

Informal Rounds



The Newsletter of the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association
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White Coat Weekend Heralds New Beginnings



Clockwise from above: Students recite their class mission statement at the 2014 White Coat Ceremony; a student dons his white coat; Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., F.A.C.S., senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine; a group of incoming medical students at the MAA-hosted orientation barbecue.

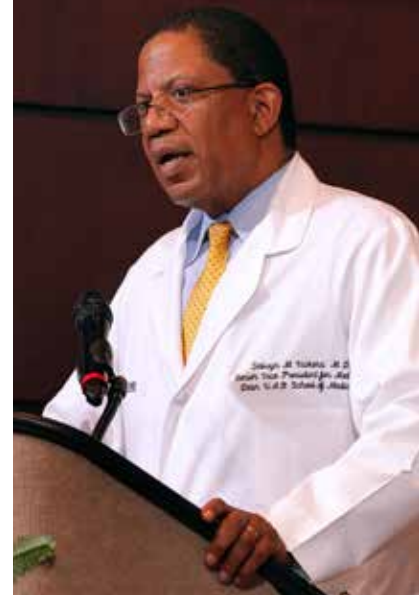
This year, the White Coat Ceremony expanded to include two days of events for incoming School of Medicine students and their families. White Coat Weekend began on Saturday, August 16, with an orientation barbecue at UAB Campus Recreation Center, hosted by the Medical Alumni Association. MAA President-Elect **Pink L. Folmar Jr.**, M.D. '72, was on hand to greet the more than 100 incoming first-year medical students and their families, who dined on Dreamland barbecue. Several lucky students won door prizes donated by area merchants. The barbecue also capped a successful Student Alumni Association enrollment drive, with more than 100 students joining the association in

the weeks leading up to and at the event.

The White Coat Ceremony took place at the Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center on the UAB campus on Sunday, August 17. The 186 members of the 2014 entering class were greeted by remarks from **Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine, and MAA President **Norman F. McGowin III, M.D. '80, F.A.C.S. Hussein Abdullatif, M.D.**, UAB professor of pediatrics and faculty winner of the 2013 Leonard Tow Award for Humanism in Medicine, presented the keynote address.

On stage to help the students don their white

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coats, provided by the MAA, were representatives from each of the School of Medicine's three regional campuses: **Wickliffe J. Many Jr.**, M.D. '73, regional dean of the Montgomery campus and holder of the Virginia Loeb Weil Endowed Professorship in Medical Education; **Heather M. Taylor**, M.D. '04, director of medical education of the Tuscaloosa campus; and **Farrah Ibrahim**, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine at the Huntsville campus.

The ceremony concluded with the students reciting the class mission statement that they had composed during their first class, Patient, Doctor, and

Society. The mission statement read: "As students of medicine, we dedicate ourselves to a life of selfless service. Upholding a belief in human dignity, we vow to embrace diversity, work collaboratively, learn diligently, and serve compassionately. With humility and devotion, we will never forget our motivation for pursuing a career in medicine."

Following the ceremony, the MAA hosted a reception for the role model recipients and legacy students with their families where multiple generations of School of Medicine graduates gathered to mingle and reminisce about their days in training with incoming students and School of Medicine leadership.



Answering the Call to Service



Robert M. Hagler, M.D.



David C. Simpson, M.D.

This year's Martha Myers Role Model Awards, which highlights the accomplishments of physician alumni whose lives epitomize the ideal of service to their communities, honored two distinguished recipients.

Robert M. Hagler, M.D. '80, felt called to pursue a career in medicine as a young pharmacy intern attending clinics staffed by Dr. Tinsley Harrison at the Tuskegee VA Hospital. He graduated magna cum laude from the School of Medicine in 1980 and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UAB in 1984. Since then, he has practiced at Women's HealthCare on the campus of Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

Dr. Hagler is a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), and a member of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. He served as chairman of the

Alabama section of ACOG, president of the Houston County Medical Society, and chief of staff at Flowers Hospital. He currently serves in the college of counselors for MASA and is vice chairman of the board of directors at Flowers Hospital.

David C. Simpson, M.D. '68, began attending the School of Medicine in 1964 after a career in electrical engineering. In 1971, Dr. Simpson and Dr. James C. Johnson formed Vestavia Pediatrics in Vestavia Hills, which later affiliated with Children's of Alabama Health System. He became the physician for the non-profit Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Center, and received an appointment in the School of Medicine as a clinical professor of pediatrics in 1991.

Dr. Simpson has participated in mission trips since he was a young man. He traveled to Kazakhstan several times since 2000, and continues to serve as a medical consultant for missionary families living abroad.

Thank You

A big thank you to our generous door prize donors and discount card participants:

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Nothing But Noodles
Red Roof Inn
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Wyndham Hotels



A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON

Remembering Former MAA President Robert B. Adams, M.D.

With the passing of **Robert B. Adams, M.D.**, in June 2014, the Medical Alumni Association lost a dedicated supporter and advocate, and the Alabama medical community lost a skilled and trusted colleague.

A Birmingham native, Dr. Adams graduated from the Medical College of Alabama in 1956. He went on to become a pioneering force in pathology in the state, establishing two Schools of Medical Technology and The Robert B. Adams Foundation, to support the advance-

ment and enhancement of clinical laboratory sciences. He served on the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the Medical College of Alabama from 1961 to 1964, when he moved to Montgomery, to become the first pathologist of the then-new Montgomery Baptist Hospital (now Baptist Health). There he established the Departments of Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, and Nuclear Medicine, as well as the School of Medical Technology. Adams went on to serve as medical director of the Department of Pathology at St. Margaret's Hospital as well as medical director of University Hospital in Montgomery. He later served on the Foundation Board of the Montgomery Baptist Medical Center and the Advisory Board of Auburn University Montgomery.

Dr. Adams' passion for pathology was matched only by his enthusiasm for the School of Medicine and the Medical Alumni Association. He was a member of the MAA Board of Directors from 1988 to 1993, and served as president from 1993 to 1995. He was actively involved in alumni activities, serving as the class of 1956 reunion chair seven times, and was nominated as the Distinguished Alumnus in 2003. He also served as

president of the Caduceus Club, a support organization that provides financial support for travel electives for third- and fourth-year medical students, from 1991 to 1993. Dr. Adams was a Platinum Member of the MAA and contributed significantly to the MAA Perpetuity Fund and the MAA Building Fund.

Retired Montgomery obstetrician and gynecologist **John M. Ashurst Jr.**, M.D. '58, remembers Dr. Adams as a lifelong learner. "He was a student all the way down," Dr. Ashurst says. "I remember him attending OB/GYN conferences long after he had retired from pathology." Ashurst first encountered Adams while in residency at the Medical College of Alabama. "I was a second-year resident, and he was on the faculty in the Department of Pathology," Dr. Ashurst recalls. "We were required to do 10 autopsies in rotation, and I hated to do autopsies, I couldn't stand it. Lucky for me, Bob was willing to help me sign them out—I joked with him that if he hadn't helped me, I'd still be up there trying to finish my second year of residency."

Alan R. Dimick, M.D. '58, a member of the UAB Department of Surgery faculty for 36 years and former MAA president, recalls that Dr. Adams worked diligently to secure the financial stability of the MAA in order to ensure its continuation. "Bob was president when they finally burned the mortgage, so to speak—they were able to pay off the mortgage on the MAA building," he says. "It was a lot of work and he did an excellent job."

In June 2013, Dr. Adams pledged a generous planned gift to establish the **Dr. Robert B. Adams Endowed Professorship in Pathology** in the School of Medicine Department of Pathology, capping a lifetime of support for the School and the MAA. In an interview earlier this year, Dr. Adams explained what inspired him to make the gift. "As a graduate of the Medical College of Alabama, I have loyalty to the entire institution and to the Department of Pathology especially," he said. "I think that it can be the number one pathology department in the country, including the Ivy League. I want to continue to support that part of medicine that has been so good to me."



Top to bottom: Dr. Adams' 1956 Medical College of Alabama class photo; Dr. Adams with Theodis Buggs Jr., M.D. '80, former MAA president; Dr. Adams (seated bottom right) at the 2011 MAA Alumni Weekend 1956 class reunion.

Mark Your Calendar

Medical Alumni Weekend to Feature Old Friends and New Activities

Make plans to attend the 42nd Annual Medical Alumni Weekend on March 6-7, 2015.

The weekend's activities will include:

- Mini Medical School (new activity, open to first 75 registrants)
- Luncheon for the Board of Directors, Class Chairs, Mini Medical School Participants, and 50-Year Class
- Reynolds Lecture
- Welcome Reception and Tours of Volker Hall
- Medical Alumni Campaign Kick-Off Reception
- CME Opportunities (with focus on Metabolic Syndrome)
- Annual Awards Luncheon and Pittman Lecture
- Reunion Reception and Class Dinners

Reunions will be held for the classes of 1950, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2005.

For more detailed information, visit the website at www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org and check your mailbox soon for an event brochure with a full listing of activities.



Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame Honorees

The 2014 Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame Awards Luncheon was held on Saturday August, 23, at the Alabama Activity Center in Montgomery. Nine of the 12 honorees have associations with the School of Medicine.

Rowell S. Ashford, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., is noted as one of the best gynecologic surgeons in Birmingham who integrated Birmingham's medical community with Cooper Green Hospital.

Buris R. Boshell, M.D.,* enhanced the care of patients with diabetes across the nation through the establishment of the Boshell Diabetes Education and Research Building at UAB.

Ben V. Branscomb, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.C.P., is one of the first pulmonary physicians at UAB to perform many of the early studies that helped garner national acceptance of emphysema as a disease.

Harriet H. Cloud, M.S., R.D.N., F.A.N.D., has distinguished herself as a leader in the field of nutrition through the creation of the Inherited Disorders of Metabolism Clinic at UAB and Children's of Alabama.

Anita Smith Lunsford has documented Alabama's health-care history and education for more than 50 years including clinical and professional translations of School of Medicine accomplishments.

James M. Mason II, M.D.,* served as chairman of the UAB Department of Surgery and was a visionary who influenced the establishment of a four-year medical school in Alabama.

James M. Mason III, M.D.,* served as professor of surgery at the Medical College of Alabama and created a lasting legacy through his numerous clinical reports and national publications.

Michael S. Saag, M.D., established the UAB 1917 Clinic and is an international leader in HIV/AIDS research and patient care.

George C. Smith Sr., M.D. '65, is a recipient of the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association Martha Meyers Role Model Award for his compassion and dedication to his patients.

**deceased*



STRIDING TOWARD SERVICE

Equal Access Birmingham Hosts Run to Benefit Community Care

The UAB Campus Green bustled with activity on the morning of Saturday, September 6, as volunteers and participants gathered for the first annual **Heart + Sole 5K/ Fun Run**, presented by Equal Access Birmingham (EAB), a medical student-run community health service organization at the School of Medicine. The event featured an all-ages 5K and a fun run for children ages 3 to 8. The 5K course began at the UAB Campus Green and continued toward George Ward Park before looping back toward UAB on 11th Avenue South.

“The Heart+Sole 5K was a great opportunity for EAB, not only as a fundraiser, but also as an opportunity to share our mission with others in the community,” says EAB Fundraising Chair **Emily Wesson**. “We are hoping to continue this event as an annual fundraiser that will be able to grow from year to year.”

Of the nearly 200 5K participants, Mark Pepin had the fastest time at 16 minutes and 19.9 seconds. **Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers**, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine, was on hand to begin the race with some words of encouragement for the runners. Thanks to a 1:1 match commitment by Dean Vickers, the event raised almost \$6,000. All proceeds from the run will be used

to support the operations of EAB, with 75 percent of the proceeds benefiting the EAB current-use support fund, and the remaining 25 percent being directed to the EAB endowed support fund. Sponsors of the event included the School of Medicine, University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association, Auburn School of Pharmacy, Samford-McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Birmingham Bottling Company, and The Trak Shak.

A post-run health fair on the Campus Green included organizations like Be the Match, The Red Cross, My Diabetes Connect, UAB Campus Recreation Center, Auburn and Samford Pharmacy Schools, and other student interest groups. These groups offered a variety of activities, including health screenings and information, games, and children’s activities.

EAB works with an interdisciplinary team of UAB volunteer physicians, medical students, and other health-care professionals and students to provide medical care and health education to medically uninsured residents of Birmingham. They staff two clinics each week, one on Wednesday nights in conjunction with M-Power Ministries, and one on Sunday afternoons at the EAB Clinic at Church of the Reconciler in downtown Birmingham.

A BADGE OF HONOR

School of Medicine Earns Full LCME Accreditation

In July 2014, UAB President **Ray L. Watts**, M.D., announced that the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) had granted full accreditation to the School of Medicine for the maximum of eight years. The LCME commended UAB on its strengths in the exploration of medicine



through various student electives, current and anticipated financial resources, the continued development of the three branch campuses, and the school's ongoing efforts in diversity and faculty recruitment. The

two-year, self-study process culminated in a visit from the LCME site survey team March 9 through 12.

To prepare for the visit, representatives from each of the School of Medicine's campuses were invited to serve on committees in five dedicated areas—institutional settings, educational programs, educational resources, medical students, and faculty—and set with the task of reviewing relevant institutional strengths and areas that could benefit from improvement. Students from each class were also recruited to develop and lead an Independent Student Analysis (ISA). The students met with each committee to discuss the ISA findings and suggest improvements for the site visit. The School was specifically commended for the quality of the self-study and student analysis.

The LCME identified two areas to address: the dependence on lectures, rather than active learning, during the preclinical years; and reports that faculty observations of students' core clinical skills are low in some clerkships. Plans are already in place to address the concerns. A proposal

to reduce the number of lectures during students' pre-clinical years by 10 percent each year for two years was approved by the Medical Education Committee in February 2014—before the LCME site visit—and went into effect with the 2014/2015 academic year. There is also a plan for more communication between faculty and students regarding clinical skills observation during clerkship rotations. School leaders will submit a status report to LCME leadership next year to provide updates on the areas of concern. The next full survey for reaccreditation for the School of Medicine will take place in the 2021/2022 academic year.

“Students should see full accreditation as validation that their medical education is among the very best available,” says **H. Hughes Evans**, M.D., Ph.D., senior associate dean for Medical Education. “Future students, as well as future faculty members, can consider UAB a place of very high quality, offering educational and teaching opportunities that rival any medical school in the country.”

Thoughts from the Dean

“Many people were instrumental in helping us reach this tremendous accreditation milestone, including former dean and senior vice president and current UAB President Dr. **Ray Watts**, and former interim dean and senior vice president and current Executive Vice Dean Dr. **Anupam Agarwal**. For more than two years, former dean Dr. **Robert Rich** and Drs. **Hughes Evans**, **Laura Kezar**, **Craig Hoesley**, and **Kristina Pannizi Woodley** led a small army of faculty, administrators, and students in preparation for the LCME site visit.

“Medical schools rarely complete the reaccreditation process without receiving several citations, and many excellent medical schools received less than a full eight years of reaccreditation, including several that have been placed on probation. Schools on probation must spend substantial resources to improve programs and systems, and are required to communicate their probationary status to all prospective students and faculty recruits.

“This year, we received only two citations, down from eight during our last accreditation in 2006. Receiving full accreditation for the maximum of eight years is a measure of the excellence and commitment of our faculty, students, and staff, and is a point of pride for UAB, the Birmingham region, and the state of Alabama.”

— *Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., F.A.C.S., Senior Vice President of Medicine and Dean*



Letter from the President

NORMAN F. MCGOWIN III, M.D. '80, FACS

This has been an active year for the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association. In May, we welcomed Beth Eddings as the new MAA Program Coordinator. Beth is a UAB graduate with a background in event planning and journalism. She has already used her social media skills to promote our Student Alumni Association, and gained 70 new members from the incoming first-year class.

The MAA hosted a successful orientation barbecue in August for first-year medical students and their families, giving away wonderful prizes to students who joined the Student Alumni Association. The weekend came to a memorable close with the White Coat Ceremony. Watching incoming medical students cross the stage to receive their coat and start the journey to a career in medicine was a meaningful opportunity. During the ceremony we honored fellow alums and

recipients of this year's Martha Myers Role Model Award—Drs. **Robert Hagler** and **David Simpson**.

On Friday, August 15, we sold our historic MAA building on 20th Street South. Our MAA staff is now in Volker Hall with offices graciously provided by President Ray Watts. The executive committee will present a plan for the distribution of the building proceeds at the December board meeting.

We will soon begin a pilot program in select cities called HOST (Help Our Students Travel). The purpose of the program is to match fourth-year medical students with alumni who are willing to host students in their home during residency interviews. Our hope is that we can establish this program to limit the costs of these interviews for our students. You will receive a letter containing more details and contact information



for those who are interested in becoming an alumni host.

I am excited and proud of the direction the MAA is headed as we begin the 2015 fiscal year. We are embarking on many new opportunities to build relationships with our students and alumni. As always, we are thankful for your support and I look forward to seeing you at Alumni Weekend in March 2015.

Sincerely,
Norman F. McGowin III, M.D. '80, FACS
President

Gone Too Soon

Classmates and Colleagues Honor Rob McDonald, M.D., with Endowed Scholarship

After news arrived of the tragic accidental death of **Robert "Rob" William McDonald**, M.D. '08, in July of this year, his School of Medicine classmates and current and former colleagues banded together to honor his memory by contributing monetary gifts toward establishing an endowed scholarship in his memory. An exceptional physician, Dr. McDonald served his patients and all those he encountered throughout his life's journey—from California to Alabama, and from Zambia, Africa, to Montana—with humility and compassion.

Dr. McDonald first came to UAB to study public health administration and business administration, earning master's degrees in both in 1996. He took a position with the Center for AIDS Research at UAB, and was sent to Lusaka, Zambia, Africa, where he served as director of the center's AIDS Research and Treatment Clinic for three years. After his return to Alabama, Dr. McDonald was accepted to the School of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in June 2008. He stayed on at the school to complete a four-year residency in internal medicine before undertaking a two-year fellowship in infectious diseases at the Emory University School of

Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., which he completed in July 2013. In September 2013, he accepted a position as a staff physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Polson, Mont., where he remained on the medical staff until his death on July 19, 2014.

In recognition of Dr. McDonald's unique journey to medicine, the **Dr. Rob McDonald Memorial Endowed Medical Scholarship** will support deserving, nontraditional medical students interested in public health, public service, medical mission work, and/or infectious disease medicine—a fitting and permanent tribute to a man who always carved his own path. The scholarship initiative has already raised 55 percent of the \$25,000 necessary to establish an endowed scholarship. Should the contributions raised not achieve the minimum for an endowed scholarship, the scholarship will be awarded outright to students.

Gifts to this initiative will ensure Rob's memory lives on in perpetuity through the students this scholarship will support. Tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.uab.edu/robmcDonaldscholarship. Or, gifts may be mailed to AB 1230, 1720 Second Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama, 35294-0112. For more information or to learn about other giving opportunities, contact **Jessica Brooks Lane**, Director of Development for Medical Scholarships and Alumni at the School of Medicine, by calling 205-975-4452 or e-mail her at jblane@uab.edu.



Class Notes

James Saunders Donahoo, M.D. '63, was recognized in *Who's Who in America 2013-2014* and received the Commitment to Resident Education Award from New Jersey Medical School.

Bennett Allae Alford, M.D. '72, was named in the 2013 Best Doctors in America Honor List.

Steven Wallace Parker, M.D. '79, serves as alternate representative for Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) to AMA and treasurer of the Nevada State Medical Society.

Scott Sutherland Field, M.D. '80, '81 resident, published "Interaction of genes and nutritional factors in the etiology of autism and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders: A case control study," *Medical Hypotheses*, Volume 82 (2014), June issues, pp. 654-661.

Theodore R. Smith Jr., M.D. '81, was honored as the 2013-2014 Alumni Brother of the Year, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Alabama district.

Boyd L. Bailey, M.D. '81, was appointed professor in the UAB Department of Family Medicine.

Peter Daniel Waite, M.D., D.D.S. '83, '85 resident, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons.

Stephen Willard Brooks, M.D. '84, was voted by Boston University medical students as Volunteer Faculty Member of the Year in Surgery for Third Year Core Rotation.

Raymond Broughton, M.D. '84, '87 resident, has been named president-elect of the Mobile County Medical Society.

Paul Winston Chandler, M.D., '88 resident, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology.

Lori Gross Ripps, M.D. '89, was named medical director, Gastroenterology Associates, Pathology Division, Pensacola, Fla.

Aadia Iftikhar Rana, M.D. '03, was awarded a K23 Career Development Grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Gregory B. Reynolds, M.D. '03, was appointed to chair Novant Health Matthews Medical Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.

IN MEMORIAM

Fay Martin Randall Jr., M.D. '43, '45 resident, of Birmingham, July 14, 2014.

Norton E. Cowart, M.D. '43, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., July 20, 2014.

Philip Ball Moss Jr., M.D. '44, of Selma, Ala., June 17, 2014.

McCoy D. Pitt, M.D. '44, of Decatur, Ala., June 22, 2014.

Albert Bowen Stephens Jr., M.D. '49, of Birmingham, May 20, 2014.

Frank J. Nuckols, M.D. '51, of Birmingham, July 30, 2014.

Andrew Daws Hagan, M.D. '54, of Clearwater, Fla., July 24, 2014.

K. Lemone Yielding, M.D. '54, '55 resident, of Tusculumbia, Ala., May 3, 2014.

Robert Barry Adams, M.D. '56, of Montgomery, Ala., June 7, 2014.

Charles Moreland Head, M.D. '57, of Phoenix City, Ala., May 26, 2014.

Thomas Clinton Hurd, M.D. '59, '64 resident, of Opelika, Ala., July 6, 2014.

June Fore Shaw, M.D. '60, '67 resident, of Birmingham, July 15, 2014.

James A. Wilson Jr., M.D. '71, of Andalusia, Ala., May 5, 2014.

Marcia Jean Litzinger, M.D. '80, of Salt Lake City, Utah, May 20, 2014.

Derry R. Snell, M.D. '80, '90 resident, of Pike Road, Ala., June 18, 2014.

Carolyn R. Gibson, M.D. '81, of Baton Rouge, La., June 2, 2014.

Raymond Alan Grier, M.D. '84, of Vestavia Hills, Ala., July 4, 2014.

Robert William McDonald, M.D. '08, '11 resident, Polson, Mont., July 19, 2014.

Have you achieved a career milestone?

Hit the headlines?

Made a move?

Share the news with your classmates.

Send us your class notes for the next issue of *Informal Rounds*.

Submit your news and photos to Meredith Burns at meredith@uab.edu.

Ryan C. Aaron, M.D.	Melissa B. Behringer, M.D.	Mitchell D. Brantley, M.D.	Stephen L. Chastain, M.D. ^G
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Robert B. Adams, M.D. ^P	Sanders M. Benkwith, M.D.	Darryl B. Britt, M.D.	Glenn L. Clark, M.D.
Anupam Agarwal, M.D.	Austen L. Bennett III, M.D. ^G	Arthur M. Britton, M.D.	J. Allen Clark, M.D.
Subodh K. Agrawal, M.D. ^S	Rodney P. Bensley Jr., M.D.	William E. Broach III, M.D.	Jeffrey Glenn Clark, M.D.
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Jorge A. Alsip, M.D.	J. Kendall Black Jr., M.D. ^S	J. Richard Bruhn, M.D.	Spencer J. Coleman, M.D.
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Paul J. Anderson, M.D.	Kirby I. Bland, M.D.	Theodis Buggs Jr., M.D.	Robert M. Combs, M.D.
John Daniel Andress, M.D.	Jane M. Blaum, M.D.	David E. Burnham, M.D.	N. Cassandra Comer, M.D.
James P. Argires, M.D. ^S	Patricia A. Block, M.D.	Anne H. Bussian, M.D.	C. Dobbin Connor, M.D.
Manuel Arias, M.D.	Michael F. Blum, M.D.	Charles F. Butler, M.D.	Katherine V. Considine, M.D.
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(continued)

Taking the Reins

New CME Director Brings Fresh Perspective, Bright Ideas

Ronan O'Beirne, Ed.D., joined the Continuing Medical Education (CME) offices this past August as the new Director of Programs. Dr. O'Beirne brings 21 years of experience in the field of higher education, from instruction to strategic analysis and planning, to the CME team.

Prior to this new appointment, Dr. O'Beirne served as the Instructional Technology Director at UAB's Center for Teaching and Learning. There, he coordinated design and delivery of academic technology programs for faculty, analyzed institutional technology requirements, and developed strategies for technology-enhanced pedagogy deployment and dissemination through UAB schools and departments.

Dr. O'Beirne has developed and managed numerous academic programs for the distance learning environment. He implemented various academic technologies, training, and faculty development programs. He is also credited with developing and deploying quality improvement initiatives and creating institution-wide assessment programs to evaluate learning initiatives and satisfaction levels. He is using these same skills to make sure the CME office stays relevant in the ever-changing world of medicine.

"While acquisition of new knowledge around health-care practices and patient care appears to have become more fragmented and time-intensive, new approaches, thinking, and technology provide an opportunity to redefine

the CME landscape as one that adds value to medical practitioners, teachers, and researchers and also fosters professional growth," says Dr. O'Beirne.

"Health-care professionals engaged in the trenches of research, teaching, and practice are the most powerful actors in the health-care landscape and are key to forming the trajectory for improvement," he continues. "We at CME hope to make education relevant, accessible, and valuable to time-constrained professionals so we can play our part in helping them define effective and efficient solutions to the issues we face in health care."

Dr. O'Beirne holds a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership, Policy, and Organization from the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, along with an MBA and MSEE in Information Engineering and Management, and a B.S. in Marketing and Economics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Your CME Contact

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners has increased the continuing medical education requirement for physicians and physician assistant licensed in Alabama to 25 AMA PRA Category 1 credits or equivalent annually. The UAB Division of CME can help you fulfill your professional development needs with education activities that fit your budget and schedule. To learn more, visit the division's Alabama Practice-Based CME Network web site at www.alabamacme.uab.edu.

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