UT Southwestern Alumni Newsletter

October 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER

A Message from UT Southwestern Medical Center President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

With every issue of *Alumni eNews*, I find myself eagerly anticipating each new story and marveling over the contributions of our UT Southwestern alumni and faculty. It is humbling to be part of a community comprised of so many who are making a difference here and around the world.

Martin Luther King Jr. said "Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" It's a question that is asked and answered by the three individuals profiled in this issue.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Starkey, M.D., a 1982 graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School, regularly put himself in harm's way to save the lives of injured soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. You'll also read about Dr. Sean Morrison, the first Director of the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern, whose novel work in the field of stem cell research promises the possibility of breakthrough treatments for both children and adults fighting cancer and other diseases. And our faculty profile of Dr. Phil Evans ('72) reminds us that volunteering your time for important causes enriches the lives of not only those who are served, but of those who serve.

"Over the last academic year, we've reached some exciting milestones at UT Southwestern."

– Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

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Over the last academic year, we've reached some exciting milestones at UT Southwestern. In June, we conferred our 10,000th medical degree, a remarkable feat that conveys the true magnitude of our educational mission, and through it the lives of untold numbers of patients cared for by our more than 10,000 physician alumni.

The physician's oath was administered to our 227 graduates by Dr. Richard Snyder, who had recited that same oath 25 years before when he graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School ('87). Dr. Snyder, who is the current President of the Dallas County Medical Society, shared his thoughts on this experience—as well as the impact of the education and training he received at UT Southwestern and Parkland—in a recent editorial published in the Dallas Medical Journal. You can read it by visiting www.dallas-cms.org/presidentpages/july12.cfm.

Another important milestone is related to the construction of our new William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital. The hospital's platform is now complete, and the structure is being erected at a rate of one floor each month. A topping out of the facility is on schedule for December, and the hospital will open its doors in late 2014. As excited as we are to see the construction progress, we know the hospital's bricks and mortar are merely the foundation for the exceptional student and resident training and patient-centered care that will take place there. For more information, please visit www.newhospital.utsouthwestern.edu.

Finally, as I already noted in the last issue, we celebrated Dr. Bruce Beutler being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in December 2011, making him UT Southwestern's fifth Nobel Laureate.

A commitment to service connects all of these dots. It's the basis of the Hippocratic Oath each of us took. And it's at the core of everything we do at UT Southwestern. Thank you for your commitment to service as a distinguished member of a community of graduates who are now more than 10,000 strong.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

"I know my training at UT Southwestern served me well for my entire career. In many ways, it did prepare me for deployment."

– Thomas Starkey, M.D.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Tom Starkey, Class of 1982

By Betsy Lewis

UT Southwestern alumnus Thomas Starkey, M.D., (1982) recently completed his second deployment as an officer and surgeon in the Army Medical Corp. We spoke with him by phone in the middle of a move from Honolulu, where he worked as a chest surgeon at Tripler Army Medical Center, to Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he has assumed a new post as Deputy Commander for Clinical Services. His first deployment was with the 28th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Baghdad; his second, with the 10th CSH, was in Afghanistan. He left Afghanistan on April 30, 2012.

When were you in Iraq?

About two years ago I was in Baghdad. I was expecting the typical thing, you know, to be a war surgeon. In Iraq, it was toward the end of the war, and there weren't that many battle injuries in comparison to the war in Afghanistan. Any time the military goes to war, quite frankly there are more deaths from disease, bad food, appendicitis, and accidents than actual battle injuries. In World War One, there were more injuries from bad food and dysentery than there were from being shot by a bullet or blown up by a bomb. In Iraq, that also was true. We spent a lot of time fixing hernias and taking out appendixes. We spent more time doing that than we did taking care of soldiers. Not to say there weren't a lot of soldiers who came through injured, but it was more like a general hospital—except from time to time, they'd shoot rockets at us and we had to duck and get in a bomb pattern.

Were you expecting Afghanistan to be like the Iraq experience?

I just didn't know what to expect. Afghanistan—it was brutal. Where we were, Camp Bastion, was a British camp adjacent to Camp Leatherneck where the U. S. Marines were, out in the middle of Helmand Province. It was very busy. It was very safe. We were inside the perimeter; there were thousands of soldiers and Marines there to protect us, and they built that camp in the middle of the desert for that reason—so we could see people coming. In some camps, when you're right next door to a farm or something, they can lob mortars over, but in the middle of the desert it's very safe. I felt safer there than in downtown Honolulu. However, it was very… robust. As a heart surgeon, it doesn't bother me to put someone on a heart-lung machine, stop their heart, remove it, and put in a new one—that is planned. You know what you're doing. With battle injuries, you just never know what you're going to get.

What made you enlist?

I enlisted mainly because I was not being challenged in my previous position. After doing something and getting good at it, I want to try something else. It makes life so much more interesting. Part of it, too, is I'm the guy who, when I hear there's an earthquake in Peru, wants to pack my bags and go to Peru and help out. I thought about volunteering for Doctors Without Borders. I talked to them a little bit, but I thought, "I'll just do the Army—there's that camaraderie in the Army and they give you that really cool uniform." I'm doing my Doctors Without Borders experience in the Army.

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What was the hardest moment from either tour?

Probably the hardest moment for me was taking care of a fellow who suffered a horrific injury to his neck. We had to do extensive reconstruction and were able to bring him back, but in the end he had suffered extensive brain damage. Eventually they took him to Germany, where he became an organ donor. That was in Afghanistan.

You have to act quickly, take these soldiers straight to the operating room and open their chests or their bellies. Most of the time they would do well. We were very proud of the fact that most of the time in Afghanistan our survival rate was 97 percent. The intensity of a war injury is just incredible. As a medical student, I worked at Parkland Hospital and the University of Michigan, and even in my practice, I would see people terribly injured, but the patients we saw were one echelon higher, one echelon worse. But if these soldiers were brought to our hospital alive, if they had a heartbeat, chances are we could save them.

Did you ever meet any other UT Southwestern graduates during your deployments?

We had about 12 to 14 surgeons in our group. A lot of the physicians were British—it was a combined British, Danish, and U.S. operation in Afghanistan. About a week before we left, the surgeons were asking, "Hey where'd you go to medical school?" I discovered that one of my orthopaedic surgeons, Creighton Tubb, also went to medical school at UT Southwestern. He was my best surgeon. He's a Texas boy, too, and grew up in Arlington. It turns out that my uncle who is an obstetrician—all my family members and ancestors are physicians—actually delivered some members of Creighton's family.

I still honestly think that UT Southwestern is, by far, the best medical school in the country. I don't know any recent grads except Creighton Tubb, but I know my training at UT Southwestern served me well for my entire career. In many ways, it did prepare me for deployment. It's just absolutely the world's best medical school.

Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern

By Betsy Lewis

The Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern is a remarkable partnership in the many-layered landscape of academic medicine. A $150 million venture, this dynamic new enterprise will assemble the best researchers with the brightest possibilities of transforming medicine. Few partnerships can combine powerhouse research and pre-eminent pediatric clinical care within the space of a few city blocks. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held last March at the sleek, state-of-the-art facility on UT Southwestern's north campus.

Sean J. Morrison, Ph.D., has big plans as the Institute's first director. "We hope to develop programs within the Institute that span all the way from basic science to the clinicians. So for example, you can imagine a hematopoietic malignancies program. We've already talked about partnering with the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and with the bone marrow transplant program, which would involve basic scientists within the Institute, other basic scientists across various departments at UT Southwestern, and clinicians who are at UT Southwestern or at Children's. You could imagine a brain tumor program that would again span all the way from basic science to clinical work. We hope that ultimately these kinds of programs will be established across multiple disease areas," says Dr. Morrison.

The work of the Children's Research Institute could have ramifications beyond pediatric medicine and will consciously focus on advancing the way disease is treated in both children and adults. "This is an important point for people to understand," says Dr. Morrison. "The distinction between pediatric research versus adult research is artificial. Oftentimes the diseases that affect kids also affect adults. Consequently, the critical advances that improve clinical care in kids or in adults often start on the other side of that artificial fence." Dr. Morrison sites the mid-century contributions of pediatric pathologist Dr. Sidney Farber in advancing the development of modern chemotherapy as a perfect example of improvements in cancer care for adults that started in pediatric research.

There are presently two existing laboratories within the Institute—Morrison's lab, named the Jake L. and Nancy B. Hamon Laboratory for Stem Cell and Cancer Biology in recognition of a $10 million gift from the Hamon Charitable Foundation, and the lab of Ralph DeBerardinis, M.D., Ph.D., a pediatric geneticist and Assistant Professor

"We hope to develop programs within the Institute that span all the way from basic science to the clinicians."

– Sean J. Morrison, Ph.D.

of Pediatrics who diagnoses children with inborn errors of metabolism. It's a short trek from DeBerardinis' lab over to Morrison's, without a single doorway between them. Intentionally designed for scientific collaboration, the side-by-side spaces create an enticing potential for studying stem cell metabolism and cancer metabolism in a way that hasn't been done before. "The best opportunities for advances come at the interface of traditional disciplines that have an opportunity to inform each other, but where there haven't been enough people working at those interfaces. So stem cell biology will be one important thing that we do at the Institute," says Morrison. "But if you had to identify the single most important area that we'll focus on, it's cancer biology, particularly aspects of cancer biology that interface with stem cell biology and metabolism."

Morrison came to Dallas in August 2011—right in the middle of a record-breaking drought—from the Life Sciences Institute at the University of Michigan. He is adamant in not rushing the recruitment process simply to fill space quickly, digging deep into a belief in the true uniqueness of the Children's Research Institute. "Kids who get really sick in North Texas or the surrounding states come to Children's Medical Center. And UT Southwestern is highly respected for its internationally renowned biomedical research program. Having the opportunity to combine one of the nation's top pediatric hospitals with a research-focused institution boasting five Nobel Laureates is a remarkable opportunity."

Morrison's intensity will likely prove to be one of the Institute's greatest strengths. At Michigan, his vocal commitment to stem cell research found him testifying before Congress to protect the field from legislative restrictions, and also granting media interviews, assuaging public fears, and advocating the promise of stem cells. "The public invests a lot of money in science, and biomedical research in particular. Sometimes that research impinges on important public policy issues that affect the rate at which we make new discoveries or the rate at which we can translate the work to help patients. It's really critical that those of us who understand the science, and what's at stake, explain to the public why it's important, and why it should be supported, and how we can have effective science policy," he says.

Expectations are high, and Morrison feels considerable pressure to weave an intricate combination of people, ideas, and results. "I have a lot of work to do, it's true," he says, "but in the end, I think you have to prioritize based on what's really important. The thing that creates real value around here is not the administrative stuff, it's the science. Everybody who works here is going to understand that this Institute exists to make scientific breakthroughs."

Dr. Morrison holds the Mary McDermott Cook Chair in Pediatric Genetics and is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Faculty Profile: Dr. Phil Evans

By Casey Poe

W. Phil Evans, M.D., Clinical Professor of Radiology and Director of the UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care, offers the following advice to the Class of 2012: "While you are at UT Southwestern, and in your future medical training, learn how to be the best doctor that you can be. It will always hold you in good stead with your patients, and you will take care of them well. Try to give back to the community if you can. If you think you don't have time, make time. It will help you in everything that you do. As a physician you give much in caring for patients, but you can give more as a volunteer. Your life will be much richer if you do."

Dr. Evans graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School in 1972 and completed both his internship in internal medicine and residency in diagnostic radiology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He continued his career in breast imaging at Baylor while also serving on clinical faculty at UT Southwestern. Charged with leading Breast Imaging at the Center for Breast Care, Dr. Evans returned to UT Southwestern in March 2002. "It was a wonderful time to come back to UT Southwestern because it gave me the opportunity to be a part of all the exciting changes at the Medical Center," said Dr. Evans.

While Dr. Evans was a medical student, his professors always emphasized the importance of really listening to patients in order to provide them with the most compassionate care possible. By taking these non-textbook lessons to heart, Dr. Evans felt extremely well prepared to face the many challenges of being a physician when he graduated.

Unlike many of his classmates who went into internal medicine, Dr. Evans was encouraged by his mentor Jack Barnett, M.D., Professor of Medicine, to specialize in the field of radiology. Dr. Evans regards Dr. Barnett, an infectious diseases expert, as one of the best clinicians and smartest diagnosticians he had ever had the privilege of working with during his time at UT Southwestern.

When asked about his fondest memory at UT Southwestern, Dr. Evans jokingly replies "graduation," but upon further reflection, he says he most enjoyed his years on the clinical services rotations, "seeing patients, learning how to be a care giver, and working with medical school colleagues and faculty to guarantee the best patient care."

There is no single moment during his career that Dr. Evans can pinpoint as his greatest achievement. He has had the fortune of saving lives, winning numerous awards, and holding key leadership positions, including President of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Despite these accolades, Dr. Evans is most proud of the care that he provides to his patients.

Because of his passion for saving people's lives, Dr. Evans has volunteered with the American Cancer Society for nearly 30 years. "An important part of being involved in a volunteer organization is no matter how much you give, you always get a lot more," said Dr. Evans. Through the Texas Breast Cancer Screening Project—an ACS initiative that provided low-cost mammography for over 100,000 women—Dr. Evans was able to witness firsthand the power a large volunteer organization could leverage and felt compelled to continue his involvement.

One final note from Dr. Evans: "The more you can be concerned about others and what others need and how you can help them, the better your life is going to be."

Dr. Evans holds the George and Carol Poston Professorship in Breast Cancer Research.

"If you think you don't have time, make time. It will help you in everything that you do."

– W. Phil Evans, M.D.

Georgia Saniuk (MS 2015), Nicolle Fernandez (MS 2015), and Lori Yap (MS 2013)

Southwestern Medical Foundation Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Alumni Scholars Award:

Corinne Gilliam Brooks
Francis M. Goldschmid
Thomas Francis Heyne
Maria Zihua Huang
Joo Youn Hwang
Aaron M. Lazorwitz
Siew Mei Lee
Scott C. McClure
John S. Mulvahill
Janet E. Orrock
Ankur R. Patel
Sathyadeepak Ramesh
April Taylor Sanchez
Viraj R. Sheth
Sarah Elizabeth White
Zachary Zhang

Iatros Award:

Samvit Tandan

Gerald A. Belkin, M.D. Scholars:

Terri E. Griffith
Adriana Yvette Lopez

Martha Coleman Scholarship:

Erica Jieun Han
Van N. Hoang

Herbert S. Solomon, M.D. Class of 1967 Memorial Scholarship:

Thomas Francis Heyne
Allison Jean Lopez

Dr. Walter Skinner Scholars
(via the Southwestern Medical Foundation):

Nirma Dora Bustamante
Huay-Lin Lo
Sarah Elizabeth White

John Vanatta, M.D. Scholars
*(via the Southwestern Medical Foundation)***:**

Marta Elizabeth Marnell
Chinonyerem J. Okwara

Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Vanatta Scholarship:

Julius Ifeanyl Ejiofor

Jeffrey M. Waltner, M.D. and James D. Waltner, M.D. Scholarship:

Adam Phillip Breceda

Bryan Williams, M.D. Scholars:

Danielle P. Arnold
Neel K. Arwikar
Griselda Camacho
Alvin A. Chandra
Tien-Chun Chen
Nabila B. Choudhury
Doan Y. Dao
Jason Travis Edwards
Thomas Francis Heyne
Thai H. Hui
Joo Youn Hwang
Yuhang Jia
Sonia T. Kannandan
Aaron M. Lazorwitz
David Liang
Xihui Lin
Huay-Lin Lo
Adriana Yvette Lopez
Yao Ma
Michael C. Maxted
Mena Milad
William Z. Morris
Quy T. Nguyen
Viet Dang Nguyen
Zohra Prasla
Joshua D. Rodriguez
Maria del Carmen Roman
Nora C. Saavedra
Zoe Shapleigh Tullius
Arash M. Shirvani
Emily Smitherman
Li Song
Rajiv N. Srinivasa
Zhifei Sun
Jessica Wingfield
Andrew Paul Word
Katherine L. Wu
David Zhang

In Memoriam

Medical School

Donald "Don" Sterling Brown, M.D. '46
Charles Harry Lodowski, M.D. '48
Ruth Little Darnell, M.D. '49
Clifford Samuel Huggins, M.D. '51
Charles O. Onstead, Jr., M.D. '51
Jeff H. Davis, M.D. '52
Homer H. "Chad" Hanna, M.D. '52
Herbert M. Hinckley, Jr., M.D. '53
Ralph E. Simon, Jr., M.D. '53
Robert C. Tout, M.D. '53
Augustin M. Ruiz, M.D. '54
Gerald A. Belkin, M.D. '55
David F. Lee, M.D. '55
Jerome M. Statman, M.D. '55
William W. McCue, M.D. '57
Ben Schnitzer, M.D. '57
John Allen DeKrey, M.D. '58
William C. Garre, M.D. '58
Fred W. Pauling, M.D. '58
William E. Potts, M.D. '58
Patrick W. Flynn, M.D. '60
Winford Craig Boyd, M.D. '61
Robert Rhoads Trostel, M.D. '62
Bill R. Carter, M.D. '64
Jeanne S. Takano, M.D. '91
R. Liren Shih, M.D. '93

Housestaff

Basil Alexander Hallum, Jr., M.D. (Ophthalmology)
Gary Lex Stevens, M.D. (Dermatology)
Martine Tirmenstein, M.D. (Anesthesiology)
Riley Donald Woodson, M.D. (Rotating Internship)
Norman C. Wu, M.D. (Anesthesiology

School of Health Professions

Wanda Dickson '75

Faculty

Dr. Julian A. "Bill" Peterson, Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, passed away of bladder cancer at the age of 72. Dr. Peterson was an internationally respected researcher and professor of biochemistry and biophysics for almost 45 years. "He lectured all over the world," said Dr. Ronald Estabrook, former Chairman of the Biochemistry Department and Professor Emeritus at UT Southwestern. "He has many, many friends all over the world."

Dr. Peterson came to UT Southwestern Medical Center in 1968, where he spent the remainder of his career until he retired in 2011 and was named Professor Emeritus. Dr. Peterson specialized in the process bacteria enzymes use to metabolize foreign compounds and the role of bacterial enzymes in the synthesis of important drugs, such as antibiotics.

Not only was Dr. Peterson a brilliant scientist, he also was dedicated to many social concerns, from his neighborhood to city hall. "Bill's death is a great loss for anyone who was privileged to know him," said Dallas City Council Member Angela Hunt. "We've lost a terrific neighborhood advocate, a tireless community volunteer, and a good, kind man."

Class Notes

Medical School

Class of 1974: Michael N. Weinberg, M.D., and family have moved to Jerusalem, Israel after retiring from 31 years of medical practice in pathology at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife Paula became new grandparents to a baby girl, Yehudis, almost one year ago.

Class of 1975: Charles P. Andrews, M.D., is a developer and a principal investigator of the Biogenics Research Chamber in San Antonio, Texas. The facility is unique in the US, testing up to 50 pollen-allergic subjects at a time in studies of basic mechanisms of allergy and of pharmacologic efficacy.

Class of 1976: Thomas B. Goleman, M.D., is the new Chair and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

Class of 1989: Gil Wolfe, M.D., assumed the position of Professor and Chair of Neurology at University at Buffalo, The State University of New York in January 2012 where he holds the Irwin and Rosemary Smith Endowed Chair. He is the current chair of the Medical/Scientific Advisory Board for the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America and co-directed the International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders held in New York in May 2012.

Class of 2001: Earl Gage, M.D., and his wife, Lynelle, welcomed a new baby boy, Joshua Anthony. He joins a sister and 4 older brothers in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Class of 2006: Shilpa Miniyar Shah, M.D., has moved to Southern California with her husband Rahul and daughter Sajni (2 1/2 years old). She is working in the Family Medicine department at Kaiser Permanente.

Tell Us What's New

Do you have a new position or practice?
A special project or announcement?
Have you moved? Is your family growing?
Let your fellow alumni know "What's New"
by emailing alumni@utsouthwestern.edu.