

Pharmacy Building Plans Move Forward

With a scheduled completion date of summer 2008, plans are moving forward for a new building to house the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

The \$42.8 million project was recently approved by the Tennessee General Assembly after being proposed in Governor Bredesen's "State of the State" Address in February. Two Memphis architectural firms have been named for the project: TRO/The Ritchie Organization and Evans Taylor Foster Childress.

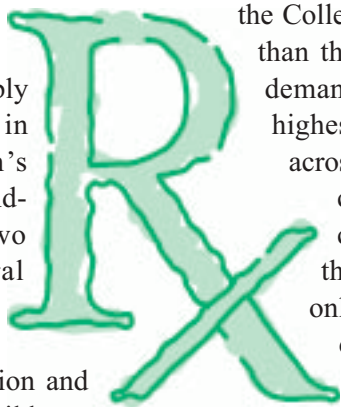
According to Robert J. Nolly, associate professor with the UT College of Pharmacy and building committee chair, the committee is currently reviewing space recommendations. The new building will have approximately 190,000 gross square feet, which will be spread across several floors.

Currently, UT College of Pharmacy students, faculty and research activities are stretched across six buildings, with some of these in need of updating and renovations. These buildings include: the Crowe Research Building, built in 1928; the Mooney Building, built in 1928; the Joe and Pat Johnson Building, completed in 1946;

and the Seldon D. Feurt Building, completed in 1961.

Dean of the UT College of Pharmacy, Dick R. Gourley, PharmD, commented, "We have been asking for a new building specially dedicated for the College of Pharmacy for more than three decades. The current demand for pharmacists is the highest ever in Tennessee and across the nation; however, our current facilities cannot accommodate the need to further expand class size. Not only is space needed for additional classrooms, but seminar rooms, scientific laboratories, computer labs, conference rooms, a clinical learning center, technology center, staff offices and storage areas are also needed to provide our students and faculty with access to the tools they need."

He stated, "Our sincere appreciation goes to the Tennessee General Assembly and Governor Phil Bredesen for their vision for the college, which will benefit healthcare provided to Tennesseans. This new center for pharmacy education will give us the opportunity to, not only strive toward providing the best pharmacy education available anywhere, but to undertake innovative research and embrace new technology and innovations."



Minority Students Honored for Summer Programs

On Friday, July 16 minority college students enrolled in summer programs at the UTHSC were honored during a closing ceremony at the Student Alumni Center.

Summer Programs are offered through the university's Health Career Programs area, which was established in 1990 to generate interest among African-Americans in UTHSC's academic programs and to foster their increased numbers as applicants, students and graduates.

Summer programs provide structured environments for academic enrichment and reinforcement of the math/science concepts so essential to health education training. According to Director of Health Career Programs, Leroy Moore, more than 2,500 students have benefited from participating in the eight-week programs since their inception.



James Eoff, PharmD, executive associate dean of the College of Pharmacy, addresses the students.

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The Record

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Mission Statement

The mission of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is to improve human health through education, research and public service, with an emphasis on improving the health of Tennesseans.

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Clinical Study Compares Treatments in Early Parkinson's Disease

UTHSC professor and vice chair of the Department of Neurology, Ronald F. Pfeiffer, MD, has been an investigator with The Parkinson Study Group (PSG), which recently reported four-year results of a major long-term, multi-center clinical trial.

During the trial, researchers studied pramipexole versus levodopa for initial treatment in Parkinson's disease (PD), and results are published in the July issue of the *Archives of Neurology*. These results confirm and extend the two-year observations previously published in *JAMA* (20000, 284:1931-1938).

Patients with early Parkinson's who were treated initially with pramipexole resulted in a reduction of dyskinesias and wearing off compared with initial treatment with levodopa. Initial treatment with levodopa resulted in a lower incidence of freezing, somnolence, and edema, and better motor performance, as measured by the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS).

Pramipexole, a dopamine agonist or a drug used to treat the signs and symptoms of Parkinson's and levodopa, the drug most commonly used to treat early PD symptoms, were compared as initial treatments for those with early PD. Research physicians at 22 Parkinson Study Group sites in the United States and Canada evaluated 301 participants in this four-year study.

The primary outcome of the study was the amount of time to the first occurrence of dopaminergic motor complications, problems resulting from taking medication, such as the drug wearing off, dyskinesia - abnormal, involuntary movements, and on-off fluctuations.

After four years, results showed about half (52%) of subjects assigned to initial pramipexole treatment reached the primary endpoint as compared with almost three quarters (72%) of the levodopa-initiated subjects. However, the average improvement in total UPDRS scores, measured at the first study visit and again at the last study visit, was greater in the levodopa group than in the pramipexole group. The UPDRS or Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale, is a standardized measure of patient's abilities to perform basic motor skills, as well as the effect of the disease on activities of daily living and mental abilities.

Parkinson's Disease is a neurological illness that affects approximately 1.5 million Americans and is caused by the gradual loss of cells in a small part of the brain. The loss (death) of these cells produces a reduction in a vital chemical called "dopamine," which causes symptoms that may include shaking of hands, slowing down of movement, stiffness and loss of balance. Because PD is a progressive disorder, these symptoms worsen with time.

Runyan Nursing Award Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations will be accepted through August 20 for the John W. Runyan, Jr. Community Nursing Award, which will be presented in the fall.

The award, established in 1979, is designed to recognize a currently practicing nurse who has made significant contributions to the development and promotion of community health nurs-

ing. The settings for community health nursing are principally primary care settings where clients live, work, play and attend school.

The award is named in honor of Dr. John W. Runyan, Jr., University Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Preventive Medicine.

For more information contact mmrobinson@utmem.edu or 448-6407.

Dr. Ring Named Johnson Fellow

John C. Ring, MD, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, has been named a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow for 2004-2005.

Established in 1973, The Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program is designed to develop the capacities of outstanding mid-career health professionals in academic and community-based settings by providing them with an understanding of the health policy process. The program is administered by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Each year, fellows are selected on a competitive basis and leave their academic settings and practice responsi-

bilities to spend a year in the nation's capital. A three-month orientation program is followed by a 9-month assignment in which fellows are accepted to work in a congressional office or the executive branch. Following the one-year experience, fellows return to their home institutions or practices to assume leadership roles in improving health policy and management.

Fellows begin the program in September, and undergo an intense three-month orientation, meeting top administrators of agencies responsible for health activities, congressional committee staff members, representatives of major health interest groups, officials of the Office of Management and Budget, and key White House advisors.

Winsett Receives Telehealth Grant

Rebecca P. Winsett, PhD, associate professor in the College of Nursing, has received a five-year \$1.5 million grant from the NIH to examine health outcomes of transplant recipients who are managed by nurse practitioners. Scheduled to begin immediately, the study will specifically allow Dr. Winsett to demonstrate how nurse practitioners in central specialty clinics can use telehealth to care for patients in outlying locations.

According to Dr. Winsett, little research has been conducted regarding nurse practitioners using telehealth. She commented, "Many of these patients are medically fragile and it would be best if they did not travel so far for routine care. By conducting this study, we hope to determine that telehealth is both a clinically effective and cost effective way for nurse practitioners to treat transplant patients for routine care."

In addition to Dr. Winsett, co-investigators include: Karen Fox, assistant dean of telehealth; Osama Gaber, MD, Baptist Health Care Foundation Professor of Transplantation Surgery; Donna Hathaway, PhD, dean and professor of the College of Nursing; and Grant Somes, PhD, UT professor and chair of preventive medicine.

Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology, was a featured speaker at the recent Sapporo Sphingolipid Symposium and also at the Gordon Research Conference in Harima, Japan. He presented research on the use of computer modeling for drug discovery.

Christopher M. Waters, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Physiology, recently received a 4-year grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for \$895,536. It is titled, "ABC Transporters in CNS Penetration of Camptothecins."

Textbooks Donated by UTHSC Medical Students Arrive in Iraq



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

U.S. troops in Iraq unload the textbooks donated by UTHSC students.

This spring, medical students at UTHSC donated approximately 2,200 textbooks for use by medical students in Iraq, who are taught in English.

The effort was coordinated by the American Association of Medi-

cal Colleges Organization of Student Representatives and the College of Medicine's Council for International and Area Outreach.

The shipping of the textbooks, valued at around \$100,000, was covered by Elsevier Health Sciences.

HR CORNER

New Hires

Martin Blakely, MD

Associate Professor, Surgery

Peter Boehm, MD

Instructor, Neurosurgery

David Cagna, DMD

Prof./Director, Restorative Dentistry

Kefu Du

Non Student Assistant, Pediatrics

Pamela Duffer

Res. Nurse Coord., Preventive Medicine

Roderick Hargrove, MD

Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology

Mary Hoehn, MD

Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology

Vijaya Joshi, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Sahar Khalifa

Counselor, Office of Admissions

Melvin Litch, Jr., MD

Clinical Asst. Professor, Ophthalmology

Krystal Love

Sr. LPN, Family Practice-Jackson

Brian Neudeck, PharmD

Assistant Professor, Pharmacy

Sarah Rast

Res. Nurse Coordinator, Neurology

Steven R. Sarkisian, Jr., MD

Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology

Michael Savage, DDS

Asst. Professor, Restorative Dentistry

Melita Smith

Research Assistant, Molecular Science

Jade Thompson

Research Assistant, Rheumatology

Christine Zawistawski, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Fuming Zhou, MD

Assistant Professor, Pharmacology

Faculty Research Incentive Program Policy

The following policy has been approved and became effective July 1. It is also available in the Administrative Policies section at www.utm.edu.

The responsibilities and corresponding salary level of a faculty member are determined by the department chair with concurrence of the dean. Faculty salaries are charged to the university account funded to provide the cost of the activity. (For example, instruction, departmental research, committee and administrative work should be charged to the departmental E account, and sponsored activities should be charged to the appropriate R account).

A Faculty and Professional Staff Effort Report is completed by the faculty member to document effort distribution. The faculty member must ensure that the salary distribution percentages as reflected on the effort report represent the actual effort of the faculty member and make adjustments as changes in effort occur.

Each tenured or tenure-track faculty member (and each non-tenured or non-tenure-track faculty member who serves as a principal investigator) will have the opportunity to earn an incentive bonus based upon the base UT salary if the following criteria are met:

1. The salary is from a grant or contract that pays all direct costs and the appropriate University Facility & Administrative rate. Chair of Excellence, Endowed Professorship and supplemental award funds are excluded.
2. The salary support of the faculty member's UT salary from qualifying external sources exceeds 15 percent of the base salary, unless some greater percentage is mutually ac-

cepted by the faculty member and the university and documented in the appointment letter.

3. The grant or contract does not contain cost sharing or in-kind matching requirements.
4. The faculty member adheres to good fiscal and administrative management principles of all grants and contracts for which he/she is involved and completes effort reports in a timely manner.
5. The faculty member maintains satisfactory performance of teaching, service and administrative duties assigned.

When the salary support of the faculty member's UT salary from qualifying external sources exceeds the specified percentage, the faculty member will earn an incentive bonus equal to 50 percent of the excess. The incentive bonus may be paid to the faculty member as additional pay, or at the faculty member's discretion, the incentive bonus or a portion thereof, may be placed in a university account to be used by the faculty member to support his/her academic efforts and can be carried over from the end of the fiscal year.

Incentive bonuses will be calculated annually for the twelve-month period ending June 30. Bonuses will be paid in November of each year. Bonuses for faculty members who are leaving university employment will be paid within 60 days of the termination date and will be based on the number of months served since the end of the last twelve-month period.

Facts and Figures

The up-to-date "Facts and Figures" brochure for UTHSC is available in pdf format at www.utm.edu/news/



Campus Calendar

AUGUST 2004

- 4** “What Every Internist Should Know About Hepatobiliary Neoplasms”
Dr. Rene Davila
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu
- 10** “HIPAA: Current Issues in Research”
Rebecca Reynolds
Noon, 66 Pauline Building, conference room A
More info: msaucier@utmem.edu
- 11** “Advanced Lipoprotein Analysis in Clinical Practice”
Dr. Thomas Hughes
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu
- 16** “Interaction Among Individuals Interested in Adult and Pediatric Hematology Cases”
Drs. Marion Dugdale and Alvin Mauer
Noon, G312 Coleman
More info: lpitts@utmem.edu
- 18** “Shocking News about Arrhythmias: the State-of-the-Art in Pacemakers and Defibrillators”
Dr. Judith Soberman
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu
- 23** “To Enhance the Interaction Among Individuals in Thrombotic or Bleeding Disorders.”
Drs. Marion Dugdale and Carolyn Chesney
Noon, G312 Coleman
More info: lpitts@utmem.edu
- 25** “Interstitial Lung Disease for the Internist”
Dr. Muthiah Pugazhenti
8 a.m., Coleman North Auditorium
More info: bedman@utmem.edu