Medical school receives full accreditation

The College of Medicine was granted full accreditation in February by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree.

“We completed the accreditation process right on schedule,” said J. Ocie Harris, M.D., dean of the medical school. “And we couldn’t have done it without the many faculty, staff and students who played critical roles in this accomplishment.”

Meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2 and 3, the committee voted in favor of full accreditation after reviewing a report drafted by an ad hoc survey team that visited the medical school in November.

Before full accreditation can be granted to a new medical school, LCME guidelines require such a survey be conducted when the inaugural class is in its fourth year of study.

The LCME praised the College of Medicine for a number of strengths, including the “remarkable enthusiasm” of the faculty, staff and students, and their commitment to the school’s mission.

The committee also noted the medical school’s success at recruiting underrepresented minority and rural students through its outreach programs; its use of information technology; and the medical school’s “outstanding facility,” with its “state-of-the-art” Clinical Learning Center.

Accreditation means that national standards for structure, function and performance are met by a medical school’s education program.

“The students in our inaugural class had already sat for their boards and done extremely well by the time the news of full accreditation hit us,” said Myra Hurt, Ph.D., associate dean for research and graduate programs. “Some had even gained early acceptance into very competitive residency programs, so we had the evidence that our program was high quality, but now we have all the credentials to prove it.”

The medical school received provisional accreditation in October 2002. Since that time, all of the rights and privileges that apply to fully accredited medical schools, their graduates and their students, have applied to FSU.

The FSU College of Medicine is the first new allopathic medical school to be established and go through the accreditation process in the United States in 20 years.
NEW FACILITY OFFICIALLY DEDICATED

The College of Medicine dedicated its 300,000-square-foot facility to the school’s mission during a March 18 ceremony in the courtyard.

The ceremony featured remarks by FSU President T.K. Wetherell and College of Medicine Dean J. Ocie Harris.

Sen. Durell Peaden and Harris unveiled a plaque inscribed with the college’s mission statement.

Peaden was a critical figure in helping to establish a medical school that would focus on rural and other underserved populations in Florida.

Students from the Classes of 2006, 2007 and 2008 made a special presentation to the members of the inaugural class, the Class of 2005, for their pioneering leadership in the development of the school.

Kevin Raville of the Class of 2005 presented Harris with an American flag he parachuted into Baghdad, Iraq, while serving as a pararecuer with his Air Force reserve unit at the start of his third year of medical school.

MESSAGE FROM DEAN J. OCIE HARRIS, M.D.

After four years of hard work and anticipation, the time for celebration has arrived.

As we fully expected, the FSU College of Medicine has earned full accreditation, and now we are graduating our first class.

For those of us who have been here from the beginning, it’s truly amazing to look back and see how far we’ve come in such a short time.

Since 2000 when the Florida Legislature established the medical school, we’ve devised, planned and implemented a four-year medical school curriculum and gone through a multi-year accreditation process and detailed self-study.

Our students, particularly those in the inaugural class, have been full partners with us along the way.

We look forward to following them as they go through their residency training and enter practice in the years ahead.

As the pioneers, they will always hold a special place in the medical school’s history. We wish them well and hope that they will continue to be involved in and support the medical school they helped build.

J. Ocie Harris
The College of Medicine’s first Match Day, March 17, proved a huge success for the pioneering students of the Class of 2005.

The 29 senior students all matched with residency training programs, where they plan to begin their graduate medical education this summer after their May 21 graduation.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with our first match results,” said College of Medicine Dean J. Ocie Harris, M.D. “The fact that every student had a successful match, and the high quality of the programs at which our students have been accepted, is a very strong indicator that we have developed a first-rate medical education program here at Florida State.”

The residency match, conducted annually by the National Residency Matching Program, is the primary system that matches applicants to residency programs with available positions at U.S. teaching hospitals. Graduating medical students across the country receive their match information at the same time on the same day.

Twelve of the 29 seniors, or 41 percent, plan to enter residency in primary care specialties, including family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology.

Three students matched at the Family Practice Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

Shayla Gray, one of the three students staying put in Tallahassee, ranked TMH at the top of her list.

“My husband and I have really grown here in Tallahassee and I see lots of opportunity for helping out in the world of health care,” she said. “I have had numerous opportunities to work closely with the residents at TMH and was very impressed with their relationship with their faculty and with each other.”

Donald Zorn, M.D., director of the Family Practice Residency Program at TMH, has seen many FSU medical students at work while on rotations at the hospital.

“I believe the medical school is doing a fine job of preparing its students, and I commend the faculty, students, and all involved for making it happen,” Zorn said. “I hope our program will be privileged to have a long and productive partnership with the College of Medicine.”

Zorn expects the first three FSU graduates entering the residency program to strengthen the program’s ties to the medical school and help attract future graduates.

“All three have deep local ties, and therefore we have an excellent chance of keeping them in our area after they finish our program,” he said.

Other students matched in emergency medicine, psychiatry, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, urology and otolaryngology.

Sachin Parikh, who matched in the competitive specialty of otolaryngology, said he is proud of his class.

“All our dedication, perseverance and hard work finally paid off with our successful match,” Parikh said. “It was a historic day because I feel the Class of 2005 accomplished the goal of our faculty, staff and attending physicians, while setting a high standard for classes to follow.

“Our success reflects the hard work of all who have created this medical school and lived by its mission.”

Fourteen of the students, or 48 percent, will remain in Florida for their graduate medical education. On average, only about 40 percent of students graduating from allopathic medical schools in Florida remain in the state for residency training, due in part to a limited number of in-state residency positions.

Of those FSU medical students matching outside of Florida, most will remain in the Southeast, although students also matched in California, Connecticut, New Mexico, New York and Texas.

Rob Allison, the 30th member of the inaugural class, has been participating this year in the prestigious Clinical Research Training Program at the National Institutes of Health and will complete his fourth year of medical school during the coming academic year.

– N.K. & M.B.

“It was a historic day because I feel the Class of 2005 accomplished the goal of our faculty, staff and attending physicians, while setting a high standard for classes to follow.”

SACHIN PARIKH
CLASS OF 2005
The College of Medicine has opened a regional campus in Sarasota that will be the school's fourth site for third- and fourth-year clinical training.

“Sarasota is indeed fortunate to be chosen as a regional campus for the FSU College of Medicine,” said Bruce Berg, M.D., assistant dean for Sarasota. “The campus will be a wonderful addition to our community.”

As a community-based medical school, FSU provides clinical training at regional medical school campuses around the state through affiliations with local physicians, ambulatory care facilities and hospitals. In the Sarasota area, the medical school is affiliated with Doctor’s Hospital of Sarasota and Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

Beginning in July, nine third-year medical students will begin their clinical training in Sarasota. Four of the nine students are from Southwest Florida.

Beau Toskich will be returning to his hometown when he reports to the new campus in July. Toskich said he is looking forward to returning to familiar ground.

“It’s a great feeling returning to a setting and neighborhood that I feel connected to on so many levels,” Toskich said. “I can draw upon my first experiences as a volunteer at Doctor’s Hospital almost 10 years ago.”

“I’m very excited to continue learning in a community that I grew up caring about.”

Over the next few years, enrollment in Sarasota is expected to increase to 40 medical students, with 20 third-year students and 20 fourth-year students.

Under the direction of local physicians, these students will do clinical rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology and psychiatry.

During their fourth year, students will complete rotations in advanced family medicine, advanced internal medicine, geriatrics and emergency medicine, as well as a variety of electives.

“The clinical education provided by our community physicians will benefit the students, the physicians and the community at large,” Berg said. “We are delighted to see such enthusiastic support from the community for medical student training.”

At FSU’s other regional medical school campuses, between 150 and 200 local physicians participate in FSU’s educational program. As the Sarasota campus grows, it will likely involve a similar number of physicians from the area.

The Sarasota regional campus is housed in the historic Weissgerber/Famiglio house. Mark Famiglio, longtime Sarasota resident and philanthropist, purchased the house, moved it to its current site and had it renovated for the medical school’s use.

The medical school’s other regional campuses are in Tallahassee, Orlando and Pensacola.

Initial community board members for the FSU Regional Medical School Campus – Sarasota are: Adam Bright, M.D., Sarasota County Medical Society; G. Duncan Finlay, Jr., M.D., chief executive officer, Sarasota Memorial Health Care System; Douglas R. Luckett, chief operating officer, Doctor’s Hospital of Sarasota; Sandra K. MacLeod, M.D., medical director, Sarasota County Health Department; and FSU College of Medicine administrators Alma Littles, M.D., and Mollie Hill.

— N.K. & M.B.
The Florida State University Teaching and Advising Awards Committee has bestowed Excellence in Teaching & Advising Awards upon two College of Medicine faculty members.

Charles Ouimet, Ph.D., professor of neuroscience, was selected to receive the 2005 Distinguished Teacher Award.

The award is given to a full-time faculty member based on criteria such as availability to students, ability to challenge student thinking, love for learning, and organized presentation of material to interest and stimulate students.

Nominations for the teaching award are accepted from the entire university community, including alumni.

Thesla Berne-Anderson, M.S., director of college and pre-college outreach, received the 2005 University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising.

The criteria for the advising award include commitment of time to advising undergraduates, personal interest in the advisees, good communication skills, openness in approaching student concerns, and sensitivity to academic and personal pressures of student life.

Advisors are nominated by past and present students based on undergraduate advising.

“This is fitting recognition of their tremendous support for our students,” said J. Otis Harris, M.D., dean of the medical school. “They are very good at what they do and are certainly very deserving of these awards.”

– M.B.

**Help for Alzheimer’s caregivers a call away**

Research shows that the rate of clinical depression among dementia caregivers is between 27 and 50 percent, making them the most distressed among the caregiver population.

That’s why Robert Glueckauf, Ph.D., has created ARCH, Alzheimer’s Rural Care Healthline, a three-phase program designed to determine the extent to which support and education provided via telephone can improve the quality of life of Alzheimer’s caregivers.

The program began with focus groups conducted in rural areas of the Florida Panhandle. The focus groups targeted health-care providers and church leaders in order to assess local caregivers’ level of education about Alzheimer’s and their skills for dealing with the disease. They also explored methods for soliciting referrals from rural health providers, elder care agencies and churches.

This phase revealed a theme of mistrust, along with family and community privacy issues.

“Dementia caregivers in rural communities appear to be somewhat skeptical of the intentions and social sensitivity of providers who live outside the community, as they may be concerned that such health-care providers will endorse family values and moral viewpoints different than their rural doctors’ and their own,” Glueckauf said.

The second phase of the study involves dementia care workshops, which are open to rural health-care providers, caregivers and anyone affected by Alzheimer’s. The workshops provide an overview of who is at risk for Alzheimer’s, methods of diagnosis, current treatments and psychosocial and health consequences for both the patient and the caregiver.

Attendees are asked to refer caregivers to the third phase of the project, telephone-based intervention for depression, through their office, church or community group. Specifically, they are encouraged to refer caregivers to the toll-free healthline at (866) 788-ARCH.

The telephone intervention phase consists of 12 weekly sessions, including seven group sessions on relaxation, problem-solving skills and stress management and five individual caregiver goal-setting and implementation sessions.

Those participating in the study will be randomly assigned to one of two groups – skills building or education and support. After the 12 sessions have been completed, Glueckauf’s group will evaluate if and how receiving different benefits and educational tools can affect emotional and psychological improvements in these rural dementia caregivers.

Recent studies have shown that cognitive behavioral interventions for Alzheimer’s caregivers lead to emotional and psychological improvements, including reduced caregiver burden and depression, equal to or greater than those improvements obtained from usual medical care.

Glueckauf expects the ARCH program eventually to reach out to all of Florida and help make life easier for Alzheimer’s caregivers and loved ones with the condition. The joint project between FSU and Florida A&M University is funded by the Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr., Alzheimer’s Center & Research Institute and sponsored by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, North Florida Area Agency on Aging, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Memory Disorder Clinic, and the Alzheimer’s Resource Center of Tallahassee.

– J.S.
Students witness dire needs through FSUCares medical outreach

During a weeklong visit to Immokalee, Fla., first-year medical student Kristi Killingsworth learned what life is like for people who can’t afford blankets, much less medical care.

Killingsworth was one of three FSUCares students assigned to help pass out blankets to migrant farmworkers staying at a local “flop house,” where workers pay $7 a night to sleep on mattresses on the floor. It was a rainy March night with temperatures in the 40s, and the abandoned building that had been turned into a shelter smelled distinctly of mildew, urine, cigarettes and body odor.

“I cannot begin to explain the anguish that I felt when we had to inform people who have nothing, that we had no more blankets,” Killingsworth said. “If I could have, I would have given away my sleeping bag, but it was back at the other shelter where we were staying. I will never forget the look of thanks on the faces of those who received blankets and the look of dejection on the faces of those who came too late to get a blanket.”

Such images are what students in FSUCares bring home from their annual spring break outreach program, which this year sent 36 students and 11 faculty members to Immokalee and several sites in Panama and along the U.S.-Mexico border. The trips are supported with a grant from the Pfizer Foundation and with about $10,000 raised by the FSUCares 5K race last fall.

Second-year student Courtney Nall, one of eight students who went to Immokalee this year, found conditions there to be similar to those she had seen when she went to Reynosa, Mexico, with FSUCares last year.

“I couldn’t believe there could be such despair so close to home,” said Nall, who witnessed the effects of poverty, illiteracy, broken families, substance abuse, homelessness and the sex trade on migrant workers and their families.

“Now that we are aware of these problems, we can become activists,” she said. “It sparks an interest, a love, to be a catalyst for change.”

While in Immokalee, students saw patients at the Marion E. Fether Medical Center under the supervision of Curtis Stine, M.D., and Jerry Boland, M.D., of the medical school’s department of family medicine and rural health, along with medical staff from the center. They also conducted home health visits with health department personnel.

The medical center is one of 10 health-care facilities operated by Collier Health Services Inc., which is working with the College of Medicine to develop additional rural training opportunities for FSU medical students.

Elena Reyes, Ph.D., the faculty advisor for FSUCares, said Collier Health Services offers excellent opportunities for learning to practice family medicine, pediatrics, internal
Students participating in the FSUCares spring break outreach program receive credit for a one-week cross cultural medicine elective.

The medical school now offers additional opportunities for students to train in Immokalee. Collier Health Services Inc. will be one of the sites to which first-year students will be assigned this May for their summer clinical practicum, which places students with primary care physicians in rural and medically underserved settings for three weeks of hands-on experience. Plans also call for the medical center to become a site for a four-week rural family medicine elective for fourth-year students.

“Collier Health Services has a long tradition of striving for excellence in teaching students at all levels,” said Jose Quero, M.D., medical director for Collier Health Services Inc. “We have always found the new energy and freshness imbibed by our students to be challenging and rewarding.”

— N.K.

**SSTRIDE EXPANDS TO OKALOOSA AND GADSDEN COUNTIES**

The College of Medicine is extending its SSTRIDE outreach program throughout the Panhandle, with Gadsden and Okaloosa counties being the latest to develop in-school science programs to prepare rural students for careers in health care.

“SSTRIDE will provide a career pathway and increase the number of rural high school graduates who will be prepared to enter science, math, engineering and technology majors in college,” said Roosevelt Rogers, rural SSTRIDE coordinator for the College of Medicine. “Later, these students will matriculate into medical school or other health-related graduate programs.”

SSTRIDE, which stands for Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity and Excellence, began in Leon County under the Program in Medical Sciences, a first-year medical school program that preceded the College of Medicine at FSU. The medical school also established a Rural SSTRIDE program in Madison County.

Students in the program explore the medical and health professions through hands-on activities. Their learning environment extends beyond the classroom into the community, with students having field experiences at local health-care facilities and guest speakers visiting the class.

SSTRIDE students from Okaloosa and Leon counties headed to the FSU College of Medicine in March to compete in the Brain Bowl, a Jeopardy-style quiz game about the brain hosted by the Student Interest Group in Neurology.

Okaloosa County has 48 seventh- and eighth-graders at Richbourg and Davidson middle schools enrolled in the program. The 24 eighth-graders will move up to a new SSTRIDE program beginning next year at Crestview High School.

Sesyle Moorhead, student services coordinator for the West Florida Area Health Education Center, coordinates the Okaloosa County Rural SSTRIDE program.

“We are constantly amazed at the students’ motivation to learn,” Moorhead said. “The Rural SSTRIDE program was a perfect fit for this community. Students, parents and teachers are devoted to the program’s success.”

In its first year, the Gadsden County program has enrolled 13 seventh-graders from Havana Middle School, who will continue in the program as eighth-graders.

With three mentors from Tallahassee Community College, Florida A&M University and a postbaccalaureate student from FSU, the program will be able to add 14 more seventh-graders next year.

Jessica Glenn, a seventh-grader at Havana Middle School, said SSTRIDE challenges her more than her other classes.

“My favorite part of the program is when we do experiments,” she said.

— T.K.
In the mind of Dean J. Ocie Harris, M.D., naming the medical school’s library for Charlotte Edwards Maguire, M.D., was a perfect way to honor her selfless gifts to the College of Medicine – and her strides in the medical field.

“The library is the heart and soul of the medical school, as a source of information for all of us. With Charlotte’s undying support of the College of Medicine, she has helped create a heart and soul of support here,” Harris said.

Maguire, a retired pediatrician and leader in the medical field in Florida for more than 60 years, earned her medical degree in 1944 from the University of Arkansas. She was the only woman in her graduating class and a doctor in a time when females were not welcomed in the medical or professional world. As the first female pediatrician in Orlando, Maguire helped pave the way for women pursuing a career in medicine.

During her early years as a physician, Maguire made it a personal mission to treat children with disabilities, providing free service to those in need. She began contributing to the medical community in Tallahassee when she first gave to the medical education program at FSU in 1999.

Maguire has since made numerous gifts to the College of Medicine, with a particular emphasis on student scholarships.

“Charlotte’s life is an excellent example for us all and for medicine. She is a role model for women and was a pioneer in pediatrics with her ‘can do’ spirit,” said Harris. “Naming the library for her is the least we can do.”

Maguire was honored in a ceremony at the College of Medicine Feb. 25 during the winter FSU Foundation Board of Trustees meeting.

“I am very honored and humbled to have been given such an honor,” said Maguire. “The medical library is an amazing place and resource for students, and I am very glad to be a part of it.”

When she was in school, the only medical library was in the dean’s office, a place students rarely visited, and then only with fear and trepidation.

“Students today have much to be happy about and grateful for as they carry the library around with them in their computers,” she said.

Although the world has begun to move away from print resources and further into the world of technology, the medical library is still a place for students to immerse themselves in research or study without distractions.

“The Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library is not only a place to find books and do research, but a neutral place for students and faculty to sit down, relax and study, knowing they have everything they need right at their fingertips,” said Barbara Shearer, director of the medical library. “We are thrilled to name the library for Dr. Maguire. She is an inspiration.”

The College of Medicine’s library has a collection of nearly 5,000 print books and 218 print journal subscriptions. But most users go directly to the library’s vast collection of online resources.

The library now provides access to more than 2.5 million full-text articles via PubMed, 2,400 relevant e-journal subscriptions, hundreds of core clinical e-books, and a number of Web-based and clinical decision tools that can be downloaded to students’ handheld computers.

Nadine Dexter, public services librarian, calls the process of building the library from the ground up an adventure.

“It has been a privilege to be a part of creating the first new academic medical library in the country in the past 20 years,” she said.

In the next 10 years, Dexter believes more than 99 percent of the library resources will be available electronically as the publishing world continues to go digital.

– J.S.
Maguire announces additional gift

At a ceremony naming the medical library in her honor for her years of giving to medical education at FSU, Charlotte Edwards Maguire, M.D., astonished the crowd with more great news.

Waving a dollar bill in front of the audience, Maguire announced an additional donation of $1,000,001.

“arly invested in what the medical education program is doing, not only for the local community but for all of Florida,” Maguire said. “In my opinion, it’s the best medical school in the state, and I’m constantly impressed by both the faculty and students.”

In the Florida Major Gift Matching Program, the extra dollar will increase the legislative match because, according to the current rules of the program, when the endowed gift passes the $1 million mark, the match increases from 70 percent to 75 percent of the total amount.

Maguire made her first gift to medical education at FSU in 1999 and with the most recent gift, her total donations exceed $3 million.

This gift will benefit geriatrics education at the College of Medicine.

With her understanding of the importance of quality geriatric medical care, Maguire has taken particular interest in the department of geriatrics. Maguire also serves on the medical school’s Geriatrics Advisory Council.

The new donation will create an endowed chair in geriatric medicine. The dean will appoint an individual to serve as the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Scholar.

“I’m really pleased to be able to provide direct support to the department of geriatrics at FSU,” Maguire said. “I’m thrilled to be able to help the medical school fulfill its mission of training doctors who will have a special understanding for treating Florida’s geriatric population.”

— M.B.

GERIATRICS ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

The department of geriatrics has established an advisory council made up of community advocates who support the medical school in its mission to educate physicians who will provide quality care for the elderly.

“These members will not only help provide a community view, but also an elder voice on the medical school’s progress and will help us to stay on track with the mission,” said Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D., chair of the department of geriatrics.

The creation of an advisory council on geriatrics was mandated in the original legislation that established the medical school. Addressing the needs of the growing elderly population both in the state and nation is included in the college’s mission.

The goal of the council is to review curriculum and provide input for the strategic plan of the geriatrics department. Members also are responsible for assisting in developing community relations and fostering services provided to the local elderly community. The council, which met for the first time Feb. 21, also will help launch a fund-raising campaign for the geriatrics department.

The founding members of the Geriatrics Advisory Council are: Charlotte Edwards Maguire, M.D., former assistant secretary of health and scientific affairs for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Bentley Lipscomb, former secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and an officer on the national board of the AARP; Margaret Lynn Duggar, former deputy director of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and president of Margaret Lynn Duggar & Associates; Byron Thames, M.D., board member of the national AARP and board member and former president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians; and Jo Folsum, a former genetics professor and senior advocate.

— T.K.
On Course: Year 1

Biochemistry course makes clinical connections

As a first-year basic science course, medical biochemistry and genetics may seem far removed from the realm of patient care, but it doesn’t take long for medical students to discover its value.

“When I got to second-year pathology, I could fully appreciate that we were taught the biochemistry behind the disease,” said second-year student Karen Wallace. “After learning the biochemical foundation for sickle cell disease, for example, it was easier to understand the pathological conditions we studied in other courses, such as a sickle cell crisis.”

The biochemistry course covers everything from fundamental protein chemistry through molecular and classical genetics, including the inheritance patterns for diseases.

Because most students already have studied some biochemistry as undergraduates, course director Randolph Rill, Ph.D., emphasizes underlying principles and themes that can be applied in a variety of different clinical contexts.

“One of the things we try to do in this course is make these kinds of connections with physiology, for example, to not only review the properties of acids and bases but talk about how the body controls its pH.”

Another example would be blood chemistry, a topic not typically covered in an undergraduate class.

“Under blood chemistry, I can talk about the properties of various proteins and enzymes, how the body defends itself, what sort of challenges the body faces, and things that relate to respiratory and cardiovascular physiology.”

Small-group, case-based learning is a large component of the biochemistry course. In most small-group exercises, students review clinical cases or disease states to learn how biochemistry and genetics are applied to diagnosis and treatment.

These group learning experiences encourage professional development and build teamwork skills.

“Our students come from diverse backgrounds,” Rill said. “Many of them don’t come here right out of college, so they have different experiences upon which they can draw. They may have worked in a research lab, or they may have been a nurse or an EMT, so they’re invited to bring this experience to the table and share with other students.”

In their small groups, students also practice their informatics skills by using the Web-based resources of the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library.

“The small-group sessions always challenged us to use the electronic resources because most of the time we were seeing the cases for the first time,” said second-year student Hope Mitchell.

Rill offers voluntary tutorial sessions to help prepare students for their exams.

“At the end of each of their basic sciences courses, students take a national standardized exam produced by the National Board of Medical Examiners. These exams cover each subject comprehensively, and are known as "shelf exams."

“When it came time to take the NBME shelf exam, I felt well-prepared for the topics that were on that examination,” said Mitchell. “Dr. Rill's topic outlines served as a great learning template to help organize our growing biochemistry knowledge.”

Rill has taught courses in biochemistry, biophysics and molecular genetics for more than 30 years. Prior to coming to the College of Medicine, he served for 12 years as coordinator of the biochemistry division in the FSU department of chemistry and biochemistry.

He also is a past director of the FSU graduate program in molecular biophysics and a founding member of the FSU research program in structural biology.

— J.S.
Researchers from throughout the College of Medicine put their work on display at the school’s first research fair March 22.

“The reason we’re doing this is to make sure the medical students and others here know what kind of research is going on in the College of Medicine,” said Myra Hurt, Ph.D., associate dean for research and graduate programs. “If students want research experience either during the summer after their first year or as an elective in their fourth year, they now know what kind of things are going on and who to talk to about it.”

First-year medical students in particular benefited from learning more about the college’s research agenda.

“I had no idea how much research was going on, and it’s across the board of the medical sciences,” said first-year student Jeremy Williams. “I was really impressed.”

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the agency responsible for medical school accreditation, requires that students be aware of scientific research.

“Because we have such a strong research priority here, the best way to ensure this awareness is by providing students the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on their research projects,” Hurt said.

The research fair included more than 30 presentations on research projects at the medical school. Most of the research faculty are new to the college and are therefore actively seeking student involvement. Other faculty have been working on projects for years and were able to display work done by student researchers.

“Everyone I spoke with about their poster was enthusiastic and truly wanted me to walk away with a clear understanding of their research,” said Amy Reimer, another first-year student.

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., chair of the department of medical humanities and social sciences, is currently working on several research projects on pediatric diabetes. When students get involved in studies such as hers, they get to do their own small projects.

“They are given the data and taught how to analyze it, write it up, and do a literature review,” Johnson said.

One of Johnson’s experiments showcased at the fair, “Skills Assessment in Children,” was led by medical student Shazia Aman. She and her team researched how well families understand and follow the necessary regimen when dealing with diabetes in young children.

Aman and fellow researchers collected data by phoning parents of diabetic children to learn everything the child had done – from food intake, to medication, to physical activities – in the previous 24-hour period.

They also observed the methods parents used in administering diabetic treatments, such as insulin.

Aman says she felt fortunate to have had the opportunity participate in the project, not only for the education on diabetes in children, but also for the research experience.

“This experience allowed me to learn how we as a medical community may help minimize problems related to the components of medical adherence, particularly with children and their parents,” Aman said.

“Regardless of the specialty I choose, I feel this research has taught me to use evidence-based techniques in my future practice.”

– J.S. & M.B.

“I had no idea how much research was going on, and it’s across the board of medical sciences. I was really impressed.”

MORE THAN 30 POSTERS SHOWCASED FACULTY RESEARCH AT THE FIRST ANNUAL RESEARCH FAIR. MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN FACULTY IN THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS.
Honors & Awards
First-year student Lindsay Hinson-Knipple was one of six recipients of the 18th Annual Woody Hayes National Scholar Athlete Award for her achievements as an undergraduate student at Wingate University in North Carolina. The award was given by The University & Northwest Sertoma Club of Columbus, Ohio.

Service
Sarah Tatum and Charles Ritchie led the College of Medicine team in the second annual FSU Relay For Life. Each week, the team sold breakfast to medical school faculty, staff and students, along with Relay For Life magnets and wristbands. Through their hard work and several generous donations from the faculty, the team was able to donate $6,000 to the American Cancer Society.

Interest Groups
The Family Medicine Interest Group, in conjunction with several other student interest groups, hosted its third annual Public Health Fair at the Tallahassee Mall. First- and second-year medical students provided health education and screening tests for health issues such as colon cancer, diabetes and memory loss. Other health services included calculating body mass indexes, obesity checks, and bone density scans for osteoporosis. Students checked vital signs and provided health information related to fitness, nutrition, weight loss, outdoor safety and organ donation. All services were free of charge.

The Student Interest Group in Neurology sponsored a Brain Awareness Week for the SSTRIDE students in Okaloosa and Leon counties. Medical students created study guides for the participants covering material on brain anatomy, brain physiology and neurological disorders and presented the material to the students in three study sessions. The SSTRIDE students then traveled to Tallahassee to participate in the Brain Bowl, where they divided into teams to answer brain-related questions. The first-place team won $500 and second- and third-place teams won $375 and $250, respectively.

The Connecting Healthcare: Alternative, Osteopathic, and Spiritual Healers Club was recently established to educate medical students about the many forms of healthcare and how to integrate different techniques. The group invited a massage therapist and an acupuncturist as guests, and sponsored students to attend a local speech by Deepak Chopra, M.D., famed author and advocate for alternative medicine.

Publication
Third-year student Shellie Marks was third author on “Basal Cell Carcinoma and World War II-era Cathode Ray Oscilloscope Exposure” in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. The lead author on the paper is Armand Cognetta, M.D., of Dermatology Associates in Tallahassee.
STUDENTS VISIT GESUNDHEIT!

First-year students Todd Besnoff, Lance Feldman and Amy Reimer, members of FSUCares, were chosen to attend a conference for medical and health policy college students at the Gesundheit! Institute in rural Hillsboro, W. Va., in January.

The institute was founded by famed physician Patch Adams, M.D.

The students were joined for the three-day event by 40 medical students from around the country.

“I went to the Gesundheit! Institute to meet Patch Adams and in hopes of finding additional inspiration for the kind of doctor and person I want to become – a really good one,” Reimer said.

With three students, FSU was the most represented medical school at the event. The students met in small groups to discuss various medical issues such as cultural sensitivity in medicine, patient communication and health disparities.

“It was a nice feeling being with other like-minded, socially-conscious medical students from around the country,” Feldman said.

The students participated in workshops designed to help them become more hands-on and patient-centered physicians.

The program offered activities to educate the attendees on the importance of greeting patients, presenting a trustworthy environment and spending quality time with patients.

DANCE MARATHON BENEFITS LOCAL PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

The 2005 FSU Dance Marathon raised a record sum of $220,000, which will once again be divided between Children’s Miracle Network at Shands Children’s Hospital in Gainesville, and the FSU College of Medicine’s Pediatric Outreach Programs.

With the proceeds from the 2004 Dance Marathon, the College of Medicine purchased a RetCam II machine for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where medical students receive part of their pediatric training.

The RetCam II is a state-of-the-art digital camera which can record incredibly detailed retinal images that can be transmitted to specialist ophthalmologists anywhere in the country. It gives local neonatologists the ability to detect and diagnose retinal problems in premature babies, and possibly prevent permanent visual impairment. The RetCam II also is used by the Emergency Room to document evident of retinal bleeding in suspected cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome. The printed digital images can be used as evidence in subsequent court cases and save infants from future abuse.

Dance Marathon 2003 proceeds were used to introduce pediatric services at the Gretna Wellness Center, a clinic serving the rural farming community of Gretna, Fla., and the surrounding area. Services, such as well-baby checks and pre-school physicals, continue to be provided by medical students under the supervision of a faculty physician who is a specialist in pediatrics.

Dance Marathon, FSU’s largest student-run philanthropy, has been raising money for sick and injured children in the North Florida and South Georgia area since 1996. Total funds raised have now exceeded $1 million.
Faculty Achievements

JAN - APRIL 2005

Publications


Orlando Cicilioni, M.D., co-authored “Sternal Wound Reconstruction with Transverse Plate Fixation” in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

George Everett, M.D., co-authored “Small Cell Carcinoma of the Ovary with Hypercalcemia Causes Severe Pancreatitis and Altered Mental Status” in Gynecologic Oncology.


Myra Hurt, Ph.D., and her graduate student Maroun Beyrouthy, with the German lab group of Bernhard Luscher, Ph.D., authored “Caspase-dependent regulation and subcellular redistribution of the transcription modulator YY1 during apoptosis” in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., co-authored “Maternal Efforts to Prevent Type 1 Diabetes in At-Risk Children” in Diabetes Care.

Nir Menachemi, Ph.D., M.P.H., Robert Brooks, M.D., Darrell Burke, Ph.D., (Information Sciences) and Art Clawson, M.S., co-authored “Patient Safety-Related Information Technology Utilization in Urban and Rural Hospitals” in the Journal of Medical Systems.


Jeffrey Spike, Ph.D., authored “Capacity is Not in Your Head: Why it Can Be a Mistake to Request a Psychiatric Consult to Determine Capacity” and the chapter, “How Not to Philosophize with a Hammer,” in The Variables of Moral Capacity.

Branko Stefanovic, Ph.D., co-authored “Inhibitory Effect of Dicationic Diphenyliuranos on Production of Type I Collagen by Human Fibroblasts and Activated Hepatic Stellate Cells” in Life Sciences; “New Insights into Regulation of Type 1 Collagen Expression” in Biology Science; and the chapter, “Posttranscriptional Regulation of Type 1 Collagen Expression,” in Research Advances in Biological Chemistry.

April Warner, Pharm.D., Nir Menachemi, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Robert Brooks, M.D., co-authored “Information Technologies Relevant to Pharmacy Practice in Hospitals: Results of a Statewide Survey” in Hospital Pharmacy.


Presentations

Raymond Bellamy, M.D., presented an invited paper, “Psychosocial Interactions in the Claimant-Physician Relationship,” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in Washington, D.C.

Bruce Berg, M.D., presented “Prescribing CPOE: A Hard Pill for Physicians to Swallow” to the Health Information Management Systems Society.


Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D., presented the keynote speech at West Florida Healthcare’s 11th annual geriatric conference, “Excellence in Senior Care,” in Pensacola Beach.

Suzanne Bush, M.D., and Janet Shepherd, M.D., presented the poster, “Implementing AAMC Recommendations in the OB/GYN Clerkship at a New Medical School” at the annual joint meeting of the Council on Resident Education of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Salt Lake City. Shepherd also presented the poster, “Implementing AAMC Recommendations in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship at a New Medical School,” at the meeting.

Orlando Cicilioni, M.D., presented surgical grand rounds, “Sternal Wound Reconstruction with Transverse Plate Fixation,” at Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

George F. Ellis, M.D., presented “Treating Florida’s Uninsured: Orange County’s PCAN Model” at the Florida Department of Health Closing the Gap Summit 2005.


Jennifer Bencie Fairburn, M.D., M.S.A., co-presented “2004 Hurricanes Lessons Learned: A Public Health Perspective” at the Region IV Preparedness and Response annual conference of the Centers for Disease Control/Health Resources and Services Administration in Gulfport, Miss.

Mary Gerend, Ph.D., presented the poster, “Women’s Perceived Risk of Disease: Reasons, Rationalizations, and Control,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality & Social Psychology in New Orleans.

Janice Howell, M.D., presented “Asthma Guidelines” to the Florida Academy of Family Physicians and “Asthma Pathophysiology” to the American Lung Association in Orlando. She served on the planning committee and as a
moderator for the Care of the Sick Child Conference and the American Lung Association’s “Asthma: Quest for Control” conference in Orlando.

Myra Hurt, Ph.D., and her graduate student Maroun Beyrouthy presented “Specific Effects on the Transcription Factor YY1 in Apoptotic Cells” at the annual meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Diego.

Gerry Maitland, M.D., Charles Ouimet, Ph.D., and second-year students Tim Kubal and Joe Rousso, co-authored “Gaze-evoked Tinnitus” which Maitland presented to the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society.

Nir Menachemi, Ph.D., M.P.H., presented “Reducing Medical Error, Improving Patient Safety” at the fourth annual “Best Clinical Practice Symposium” at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. He also presented the report, “Exploring the Return on Investment Associated with Health Information Technologies,” to the Florida Legislature.

Joan Meek, M.D., M.S., presented “Lactation and Postpartum Depression” and “Supporting the Employed Breastfeeding Woman” for the Florida Lactation Consultant Association. She presented “Breastfeeding Premature Infants” for the National Neonatal Nurses Annual Meeting and presented on issues of breastfeeding to the National Mother Baby Nurses conference in Orlando.

Joan Meek, M.D., M.S., presented updates on breastfeeding and infant nutrition for the Palm Beach County Pediatric Society meeting at Brandon Regional Hospital in Brandon and Regency Medical Center in Winter Haven. She presented “Restrictive Diets and Dietary Supplements: What are the Concerns for Breastfeeding Mothers and Their Babies?” and “How can Different Health Care Providers Work Together to Promote and Support Successful Breastfeeding?” for the Orange County, Calif., Health Care Agency, Nutrition Services Program and the California Dietetic Association.

Jeffrey Spike, Ph.D., served on a panel of bioethics experts who participated in a question-and-answer session to respond to questions regarding the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s temporary exhibition, “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race.” The presentation was Webcast nationally via Internet2.

Jeffrey Spike, Ph.D., presented “A More Scientific Approach to Ethical Use of Animals in Research” at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He also spoke on the Terri Schiavo Case to the Northeast Florida Bioethics Forum in Jacksonville and on genetic diseases to the National Council of Jewish Women. He gave grand rounds on parallels between children and patients with dementia at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg.

Service

Art Clawson, M.S., has been elected as the constituency group chair of the National Neonatal Nurses Annual Meeting and will also serve on the Rural Health Policy Board.

George F. Ellis, M.D., was named president-elect of the Orange County Medical Society at a ceremony in Orlando.

Joan Y. Meek, M.D., M.S., was elected vice-president/president-elect of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine. She was also named the director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program at Orlando Regional Healthcare and Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women, and was contributor and reviewer for the American Academy of Pediatrics Caring for your Baby and Young Child, Birth to Age 5.

Robert Miles, M.D., has been appointed the clinical director of Florida State Hospital.

Dennis Platt, M.D., has been placed on active duty by the Army treating soldiers with combat stress disorders in Iraq.

Bruce Robinson, M.D., has been named associate editor for the geriatric literature section of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

Dave Steele, Ph.D., was named associate editor of the international journal Patient Education and Counseling. He was an invited panelist for the symposium, “LCME Standard Two Requirements for Clinical Education: Are you in Compliance?” at the 31st annual Predoctoral Education Conference of the Society for Teachers of Family Medicine in Albuquerque, N.M.

Robert P. Winter, M.D., was elected 2004-2005 secretary-treasurer of the Florida Vascular Society during their annual meeting in Sarasota.

Grants

David Balkwill, Ph.D., received a $60,000 award from the U.S. Department of Energy for a project titled, “Investing in Situ Bioremediation Approaches for Sustained Uranium Immobilization Independent of Nitrate Reduction.”

Jamila Horabin, Ph.D., received the transfer to FSU of a $250,000 award from the National Institutes of Health for a project, “Hedgehog Signaling and Sex- lethal Protein Localization.”

Suzanne B. Johnson, Ph.D., received a $10,000 FSU Council on Research and Creativity Planning Grant for the project, “Preventing Pediatric Obesity.”

Mohamed Kabbaj, Ph.D., was awarded $255,500 from the National Institutes of Health as co-principal investigator for the project, “Dopamine Regulates Drug and Social Reward Interactions.”

Gerry Maitland, M.D., was awarded $130,000 by Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Foundation to develop the Neuro-cognitive and Neuro-rehabilitation College of Medicine Research Center.

Edward Shahady, M.D., is serving as project director for the Diabetes Clinician Project, which is funded by a $100,000 grant to the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

Honors & Awards

Aima Littles, M.D., was highlighted at the Women’s Health and History Celebration at the Florida Capitol.

Dennis Platt, M.D., was made a fellow of the American Psychiatric Society.

In Memory

The FSU College of Medicine mourns the loss of Tallahassee family physician Dianna Elizabeth Byrd, M.D., who died March 29.

A native of Quincy, Byrd was a clinical associate professor at the College of Medicine and had served as a preceptor for a number of FSU medical students.
AWARDS CEREMONY
Class of 2005
Thursday, May 19

GRADUATION
Class of 2005
Saturday, May 21

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IS KICKING OFF A BRICK CAMPAIGN! FOR JUST $100, YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE CAMPUS FOREVER WITH AN ENGRAVED BRICK IN ONE OF THE CLOISTERS. A GREAT IDEA FOR GRADUATION OR ANOTHER SPECIAL OCCASION! CALL (850) 644-1855 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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The Campaign for Medicine

The College of Medicine, in cooperation with the FSU Foundation, has helped a number of individuals, corporations and foundations establish endowed or operating funds that support students, faculty and programs of special interest to the donors. Their philanthropy has enabled the medical school to expand its programs beyond what is provided for in the state budget.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can further the growth of the college, or about gift programs that can provide you with a retirement income while assisting the college, please contact Robert C. Dawson, Ph.D., Director of Development for the College of Medicine, at (850) 644-4389 or Robert.Dawson@med.fsu.edu.