Effective 8/19/09, new travel guidelines were implemented for volunteers, recruits and guest speakers. This does not include visiting scientists. Contact your department administrator to obtain the new guidelines and forms.

### 2009 ENTERING CLASS PROFILES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GBS</th>
<th>SOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size of Entering Class</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants Interviewed</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants Accepted</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Applicants (AA)</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewed</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Applicants</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Residents</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewed</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculated</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Colleges</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate GPA</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE/MCAT</td>
<td>1303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVG - TOTAL</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantit/MCAT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sci</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE Analytical</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wri/MCAt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sci</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### All About Academics

Another academic year is upon us and a flurry of activities is well underway. We have an outstanding group of new scholars joining us in the medical and graduate biomedical programs. Thinking back on my first weeks in medical school, I can imagine how overwhelmed they feel trying to adjust to the coursework and the institution. On the left is an enrollment comparison chart of the MD and PhD programs. Noteworthy is the percentage of non-resident students; fourteen percent in the medical school versus eighty-three percent in the Graduate Biomedical Sciences (GBS). SOM enrollment is capped at 175 students until a formal request is submitted and approved by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME). The GBS program is not as restrictive and I predict that upon completion of the GBS realignment we will notice a sizable increase in applicant/enrollment figures. Later this month, an informational item will be presented to the UA System Board of Trustees asking for the approval to finalize the reorganization (that started in 2006) of the Joint Health Sciences’ academic structure. Beginning Fall 2010, all eight of the interdisciplinary themes listed on the right will be in place and available for students to enroll.

Approximately 300 of you in the basic and clinical departments have already self-identified with a particular theme. There is still room available for those of you who haven’t already. Contact the Graduate Biomedical Sciences office at 6-6752 if you have an interest.

While on the topic of graduate education, there have been questions raised as to whether graduate education tuition could be posted to NIH grants. The SOM Executive Committee and members of the GBS steering committee recently held discussions on this issue. UAB’s current policy does not allow the posting of tuition to extramural grants, which is the similar stance that 53 percent of universities nationwide also take. On the contrary, the NIH does permit the use of grants to defray tuition under two important conditions. First, the university must have a uniform policy in place. Secondly, total imputed compensation for graduate students must not exceed that for post-doctoral scholars. While analyzing the implications for change at UAB, further consideration will have to be given as to how this will impact NIH indirect costs as well as the SOM’s allocation model. As a result, the Executive Committee has identified a small working group to determine if a change in policy at UAB is feasible.

In May, the Scholarly Activity Phase of the new Integrated Medical Curriculum launched for the very first time. This component of the curriculum allows students to explore all facets of academic scholarship, ranging from the scholarship of discovery to the scholarship of teaching. During the 12-week block, each student works on a scholarly project under the direction of a faculty mentor. The student’s scholarly project culminates in the submission of a written report. Each member of the Class of 2011 scheduled his/her scholarly activity during one of the five 12-week scholarly activity blocks that span the MS3 year. Fifty-nine students selected the first scholarly activity block from May 4 to July 24, 2009. Although the majority of the students chose to work on the Birmingham campus during this block, some performed their scholarly activities at institutions in San Diego, Cincinnati, Washington DC, Iraq, and Peru. Projects ranged from basic and patient based research to the medical humanities and medical education. Despite some initial trepidation, most of the students feel the scholarly activity is a unique and rewarding experience. Not only does it provide them...
CONGRATULATIONS!

Endowed Chairs and Professorships

William Andrews – Charles E. Flowers, Jr. Endowed Chair in Ob/Gyn
Mary Ann Bjornsti – Newman H. Waters Chair of Clinical Pharmacology
Robert S. Gaston– Endowed Professorship in Transplant Nephrology
John Owen – Bruce Harris, Jr., MD Endowed Professorship in Ob/Gyn
Kenneth Saag – Jane Knight Lowe Endowed Chair of Medicine in Rheumatology

Emeritus Appointments
Graciela Alarcon, Medicine
Louis Heck, Medicine
Elias Meezan, Pharmacology

Distinguished Faculty
Rich Whitley, Pediatrics

Society Presidents
James Kirklin – International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation
Bruce Korf – American College of Medical Genetics

Award Recipients
Peter Anderson - 2009 Ellen Gregg Ingalls/UAB National Alumni Society Award for Lifetime Achievement in Teaching
Warner Huh - American Cancer Society Lifesaver Award; Society of Gynecologic Oncologists Presidential Award
Jay McDonald – Ward Burdick Award for Distinguished Service to Clinical Pathology; Association of Pathology Chairs Distinguished Service Award

National Appointments
Rich Whitley - President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) 2009 H1N1 Influenza Working Group

with the opportunity to focus on a project of interest, it also gives them the opportunity to develop a committed mentor-mentee relationship with a faculty member. It is clear that the students have risen to the challenge and their projects will result in significant scholarly contributions to medicine, medical education, and the medical humanities. For further information on the scholarly activity, please see the Scholarly Activity webpages (http://medicine.uab.edu/education/55581/). If you are interested in serving as mentor, please contact Peter Smith (prsmith@uab.edu), Director, or Ms. April Boyd (aboyd@uab.edu), Coordinator.

Increasingly, older adults in the US have complex care needs. Because of improved public health and medical treatments, more adults live to advanced ages, but often with multiple chronic conditions. In addition, many older adults have complex care needs due to disadvantaged economic situations, inadequate social support, and decreased health literacy. Our fragmented health system and culturally diverse patient and healthcare provider populations contribute to this complexity. For this reason, UAB was funded to develop comprehensive curricula to prepare medical students, residents and practicing physicians to care for complex older adults. The UAB Reynolds Care of the Complex Older Adult (or COCOA) Program is developing curricula that will enhance traditional geriatric training and address five key domains for the complex older patient: Advanced Illness and Multimorbidity, Transitions in Care, Family Systems and Self/Caregiver Management, Cultural Aspects of Aging, Health Literacy and Health Disparities. The COCOA Program is developing this education for all UAB medical students as well as medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, and emergency medicine residents and practicing physicians and will employ diverse educational techniques including small group training, standardized virtual patients, and asynchronous distance learning. Working with a large team of geriatricians, geriatric educators, and educational expertise from the Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa campuses, Christine Ritchie (PI) and Hughes Evans (Co-PI) will oversee the development of curricula that is designed to educate caregivers at all levels about the diverse and challenging needs of older adult patients.

Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance
The Alabama Drug Discovery Alliance (ADDA), a joint effort between the Southern Research Institute and the SOM, is an exciting new venture designed to foster drug discovery and development at both institutions. This program will magnify the efforts of the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) as well as the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTSA) by offering $50,000 per year for two years to a wide range of drug discovery projects. More importantly, intellectual property will belong to the scientist. This program is under the direction of Rich Whitley, project director Maaie Everts, and the leadership of the CCC (Ed Partridge and Mark Walter) and CTSA (Lisa Guay-Woodford). The ADDA operates under the guidance of an advisory board composed of representatives from UAB and SRI, including Jack Secrist and Blaine Knight who recently joined SRI from GlaxoSmithKline. So far, several of your colleagues with diverse representation from the Schools of Medicine, Optometry, Health Professions and Natural Sciences have received funding.

- Scott Blume – “Gene-Specific Translational Regulation of IGF1R”
- Larry DeLucas – “USP2a, a Deubiquitinating Protein Implicated in Prostate/Breast Cancer”
- Tim Garvey/Yuchang Fu – “NR4A3 Orphan Nuclear Receptor as a Target for the Treatment of Insulin Resistance”
- Burt Nabors – “The Post-transcriptional Regulator, HUR as a Novel Therapeutic Target in Malignant Glcoma”
- Sadanan Velu – “Novel Marine Alkaloid Analogs for Breast Cancer Therapy”
- Kriser Wennerberg – “Discovery and Development of Ect2 Inhibitors as Anti-Cancer Drugs”
- Andy West – “The Therapeutic Potential of LRRK2 and Alpha-Synuclein in Parkinson’s Disease”

There is a possibility that additional RFAs will be made available though the CCC and CCTS. Quarterly seminar series in collaboration with the CCC, CCTS, Department of Pharmacology and the SRI will also be offered. To track the latest developments, visit the ADDA website at: www.adda.uab.edu. Rich is also preparing an “ADDA Road
WELCOME NEW FACULTY
Full-time faculty hired
between 1/1/2009-8/15/2009

Anesthesiology
Victoria Beloposky, Asst Professor
Jeffrey A. Brown, Instructor
Samir K. Patel, Instructor
Bobby R. Lewis, Asst Professor
Medicine
Guangjie Cheng, Assoc Professor
Victor J. Thannickal, Professor
Microbiology
Ilya V. Frolov, Professor
Elena I. Frolova, Asst Professor
Hubert M. Tse, Asst Professor
Neurobiology
Kristina M. Visscher, Asst Professor
Neurology
J. Ivan Lopez, Assoc Professor
Erwin B. Montgomery, Professor
Ob/Gyn
Charles N. Landen, Asst Professor
Pediatrics
Frederick D. Goldman, Professor
Jeffrey D. Lebensbürger, Asst Professor
Pierre R. Fequire, Asst Professor
Pharmacology/Toxicology
Stephen G. Aller, Asst Professor
Robert C. Van Waardenburg, Asst Professor
Psychiatry
Karina Yoon, Asst Professor
Radiology
Michael T. Azure, Assoc Professor
John V. Thomas, Assoc Professor
Surgery
Chris W. Akins, Asst Professor
Russell S. Ronson, Asst Professor

Show” to present more information to interested centers and departments. Feel free to contact him if your unit is interested in learning more.

New Leaders
By now, all of you are aware that we have two new department chairs. Mary Ann Bjornsti is leading the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and William Andrews is our newest chair for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I hope many of you have had the opportunity to meet Mary Ann, who joined us earlier this year from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She is also serving as the program leader for cancer cell biology in the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Many of you already know Bill who has been a member of the UAB family for the last 19 years. His new role became effective September 1. As evidenced by the activities taking place on the corner of 6th Avenue and 18th Street, Bill will be heavily involved in the administration of the Women and Infant’s Facility. I would like to thank both search committees for identifying these wonderful additions and would like to also send a special thanks to former chairs, John Hauth and Dennis Pillion, for their outstanding service. Welcome aboard Mary Ann and congratulations Bill!

Organizational Changes
There have been a number of organizational changes within the SOM that have taken place since January. Two new centers have been formed: the UAB Center for Cardiovascular Biology (CCVB) and the UAB Stem Cell Institute. As many of you may recall, cardiovascular biology was identified in the SOM’s Research Strategic Plan as one of the school’s six research priorities. As a result, we successfully recruited Steve Pogwizd to lead this center. The goal of the CCVB is to integrate the basic, clinical and translational cardiovascular activities that are ongoing across the university under one umbrella and to foster interdisciplinary collaborations that will eventually enable UAB to engage in additional interactive research ventures and develop key core facilities that will lead to additional multi-investigator NIH funding.

Most, if not all of you, have heard about Tim Townes’ tremendous progress in using induced pluripotent skin (iPS) cells to cure sickle cell disease in a mouse model. Under Tim’s direction, the institute will focus on reprogramming adult skin cells into iPS cells and will eventually move into clinical research and human therapy phase of its mission.

To enhance the university’s imaging technology for research on humans, experimental animals and live cell/tissue specimen, a new Division of Advanced Medical Imaging Research was established in the Department of Radiology. The division’s director, Kurt Zinn is currently developing a structure to house faculty research and educational activities.

The official name of the Howell and Elizabeth Heflin Center for Human Genetics has been changed to the Howell and Elizabeth Heflin Center for Genomic Science. Similarly, the Division of Pain Treatment in the Department of Anesthesiology has been renamed the Division of Pain Medicine.

Proration
The university has received early indications that proration will linger into the next fiscal year. Your departments are currently making an additional two percent reduction, which will equal a total of eleven percent proration for this fiscal year. My administrative team has recently been told to expect yet another reduction anywhere between the six to eight percent range for the next fiscal year beginning October 1. The final number is yet to be determined, but my team will continue to inform your department heads once it has been decided.

Special Thank You
I would like to send a special thank you to everyone who made a leadership gift or pledge during this year’s UAB Benevolent Fund campaign. The SOM earned a leadership recognition award for raising $187,000 in leadership gifts (annual giving of at least $1,000) contributing to the school’s overall campaign total of $480,000. Thanks to all of you for making such a tremendous impact.