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the high cost
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WE HEAR YOU

On the basis of the results of our spring reader survey, we took your suggestions and revamped The POST with a new look that is easy on the eyes and content that covers more of the exciting developments happening every day at the Health Science Center. With its new design, profiles and editorial features we endeavored to make The POST a more useful tool for readers who want to learn about the latest research, patient care, education and administrative activities of the HSC community.

The POST staff and everyone in HSC News & Communications thank all those who participated in our survey and to those community members who help make the Health Science Center the top medical institution in the Southeast. We hope you enjoy the publication and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Thank you,
Denise Trunk
Editor

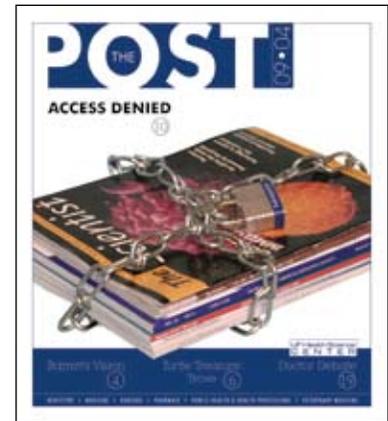


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Responding to a request from the Governor’s Office, the College of Veterinary Medicine sent a team to South Florida to assist in the animal relief effort under way in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley.



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Ann Lindholm, a junior veterinary student, holds Princess, a 4-month-old blue pit bull puppy whose paw was lacerated during Hurricane Charley. The UF veterinary team cleaned the wound, bandaged it and administered antibiotics to the animal.

Veterinary student Marissa Curtis (from left), veterinary technicians Brandee Thacker and Bronwyn Onze, Dr. Lori Alvarez, a first-year anatomical pathology resident, and veterinary student Ann Lindholm gather around a flea-infested puppy brought to the disaster relief site in Wauchula by a good Samaritan. The UF team cleaned the puppy and treated it with anti-flea medication.



HSC INAUGURAL FARE: SO MANY CHOICES...

As Health Science Center colleges put the finishing touches on their plans related to the inauguration of UF President Bernie Machen, Sept. 9 is shaping up as a garden of intellectual delight. But you better bring a tape recorder, because most of the key speakers' presentations overlap.

Each of the six Health Science Center colleges has something planned, from invited speakers to guided tours. Here is the breakdown of the principal speakers:

Formal speaking activities begin at noon at the College of Public Health and Health Professions when Edward Sheridan, Ph.D., a senior vice president and provost emeritus of the University of Houston, presents "A Response to Chronic Crisis in Higher Education" in Room G101 of the HPNP complex.

At 12:05 p.m., a pair of prolific clinical research scientists from the College of Medicine will take the podium in Communicore lecture hall C1-4: Mark Atkinson, Ph.D., a professor in the department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine, and Daniel Okun, M.D., an assistant professor in the department of neurology.

At 12:45 p.m., the College of Pharmacy will host a symposium to discuss the role of partnerships in the drug discovery process in the HPNP Auditorium.

At 1 p.m., the College of Veterinary Medicine will host astronaut/veterinarian Richard M. Linnehan. The NASA scientist will present "Veterinary Medicine in Low Orbit: New Discoveries, Perspectives and Possibilities in our Profession" in Lecture Hall A of the Veterinary Academic Building.

The College of Dentistry will feature David Wong, professor and chairman of the UCLA School of Dentistry's division of oral biology and medicine, at 1:30 p.m. in Room D3-3 of the dentistry building. Wong will present "Dentistry in the Post-Genomic Era: Where are We and Prospects for the Future."

Also at 1:30p.m., College of Nursing faculty will highlight the college's current research and community efforts and its Iona M. Pettengill Nursing Resource Center.

CHECK OUT THE DETAILS AT [HTTP://OPI.HEALTH.UFL.EDU](http://opi.health.ufl.edu)

FLY SOUTH THIS WINTER

Local community boosters, including one at the Health Science Center, are touting the new daily air travel service between Gainesville and South Florida.

Beginning Sept. 30, Continental Connections will fly three round-trip flights daily to Miami and two to Tampa and Ft. Lauderdale.

"The frequent and reliable flights, competitively priced, could provide important links from the UF Health Science Center and Shands at UF to the South Florida market, with its larger potential referral base and capital resources," said Marilyn Tubb, Shands at UF vice president for community relations. Tubb is a Gainesville Airport Authority member who is drumming up community support for the new service.

Tubb urges community members to purchase "Sun Pacs," discount one-way tickets purchased in advance in books of 12 and 24. The tickets, which can be purchased by a department or group, have no restrictions, are completely transferable and may be used at any time up to one year, according to Tubb. They also show support for the southbound service and help to ensure its success during its critical first year of operation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TUBB AT [TUBBML@SHANDS.UFL.EDU](mailto:tubbml@shands.ufl.edu)



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

A DRIVING CHECK-UP

While driving, do curbs and parked cars seem to jump out of nowhere and get in your car's path?

You might want to take a cue from Minette Hendler. She knows all too well how the aging process can lead to a decline in driving abilities.

Hendler, 76, recently took the time to get an evaluation of her own driving skills by specialists with the newly launched Independence Drive, an assessment and rehabilitation service offered by the National Older Driver Research and Training Center at the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

A licensed occupational therapist gives older drivers two-hour assessments of their driving ability — including physical, vision and cognitive testing, and evaluations of on-road driving skills — and then offers additional services. To any drivers deemed unsafe, the center provides training and/or the use of equipment to enable a person to drive safely, and will provide information and counseling on transportation alternatives.

Independence Drive is located at 5000 N.W. 34th St., Suite 1, in Gainesville.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 392-8850

BARRETT'S BIG PICTURE

The senior VP sets a strategic direction for the Health Science Center

By Tom Fortner

Douglas Barrett is an M.D. by training, but for all his preoccupation with numbers, he might as well have been a mathematician. In particular, the number 10 seems branded on his consciousness. As in Top 10.

And no, that's not Gator football. Breaking into the elite group of public institutions of higher education is an oft-stated goal of UF, and Barrett has embraced it with missionary zeal since he became vice president for health affairs two-and-a-half years ago.

His appointment in July as one of three UF senior vice presidents suggests how important the Health Science Center will be in achieving the aspirations of the university. For confirmation, one only has to look at the competition.

"If you look at the characteristics of the institutions that we are trying to knock out of the top 10 public universities, each and every one of them has extraordinarily strong, nationally ranked health science center colleges," Barrett said recently. "So to get where we want to go, we must grow and strengthen research, education and service components of the Health Science Center colleges substantially."

Barrett thinks the VP model, in which his position is separate from the dean of the College of Medicine, is a good one to coordinate this ambitious effort. Getting to the next level "requires focus, it requires unique and specific attention," he said. "And so this model says that there is an individual within the university structure who gets up each morning with a focus on making that happen, and with undivided responsibilities otherwise."

For the academic year just beginning, Barrett has a lengthy "to do" list. It is studded with major initiatives that might take years to accomplish, though Barrett is eager to move ahead on all fronts. Included on the list are strengthening core relationships with clinical partner Shands HealthCare and the HSC campus in Jacksonville, and forging new alliances with the likes of Scripps Florida and additional Veterans Affairs medical units. The rest of the list can be roughly divided among people, facilities and operations.

THE "B" TEAM

After beginning his job without a separate VP

staff, Barrett is now putting the finishing touches on his team. The last major piece of the puzzle is Russ Armistead, the new associate vice president for finance and planning who began work Aug. 16.

Armistead, who comes from Wake Forest University and its nationally prominent medical center, will lead efforts to integrate financial information and use that knowledge to guide decision making for the HSC as a whole. Barrett said Armistead, experienced in both academic and clinical financial management and planning, has "the administrative experience and professional presence" to inspire confidence among those with whom he works.

Armistead joins a group of senior staff members who include veteran administrator Tom Harris, associate vice president, and Richard Bucciarelli, a member of the pediatrics faculty whose extensive experience in government relations Barrett is putting to use as a key member of the HSC leadership team.

On the immediate horizon, Barrett will make another critically important hire when he names the new director of UF's McKnight Brain Institute. He calls it "one of our first real opportunities to align a decision on academic program leadership with the new strategic plan of the university."

He said the new director will not only be an eminent scientist but a "true leader who sees this job as creating the success of interdisciplinary research teams."

SPACED OUT

It's no secret that joining the top tier of public universities will require a major investment in research — in the people and programs that can attract funding to spur discovery. According to Barrett, the main limitation to expanding the research agenda is the lack of space devoted to fundamental biomedical research.

For all its strategic importance, the opening of UF's Cancer and Genetics Research Building in 18 months will increase the amount of space devoted to basic research by only 11 percent. And yet the amount of HSC research activity has doubled in the past five years.

"So we're doing twice as much research in the same amount of space but we're adding only 11

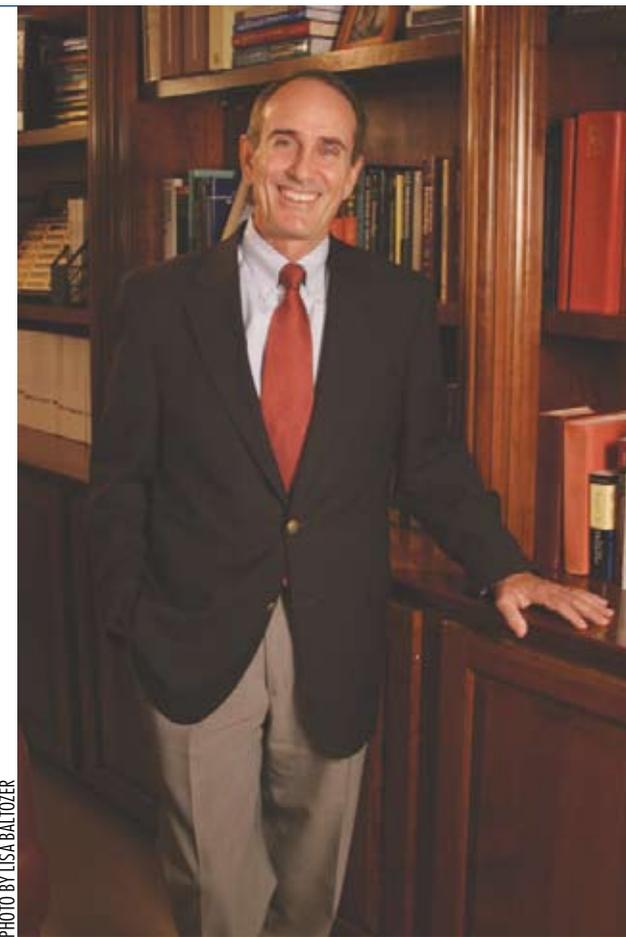


PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

Dr. Doug Barrett has his eye on the Top 10.

percent in research space," said Barrett.

Among his top priorities is to advocate fast-track status for two construction projects — an interdisciplinary research building that includes a biodefense research capability, and an expansion of the Brain Institute that would include space for advanced biomedical imaging programs. Each project carries a price tag of \$70 million to \$100 million.

"That's how far we need to get in order to have the kind of facilities needed to maintain our research momentum and recruit the kind of highly productive new faculty that will get us into the Top 10," he said.

Down the road, Barrett sees the need for a freestanding children's hospital as well as the expansion of current clinical facilities. He notes that in Florida, half of all pediatric hospital admissions go to only seven institutions, including Shands at UF. But Shands is the only one without a distinct children's hospital, one that can best meet the special needs of pediatric patients and their families.

In education, Barrett wants to start work on a new training facility built around the technology of simulation. UF has already blazed this trail with the human patient simulator and other innovations. He sees it as a field that will only grow in importance, fueled by an emphasis on

strategy continued on 18

CSI: UF

Forensic science students are on the case

By Jessica Orr & Linda Homewood

You've seen the television shows — Crime Scene Investigators — you name the city. A team picks up samples with tweezers at the scene of a crime. Scientists in lab coats peer at drug samples and DNA through microscopes. Experts give testimony in courtrooms.

So who are these people, and how did they get their credentials anyway? They aren't doctors, nurses or EMTs. They are forensic scientists, and they go to colleges like UF to get advanced education in the field of forensic science.

Students like Terry Gallegos, a crime lab coordinator for the Tucson Police Department Crime Lab, and Mike Byrnes, a special agent with the FBI, convened this summer in Gainesville to take final exams as their last step toward earning a master's degree from UF's distance learning forensics degree program.

More than 20 students of forensic toxicology completed their coursework online so they could work full time while updating their credentials at home.

"This program allowed the most flexibility," said Gallegos, who received her master's degree and a certificate in forensic toxicology. "The degree will augment my credentials in court, and it will also help with new methods and programs that may be brought into the lab."

The UF distance learning program offers master's degrees or certificates in three areas. Forensic DNA and serology, and drug chemistry degrees are awarded through the College of Pharmacy. A forensic toxicology degree is awarded through the College of Veterinary Medicine.

A program that is available in all areas of the country may be especially important for rural area law enforcement agencies that struggle to keep staff versed in the latest technology and crime scene techniques.

Byrnes, who lives in Pennsylvania and participates on the bureau's crime scene/forensic Evidence Response Team, is currently pursuing a master's in drug chemistry as well as a certificate in DNA and serology.

"I find that this scientific training helps me maintain an analytical mindset, both toward daily case work and crime scene analysis," Byrnes said. "I also help teach techniques to other law enforcement agencies and am always interested in

PHOTO BY LINDA HOMEWOOD



Recent graduates of UF's forensic program are ready to use their crime-solving skills.

presenting the most up-to-date information available."

Interest in UF's distance education forensic science program increased in the past four years, said Ian Tebbett, Ph.D., a college of pharmacy professor and program director. The program started with a first-year enrollment of 112, and this year course enrollments are expected to exceed 1,000.

"We expect to see continued growth for the foreseeable time," said Tebbett.

Given the international nature of crime and terrorism, Tebbett has been working with universities and agencies outside the United States, capitalizing on the portability of distance learning.

"The goal is to make quality educational materials in forensic science available internationally and in multiple languages in an effort to develop an international network of organizations involved in training and education in crime detection and prevention," he said.

UF has joined forces with the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, the University of Canberra, Canberra Institute of Technology, the Australian Federal Police, Silpakorn University in Bangkok and Feevale University in Brazil to develop and deliver their programs.

Students around the world are finding their way to the program's Web site, where they can ask questions about registration, courses and credit transfers — or even sample a free case study tutorial.

Elena Ceresa, a student from Ireland currently registered for the online certificate in forensic toxicology, said her goal is to work in a forensic lab in Ireland.

"I chose UF because the program seemed well-structured and because of the professionalism shown in dealing with my queries," she said. **P**

HUMAN SIMULATOR MAY HELP FUTURE VETERINARIANS SAVE ANIMAL LIVES

Professional training through the use of simulators that imitate real-life situations has become a way of life in everything from space flight to emergency medicine. Now, thanks to a new anesthesia training program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, this year's veterinary graduates are the first in the country to have studied anesthesia using the Human Patient Simulator, developed as a teaching tool by UF physicians in the 1980s. Educators say the experience will make a huge difference in enhancing students' confidence in handling emergency situations, as well as their overall skill sets in administering anesthesia to animals.



Veterinary students take part in an anesthesia training course involving the Human Patient Simulator.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TEAM TEACHES UPDATED TECHNIQUES IN NICARAGUA

Members of the College of Public Health and Health Professions' physical therapy department recently provided instruction to the entire faculty of the only physical therapy education program in Nicaragua.

Gloria Miller, M.A., M.H.S., a program director and lecturer, Jennifer Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.T., a postdoctoral fellow, and master's degree students Santiago Villamil and Lisa Madariaga presented an intensive four-day course to physical therapy professors at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua in Managua.

Nicaragua's physical therapy education and clinical practices had not been updated in 12 to 15 years, said Miller.

"I'm all about empowering people," Miller said. "When you teach the teachers and clinicians, you know you'll have an impact on patient care."

Vet Med team finds novel way to monitor sea turtle health

By Sarah Carey

UF scientists have stumbled on a sea turtle treasure trove that will help them better assess the endangered animals' health.

Researchers are creating a database of unprecedented size that will chart blood profiles of turtles entering the intake canal of a nuclear power plant in Port St. Lucie.

"This project is significant because the biochemical components of blood plasma — the liquid portion of blood — can help us determine the health status of both populations of free-ranging sea turtles and those ill sea turtles brought into rehabilitation facilities," said Elliott Jacobson, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of zoological medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine and the project's lead researcher.

More than 1,000 turtles are trapped each year in the Port St. Lucie power plant's intake canal, making it one of the best sites in the world for access to a huge number of sea turtles. All the turtles trapped in the plant's canal are removed, weighed, measured and tagged. When the project began in late July, scientists added a step: They take a small sample of blood from each turtle before releasing it or sending it to a rehabilitation facility.

"A reliable and sizable database consisting of what essentially are 'blood blueprints' for turtles appearing normal, as well as for those appearing sick, could give veterinarians and rehabilitation specialists additional tools for deciding how to treat these turtles and when to return them to the wild," Jacobson said.

Researchers aim to collect data from 415 turtles the first year and hope to continue the project for five years.

Today, all sea turtles found in United States waters are federally listed as endangered, except for the loggerhead, which is listed as threatened. Blood parameters are commonly used to assess the condition of all sorts of animals, Jacobson said.

In the past century, habitat destruction, incidental and intentional harvesting, and temperature change have accelerated decline of sea turtle populations worldwide, according to the Smithsonian National Zoological Park Web site (<http://nationalzoo.si.edu>). An increasing incidence of diseases and health-related problems in the wild pose an additional threat to sea turtle survival.



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

A group of South Florida biologists and rehabilitation specialists help unload a loggerhead sea turtle from a Clearwater Marine Aquarium van to a work area within the Port St. Lucie power plant. Aquarium staff took a blood sample from the turtle, which had been found injured in the power plant canal. They sent the animal to CMA for rehabilitation, before releasing it back into the ocean.

Collaborators in the project, which is funded by the Florida sea turtle license plate grant program and managed by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, include UF's Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, Marinelifelife Center of Juno Beach and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. The Archie Carr Center will create a database based on species, size, sex and water temperature at time of sampling and will link this data to a Web page where the findings will be available to those working with sea turtles around the world.

Marinelifelife Center and Clearwater Marine Aquarium are the primary recipients of ill or injured turtles found in the canal. Power plant-based personnel from a federally contracted organization known as Quantum Inc., fish the turtles out of the canal. Then, Quantum staff members determine if the turtles are sick and if so, arrange for transport. Staff members release the large, air-breathing reptiles back into the sea when they seem healthy.

Officials will collect blood from turtles at the power plant and sick ones will be retested again at the rehabilitation centers where they are sent.

"While people have been collecting data on turtle blood for years, I believe this may be the largest project of its type in terms of numbers to be sampled," said Sandy Fournies, M.A., a rehabilitation specialist at Marinelifelife Center. "Also, this project will be unique in that the results will be available on the Web."

"Any information that advances our understanding of sea turtles helps us become better at rehabilitation," Fournies said. **P**

FINDING A CLUE TO A MYSTERIOUS KIDNEY DISEASE

Doctors have no way of knowing which lupus patients are likely to develop one of the autoimmune disorder's most dangerous and life-threatening aspects: kidney disease, which afflicts as many as half of the 1.5 million Americans who have lupus.

In an article published in *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, study co-author Hanno B. Richards, M.D., co-director of UF's Lupus Clinic, and doctors with the Center for Autoimmune Diseases at the UF Health Science Center describe a protein they identified that shows up in markedly increased levels in the urine of lupus patients with kidney disease. They also have located the variant of the gene that overproduces the protein. The researchers say this may enable doctors to use a simple urine test to look for the presence of the protein as an early indicator of kidney disease and could open a door to the development of preventive treatments.

Richards, an assistant professor in the College of Medicine, said the study results showed kidney disease was about two to three times more likely to develop in lupus patients with certain genetic variants that produce a protein called monocyte chemoattractant protein 1, or MCP1, which acts as a traffic cop that directs immune system cells toward sites of inflammation.

"All we can do now is quote newly diagnosed lupus patients the statistics for the chance of kidney disease," Richards said. "We can offer detailed genetic testing and assess what the likelihood of the disease might be. But with MCP1, we can screen for the levels in the urine and base our need for treatment on that."



PHOTO BY DENISE TRUNK

Dr. Hanno Richards prepares samples to screen for kidney disease.

DEFECT CORRECTED IN UTERO

UF scientists have delivered gene therapy to the womb and reversed respiratory muscle weakness in fetal mice carrying a form of muscular dystrophy. The researchers, writing in *Development*, were able to dramatically improve respiratory muscle function.

Barry Byrne, M.D., Ph.D., who directs the Powell Gene Therapy Center, said delivering gene therapy before birth — as the immune system is still forming — could correct lethal hereditary diseases while evading an immune system attack against the virus used to transport the corrective genes and the proteins they produce. Metabolic diseases could be among the first targeted with the method, which works to replace missing or defective enzymes.

GENE THERAPY TARGETS WEIGHT GAIN

Obesity researchers at UF believe pets and even people may someday benefit from gene therapy research aimed at breaking through the biochemical bottleneck that makes middle-aged mammals gain weight.

A study of obese, diabetic rats presented by Philip Scarpace, Ph.D., at the Endocrine Society annual meeting showed gene therapy helped the animals shed excess weight and eat less by stimulating production of a brain protein called pro-opiomelanocortin. The treatment apparently side-stepped leptin resistance, which occurs when obese mammals overproduce a hormone that regulates energy use and appetite and ceases to be an effective dietary control.

ADDICTED TO FOOD

Four UF studies published in the current issue of the *Journal of Addictive Diseases* present new evidence suggesting chronic overeating can be a form of substance abuse. The enjoyment of food and appetite engages the same brain pathways that snare illicit drugs users, said Mark Gold, M.D., UF chief of addiction medicine and co-author of three of the papers.

"What's the difference between someone who's lost control over alcohol and someone who's lost control over good food?" Gold asked. "When you look at their brains and brain responses, the differences are not very significant."

UNEQUAL CARE?

Study finds racial disparities in oral cancer treatment, survival

By Lindy Brounley

Black men battling oral and throat cancer in Florida don't live as long as their white counterparts and are less likely to undergo surgery to treat the disease, a UF study reveals.

"We found that African-American males in Florida died 44 percent earlier than did white males, and were also more likely to receive only radiation therapy and not surgery than were whites," said Scott Tomar, D.M.D., Dr. P.H., an associate professor in the division of public health services and research at UF's College of Dentistry.

The study, published in *Cancer Causes and Control*, is one of the nation's first state-specific reports of racial disparities in treatment and survival of the deadly disease. On average, black men in the study died a year sooner after diagnosis than white men — a finding consistent with national data showing that white men are twice as likely as black men to survive five years after diagnosis, Tomar said.

"Our study is unique in that it looks at state-specific data," Tomar said. "This eliminates a great amount of regional variation in the data. Previous studies that have attempted to look at issues of racial disparities have used samples of people from around the country, and they mixed geographic differences with racial differences, making it difficult to understand what might be happening differently for blacks than for whites."

Nearly 30,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer in the United States every year, according to the National Cancer Institute. Although the number of cancer cases in general has steadily declined during the past 10 years, black men historically have been disproportionately represented in the number of new cases, and their survival rates are dismal compared with those of white men and of

Florida has one of the highest oral and throat cancer incidence rates in the country and the fifth highest mortality rate — double the number of deaths than the top four states combined.

women of both races.

Florida was of particular interest to Tomar because it has one of the highest oral and throat cancer incidence rates in the country and the fifth highest mortality rate — double the number of deaths than the top four states combined, Tomar said.

UF researchers examined data gathered by the Florida Cancer Data System on oral and throat cancer diagnosis, treatment and mortality for more than 27,000 Floridians between 1988 and 1998.

The researchers compared data only on black and white patients; individuals of

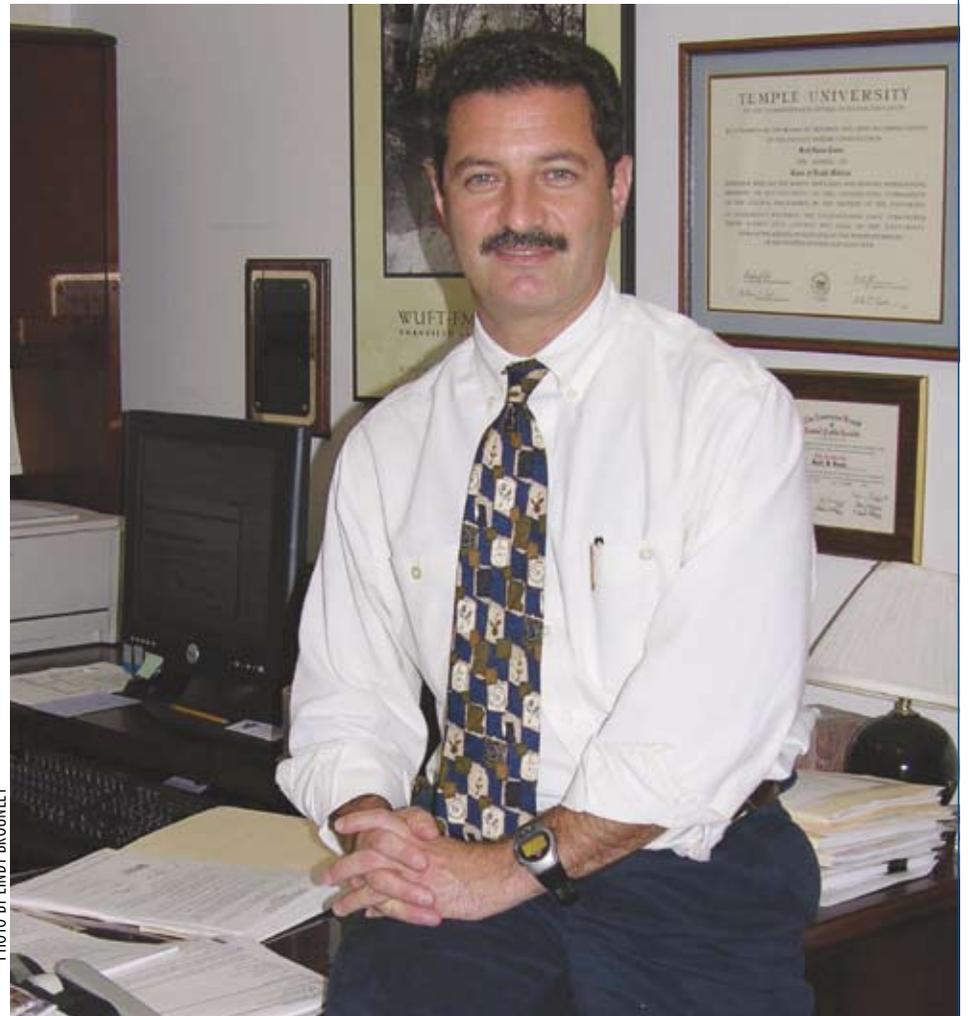


PHOTO BY LINDY BROUNLEY

Dr. Scott Tomar compared survival rates of blacks and whites who had oral and throat cancer.

other races were excluded from the study sample. The study's final sample size of 21,481 people included 19,331 white men and women and 2,150 black men and women.

Analysis of the data revealed twice as many cases of the cancers diagnosed in men as in women. Most occurred in people 51 to 74 years of age, with a median age of 65 — although blacks were significantly younger and poorer than whites at the time of diagnosis.

The study's most compelling evidence: The cancers of blacks were twice as likely to have spread by the time of diagnosis. However, regardless of tumor location or whether the cancer had metastasized, blacks consistently were less likely to undergo surgery than were whites.

Differences in survival rates were even more striking, with blacks having a median survival time of 360 days compared with 649 days for whites. Although the incidence rate for black and white men became nearly equal over the study's 10-year period, the disparity in survival time did not significantly change.

"There is this difference in how people are treated, and that contributes to the huge racial disparity in survival. Unfortunately, we just don't know why there are those differences," Tomar said. "Our next line of investigation is to begin to tease out some of the answers." **P**

FOR MORE ON THIS STORY, VISIT: [HTTP://NEWS.HEALTH.UFL.EDU/STORIES/2004/AUG/080304_LINDY.SHTML](http://news.health.ufl.edu/stories/2004/aug/080304_lindy.shtml)

NOT FOR EVERYONE

Triage tool assesses Parkinson's patients for surgery

The allure of a new brain surgery technique to relieve the stiffness and shaking caused by Parkinson's disease may lead to unnecessary operations, UF researchers say, but a new screening tool they developed could prevent needless procedures.

Researchers and clinicians affiliated with UF's McKnight Brain Institute described in a recent issue of *Neurology* the first standardized method to help doctors triage patients who have the best chance to be helped by a promising treatment called deep brain stimulation.

"We all know this can be a dramatic therapy for patients, but we want the right type of patients to get the surgery because they are the only ones who are going to do well with it," said Michael Okun, M.D., co-director of the UF Movement Disorders Center and a neurologist with the College of Medicine.

Okun, in collaboration with UF Movement Disorder Center co-directors Kelly Foote, M.D., a neurosurgeon, and Hubert Fernandez, M.D., a neurologist, developed the Florida Surgical Questionnaire for Parkinson's Disease, a five-section triage tool to help general neurologists and health-care professionals who see the vast majority of patients with Parkinson-like symptoms better determine which may benefit from the surgery.

"Patients have come into our practice who have already received implants who would have never received this therapy if they had been screened properly," Okun said. "We realized all the doctors sending patients our way were trying to get the best possible care for their patients, but they didn't have the information to evaluate candidates."



PHOTO BY JOHN PASTOR

With the operating room lights turned low and the audio speakers turned up, Dr. Michael Okun watches a monitor and listens to what an electrode moving through his patient's brain tells him about its whereabouts during a deep brain stimulation procedure.

SPOTTING EARLY SIGNS OF A RARE BRAIN DISORDER

A rare swelling of the brain that is nonetheless the most common diabetes-related cause of death for children with the disease could be caught earlier — potentially saving lives — if practitioners learn to recognize key signs.

Doctors, long familiar with major symptoms associated with the deadly complication, may be missing subtler clues that could tip them off to a problem much sooner, when treatment is most likely to work, says UF pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Arlan Rosenbloom. And now, after poring over dozens of medical records on a hunt for crucial patterns, the researchers have devised a standardized way to screen for these signals at a child's bedside.

Statistical methods were used to identify the combinations of symptoms most likely to accurately identify the earliest onset of cerebral edema, a swelling of the brain that can rapidly cause severe brain damage or death. These signs were incorporated into a bedside protocol researchers then used to evaluate patients. They included a slowing of heart rate, altered level of consciousness and age-inappropriate incontinence, along with vomiting, headache or lethargy.

The screening method was 96 percent accurate in detecting cerebral edema. In addition, the approach identified four cases of cerebral edema among 69 patients not recognized to have a problem. All had recovered spontaneously.

The study, described in *Diabetes Care*, also confirmed that many youngsters with cerebral edema at first have no apparent changes on computed tomography scans of the brain. Therefore, the diagnosis of cerebral edema needs to be made at the bedside, and CT scans should be postponed until after treatment begins, Rosenbloom said.

PUTTING A FINGER ON LIMB DEVELOPMENT

Fingers are key to the art of communication, whether it's a politician flashing a "thumbs up" to a cheering crowd or a bride displaying a diamond-bedecked ring finger.

Now scientists at UF and Harvard University have described how the art of cellular communication — how cells "talk" and what happens when they stop — plays a crucial role in normal limb development and the formation of digits in mice, a discovery that sheds light on the same process in people. The researchers detail their discovery in the journal *Cell*.

Why the five fingers on a hand form into the sizes and shapes they do and the fundamental mechanisms that cause some people to be born without fully formed fingers or extra fingers has been a mystery until now. Understanding the development process could someday help doctors correct defects before birth or help regenerate limbs lost to accident or amputation, researchers say.

The findings also could shed light on the development of the body's more-critical organs, said Brian Harfe, Ph.D., a developmental biologist at the College of Medicine and the paper's lead author.

"This is the first time anyone has figured out how the body regulates the size of not just of the limb, but possibly of other organs during development," he said.

KEYS TO INFORMATION

Libraries battle to unlock online access

By Denise Trunk

Electronic journals may be convenient, but the very accessibility of the format has put information out of reach for many academic medical libraries and their patrons.

Just ask UF health policy analyst Jeffrey Scott, Ph.D., who was conducting a literature review for a research project several months ago when he was denied online access to *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"I was dumbfounded," he said. "Not having access makes it very difficult to achieve a certain level of productivity required for the work I do."

Scott had to drop what he was working on, leave his office in the Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex and head to the library to pull the journal off the shelf.

The new online medium is changing the way publishers package and price their product—and creating new frustrations for researchers like Scott who find their libraries can't always afford to pay. Publishers have raised their rates for online access because more individuals are canceling their subscriptions and accessing the information through the Internet using institutional subscriptions. High prices restrict access, leaving journal publishers holding the keys to the electronic database of collective knowledge. Many critics of the current publishing model say only universal or "open" access to academic research reports can guarantee the public and other scientists unfettered admission to federally funded findings.

The issue hit home this spring and summer at the Health Science Center Libraries, which was unable to pay for online subscriptions to *JAMA* and another leading scientific journal, *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Both journals are available online today, but for the price of a year's subscription to both journals, librarians could have bought a shiny new car. That the largest teaching medical center in the Southeast did not have timely access to medical research findings may seem shocking, but universities nationwide are facing the same challenges.

FROM PRINT TO PIXELS

Whether for literature review, general research

or for acquiring a copy of a particular scientific article, online access is an increasingly necessary service to maintain, according to HSC librarians. Online peer-reviewed journals have become the primary medium for medical research publishing because they are fast, timely and efficient.

William Riffie, Ph.D, the associate provost for distance, continuing and executive education and dean of pharmacy, said his 800 off-campus, distance-learning students have a particular need for electronic access to library journals, but that it is necessary for all faculty and students.

"If we don't have electronic access we have got to walk over to the library, or send someone over, find a journal, photocopy it, bring it over here to our office to make use of it for our students. In this day and age of electronic connectivity it is absolutely asinine to have to do that," Riffie said. "And for us, for our faculty and students, electronic access to the medical and scientific literature is absolutely essential for our research."

Medical health libraries, including those at UF, are under pressure to subscribe to a burgeoning number of electronic journals, databases and publications. At the same time, institutional subscription costs have skyrocketed from 10 percent to nearly 2,000 percent, depending on the journal, as publishers consolidate and bundle their journals. The transition to the online revolution is straining library budgets, publishers' profit margins and the public's ability to access medical information old and new.

Faith Meakin, director of the Health Science Center Libraries, said few research professors and even fewer students still want to use the hard copy of a journal.

"Right now we are moving more and more to only getting an electronic format," Meakin said. "We are a very on-demand society. We want things when we want them, and we want them now. So this format appeals. In some cases there isn't a hard copy at the library. Some major publishers, Elsevier for example, require that somewhere in the state library system someone must subscribe to the print version. But most of the faculty, to be honest, would be perfectly happy if they never had to come into the library again."



REVENUE STREAM

As it turns out, convenience comes at a price, and academic institutions are bearing the burden.

Lenny Rhine, Assistant Director for Collection Management, said the HSC library has seen rates jump in the past year for e-journals.

For example, he said the library paid \$345.80 in 2003 for a print edition of *JAMA* and that price included online access for the institution. In 2004, the price for a print subscription was \$379.05, but it did not include online access. Instead, the 2004 price for online access to *JAMA* was \$6,690 — a roughly 1,800 percent increase for the same information. If access to the AMA's online archives is thrown in it raises cost to \$9,690.

"What *JAMA* deduced is that they were losing a significant number of print subscriptions because the institutions had the online access with their single print subscriptions," Rhine said. "Therefore, they changed the pricing model to maintain the revenue stream."

Meakin added that many students and faculty who subscribed to journals dropped their personal subscriptions and use their UF IP address to access the e-journals with the HSC subscription licenses.

Smaller publishers have been purchased by conglomerates, such as the British-Dutch Reed Elsevier, which supplies more than 20,000 scientific, technical and medical products, including journals, books, databases and portals. The conglomerate has the ability to bundle thousands of journals and price them much like a cable company bundles and prices cable channels, putting the more desirable journals or channels into the higher-priced bundled packages.

The University of California at San Francisco and Cornell University are among those that boycotted Elsevier rather than accept a bundle agreement. Earlier this year, UCSF was able to negotiate a systemwide agreement with Elsevier to keep inflation down. Journal subscription costs,

whether in electronic or print format, typically increase 8 percent to 10 percent yearly.

In July, authors Joan B. Schlimgen and Michael R. Kronenfeld published an article in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* that followed the total cost and average cost of the 111 journals on the Brandon/Hill list of journals for medical schools and analyzed those figures with regard to the Cost Price Index (which measures inflation) from 1967 to 2002.

The authors found the cost for the period increased more than 2,300 percent. Information that would have cost \$1,643 to purchase in 1967 today costs \$40,406. In 2002, a hospital library with a budget that had increased at a rate corresponding to the CPI could purchase 20 percent of the journals it had purchased in 1967, the study said.

Meanwhile, the UF library funding, which primarily comes from the State of Florida's dedicated libraries acquisition budget, is not increasing nor is the HSC Libraries' share of the overall budget.

"The Health Science Center library receives less than \$2 million in acquisitions money, and \$35 million goes to the other state university libraries including others at UF," Rhine said.

Additional funding comes from the department of sponsored research, which is responsible for divvying up the research grant monies that flow into UF coffers.

Rhine and Meakin said the Health Science Center brings in about 55 percent of UF's total grant money and receives only about 16 percent of the indirect cost assigned to UF library support.

Meakin said the funds that come from the state are devoted to securing the libraries' educational materials for students and teachers, and the grant funds disbursed by the department of sponsored research are dedicated to supporting the HSC's researchers. At this time, she said, there is no funding source dedicated to the libraries' support of the clinical function.

INFORMATION FLOW

Once the repository for information, academic libraries are fast becoming an information gateway. With the shift to e-publishing, journal publishers now hold and maintain the research databases and are becoming the keepers of collective knowledge.

And when the library can't afford an online subscription, faculty, staff and students lose access to the journal archives as well as to the current journal.

"Traditionally, libraries are the preservers of the scholarly record. If we stop a subscription we lose

access to the online journal volumes we had previously paid for," Meakin said. "It is like renting a car. We have no ownership of what we paid for in the past. The publishers control the rights to the scholarly research. We are concerned about the university's right to have access to the intellectual property produced by its faculty, staff and students. What will happen if, say, the journal goes out of business? All that information goes with it."

While academicians provide content for these journals, and edit and peer-review the articles, it is the publisher who owns the copyright and makes the money.

Moreover, as users' institutions cannot afford access, the potential influence of many articles is lost. The impact of an article is the extent to which it is read, built upon and cited. Researchers vote on the relevance and use of an article by using and citing it. Before researchers can cite an article, they must be able to access it.

How can the public regain control of public knowledge, especially that which is federally funded?

"Right now we are moving more and more to only getting an electronic format. Most of the faculty, to be honest, would be perfectly happy if they never had to come into the library again."

— Faith Meakin, Director, HSC Libraries

There is an international movement attempting to break the publishers' stranglehold over the flow of information — it's called open access. The term refers to a model where researchers pay to cover publishing fees and users can access research findings online free.

There are many initiatives that are attempting to address the issues of open access, copyright and scholarly information. The nonprofit organization of scientists and physicians, the Public Library of Science, has started a free and open access biology journal and plans to launch a medical journal this fall. Researchers pay about \$1,500 for publication and printing costs with funds written into their grants and readers access the information for free.

Although providing a free online peer-reviewed forum is gaining some support in the academic community, it is still a gamble for individual scientists who base their reputations on publishing. Many scientists are hesitant to move to the open access system because researchers are bound to publish in established journals. In academia,

scientists' reputations are built on their publishing record. Whether they get tenure, a promotion or win grant funding often depends on which refereed journals accept and publish their work. Some journals, such as *JAMA*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, *Cell* and *Nature*, are considered to be the most competitive, hence the most prestigious, journals.

"I like the theory, and everyone likes the theory of open access," said Brian Harfe, an assistant professor of developmental biology at UF. "But until these journals have the reputation, it is really hard for us to publish in them, particularly as someone who is just establishing a reputation."

In February, Elsevier said open access, as a publishing model, was not financially viable or widely available.

"Publishers are unlikely to cover publishing costs with revenues of just \$1,500 per article," company officials said in a written comment. "For universal access to be a reality, publishers must continue to make articles available in multiple media formats. To rely on the Internet alone for distribution, as most Open Access journals do, risks reducing levels of access among these beneficiaries: only 11 percent of the world's population uses the Internet."

Recently the open access movement gained official sanction.

A British House of Commons committee and the appropriations committee of the U.S. House of Representatives have both moved to support the open access forum for publicly funded research. The appropriations committee recommended that the National Institutes of Health provide the public with free, online access to federally funded research in PubMed Central, a popular digital archive maintained by the National Library of Medicine, by 2005.

As a response, a handful of publishers are accepting various aspects of a new open-access business model. For one, Elsevier is now allowing institutions or authors to republish their own research on their institutions' Web sites after it appears in one of its journals.

Riffie said it is necessary for researchers to take charge to ensure access to their work and the work of other faculty.

"There has got to be some national organization," Riffie said, "in which we gather those who contribute and subscribe to these journals who can then talk with publishers such as Elsevier and others and say, 'This is our intellectual property so why don't we negotiate subscription rates. Let's talk about what kind of revenue streams you publishers need, but keep those subscription rates within reason so that we can access the information.'" 

UNDER ONE (ORANGE) ROOF

UF orthopaedics building opens

By Tom Nordlie

PHOTO BY TOM NORDLIE



Dr. Thomas Wright and Dr. MaryBeth Horodyski are among two dozen faculty who will call the orthopaedics building their new home.

UF orthopaedists will have more elbow room beginning with the September opening of a \$25 million facility. Here patients with a variety of bone, joint and musculoskeletal problems can be seen, diagnosed and, in many cases, treated under a single roof. The building ranks as one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive orthopaedics and sports medicine facilities.

“Clinics now located miles apart will be under one roof accommodating outpatient procedures, research labs, radiology services and academic offices for all the faculty in the same building.”

— Peter Gearen



UF's new Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Institute is located at the intersection of southwest 34th Street and Hull Road. The four-story, 120,000-square-foot building also will serve as headquarters for the College of Medicine's department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation.

“Clinics now located miles apart will be under one roof,” said Peter Gearen, M.D., a UF associate professor and chairman of orthopaedics and

rehabilitation. “We'll have accommodations for many outpatient procedures, research labs, radiology services and academic offices for all the faculty in the same building.”

Shands HealthCare will provide occupational and physical therapy services, Gearen said. A division of UF's radiology department will operate a diagnostic imaging center featuring X-ray, magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography technology. The orthopaedics department's inpatient surgical practice will remain at Shands at UF.

referred to us.”

The building contains several features new to the orthopaedics department, including a sophisticated human motion laboratory equipped with high-speed cameras that can record movement from every viewpoint, Gearen said.

“The motion analysis laboratory will enable physicians to analyze problems ranging from neuromuscular disease to poor athletic form,” he

said. “We'll serve patients ranging from disabled children to professional athletes to grandparents rehabilitating after joint-replacement surgery.

“Once all orthopaedic faculty are housed under one roof, they are likely to interact more,” Gearen added. “Being together will strengthen collaboration efforts and make translation of research from ‘bench to bedside’ easier.”

The building's site was chosen in part because it offered easy access to a major traffic artery, said A. Miles Albertson, associate director of facilities planning and construction for the Health Science Center.

“The idea of having a clinical building just dictates that it has to be somewhere patients can get in and out without a lot of hassle,” said Albertson, who has served as the project manager for the site for about two years.

Patient considerations also require a fast, precisely orchestrated start-up, Gearen said. Although furnishings and equipment have been installed throughout the summer, relocation of more than 150 employees must be accomplished during the Labor Day weekend. Patients will be seen at the old locations through Sept. 3 and at the new building beginning Sept. 7. No break in patient care is planned.

“It's been a huge undertaking,” Gearen said.

Albertson and Gearen praised the administrative staffs of the UF orthopaedics and radiology departments and Shands at UF for their efforts preparing for the move. Gearen said Albertson and Doug Cruce, a project manager for builder Turner Construction Co., have been indispensable during the transition. **P**

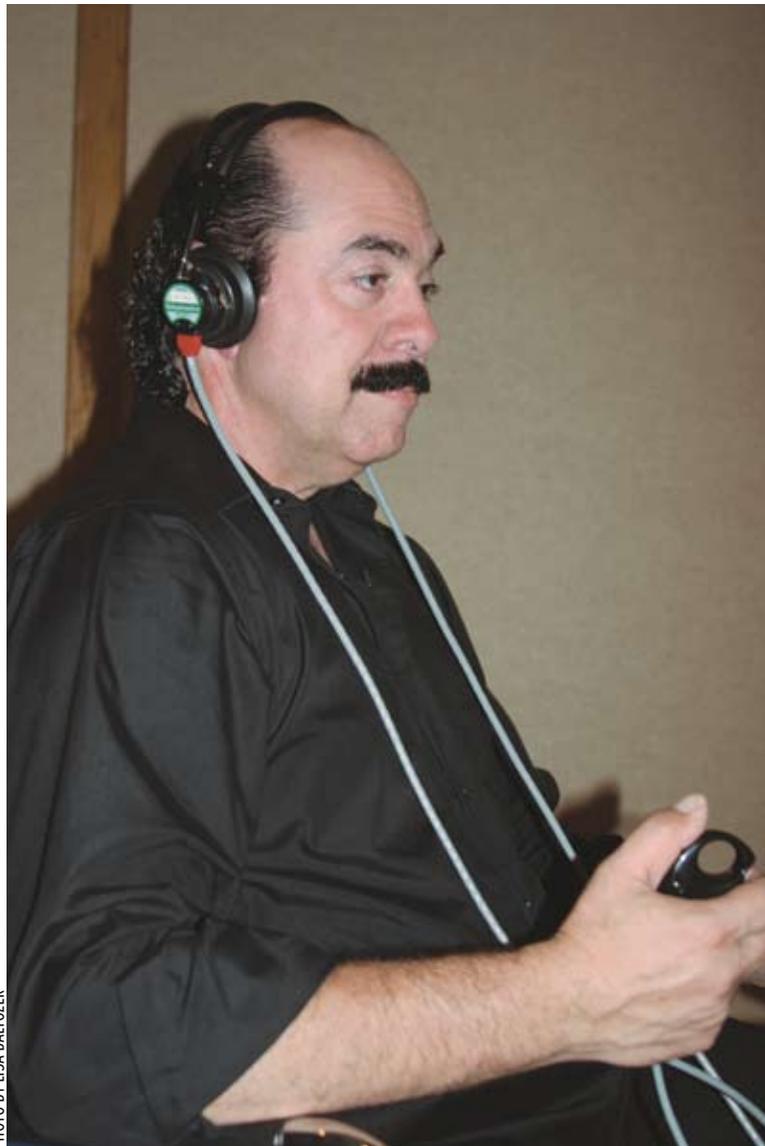


PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

PATIENT, AUDIOLOGIST SOUND ALARM FOR AWARENESS OF MISUNDERSTOOD HEARING DISORDER

Sam Haddad heard a faint hissing sound in his ears for as long as he can remember. But that changed suddenly one day in 2002, when the soft noise became a roar.

"The noise in my ears was so loud, I could barely hear voices," Haddad, manager of the industry relations office at John F. Kennedy Space Center and a Titusville resident, said.

Haddad's physicians said he had an untreatable condition called tinnitus, the perception of sound in one or both ears when no external sound is present, often referred to as "ringing in the ears."

When his doctors told him it would worsen over time, Haddad turned to an internationally recognized expert on tinnitus treatment, James Hall III, Ph.D., chief of audiology at

the UF Speech and Hearing Center and chairman of the department of communicative disorders at the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

Hall used a component of tinnitus retraining therapy, a technique that helps a person gradually ignore the sound of tinnitus. The method involves extensive counseling on tinnitus' causes, and a custom-fit device placed in or behind the ear that creates distracting soft, pleasant sounds.

"At my first meeting with Dr. Hall he predicted that within six months, the hissing noise in my ears would be back to the low level I had before," Haddad said. "I thought that was unbelievable, but when the noise was gone after a month, I called Dr. Hall and told him he was a miracle worker!"

Sam Haddad of Titusville, who suffered from tinnitus, has his hearing checked in the UF Speech and Hearing Center at Shands at UF. After James Hall, Ph.D., custom fit a device behind Haddad's ear to create distracting soft sounds, his tinnitus diminished. Haddad said, "I thought that was unbelievable, but when the noise was gone after a month, I called Dr. Hall and told him he was a miracle worker!"

NEW HELP FOR STROKE PATIENTS

Two decades is too long for stroke victims to wait for science to assist them.

With that in mind, UF and the Department of Veterans Affairs have joined forces in a \$2.7 million mission to accelerate research with the greatest potential to help people with strokes and other brain injuries.

Called the Translational Research in Rehabilitation Initiative, the effort will recruit three new faculty members to the College of Medicine's Department of Neuroscience and marshal the talents of UF scientists and physicians to drastically shorten the time between scientific discovery and the development of therapies to improve the lives of stroke patients. On average, it takes 17 years before discoveries in clinical trials are routinely incorporated into medical treatment.

"We want to shorten the period of time to something far more immediate," said Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi, Ph.D., a neurology professor. "Our goal is to do a much better job translating discoveries in animals in a timely fashion to reconstruct the damaged nervous system."

WWW.NAPA.UFL.EDU/2004NEWS/VA-STROKE.HTM

TEAM PERFORMS RARE LIVER SURGERY

UF surgeons at Shands at UF medical center recently performed a rare ex-vivo liver resection procedure on a patient suffering from liver cancer. The eight-hour surgery was performed in April, and the patient is reported to be doing well. According to Alan Hemming, M.D., director of hepatobiliary surgery and an associate professor of surgery in the College of Medicine, the ex-vivo (out of body) procedure is appropriate only for patients with liver tumors that are not capable of being removed by surgery with standard operative techniques.

"This procedure is a radical one that is only used in the most dire circumstances...so it's not something that has been used very often," said Hemming, one of only a handful of surgeons worldwide who have performed this surgery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS STORY, VISIT SHANDS.ORG/NEWS/ARCHIVE/NEWS_DETAILS.ASP?ID=199



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

WILLIAM MANN

PROLONGING INDEPENDENCE

Occupational therapy chairman explores technologies to aid seniors

By Jill Pease

As America's population ages, seniors and their families are searching for ways to extend independence and quality of life. The work of William Mann, O.T.R., Ph.D., is leading the way in technologies that will enable seniors to live in their homes and drive safely for longer.

Mann, chairman of the department of occupational therapy at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, guides the development of new assistive technologies — devices designed to make everyday tasks easier for seniors and people with disabilities — as the director of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging. In his other major research role as director of the National Older Driver Research and Training Center, Mann and his colleagues offer interventions to help older people drive safely longer and provide counseling, education and training on alternatives to driving.

"Bill Mann has been a strong voice within the profession of occupational therapy for attention to the issues of aging and disability," said Frederick P. Somers, the associate executive director of public policy of the American Occupational Therapy Association. "His leadership in promoting independence and quality of life for older people with disabilities through technology is unsurpassed."

And Mann has the distinction of leading a department that has the largest research enterprise of any occupational therapy academic program in the United States, with faculty research that is widely recognized for advances in aging and technology and rehabilitation outcome measurement.

Boasting one of the first and the largest distance master's degree programs for practicing occupational therapists in the country and the addition of a new clinical service in older driver assessment, the department is a leader in fulfilling its education and service missions as well.

Mann champions a climate of shared goals within the department.

"The department works hard to recruit the very best faculty, staff and graduate students, who can take responsibility for given areas," he said. "I give them the responsibility and appropriate resources, and good outcomes happen — I don't have to hover or micro-manage. My role is to be available to help with developing ideas and to deal with difficult problems. I believe in hard work, but it should be fun.

"A very important goal of mine is to see junior faculty and doctoral students grow and develop strong research careers," Mann said. "Mentoring at the faculty, postdoctoral and doctoral levels is something I consider critical, and given my long career as a researcher, it's something I take very seriously."

The chairman of the occupational therapy department at State University of New York at Buffalo and a faculty member there from 1974 to 2000, Mann was drawn to the chairmanship at UF because of the opportunity to lead a department while devoting a significant amount of time to his own research, which has been funded by more than \$23 million in research awards over the years.

At the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging, Mann is partnering with Sumi Helal, Ph.D., a UF professor of computer and information science and engineering, and private industry to develop a fully equipped "smart house" with a centralized computer network voice commands voice to turn on appliances and open and close window curtains for its aging occupants. Construction of a smart house is under way at the Oak Hammock at UF retirement community and researchers will soon be able to conduct research on "smart technology" in a real home environment.

As the director of the National Older Driver Research and Training Center, Mann addresses another aspect of elderly independence, the ability to drive safely for as long as possible. **P**



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

TIM VAUGHT

HIGH-VOLTAGE LAB MANAGER HAS IMAGES TO UPHOLD

By John Pastor

An extraordinary mouse had died.

It was unusual, for one thing, because it received a bone-marrow transplant. Furthermore, it was a transgenic mouse, meaning DNA had been artificially introduced into the animal's genes. More important, it was the last surviving mouse in a vital experiment.

When it unexpectedly died late on a Friday afternoon, the researcher was confronted by a dilemma. Who do you call when your genetically modified mouse — the sum of years of work — inadvertently expires on the weekend? And don't say "Ghostbusters."

Enter Tim Vaught, the manager of the Optical Microscopy Facility at the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute

"We called this one the 'million-dollar mouse' because all of its siblings had died, but this one went the complete term of the research," said Vaught, who interrupted his weekend for the anxious scientist.

Emergency sessions are part of the routine for Vaught, who has imaged everything from alligator eggs to human DNA. He dashes off the features of the optical microscopes like a BMW dealer talking about the 7 Series: "We got the Decon first, the Confocal a couple of months later and a couple of months later, the Zeisses. I can teach anyone the basics in an hour. The first couple of times people use them, I want them to do it while I'm here so I can jump in and say, 'wait a

second. I can make that picture better and I can show you how.'"

Ironically, Vaught's background is not in optical microscopes, but in electron microscopy and engineering. In fact, Vaught, who lives in Gainesville with his wife, Kim, the director of community improvement for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and their two children, can make lightning strike. That's no exaggeration.

"The man who taught me was the first one to ever engineer a lightning strike over land, and the one who taught him was the first one to ever do it over water," Vaught said.

Why would anyone want to do that?

"In our case, several companies from France, Germany and Canada were confident that electrical equipment in houses wouldn't be damaged if lightning struck the power lines," Vaught said. "So we set up power lines and built three mock houses in Starke to test the claims. We worked through the summer. At the end of two months, the biggest thunderstorm I've ever seen rolled in. We shot one rocket."

What happened?

"The stuff in the houses got fried," Vaught said, "but making lightning strike on cue helped get the property and all equipment donated to UF." **P**

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.MBI.UFL.EDU/FACILITIES/OM/

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



RUSSELL E. ARMISTEAD, has been named Health Science Center associate vice president for finance and planning following a national search. He began his duties Aug. 16. Armistead spent 24 years at Wake Forest University, where he served as vice

president for health services administration for 10 years and managed all business operations for the university's nationally prominent medical school. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in business and accounting and an M.B.A. He is a certified public accountant.

LIBRARY

FAITH MEAKIN, director of the HSC Libraries, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Medical Library Association and named as an MLA fellow for "sustained and outstanding contributions to health sciences librarianship."

Meakin has also been chosen for the 2004 edition of Who's Who in America.



BETH LAYTON, HSC Libraries' deputy director, won an Association of Academic Health Science Libraries Leadership Scholarship to attend the Association of College & Research Libraries/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians in

Cambridge, Mass.



At the MLA 2004 conference **LENNY RHINE**, collection management librarian, received the annual International Cooperation Section award in recognition of his "dedication and outstanding service and leadership in international cooperation and outreach."

The HSC Libraries received First Place in MLA's 2004 Creative Promotions contest for the 'RxEAD: Prescription for Knowledge' campaign. Kicked off during National Medical Librarians Month in October, the campaign, which displayed large posters and bookmarks of HSC deans and administrators posing with their favorite books, aim to raise the visibility of the libraries, creating and reinforcing connections with patrons.

DENTISTRY

CHARLES G. WIDMER, D.D.S., M.S., an associate professor of orthodontics, has been appointed director of clinical research at the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center. Widmer has been a member of the center since 1993 and conducts an active research program in jaw muscle biology and orofacial pain. As director, Widmer will provide leadership to the center's plan to emphasize on clinical research in orofacial pain.



PHARMACY



NICHOLAS BODOR, Ph.D., D.Sc., a College of Pharmacy graduate research professor emeritus, was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic by Hungarian President Ferenc Madl. Madl lauded Bodor's contributions to the international field of drug development and his leadership at the IVAX Drug Research Institute in Budapest.



MEDICINE

Cell researcher **HIMANGSHU BOSE**, Ph.D., an assistant professor of physiology and functional genomics, received a three-year grant for almost \$180,000 from the March of Dimes and a three-year grant for \$240,000 from the American Heart Association to study a protein that fosters cholesterol transport in mitochondria, to make steroid hormones.



Gov. Jeb Bush has tapped **MARTIN LAZORITZ**, M.D., to help the state come up with cost-effective prescription drug options for doctors who treat Medicaid patients. Lazoritz, associate chairman for clinical operations in the psychiatry department at the College of Medicine, was recently the first psychiatrist named to Bush's Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics



Committee. The committee oversees a voluntary preferred drug program that produces a list of cost-effective drugs physicians may prescribe for Medicaid patients.

Three medical students received American Cancer Society R.G. Thompson Memorial Summer Research Fellowships. Each student received a \$2,500 research stipend. The projects' principal investigator was James Zucali, Ph.D., a professor of medicine.

HILLARY ZALAZNICK, a fourth-year medical student, is studying thyroid nodules in an effort to identify risk factors that would help practitioners distinguish which are symptomatic of benign thyroid disease and which are actually cancerous. Her faculty mentor is UF pathologist Nicole Massoll, M.D.

KARLY KAPLAN, a fourth-year medical student, studies combining breast reconstruction with mastectomy. Her mentor is Jason Rosenberg, M.D., an assistant professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

COLIN E. MOORE, a second-year medical student, conducted a population-based study of bone disorders, Maffucci's syndrome and Ollier's disease, and evaluated the incidence of malignant degeneration. His mentor is Mark T. Scarborough, M.D., an associate professor and chief of the division of orthopaedic oncology.



The National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year grant totaling \$1.25 million to **W. CLAY SMITH**, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of ophthalmology, to investigate how a crucial eye protein moves back and forth in retinal cells.

The protein, arrestin, stops a chemical reaction that converts light into nerve impulses so the reaction can begin again. Arrestin's movement probably plays a role in controlling the sensitivity of our eyes.

PATRICK J. ANTONELLI, M.D., has been named chair of the College of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology following a national search. He succeeds Kevin Robbins, M.D.

Antonelli has been at UF 10 years, serving as vice chairman of the department since 2001. He is also assistant dean for clinical informatics of the college and chief medical information officer at Shands HealthCare.

NURSING

College of Nursing doctoral students **DEBORAH CANTERO**, **ANNETTE KELLY** and **CHARLES ZEILMAN** are recipients of a \$5,000 scholarship given by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The scholarship, given in honor of Betty Severyn, a recently retired AARP national board member and College of Nursing alumna, was awarded to support nursing students whose research explores aging related issues.

BROOKS CENTER

Investigators affiliated with the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies and the College of Public Health and Health Professions have recently secured a host of grants to fund stroke rehabilitation research.

Supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research of the National Institutes of Health, **STEVEN KAUTZ**, Ph.D., an investigator at the Department of Veterans Affairs Brain Rehabilitation Research Center and the director of the Brooks Center's Human Motor Performance Laboratories, will lead a group of researchers investigating the mechanisms responsible for walking impairment in patients diagnosed with stroke.



Brooks Center Director **PAMELA W. DUNCAN**, Ph.D., leads a program to reduce the risk of a second stroke and maximize quality of life for veterans with stroke that was recently funded with a \$1.1 million grant

from the VA Health Services Research and Development Service.

Additional Brooks Center researchers have recently received grants:

HUANGUANG "CHARLIE" JIA, Ph.D., a research health scientist at the RORC and an adjunct professor in the department of health services and administration, will research Florida veterans' use of health-care services and outcomes after stroke with \$376,052 in funding from the VA Health Services Research and Development Service.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, Ph.D., an assistant professor of health services administration and a research health scientist at the RORC, has received a \$398,000 VA Health Services Research and Development Service grant to research the utilization and quality of care for veterans diagnosed with stroke receiving community nursing home care paid for by the VA.

CRAIG VELOZO, Ph.D., an associate professor and associate chairman in the department of occupational therapy, in collaboration with Shelley Heaton, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, is funded by a three-year, \$346,135 grant from the NIH. They are working to develop a computer-based model for assessing cognitive functional status of patients with a traumatic brain injury that is accurate, efficient and relevant.

Congratulations to these employees who were recently honored for reaching career milestones.

DENTISTRY

10 Years

Censeri Abare
Allyson Barrett
Victoria Gority
Nai Zheng Zhang

15 Years

Quincy Allen
Janice Braddy
Valarie Brown
Sandra Durden
Leslie McManus-Ferrelli
Jim Speed
Allene Taylor
Mary Taylor

20 Years

Stephanie Baldwin
Katherine Galloway
Frances Rollins

25 Years

Melanie Chelette

30 Years

Nancy Groff

MEDICINE

10 Years

Pearlie Barber
Todd Barnash
Kathryn Bauman
Cindy Bevis
Susan Bryan
Candy Caputo
Lori Carlton
Sheryl Cox
Elaine Cronheim
Richard Davis
Rosellen Dedlow
Lisa Eagle
Denise Eggleton
Sharon Fielding
Tina Hall

15 Years

Candy Hill
Monica Jette
Lilia Koo
Dana Leach
Joy Lee
Sharon Lepler
Jane McKinney
Diana Moon
Harris Plant II
Steve Pomeroy
Margaret Powell
Christine Swindel
Nina Tarnuzzer
Isabel Valentin-Oquendo
Judy Walch
Arthur Wallen
Angela Williams
Karen Yanke

15 Years

Frances Anderson
Angela Bent-Williams
Sharron Bowker
Gayle Butters
Karen Carawan
Linda Carlson
Janice Lou Clark
Janice M. Clark
Lisa Clary
Joyce Connors
Mark Cooper
Gail Dillashaw
Richelle Davis
Vatsala Desai
Sandra Donohue
Donald Dugger
Christine Evas
Ilona Fenyo-Morales
Richard Finlay
Patricia Glenton
David Habell
Linda Horne

Henry Kolb
Butch Landsiedel
Carol McAllister
Barry McCullough
Allyson McFauls
Beverly Millard
Joan Monnier
Andrea Mundorff
Diane Palmeter
Deborah Pendry
Cynthia Puckett
Linda Robbins
Rita Rygler
Frances Skipper
Clarence Smith Jr.
Mary Weldon

20 Years

Mary Allen
Sandra Bivins
Charity Blomeley
James Brown
Michael Browning
Nancy Chancey
Eddie Debose
Theresa Glisson
Debra Hope
Nancy Hughes
Tina King
Thelma Lewis
Barbara Lindsey
Brenda McCallister
Lark Noll

25 Years

Deborah Otero
Michael Paiva
B.J. Morasco
Terry Rickey
Thomas Roane
Angeline Sellung
Patricia Stutevoss
Myrtle Williams
Gwendolyn Young

25 Years

Carolyn Baum
J.E. Beem
Edith Bruno
Sylvia Clemons
Frances Dunn
Jerry Janiec
Patricia Jones
Anne Michael
Isabelle Orta
Pamela Patton
Prissilla Rogers
Sheila Thigpin
Kitty Wiley
Brenda Wise

30 Years

Diane Downing
Leslie Harlin
Roberta Hendrix
Yue Li
Rosa Mills
Beverly Perry
Christine Street
Linda Waters-Funk

35 Years

Michael Duke

NURSING

20 Years

Sammie Brooks

25 Years

Gloria Anderson
Vivian Brown

PHARMACY

10 Years

Katie Ratliff-Thompson
Yufei Tang

15 Years

Martin Meder
Janet Wiegand
Phyllis Wright

20 Years

Lisa Lindsey

PHHP

10 Years

Lynn Jernigan

15 Years

Philip Chase

20 Years

Peggy Bessinger
Elizabeth Williams

25 Years

Janet Haire

VET MEDICINE

10 Years

Iva Addison
Laurie Bell
Pamela Cromer
Bobbie Davis
Thomas Dehaan
Neil Gillespie
Anita Hancock
Zoë Haynes
Gaile Hicks
Marsha Langford
Edward MacKay
Jessica Markham
Gino Mattuci
Toni McIntosh
Ron McKeever
Ben Miller
Marc Salute
Debra Spence-Thomas
Patricia Thomas
Shanna Tipton
Lynn Varner

15 Years

Terry DuFran
Devony Harnist
Bob Hockman
Sharon Kitchen
Linda Lee-Ambrose
Anna Lundgren
Raymond Moore
Sam Smith
Sylvia Tucker

20 Years

Kandi Crosier
Patricia Lewis
Charles Yowell Jr.

25 Years

Doe Dee Davis
Debbie Johnson
Hilken Kuck
Drema Palmer
George Papadi
Sharon Sams
Marie Joelle Thatcher
Linda Rose

30 Years

Gail Overstreet
Patricia Williams

35 Years

Carolyn Frazier

PHYSICAL PLANT

10 Years

Steve De Robertis
Annie Henry
Park Jones
Lashonda Roberts

15 Years

Mamie Austell
Grady Brown
Charles Cochran
Sharon Holmes
Herbert Hooker
Effie Jackson
Jimmy McGruder
Alton McKinney
Robert Mitchell Jr.
Violet Murphy

Bobby Wright Jr.
Theresa Young

20 Years

Jim Brillhart
Ella Brown
Harley Ingle Jr.

25 Years

Butch Anderson
James Keedwell III
Ron Reading
Larry Thomas
Joyce Volcy

30 Years

Mary Brown
Josh Johnson
Pete Michel
Maggie Montgomery
Freddie Neal
Jackie Reynolds
Vivian Smith

STUDENT HEALTH

10 Years

Karen Bell
Wayne Benham
Betty Blenco
Goody Dennis
Paula Dragutsky
Diane Pecora
Roberta Seldman
Cheri Sellers

15 Years

Roya Barger
Mary Flowers
Tammy Reno

20 Years

Zulma Chardon
Carolyn Coleman
Mary Jones
Barbara Welsch

25 Years

Elizabeth Brooks
Joan Cintron
Carolyn Vinson

30 Years

Christine Brooks
Al Williams
Loretta Williams

35 Years

Susan Courtney

VPHA

10 Years

Kristin Belyew
Vickie Franklin
Janet Huffstetler
Charley Mills
Melanie Fridl Ross
Tonya Webb

15 Years

Gregory Clayton
Susan Cochran
Candice McCall
Kathleen Spinks

20 Years

Laverne Burch
Elizabeth Powers
John Hughes

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

15 Years

Vickie Criswell
Tawnya Rodriguez
Cynthia Sander

20 Years

Sue Goodman

25 Years

Linnea Danielsen

30 Years

Nancy Holschuh

JACKSONVILLE ORTHOPAEDICS DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES PODIATRY RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Good news for aching Florida feet: UF's Health Science Center Jacksonville recently launched the university's first podiatry residency program, one of a small number nationwide based at an academic institution.

The three-year program, offered by the department of orthopaedic surgery at UF's College of Medicine Jacksonville, gives budding doctors of podiatric medicine a broader medical and surgical education than many residencies, said Stephen Meritt, D.P.M., a UF instructor of orthopaedic surgery and director of the program.

"It's the future of our profession," said Meritt, a board-certified podiatrist in private practice for almost 30 years and a staff member at Shands Jacksonville.

Launched in July, the program currently has two first-year and two second-year students, he said. Beginning next year, a total of six students will be enrolled.

Northeast Florida patients can benefit from the new source of podiatric care, and the program gives the orthopaedic surgery department a chance to forge new professional relationships, said B. Hudson Berrey, M.D., a UF professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation and head of orthopaedic surgery on the Jacksonville campus.

"We have a lot of interest from the podiatric community here," said Berrey, who helped organize the program. "It will help us with our interactions with the community providers and be a source of future patient referrals."

The program also is one of a handful nationwide that bases podiatrists at the same institution throughout their residency, following a model developed by the national accrediting agency, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education.

THE LEGACY OF HEROES

A traveling multimedia exhibit honoring orthopaedic surgeons who served in World War II will visit Shands Jacksonville in September. Titled "The Legacy of Heroes," the exhibit, including photos, written accounts and a film, honors orthopedists' service to their country and the medical advances they made possible.

Shands Jacksonville
Health Science Building Atrium

653 W. 8th St.

Sept. 16–17, Sept. 20–24
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21
at the same location.

strategy continued from 4

interdisciplinary learning and the opportunity provided by simulation to "really attack the problem of error reduction."

ROLE REDEFINITION

Operationally, Barrett has two areas of focus. The first is an ongoing effort to bring greater clarity to the organizational role of UF's major health-related centers and institutes, especially in how they relate to colleges and departments. That activity will be coupled with an effort to flesh out plans for the university's less mature strategic initiatives in aging, children and families, and the environment.

At the same time, he will work with Armistead and the HSC college deans to begin to formally implement "responsibility-centered management principles" — essentially the decentralization of management responsibility such that "decision making and financial accountability reside as close as possible to where the real work of a university occurs. That is in the colleges and departments."

As much as this approach will require a "culture change," the HSC colleges have already been working in this direction for several years. Said Barrett: "We will be leaders of responsibility-centered management within the university."

JACKSONVILLE

H. MARTIN NORTHUP, M.D., brought home the gold, but he didn't have to go to Athens for it. A professor of radiology at UF's College of Medicine Jacksonville, Northup was the 2004 recipient of the Florida Radiological Society's Gold Medal Award, presented to a member of the society for outstanding achievement in diagnostic and therapeutic radiology. The award was presented July 10 at the society's annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale.



Kidney transplant expert **THOMAS G. PETERS**, M.D., director of the Jacksonville Transplant Center at Shands Jacksonville, has been elected to a three-year term on the American Society of Transplant Surgeons' executive council, its governing body. Peters will serve as a councilor-at-large, working with 11 other physicians, including current society President Richard J. Howard, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of surgery at UF's College of Medicine in Gainesville. The society is the world's largest organization for transplant surgeons.



The executive committee of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons has named **FRED H. EDWARDS**, M.D., professor of surgery and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at UF's College of Medicine Jacksonville, as the chairman of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Database. Edwards will oversee management and use of the database, which tracks patients in three categories — adult cardiac surgery, general thoracic surgery and congenital heart surgery — and is an important resource for physicians analyzing surgical outcomes, risk assessment and other issues. With more than 2.5 million patients enrolled since its inception in 1986, it is the world's largest thoracic surgery clinical database.

Even though he is eager to get there, Barrett recognizes that breaking into the top echelon of public institutions is something that can't happen tomorrow, next week or even next year. It is something that has to be achieved, step-by-step, good decision by good decision, over a number of years.

"I'm a marathoner, not a sprinter," he said. "At UF we have an opportunity to be among the best. But big goals, like finishing marathons, are ultimately reached by steady focus and persistence. Our Health Science Center is made up of remarkably talented people. With teamwork and dedication, we can help make UF a truly great university." **P**

DOCTOR DEBATE

Dr. Robert Watson, senior associate dean for educational affairs at the College of Medicine, spoke to POST staff about his views on the need for additional medical schools in Florida.

Does Florida have a physician shortage?

Based on numbers of physicians per 100,000 people, the answer would be no. Florida is the fourth-largest state and has the fourth-largest number of physicians. However, there are several flaws in looking at such a raw number. First, the data is flawed, and Florida does not have a database to let us know how many registered physicians are practicing or how much they are practicing. Second, the real issues are where physicians are practicing, which specialties they are practicing and the scope of their practices within their specialties. Lack of this information inevitably leads to making an assessment based on how long it takes to get an appointment with a physician, which is not very comforting.

Regardless, as the population ages, Florida grows, that population increasingly ages, the malpractice climate in Florida remains unchanged and the gender of physicians increasingly changes, I believe there is no doubt that Florida will have a shortage of physicians in the future, regardless of how a shortage is defined.

Which public universities are looking at establishing medical schools, and what process is in place to influence this activity?

Florida International University, the University of Central Florida and Florida Atlantic are interested in starting medical schools. The latter is developing a program with the University of Miami, but I have little doubt that this is their strategy for having a medical school in the future, just as Florida State's program with UF served that purpose.

The process is supposed to be that the Board of Governors decides if a new school should be established. If history is any guide to the future, then the decisions will ultimately be political, one way or another. Of course, private medical schools can be created without approval by the BOG, or the Legislature. The Lake Erie Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine is opening a campus this fall in Bradenton and will be admitting its first 150 students.

Would a new public medical school help alleviate the physician shortage?

A new medical school will provide new physicians, but it will take seven or more years from the time they begin before they are ready to practice, and that is after the school is built. Nationwide data have shown that graduates are more likely to practice near where they do their residency than in the state where they went to medical school. Florida is ranked 45th or 46th in the number of residency positions. Every position of every kind in Florida fills every year. If we graduate more medical students, they will have to go elsewhere to do residencies and will therefore likely practice elsewhere.

National policy thinkers, like the Institute of Medicine, advise that if more medical students are part of the answer to a physician shortage then the shortage should be overcome by increasing the class size of existing schools, a far more cost-effective plan.

What would be better ways to increase physician supply?

The most direct answer is to increase the number of available residency positions. Recruit the best graduates of this nation's medical schools to residency programs in Florida. Let others bear the costs of educating students, attract them to our residencies and therefore increase the chances they will practice in Florida.

An even better strategy is to develop programs to attract fully trained physicians to Florida. Provide student debt forgiveness, for example. Provide some sort of malpractice protection. And since the graduating classes are increasingly women, provide programs that are a better fit for them, things like flexible hours and child care.

How optimistic are you that a rational solution will be crafted for this issue?

Building new medical schools is the least effective and most expensive way to increase Florida's future physician supply. I would personally feel more confident of a rational solution if the universities seeking new medical schools were more candid about the reasons they want them. They want medical schools because this will increase the prestige of their universities and allow them to compete for research funding, and some may believe that clinical revenues will be available to help their universities. Some of these reasons are perfectly rational, defensible and even laudatory, which leads me to believe they could be effectively argued. **P**

PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

LOOKIN' AT YOU



Garth Dixon, a lab technician in the Academic Research Building, tidies up.



PHOTO BY DENISE TRUNK

Tom Berryman (from left), AC mechanic, Danny Buckland, AC technician, and Lonnie Akins, AC technician, are keeping it cool.



Lee Kaplan (left), graduate assistant in the department of molecular genetics and microbiology, and Hazel Levy, graduate assistant in biochemistry, grab some joe at the new Starbucks coffee cart.

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