming, fishing, doing hobby work and painting. However, in 1986 Eric had a major stroke. After two years of therapy at Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center in Knoxville, Tenn., he started to improve. It took him several years of persistence and positive thinking to begin functioning well enough to renew many of the activities that he enjoyed before the stroke.

After moving to Sequim in 2004, Eric had so much joy attending the Olympic Theater in Sequim, concerts in Port Angeles, plays in Port Angeles; as well as many events with The Newcomers’ Club and The Sequim Senior Center. Eric and Erica loved to drive down to Port Williams and just sit and look at the water and enjoy the beauty of the area.

His survivors include his wife Erica (Smolar) Schreiber; son, Eric C. Schreiber, Jr. and his wife Barbara Ciletti of Longmont, Colo.; son, Robert W. Schreiber and his wife Pat Valdata, of Elkton, Md.; stepdaughter, Sharon C. Scairpon of Port Angeles; stepson, Rik J. Scairpon and his wife Tamara Peck of Sequim; and three grandchildren, Erik J. Scairpon and wife Candi, Mark R. Scairpon, and Christina N. Schreiber.
A memorial service will be held at a time when all of the family will be able to be together.

During his career Eric showed integrity and adherence to proper protocol for drug testing. His quote from his biography in “International Leaders in Achievement” – 1998 reflects his feelings on the subject. “My hopes for the future are that integrity will abound – especially in our young people being educated to take their place in the world. Let there be peace and honor among ourselves.”

You are in our hearts and in our prayers, and we loved you in life and will continue to love you in death.

Jim Hilton (1954) passed away on April 9.

Chester C. Liu, (MS ’59, PhD ’63), (Ching-Tong Liu), 76, of Frederick, Md., died March 29 at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. He was the husband of In-May Liu, his wife of 38 years.

Born October 19, 1931, in Hunan, China, he was the son of the late General Lien-Yi Liu and Shu-Yu Ku. He was a research physiologist for USAMRIID at Fort Detrick, retired in 1996, and continued to work as a consultant. In addition to keeping abreast of news and current events, he enjoyed gardening, stamp collecting and eating well.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a son, Rex Liu of Las Vegas; three daughters: Grace McLinn of Dallas, Jeannette Liu of San Francisco and Christine Liu of Boston; two grandchildren: Hunter McLinn and Sofia McLinn; three siblings: Elaine Chu of Glendale, Calif.; Jim Liu of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Joseph Liu of Tulsa, Okla.