

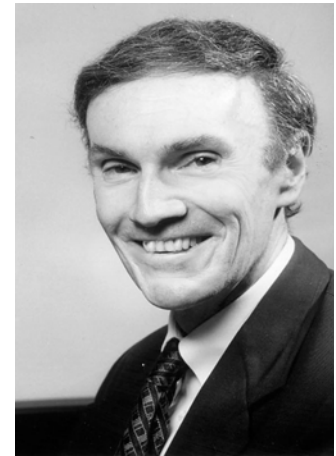
October, 2001
 Volume II, Number 4

In this issue...

- Upcoming Center Programs**
- Medical Students Identify Need for Health System Education**
- Tennessee Medical Schools Rank in NIH Funding**
- Paybacks From Chronic Disease Monitoring**
- Web Site Expansions**
- Short Notes**

CENTER ANNOUNCES UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES

The Center for Health Services Research and the Memphis Business Group on Health will co-sponsor a community-wide forum on health care quality. The conference will be led by Dr. Stephen Shortell, an internationally recognized leader in health system design and organizational behavior. The program will address questions of "What is quality?," "How do organizations incorporate quality into their strategic plans" and "How do we get quality 'on the table' in Memphis?" Panels will include local health system leaders, practitioners, health care purchasers and consumers. The program was cancelled in September and has been rescheduled for January 8, 2002.



Upcoming joint conferences with the Department of Preventive Medicine include talks by Dr. Donna Hathaway, Dean of the University of Tennessee College of Nursing (November 2001); Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (December 2001); and Dr. John Bower, a member of the Board of Directors of Physicians for a National Health Plan (January 2002).

Please contact The Center for additional information about these programs.

TENNESSEE MEDICAL SCHOOLS RANK IN NIH RESEARCH FUNDING

The four Tennessee colleges of medicine - East Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University - received \$157.1 million dollars in research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2000. The NIH is the largest provider of funds for biomedical research in the United States.

As shown in the Table, Vanderbilt University College of Medicine received the most funding and was ranked in the top quarter of the 123 colleges that were studied. The University of Tennessee received \$37.6 million and was ranked 63rd among the colleges. Johns Hopkins University College of Medicine received the most NIH funding in the nation - \$304.8 million in 2000.

All academic centers in Tennessee received \$229.4 million from the NIH in 2000, with the state ranking 18th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

(continued ...)

Figure 1: Dr. S. Shortell

*Health
 Care Notes*

is published by
**The Center for Health
 Services Research**
The University of Tennessee

66 North Pauline Street
 Memphis, Tennessee 38163
 Tel: (901) 448-5826
 FAX: (901) 448-8009
 E-mail: centerhs@utmem.edu
 www.utmem.edu/center

David M. Mirvis, MD
 Director

The University of Tennessee is an Equal
 Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action/
 Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA
 Employer

Health Care Notes

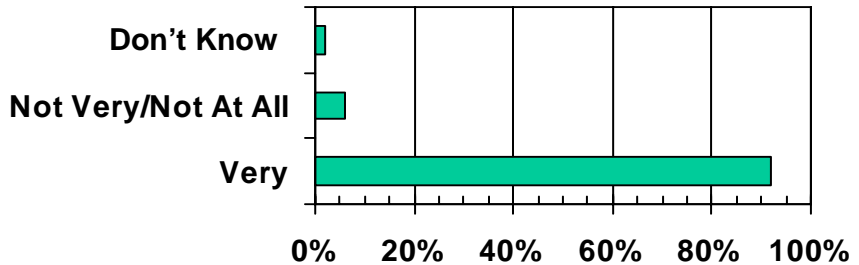


Table: NIH Funding of Tennessee Colleges of Medicine in 2000

College	2000 NIH Funding	National Rank
East Tennessee State	\$2,491,786	116
Meharry Medical Coll.	\$9,267,392	98
University of Tennessee	\$37,562,872	63
Vanderbilt University	\$107,764,360	24

A survey conducted in 2000 by Research!America demonstrated popular support for government support of medical research. Of respondents in seven states, 82% indicated that states should support medical research and 92% indicated that scientific research is “very important” to the economy of the state (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percent of respondents indicating that scientific research is very important (bottom bar), or not very or not at all important (middle bar) to the state’s economy. The percent with no opinion is depicted by the top bar.



“Physicians must learn how to optimize the different systems for the benefit of their patients and their own sense of professional satisfaction.”

- COGME Report, 1999

NATIONAL SURVEY OF GRADUATING MEDICAL STUDENTS REVEALS NEED FOR EDUCATION IN HEALTH SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

An annual survey of graduating medical students from all U.S. medical schools has identified topics related to health systems operations as among those in which they received inadequate instruction. The survey of over 14,000 graduates is conducted annually by the Association of American Colleges to assess needs and trends in medical education.

Graduates were asked to rate the appropriateness of the time devoted to instruction in 41 topics. The topics for which 40% or more of students indicated that the time devoted to instruction was inadequate included cost effective care, quality assurance, medical record keeping, managed care and health law.

The Council on Graduate Medical Education, a panel established by Congress to assess physician workforce, training and finance issues, concluded in their 1999 report that “An improved understanding of the characteristics of the populations served and the attributes of the delivery systems is fundamental to effective medical practice.” At the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, The Center for Health Services Research has begun to implement a curriculum for students in health systems issues as part of the college’s innovative Longitudinal Community Program.

STUDIES SHOW GOOD RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MONITORING CHRONIC DISEASE

Implementing a nationwide health tracking network for environmental health issues would reduce federal health care costs by \$540 million each year, according to a study published by the Public Health Foundation in

(continued ...)

August 2001. This savings corresponds to a return of \$1.44 in lower health care costs for every dollar spent on a monitoring system that would include coordinated data collection of environmental hazards and related conditions, establishing early warning systems for hazards, and creating rapid response teams to manage emergency conditions.

The study calculates that an effective monitoring system would reduce the number of major congenital malformations by 3,400, spontaneous abortions by 24,000 and deaths by 80,500 each year, based on a 3.5% reduction in each condition because of the new system. Furthermore, a system would reduce asthma attacks by one-third, corresponding to the elimination of 13,068,000 attacks in the nation each year.

In a companion report by the Trust for America's health, states were ranked on their environmental health record. Tennessee ranked second among the states in the number of days during the year with excessive ozone levels, ninth for the level of reported respiratory toxins and eleventh in number of violations of EPA standards for particulate matter. Tennessee has no monitoring system to assess any of these factors.

CENTER LAUNCHES ON-LINE DISCUSSION GROUPS, MAIL LISTS AND REPORTS

The Center for Health Services Research has expanded the programs available through its internet site, www.utmem.edu/center. These include services for students as well as all health professionals interested in health policy and health care research.

An on-line discussion group on health care issues was initiated on October 15. This group promotes on-line discussion of important topics in health care among members. The topics are selected by the members and are changed periodically. The discussion is moderated, with a moderator who screens all submissions for appropriateness before distribution. To join this group, please send a blank e-mail to CHSR_HealthCare@yahoo.com.

Other discussion groups have been formed after each of The Center's conferences. These discussion groups provide a forum for continued discussion of the topic with the presenter. In addition, the site posts slides used by presenters, important references and links to key internet sites related to the presentation.

Another function that has been added is a daily distribution of summaries of selected news articles related to health care issues. Other features that will be added in the near future include mailing lists for various nationally distributed health care news services, links to internet sites tailored to specific interest groups and curricular materials and information for students in various health care courses.

For additional information about joining the discussion groups or about other internet site activities, please contact Ms. Leslie Ingram, Systems Analyst, at The Center (email at centerhs@utmem.edu).

The Center has also released two reports on health care in Tennessee. The first is a reprint from the Institute for Health Care Research and Policy of Georgetown University entitled "A Consumer's Guide to Getting and Keeping Health Insurance in Tennessee." The second is a study of mortality rates from selected conditions in Tennessee, highlighting differences among racial groups and between citizens of Shelby County and the entire state. Results indicated that substantial differences in mortality rates exist among races and between geographic regions of the state.

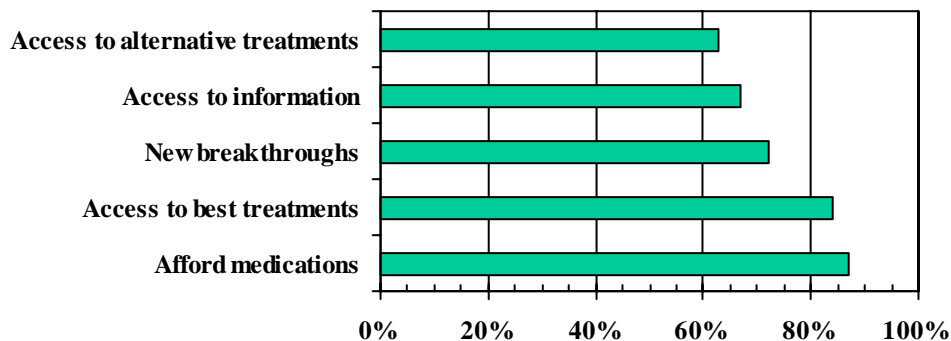
"Poor health ... and premature deaths are avoidable when the public health and clinical health systems are armed with information...."

-The Public Health Foundation

Short Notes

- A survey of all U.S. medical schools revealed that only 16% of internal medicine clerkships included formal lectures on adverse drug reactions, and 35% of clerkship directors had little or no familiarity with the Institute of Medicine report on medical errors that identified drug-related errors as a major cause of inpatient adverse events.
- Higher scores on quality of care reports correlates with lower health care costs for enrollees, according to the 2001 report from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). A hypothetical company with 20,000 employees that selected an NCQA accredited health plan would have 1,500 fewer sick days among its employees each year and save more than \$800,000 in indirect costs per year for its diabetic population alone than if it selected an unaccredited health plan.
- Americans remain cynical about the motives of elected officials according to a 2001 poll sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Almost 60% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement that elected officials consult polls because they want to stay popular and get re-elected. Only 23% strongly agreed with the statement that elected officials consult polls because they believe that the public should have a say in what government does.
- One in every five parents of uninsured children ages 5 to 18 has kept or would keep their children out of an athletic event because of fear they might get injured and would have no coverage, based on a survey reported by Worthlin Worldwide.
- One estimate of lost productivity due to e-mail was \$200 billion per year; that sum would fund the entire federal research budget for more than two years, according to Research!America. Alcohol-related auto crashes cost about \$45 billion each year, an amount that would fund the entire National Institutes of Health for two years.
- Being able to afford medicines is the most important need for staying healthy according to survey conducted by the Alliance for Aging Research in June 2001. Almost 90% listed affordable medication as “essential” or “very important” to maintaining health while 72% listed new scientific breakthroughs as essential or very important (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Percent of respondents indicating that each factor is “essential” or “very important” for staying healthy as they grow older.



For additional information on any of these topics, please contact
The Center for Health Services Research.

Health Care Quote:

“As the scientific case for public health becomes stronger, politics and popular support have not kept pace.... Overt resistance to public health is rare. On the contrary, public health has been subject to the death of a thousand cuts, some of them noticed, others not.”

- Daniel Callahan, The Hastings Center, 1998