Graduating Medical Students Recognized in May

Graduates of the University of Alabama School of Medicine who completed their medical training on Tuscaloosa’s clinical campus of UASOM were recognized on May 16, 2003, at the 27th Annual CCHS Honors Convocation. David Mathews, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, was the speaker for the event held at the Four Points Hotel in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Mathews was president of UA 1969-1980 and was instrumental in establishing the College of Community Health Sciences in 1972.

Dr. Lala Patil of Centerville was named Preceptor of the Year, for her dedication to teaching medical students on Community Medicine and Family Medicine rotations at her family practice in Bibb County.

State Representative Jeff Dolbare received special recognition as an honorary Rural Medical Scholar to acknowledge his support for the UA Rural Medical Scholars Program, which is based at CCHS and recruits rural students into medical careers in rural Alabama. The program, which was founded in 1996, draws heavily upon the philosophy of Dr. William R. Willard, the ‘Father of Family Medicine’ and the founding dean of CCHS who taught that physicians must understand and be part of the dynamics of the community.

Awards were given by each department to their top students, and Dr. William R. Shamblin, Professor Emeritus of Surgery, for whom the Surgery Award is named, received a standing ovation and a special award honoring him for his support of the college. (See more about Dr. Shamblin on page 7)

The Tuscaloosa senior medical students cite excellence in teaching at Honors Convocation by giving the Faculty Recognition Award for the Junior Year and the Patrick McCue Award for contributions to medical education in the senior year. This year’s class gave both faculty teaching awards to Dr. Eugene Marsh and honored Dr. Salih Faldon with the Resident Recognition Award for teaching.

Emily Dolbare, MD, received the prestigious William R. Willard Award. This singular recognition is awarded annually to a senior medical student for outstanding contributions to the goals and mission of the College of Community Health Sciences. Dr. Dolbare, a Rural Medical Scholar, also won the Robert F. Gloor Award in Community Medicine.

Collin King, MD, was honored by his classmates with the James H. Akers Memorial Award. This award, chosen by members the graduating senior class, is presented annually to the Tuscaloosa Senior who best personifies both the art and the science of the practice of medicine.

Dr. Beth Gober receives the Academic Achievement Award from Dean William A. Curry for highest average in clinical training at CCHS.

Dr. Shamblin with his wife, Kay, after the presentation holds the plaque presented to him by Dr. Wallace which reads:

FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS, SETTING HIGH STANDARDS AND STRONG LEADERSHIP
THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
College of Community Health Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
May 16, 2003
Recalling Our History...

In the spring of 1972, David Mathews, Bill Willard, J. John Burnum, Dick Rutland, and others committed themselves and The University of Alabama to an extensive initiative unique in the history of academic medicine. Their purposes were three-fold: 1) to address the need for physicians in rural Alabama; 2) to counter the trend toward technology-driven, expensive, and impersonal patient care; and 3) to expand the definition of health and of health professions education to include the community as essential and central to such a model. The result was the College of Community Health Sciences (CCHS). To give life to their vision, key components of CHS from the start were a Family Practice Residency; community-based education for medical students, residents, and other health professionals; and community-responsive research and outreach. At every level, the approach was to be interdisciplinary.

The early team was soon to expand to include John Packard, Bobby Moore, Bob Pieroni, David Helffinger, and a “Kentucky Mafia” emigrating with Willard from the new UK College of Medicine, including Bill Winterriz, Roland Ficken, Doug Scutchfield, Russ Anderson, and Bob Gloor. As American citizens walked on the moon, as the war in Vietnam became a waging controversy, and as students demonstrated and rioted on campuses across the nation, Mathews, Willard, and company forged a new kind of college, with a new kind of mission, with a new kind of name.

As we approached the 30th Anniversary of the founding of CHS, it was apparent to me that for most of the CCHS family of alumni, students, residents, staff, and even faculty, our knowledge of the CCHS story was limited - modestly limited to tales of the trials between CHS and the larger UA medical campus in Birmingham. While knowing the truth about that part of the story was necessary, a view restricted to that perspective alone was sure to be lacking in many ways. CCHS Dean Emeritus Wilmer Coggins has given generously of his time and skill to head a superb effort of volunteers and staff to produce the gift of this story we will tell — in a book which has been completed and submitted for publication (See article, column 2.)

It is a story not just about the struggles — academic, financial, political, or personal — but about the reasons for those struggles: the purposes born of the efforts of our founders, and the results we can claim over these thirty years. It is important to know the truth about all of it, because knowing it frees us for today’s work. Surely it is so that he who ignores the lessons of history is condemned to repeat them. Beyond that, there are interesting parts of the story that have national implications, both in medical education and in the realm of public policy.

However, in sifting the facts and plotting the vectors of the past thirty years, another, even more substantial reason for studying the history of CCHS emerges. It is that in doing so we can establish relationships with the minds and hearts that brought the experiment to life. We have the limited opportunity to get to know the people who did it, because many of the founders and early leaders are still with us. Not only are they able, but willing, to recall, to reflect, and to spend considerable time in writing and editing the story. For them, as well as for students, residents, patients, and communities of people in Alabama and indeed across the nation — we can be grateful. They have contributed to a rich and fruitful journey.

The journey began amidst exploding azaleas and dogwoods, a journey designed to confront exploding technology, health care costs, and emerging dissatisfaction about the American system of health care, has continued. The routes have been both predictable and unpredictable. The reasons for the founding of CCHS are as full of historical nuance as it were thirty years ago: rural communities have even more complex medical, economic, and social distress; American health care is even more technology-driven, expensive, and impersonal; and the role of community in health care and in other essential relationships and decision-making faces an even more complex medical, economic, and social distress. We still need physicians and others educated and trained with an extra dimension, an additional set of tools in their black bags. We still need A Special Kind of Doctor.

William A. Curry, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Dean, CHS

REFLECTIONS
William A. Curry, MD, FACP, Dean

Dr. Marsh Widely Honored in 2003

E. Eugene Marsh, III, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at CCHS, has received a number of awards from medical students this spring and was also chosen by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to receive the Leonard Tow 2003 Humanism in Medicine Award to an OUTSTANDING FACULTY ROLE MODEL. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, set up to foster humanism in medicine, honored Marsh for “exemplary compassion, competence and respect in the delivery of care.” Dr. Marsh also won the Argus Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Argus Award for Outstanding Teaching Achievement. Students of the University of Alabama School of Medicine present Argus awards annually to recognize outstanding faculty members. In addition, the Tuscaloosa senior class honored Dr. Marsh at the 2003 Honors Convocation by selecting him for the Faculty Recognition Award (for outstanding undergraduate medical education during their junior year) and for the Patrick McCue Award, given each year by the senior class, to recognize outstanding contributions to medical education during the senior year.

History Book Complete; Submitted to Publisher

The CCHS History Committee completed the writing of the 30-year history that has been in the works for two years. The 300-page manuscript was submitted to the University of Alabama Press in early May for consideration. Members of the committee, led by Dean Emeritus-Will Coggins, are hopeful that the Press will agree to publish the book. According to Dan Muller, director of the University of Alabama Press, the process typically takes about 18 months from start to finish.

The book begins with an overview of the earlier efforts of our founders, and the results we can claim over those thirty years. It is an outgrowth of the tobacco archive which Dr. Blum established in the 1970’s. The archive includes newspapers, magazines, business trade journals, annual reports, advertisements, point-of-sale displays, posters, signs, toys, video tapes, audio tapes, and more than 25,000 photographs and slides. The archive also holds special collections, such as original press briefings donated by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop covering efforts on tobacco problems. The archive has been previously supported by foundations, national and international health organizations, state agencies, research centers, businesses and private donations. For more information contact the archivist at (205) 348-2162.

Flight Attendants Fund Airline Smoking Study

The Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society at CCHS is currently documenting the history of smoking on airlines. Alan Blum, MD, Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine and Director, Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, is investigating how the tobacco industry worked in concert with airlines to make smoking aloft acceptable, despite the many documented concerns regarding the health effects of exposure to tobacco smoke. An illustrated monograph with a detailed chronology of smoking aloft will be published and a traveling exhibit will be produced. In 2002, the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute named Dr. Blum as William Cahan Attendant Medical Research Institute named Dr. Blum as William Cahan.

Dr. Marsh (left) receives Patrick McCue Award for excellence in teaching from Dr. Randy Quinn.
Dr. Shamblin, known to many as “Dr. Bill,” served the Tuscaloosa community for many years as a general surgeon. He was from a family of doctors. Altogether, ten Shamblin’s have practiced medicine in the Tuscaloosa area over the years. Dr. Shamblin’s family has a long history of commitment to medical education in Tuscaloosa in the early 1970’s. He was Chairman of the Department of Surgery for 11 years. “Dr. Shamblin had a deep commitment to medical education and to the College of Community Health Sciences Department of Surgery. He was invaluable as a member of the Lister Hill Society Board of Directors for many years,” said CCHS Advancement Director Vicki Johnson.

Dr. Shamblin graduated from the University of Alabama in 1959 and earned his medical degree from Tulane School of Medicine. He interned at Oscher Foundation Hospital in New Orleans and trained in General Surgery at The Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. He earned a Master of Science in Surgery from the University of Minnesota in 1968 and served in a military practice at Fort Benning during 1967-1968.

He began private practice in Tuscaloosa in 1968 with particular interest in vascular, general and internal trauma surgery. He was appointed Professor of Surgery at The University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1991. Working with the students and residents was a tremendous joy to him. He was honored for his outstanding contributions and strong leadership in the Department of Surgery at The University of Alabama School of Medicine. Recently, the University designated the “William R. Shamblin” award in his honor to be given to the top surgical student, and this award was present at the 2003 Honors Convocation in May when the award was first presented.

Dr. William Curry, who honored Dr. Shamblin at ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new computer labs and at Lister Hill receptions, spoke of Dr. Shamblin’s critical support for CCHS when it was founded and his invaluable contribution in organizing volunteer faculty to teach in the new surgery department. “His commitment meant a lot for the college,” said Dr. Curry, “and I can’t think of anyone more dedicated to the future of the college.” He adds that Dr. Shamblin demonstrates his commitment to providing the very best medical education possible.”

Dr. Timothy Winkler, Associate Chair of Surgery, was one of Dr. Shamblin’s medical students, and expressed his admiration for him as a surgeon and was saddened by his illness and death.

Dr. Joseph Wallace, Surgery Dept. Chairman, spoke for the department and the college at the 2003 Honors Convocation when he commended Dr. Shamblin for his leadership and generosity to CCHS. Nikki Moore, Surgery Program Coordinator since 1979, who worked with Dr. Shamblin longer than anyone else in the College, said, “Dr. Shamblin worked very hard opening doors for our students and residents with local surgeons. He also worked closely with Dr. William R. Shamblin Award in May.

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Dr. Emily Dolbare receives the William R. Willard Award from Dean William A. Curry. The honor is named for the founding dean of the college and recognizes the graduating senior who best reflects the goals and mission of the College of Community Health Sciences. Dr. Dolbare is a Rural Medical Scholar from Washington County.

Honors Convocation (from page 1)

Elizabeth Gober, MD, earned the CCHS Scholastic Achievement Award. This award is presented to the senior with highest academic performance during the clinical years in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Gober also received the American Medical Women’s Association Janet M. Glasgow Award, which recognizes each woman who is in the top ten percent of her class, and the Merck Manual Award. Dr. Gober received departmental awards in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Neurology, and Surgery.

The Larry Mayes Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Amanda Barron, a Birmingham-based medical student who plans to use the scholarship to work in Lima, Peru.

William W. Winternitz, MD, for whom the award is named, presents the award for excellence in Internal Medicine to Dr. Medinah Muhammad-Faldon.

Dr. Emily Dolbare (left) was selected by her rural medicine and rural health peers to receive the Robert F. Gloor Award for Community Medicine. She is congratulated by her mentors, John Wheat, MD, Chair of the Department of Community Medicine, and John Brandon, MD, RMP Medical Director.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS: Presented at Honors Convocation, 2003 UA College of Community Health Sciences

- Family Medicine Award: Randall Quinn
- Pediatrics Award: Vandy Black
- Neurology Award: Christine Castrichini
- Surgery Award: Amanda Barron
- Pediatrics Award: Elizabeth Gober
- Neurology Award: Christine Castrichini
- Surgery Award: Elizabeth Gober

Presented at Honors Convocation, 2003
UA College of Community Health Sciences

- Family Medicine Award: Randall Quinn
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- Neurology Award: Christine Castrichini
- Surgery Award: Elizabeth Gober

Below: Dr. Ashley Evans (right), who presented the Pediatrics Award.

Dr. Joseph Wallace presents the William F. Shamblin Surgery Award to Dr. Beth Gober.

Below: Dr. Salih Faldon received the Resident Teaching Award from the senior class. It is presented by his wife Medinah, a member of the graduating class.
CCHS's Newest Alums Enter Residency Training

University of Alabama School of Medicine- Tuscaloosa
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCH PROGRAM - 2003

NAME | PROGRAM | SPECIALTY
--- | --- | ---
Ammons, Jessica M. | UAB Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | Pediatrics
Black, L. Vandy | UAB Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | Pediatrics
Brunner, Bridget S. | Univ. of TN-Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN | OB/GYN
Castrichini, Christine M | Univ. of TX-Southwestern, Dallas, TX | Pediatrics
Dolbare, Emily L. | Bowman Gray-Wake Forest Med. Ctr., Winston-Salem, NC | Internal Medicine
Fuller, Brian M. | Univ. of Cincinnati Hospital, Cincinnati, OH | Pediatrics
Gerhardt, Christina Michael | Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, OR | Pediatrics
Ginevan, Brad M. | Univ. of TN Medical Center-Knoxville, Knoxville, TN | Surgery
Gober, Elizabeth H. | UAB Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | OB/GYN
Harper, L. Elizabeth | Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN | OB/GYN
Kennedy, Jason D. | Carraway Methodist Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | OB/GYN
King, Collin K. | UAB Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | OB/GYN
Martin, T. Wade | Univ. of KY Medical Center, Lexington, KY | Anesthesiology
Melton, Emily Y. | Univ. of Chicago Hospitals, Chicago, IL | OB/GYN
Muhammad-Faldon, Medinah | Emory Univ. School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA | Anesthesiology
Pepper, Jeremy S. | Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital, Baton Rouge, LA | Anesthesiology
Pua-Vines, Zynia R. | Tulocatosa Family Practice, Tuscaloosa, AL | OB/GYN
Quinn, Randall L. | Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI | OB/GYN
Reynolds, Gregory B. | Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI | OB/GYN
Sheppard, J. Dustin | Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI | OB/GYN
Smith, Joshua E. | UAB Medical Center, Birmingham, AL | OB/GYN
Thompson, T. Lee | Methodist Hospital of Memphis, Memphis, TN | OB/GYN
Valentine, Brian N. | SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse, NY | OB/GYN

On behalf of the senior class, Dr. Elizabeth Harper presents Dr. Eugene Marsh with an award for contributions to medical education in the junior year, one of two teaching awards he received from the graduating class.
New Residents Join Family Practice Residency Program

Chan Nguyen, MD
was born in Anklav, India, and grew up in Auburn, AL. She went to undergraduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and graduated with a degree in zoology. Before he went to medical school, she was a tennis instructor and curator. She went to medical school at Saba Community Medical Center for a year before coming to Tuscaloosa. She and her husband, Virginia, worked as assistant pharmacist and an assistant in an Emergency Room. She is fluent in Spanish, Urdu, and Punjabi.

Muhammad Chowdry, MD
was born in Guj, Pakistan, and attended the University of Montevallo. He completed his master's degree in health education at The University of Alabama. He graduated from medical school at Ross University and went to medical school in the Netherlands Antilles and graduated in 2001. Before beginning his residency, he did research at the Hektoen Institute for Medical Research.

Irma Higgibotham, MD
was born in Moscow, Russia, and graduated from Moscow Medical Academy in 1993. After completing OBGYN residency in Alabama, she worked as a neonatologist. She came to America in 1998 when her embarked husband, David. She lived in Brooklyn, MS, for five years and worked as a volunteer observer for the Medical Center. She and her husband have one son, David.

Saqib Hamid, MD
was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and attended college at the University of Southern Alabama, graduating in 1998 with a degree in biology. While going to USA, Dr. McLeod worked as a nursing assistant in and assistant in an Emergency Room. She is fluent in Spanish, Urdu, and Punjabi.

Suzanne McLeod, MD
was born in Mobile, AL, and attended college at the University of Southern Alabama, graduating in 1998 with a degree in biology. While going to USA, Dr. McLeod worked as a nursing assistant in and assistant in an Emergency Room. She is fluent in Spanish, Urdu, and Punjabi.

Jason Todd, MD
was born in Montgomery, AL. He went to undergraduate at Auburn University and graduated with a degree in pre-medical/science. He worked as a pharmacy technician before going to medical school. He went to medical school at St. George’s University and graduated in 2003.

Song Yu, MD
was born in Jang Hong, South Korea, and came to America at the age of 12. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in zoology. He went to medical school at Yonsei University in South Korea and graduated in 1999. After returning to the U.S., Dr. Yu opened Your Fragrances, which was located on Times Square in New York. He lives in Tun, a daughter less, and son Gene Men in Los Angeles. Antonella Zaharia, MD
was born in Bucharest, Romania. She went to medical school in Sin, Romania and graduated in 1997. She completed 2 years of family medicine residency in Romania. She went to Montevallo in 2001 and lived there until she joined our residency. She is fluent in Romanian and French.

Building Update

Construction of the new 77,000 sq. ft. facility, to house the College of Community Health Sciences remains on schedule. The building will consolidate clinical and administrative offices, providing for greater efficiency in operation. Community Health Sciences remains on schedule. The building will consolidate clinical and administrative offices, providing for greater efficiency in operation. Community Health Sciences remains on schedule. The building will consolidate clinical and administrative offices, providing for greater efficiency in operation.

Steering Committee members for the building fundraising effort are: Madeleine Hill, Chair, Jim Fleming, Anne Momon, Dean Emeritus Roland Ficken, Ph.D., Ed Shotts, MD, Carol M. Johnson, MD, Roxie J. Hill, Jon Sanford, MD, Fuller Kimber, Donnie Smith, MD, Dean William A. Curry, MD, and Vicki Johnson.

The committee set a goal of $3.1 million for private gifts and have raised $1.1 to date. Several people have taken advantage of naming opportunities in the new building and others remain. Spaces named to date are: The Betty Shirley Clinic for Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Emergen Psychiatric Administrative Suite, Anne & Buddy Momon Reception area, Psychiatry Suite, Bank of Tuscaloosa and Jim & Donna Fleming Clinic Lobby, William W. Winternitz Internal Medicine Administrative Suite, Reese Phifer, Jr. Internal Medicine Lobby, and the Tosyali Dean’s Office and Conference Room.

For more information on the project or naming opportunities, contact Vicki Johnson, (205)348-0093 or vjohnson@cchs.ua.edu.

This is the side of the new CCHS building facing the campus. The street at the bottom of the picture is University Boulevard. In the background at the far left is the old water tower behind the present Capstone Clinic building.
Jimmie Clark Wins FleetBoston Community Fellows Award from Brown Medical School

Dr. Jimmie Clark, a 1995 residency graduate, has been awarded a 2003 FleetBoston Fellowship, an award to graduates of Brown Medical School who exemplify the qualities of social responsibility and human service in their medical careers. The innovative loan relief program for outstanding Brown medical graduates was made possible by support from the FleetBoston Charitable Foundation. Dr. Clark was one of only nine recipients chosen from a nationwide pool of 25 Brown alumni nominees.

Dr. Clark, a family physician in Tuscaloosa, has been active in the American Academy of Family Physicians and was appointed as resident representative to the AAFP Committee on Minority Health Affairs when she was a second year resident at CCHS. She is now president-elect of the Alabama Chapter of AAFP. She is a board member of the Lister Hill Society has also been a preceptor to CCHS medical and premed students, rural scholars, and residents. “Dr. Clark has been an invaluable resource as we set up rural scholars programs and select rural scholars to participate in the programs,” said Dr. John Wheat, founder and director of Rural Scholars programs based at CCHS.

Lister Hill Annual Fundraiser
Westervelt-Warner Museum
NorthRiver Yacht Club
November 13, 2003

Southern Medical Journal Features Farm Field Trips for Med Students

John R. Wheat, MD, MPH, Professor of Community and Rural Medicine and Internal Medicine, is lead author for an article in Southern Medical Journal, “Agromedicine Focus Group: Cooperative Extension Agents and Medical School Instructors Plan Farm Field Trips for Medical Students.” Collaborating authors are Tamela Turner, PhD, Lloyd Weatherly, MS, and Oscar S. Wiggins, MA. The article explains the importance of joint efforts between professionals in agricultural science and medical science in educating medical students who will become doctors treating patients in rural occupations.

Since 1996, the Tuscaloosa program has required third-year medical students to visit a farm with an agricultural extension agent as part of a two-month rural family and community medicine experience. The students learn about extension agents’ roles, farmers’ concerns, and hazards associated with farming and the farm environment. A goal for Tuscaloosa students preparing for rural practice, say the authors, is to understand the importance of the agromedicine partnership in addressing needs and concerns arising out of agricultural lifestyles, environments, and products. “The intent is to lay the groundwork for future collaboration” among county agents and these students who will become physicians.

The field trips are valuable to Birmingham medical students, whose ambitions are generally directed toward specialty practice in urban areas, because, according to a Birmingham medical faculty member who participated in the focus group, it gives students a chance to observe differences and disparities among people and practices and talk to people “outside the isolating culture of the academic medical center.” Though most of these students will have urban practices, they will have rural patients and interact with rural physicians.

CCHS Alums and First Grads in Rural Medical Scholars Program Lead Residency Programs

Three 1996 Rural Medical Scholars have been chosen as leaders of their residency programs. Drake Lavender is Chief Resident of the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency. Kevin Ellis is Chief Resident in Pediatrics at UAB; and Paul Tabereaux will serve as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut. All three completed their clinical training at CCHS and graduated from UASOM in 2001.

Alumni Update
University of Alabama School of Medicine
Tuscaloosa Program

CCHS Medical Student                Family Practice Resident
Please circle the one(s) that apply
__________________________________________________________
Name: ___________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
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7• OnRounds • Summer 2003
Dr. Blum Lectures in Finland

Alan Blum, MD, Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine and Director, Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society attended the 12th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Helsinki, Finland, where he was invited to give four presentations. In “Artists as Ashtrays: A History of Tobacco Industry Sponsorship of the Arts,” Dr. Blum discussed examples of cultural sponsorships by Philip Morris in its quest to become the premier corporate patron of the arts.

Another talk, “Doctors Ought to Care (DOC) and Tobacco: A 25-year Evaluation of Physician Involvement in the Clinic, Classroom, and Community,” reviewed more than 30 paid mass media counter-advertising campaigns and satirical sports and cultural events created by DOC, which Dr. Blum founded in 1977 as a resident in family medicine.

In a third presentation, “A Safer Form of Arsenic? The Dynamic Marketing History of Smokeless Tobacco,” Dr. Blum traced the history of advertising for oral mucosal tobacco products in the United States. In “Doctors Ought to Care (DOC) and its 10-Year Counter-Advertising Campaign Aimed at Marlboro Consumers,” Dr. Blum discussed the brand name ridicule approach utilized by DOC in its campaign to reduce demand for Marlboro.

Dr. Blum also exhibited a poster entitled, “Canaries in the Mine: The Airline Flight Attendants’ Fight to End Smoking Aloft,” which provides an illustrated history of smoking aloft. The poster is based upon an exhibit prepared by the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society and displayed at the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute this spring. In recognition of his efforts in tobacco control, Dr. Blum was one of 15 conference attendees awarded a laptop computer.

UA Rural Health Scholars Program Marks Tenth Anniversary

Rural Medicine Pipeline at CCHS Sees Progress in First Decade

The UA Rural Health Scholars Program (RHSP) and CCHS’s Rural Medicine Pipeline celebrated ten years at a luncheon on August 19 attended by students and a wide variety of supporters of rural health programs. RHSP founders -- Dr. Bob Garner, Cynthia Moore, and Dr. John Wheat -- were recognized. The Rural Medicine Pipeline Model was created to find and nurture capable rural students who want to become rural physicians. The basic premise is that rural students are more likely than urban students to become rural physicians. Additional requirements of the rural medicine pipeline are: a) educational programs to produce family physicians with knowledge and skills specific to rural practice, b) rural community educational experiences to offset the influence of training in urban medical centers, and c) public support for rural physician practices in economically depressed areas.

The Rural Health Scholars Program (RHSP), the first of the rural scholars programs at CCHS, was initiated in 1993 to attract competitive rural eleventh graders to a five-week summer experience at the University of Alabama to boost their interest and academic skills for pursuing health careers. In ten years, a diverse group of 298 rural students from 59 Alabama counties have completed the program. Three members of the first class have graduated from medical school and others are continuing in the Rural Medicine Pipeline.

The Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) was initiated in 1996 with permission from the Dean of the University of Alabama School of Medicine to enroll as many as ten rural students yearly in a pathway of education aimed at producing rural primary care physicians. The RMSP requires these specially selected students to spend a rural community health year at the University of Alabama before entering medical school. The Rural Medical Scholars complete their third and fourth years of medical school at U. A.’s College of Community Health Sciences, the University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa, and several have chosen to remain for their residency training at CCHS. RMSP has enrolled 82 students from 43 counties.

In 2001, the Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program enrolled its first ten college-bound high school graduates. After three years of conducting the Rural Medical Scholars Program, it had become apparent that special efforts would be required to recruit needed minority Rural Medical Scholars. Minority Rural Health Scholars who had credentials for success in medical education rarely had the standardized test scores they needed to gain significant scholarship support offered at the University of Alabama. Thus, we were losing these students to other colleges, often in other states. The Minority Rural Health Pipeline Program (MRHPP) was designed to attract minority Rural Health Scholars and other competitive minority students to the University of Alabama in the summer after they graduate from high school and for successive summers. MRHPP keeps these students in the “pipeline” during premedical studies, prepares them to take the Medical School Admissions Test, and seeks to enroll them in the RMSP.

Dr. Blum, in the classroom with local students, founded “Doctors Ought to Care” and is committed to teaching young people about the dangers of tobacco use.

Other speaking engagements for Dr. Blum include two presentations last July at the Swedish-American Health System in Rockford, Illinois; the Dr. Richard O’Reilly Lecture at the Bakersfield (California) Medical Center in October; and the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in Boston in December.

On Rounds

The College of Community Health Sciences is a clinical branch campus of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Established in 1972, CCHS emphasizes family practice and the other primary care disciplines and provides a sound basic medical education for all medical students assigned to this campus. CCHS also trains family doctors through a three-year family practice residency program to meet the urgent need for family physicians. A primary focus of the CCHS mission is seeking solutions for rural health care problems in Alabama.

On Rounds is published quarterly by CCHS. Send inquiries to the editor, Box 870326 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. (205) 348-1302, ljackson@cchs.ua.edu

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