Former Surgeon General helps bridge gaps in health care access

by Ellen Gladden

There's a new approach to equalize the nation's racial and ethnic disparities in health care and a former Surgeon General is at the helm.

Dr. David Satcher, the nation's 16th Surgeon General and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1993-1998, visited campus May 12 to discuss his initiatives as director of the newly created National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Defining and monitoring disparities in health care, balancing clinical, behavioral and preventive research initiatives and then strategically intervening in educational processes and dangerous lifestyle habits are the three dimensions of Dr. Satcher's program, he explained to those gathered in the Large Auditorium.

"If you know how something works and you've done the research to prove it, it's time to stop discussing the statistics and intervene," said Dr. Satcher. "We know there is a gap in life expectancy among Caucasians and African-Americans. We know infant mortality and cancer mortality rates are greater in African-Americans. Now we need to start mobilizing people to change their lifestyle."

As principal investigator for the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Dr. Satcher works with other clinicians and researchers to transfer knowledge about cancer incidence, treatment and prevention from the research bench to the African-American community in terms that are tangible, applicable to daily living. See SATCHER page 3

Cancer Center of Excellence gets provisional designation

by Toni Baker

The Medical College of Georgia and the University of Georgia have received provisional designation as a Cancer Center of Excellence by the Georgia Cancer Coalition.

"We are excited about this opportunity and grateful for the dutiful work of the Georgia Cancer Coalition," said Dr. Daniel W. Rahn, MCG president. "We will move quickly to address programmatic and administrative concerns with the Georgia Cancer Research Center's organization and move forward."

"There are many positive aspects to the MCG/UGA proposal," said Russ Toal, coalition president. "The schools have made tremendous progress and I absolutely believe it will be possible for the center to address the reviewers' concerns expeditiously. Once it has been done so, we will award full designation."

"I am pleased the Medical College of Georgia and the University of Georgia have joined to accelerate the battle against cancer in Georgia," said Gov. Sonny Perdue. "Their strengths complement one another well. By working together on cancer research and education, they open a new front in our war against this killer disease. This is precisely the kind of partnership the state's cancer coalition was designed to create," the governor said.

"We believe this is an important and exciting collaborative opportunity with the University of Georgia to provide a comprehensive educational, research and clinical initiative to address current and future cancer care of Georgians," said Dr. David M. Stern, dean of the MCG School of Medicine and principal investigator on the Georgia Cancer Coalition grant.

"This collaboration allows us to build on the universities' research and educational infrastructures in order to provide a firm foundation."

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Nation's first accredited neurology-based pain fellowship awarded on campus

by Toni Baker

The Medical College of Georgia has received accreditation for the country's first neurology-based pain fellowship, a one-year program with a multidisciplinary approach to better understanding and treating acute, chronic and cancer pain.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the body that accredits postgraduate programs in this country, has approved the fellowship that begins July 1.

Dr. Michael H. Rivner, professor of neurology and director of the EMG Laboratory, is program director of the new fellowship; Kim Bunch, his administrative assistant, is fellowship coordinator.

Dr. Shawn G. Dunn, chief resident in neurology at MCG, has been accepted as the first pain fellow in neurology. "I feel honored that I have this opportunity to be the first neurological-based pain fellow in America," said Dr. Dunn, a 2002 medical school class who recently completed an epilepsy mini-fellowship at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

"These types of targeted academic initiatives strengthen our care of patients as well as our research endeavors," said Dr. David Hess, chairman of the MCG Department of Neurology. "Fortunately there have been great strides in knowledge gained about the central nervous system in the last 10 years that have prompted us to offer programs such as the new pain fellowship. We are pursuing accredited fellowships in epilepsy and stroke as well. We also are working with our colleagues in anesthesiology and neurosurgery and elsewhere to develop a comprehensive pain program," Dr. Hess said.

The pain fellowship will utilize faculty, staff and facilities at MCG as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walton Rehabilitation Hospital and physicians in private practice in Augusta to teach diverse approaches to pain treatment from sports medicine and orthopaedics, dentistry, anesthesiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, oncology and surgery.

MCG developed the curriculum based on requirements for board certification in pain management of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Areas of focus include the anatomy and physiology of pain projection; the epidemiology, economic impact and sociology of pain disorders; measuring and assessing pain and function; principles of nerve stimulation; procedures such as nerve blocks, electrical stimulation and cryotherapeutic techniques; and research looking for improved treatments such as botulinum toxin injections and biofeedback for low-back pain.

"If you look at why most people go the doctor, it’s because they are in pain," said Dr. Rivner, who has treated people with low-back and neck pain and neuropathy for 20 years.

Dr. Dunn already has seen the impact of pain in his patients and his own family. Most recently he has worked with patients with multiple sclerosis, patients who the medical literature says don’t often experience pain. But in that week alone about 90 percent of the patients he saw in clinic were experiencing pain.

In his own life, he’s watched his mother, Colleen Dunn, battle breast cancer since 1986. The disease has spread, most recently to her bones. The young doctor, decided he wanted to learn more about a problem that affects so many lives yet often goes unresolved. His timing was good.

Dr. Dunn’s interest, coupled with the fact that this is the last year the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology will accept extensive clinical experience as a substitute for participating in an accredited training program as an eligibility requirement for board certification in pain treatment, spurred the MCG Department of Neurology to develop a fellowship and seek ACGME accreditation. Dr. Rivner noted that physicians can also satisfy the fellowship requirement by taking one of two other pain fellowship options: one based in anesthesiology and the other in physical medicine and rehabilitation medicine.

MCG’s Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine already has anesthesiology-based pain fellowship accredited by the ACGME.

Dr. Rivner anticipates the interest in a neurology-based program will expand rapidly.

“It’s appropriate and important that we feel pain; it’s an obvious signal to the body so you know not to do certain things," Dr. Rivner said. "As neurologists, we see people who don’t feel pain at all and these people die young and they do so because they don’t have these signals. But, obviously, when you feel pain and it’s not signaling that something important is going on, that is when you start having problems. And we really don’t understand why that happens.”

SARS prompts student travel advisory

Medical College of Georgia students are urged until further notice to postpone all non-urgent travel to regions with known community transmission of the contagious respiratory disease, SARS. Affected regions currently are mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Ontario, Canada. Updates are posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, http://www.cdc.gov/nidod/sars/

Students who urgently need to visit these regions (including transit through an airport) must contact the associate dean for students or academic affairs, as appropriate, of the MCG school in which the student is enrolled and the Student Health Service (ext. 1-3448 by phone or jmiller@mcg.edu by e-mail). Student Health will counsel students prior to departure about the signs and symptoms of SARS and protective measures to take during travel.

Upon return, the students—even if asymptomatic—must be cleared by Student Health before returning to classes, clinics and labs. Please call (ext. 1-3448) before your visit to Student Health.

Travelers who return with symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) should stay home or in their residence hall room and call Student Health at ext. 1-3448 for a medical evaluation. After hours, page hospital epidemiologist Keith Woeltje or the infectious disease physician on call through the hospital operator, ext. 1-3893. Those who are severely ill should go to the emergency department, calling the department (ext. 1-4051) before the visit. Please identify yourself as a student.

For more information, call Hospital Epidemiology (ext. 1-2224) or Student Health (ext. 1-3448).
Greater diversity sought among MCG vendors

Yvonne Gentry's effervescent personality comes naturally - which makes her a natural for her job.

Ms. Gentry, the outreach development coordinator for the Medical College of Georgia Division of Supply Administration, works hard to ensure that every business gets a fair shot at doing business with MCG.

MCG contracts with hundreds of businesses each year to secure a multitude of goods and services needed to function as Georgia's health sciences university. Ms. Gentry organizes vendor fairs, speaks at seminars and meets with groups and individuals to spread the word that MCG seeks and values a diverse group of vendors. "We believe a diverse vendor base not only strengthens the competition and the potential for cost-saving, but also enhances the economic base of the community," she said.

Ms. Gentry is particularly vigilant about seeking out minority-owned businesses. "My primary responsibility is to increase awareness internally and externally about MCG's Vendor Diversity Program," said Ms. Gentry. "As procurement opportunities are available, I coordinate with the buyers and departments to ensure those opportunities are available to all vendors."

The effort requires the participation of the entire MCG community, she stressed. "It's not something our division can do alone," she said. "Departments all over campus make purchasing decisions, and we have to make sure they are aware and do their part to meet the institution's goal. Likewise, we have to get the word out to businesses that we welcome their bids when contract opportunities are available."

That interaction, she said, is one of the most enjoyable aspects of her job. "I come in contact with a large variety of people, and I really have to be on my toes," she said. "But I love that part of the job. I really enjoy interacting with people."

Her division is forming an advisory committee to help in its efforts. "The committee will offer guidance and feedback in ensuring diversity among our vendors," Ms. Gentry said. The end result, she said, will be a more diverse environment - both internally and externally.

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and culturally sensitive. An outreach initiative of the National Cancer Institute, the program targets the nation with regional offices at the Harlem Cancer Center in New York; Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles; University of Illinois School of Public Health in Chicago; and Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

"There are six initial areas of focus we're working on - infant mortality, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, immunizations and HIV/AIDS," he said, noting great successes in these areas have been achieved through Project Healthy People 2010, a federally initiated set of health objectives designed to improve quality of life and reduce health disparities.

"One of the most important things about Health People 2010 is that it's measurable. There are 426 measurable objectives by which we can determine progress," he said. "In a number of these areas we've already succeeded. In the last century we've made dramatic improvements in reducing the rates of mortality from diabetes-related complications contributing to an increasing mortality rate in African-Americans with the disease. "There are 180 million people in the world today living with diabetes. In the last century we've made dramatic improvements in reducing the rates of mortality from cancer and heart disease, but there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of diabetes across the world - particularly in this country," he said. "There's also been a rise in the mortality rate of African-Americans with diabetes. For those who do live with the disease, their quality of life suffers as (diabetes commonly leads to) blindness, a negative impact on the kidneys, loss of lower-limb function which may lead to amputations."

Dr. Satcher graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1963 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Case Western Reserve University with membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He did residency/fellowship training at Strong Memorial Hospital, University of Rochester, UCLA and King-Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American College of Physicians.

For more information about the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, visit http://www.nbljc.org. For more information about the New National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse, visit www.msm.edu/rcpc/rcpc.htm.
Medical school faculty honored at May 15 ceremony

by Toni Baker

School of Medicine faculty members were honored at the annual Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine Faculty Senate awards ceremony May 15. Awards presented include:

- Dr. William P. Kanto Jr., chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and medical director of the MCG Children's Medical Center, received the MCG School of Medicine Outstanding Faculty Award.

- Distinguished Faculty Awards went to Dr. Christopher B. White, professor, Department of Pediatrics, for clinical science teaching; Dr. Radid A. Akhtar, professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, for basic science teaching; and Dr. Manuel P. Casanova, professor, Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, and Dr. Gregory A. Harshfield, professor, Georgia Prevention Institute and Department of Pediatrics, for clinical science research.

- Dr. Mario B. Marrero, associate professor, Vascular Biology Center and Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, for basic science research; and Dr. Alan Roberts, associate professor, Section of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, for patient care.

- Dr. Chanthapa Bunyapen, associate professor, Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, and Dr. Ann Marie Flannery, associate dean for graduate medical education, director of graduate medical education for MCG Health, Inc., and professor of surgery and pediatrics, were recognized for their institutional service.

- Dr. Paule C. Barbeau, assistant professor, Georgia Prevention Institute and Department of Pediatrics, received the Outstanding Young Clinical Science Faculty Award; and Dr. Puttur D. Prasad, associate professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, received the Outstanding Young Basic Science Faculty Award.

- Educator of the Year Awards from the senior class went to Dr. Clarence Joe, associate professor, Departments of Radiology and Orthopaedic Surgery, and Pamela E. Rosema, instructor, Departments of Respiratory Therapy and Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine. Also, Dr. David C. Hess, chairman, Department of Neurology, from the class of 2004, Dr. D. Greer Falls III, associate professor, Section of Anatomic Pathology, Department of Pathology, from the class of 2005, and Dr. Vadivel Ganapathy, Regents' professor and interim chairman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, from the class of 2006.

- The Department of Emergency Medicine was honored as the Outstanding Clinical Science Teaching Department by the senior class and the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy received the Outstanding Basic Science Teaching Department Award from the class of 2005 for its gross anatomy course.

- The class of 2004 presented Excellence in Teaching Awards to Dr. John T. Benjamin, Charbonnier professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Walter L. Pipkin, resident, Department of Surgery, and Dr. David J. Yeh, resident, Department of Neurosurgery.

- Dr. Paige Ward, a third-year resident in pediatrics who has been selected as chief resident for 2003-2004, received the Resident of the Year Award.

- Dr. Arnold Lentnek, an internist and infectious disease specialist in Marietta, Ga., and a clinical professor of medicine/infectious disease at MCG, received the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Volunteer Clinical Faculty Teaching Award.

- Dr. D. Greer Falls III, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr. D. Greer Falls III, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr. D. Greer Falls III, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr. D. Greer Falls III, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics.

- Dr. Terry J. Sprinkle, professor in the Departments of Neurology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, who retired in November 2002 after 24 years on the faculty, was honored as a retiring faculty member.

- Dr. M. Iqbal Khan, professor of the Section of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, assumed the duties as president of the Faculty Senate from Dr. Kathleen M. McKie, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics.

Academic Council honors faculty service

The Medical College of Georgia Academic Council presented the following faculty awards during its May 15 meeting:

- Dr. Doug Kesula, chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, for service as the Standing Committee Chair of the Faculty Governance Committee. Dr. Kesula was also awarded the Chair's Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the institution by Dr. Martha Bradshaw, vice chair of the Academic Council.

- Dr. Martha Tingen, associate professor of nursing, for service as the Standing Committee Chair of the Strategies and Responsibilities Committee.

- Lyn Denison, associate professor in the Greenblatt Library, for service as the Standing Committee Chair of the Scholarship and Standards Committee.

- Dr. Carol Campbell, associate dean for business operations in the School of Allied Health Sciences, and Dr. Scott Barman, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, for service as co-parliamentarians.

- Dr. William Browning, associate professor of oral rehabilitation, for service as chair of the Faculty Grievance Subcommittee.

- Dr. Robert Comer, associate dean for patient services in the School of Dentistry, for service as chair of the Strategic Initiatives Task Force.

- Dr. Joseph Cannon, associate dean for research in the School of Allied Health Sciences, for service as chair of the Library Resources Task Force.

- Marilee Creelan, assistant professor in the Greenblatt Library, for service as chair of the Faculty Orientation/Faculty Manual Task Force.

- Dr. Kevin Plummer, assistant professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, for service as chair of the Faculty Membership, Voting and Nomination Subcommittee.

- Dr. Michael Shrouf, professor in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services, for service as secretary-treasurer of the Academic Council.
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for the cancer initiative. Synergistic programmatic interactions will occur at the level of individual research programs, core laboratory functions, graduate programs and other educational initiatives," Dr. Stern said.

"Such a designation will build on the academic strengths of faculty at both institutions and will foster a more effective translation of discoveries from the laboratory bench to the bedside," said Dr. Gordan L. Patel, vice president for research and associate provost at UGA and co-principal investigator on the grant. "A new center will augment the long-standing support our cancer researchers have received from federal and private sponsors and will enable more effective cancer treatment for the citizens of Georgia."

Provisional designation of the Georgia Cancer Research Center follows a planning period, supported by a Georgia Cancer Coalition grant. Full designation is the next key step in moving the cancer initiative forward but much important work already has been accomplished, Dr. Stern said.

"Dr. Patel and I would like to thank everyone on both campuses who participated in this effort, especially Dr. Stephen Peiper, MCG's chairman of the Department of Pathology and interim director of the cancer center at MCG, and Dr. Michael Pierce, director-elect of the cancer center at UGA," Dr. Stern said. "Dr. Peiper and Dr. Pierce had critical roles in preparation of the center of excellence application."

"I'd also like to thank Dr. J. David Puett, Regents professor and head of the UGA Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, who led the initial effort to identify UGA expertise and resources in cancer research," said Dr. Patel.

"We also, of course, want to thank the Georgia Cancer Coalition for this opportunity to raise the bar on cancer care in our state and, ultimately, our nation," Dr. Stern said.

Public and private health care sectors in the cities of Augusta and Athens have been pivotal as well, pooling their commitment to improve cancer care and to pursue designation by the Georgia Cancer Coalition as a Regional Program of Excellence, the dean said. "Designation of the cities' initiative, targeted at clinical service and education, was essential to the potential designation of MCG-UGA as a cancer center of excellence," Dr. Stern said.

In the application process, the Georgia Cancer Research Center asked for a total of $60 million over three years to fund its research-driven initiative. Georgia Cancer Coalition officials said Thursday that decisions about funding will be made after May 30.

"Our ultimate goal is to secure designation from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health as a Comprehensive Cancer Center within eight years of activation of the Georgia Cancer Coalition award," Dr. Stern said.

"This goal is intertwined with the underlying motivation of our cancer initiative, to provide access to the best cancer care for Georgians and to promote the highest level of cancer research within our state."

The Georgia Cancer Coalition is a statewide initiative, funded by proceeds from tobacco company suit settlements, to improve cancer prevention, detection, treatment and research.

Future physicians?

CSRA middle-school students participated in the 2003 Bernard and Dorothy Strong Poster Contest this spring. The contest, created 23 years ago by MCG Professor Emeritus William B. Strong in memory of his parents, is part of the School of Medicine Students for Community Involvement elective. The course enables first-year medical students to teach health-related topics to local schoolchildren, culminating with the poster contest in which students visually depict what they learned. First-place winners were honored with scholarships at an April 14 dinner in the Alumni Center. Pictured with Dr. Nancy Webb, course director, and Dr. Strong, far right, winners are, from left, Christen Beatro, Rachel Thomas, Jennifer Stroud and Kayla Sanner. (Ellen Gladden photo)
Three written histories of MCG

Part I

Three perspectives on the heritage of Medical College of Georgia have been written since the institution was founded in 1828.

The first work, *The History of the Medical Department of the University of Georgia,* was written by Dr. William Henry Goodrich (1873 - 1947), honor graduate in the MCG class of 1897, dean from 1923 - 1931 and superintendent of University Hospital from 1939 - 1945.

Published in 1928, MCG's centennial anniversary, the book was "undertaken largely because of the writer's deep admiration for the work done by those men who were connected with the organization and early history of Georgia's first Medical College," said Dr. Goodrich in the preface. Dr. Goodrich wrote short biographies of 10 of the early faculty members and included in eight instances an address or essay written by the individual. He believed this would best indicate "where they stood in life and thought." This section occupies 172 pages of the 215-page volume. The book also contains a 21-page summary of the history of MCG and a nine-page section with a list of the 1835 Board of Trustees, Executive Committee and six lists of faculty at intervals from 1874 to 1927.

A copy of the book was sent to all MCG alumni.

Dr. William Henry Goodrich published *The History of the Medical Department of the University of Georgia in 1928.*

Nearly 20 years after his work published, Dr. Goodrich died in a boating accident at Port Royal Sound near Beaufort, S.C.

The second history of MCG was written by Samuel Joseph Lewis, Jr. (1918 - 1969). An article in the 1963 MCG Foundation and Alumni News announced that Mr. Lewis had begun writing a comprehensive history of the college.

In describing his project, Mr. Lewis pointed out that although several articles had been written about the history of the school, "there has been no comprehensive work on its growth and development." He called Dr. Goodrich's history "more nearly a collection of biographical sketches of the several individuals prominent in the early years of the school than a formal history."

Mr. Lewis was a trained historian; he earned a master of arts degree in history from the University of Georgia while working as a political science instructor. He had also taught history at several schools. Mr. Lewis' special interest in MCG history no doubt stemmed from his father, Dr. S. Joseph Lewis, a 1911 MCG graduate and faculty member for many years. Mr. Lewis was given access to all records and provided space in the MCG library to work. He was an instructor in medical history at MCG from July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1967.

Mr. Lewis stated that his history would be "based on numerous primary sources including the minutes of the Board of Trustees dating back to 1829, the minutes of the faculty, which go back to 1833, and other old records of the college." He also reviewed the minutes of the City Council, articles in the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, Augusta newspapers from 1822, records of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, the Georgia Department of Archives and History and the University of Georgia Library.

His detailed notes on each of the numerous references are in the Greenblatt Library Special Collections and have served as a source of historical material for many. Mr. Lewis submitted an initial draft of his history to University of Georgia Press in 1966. In the preface he expressed his gratitude to the University Press and the Medical College of Georgia Foundation for "making publication of this work possible." However, he died in 1969 before the history was completed.

In 2000 the completion of the Lewis history, titled *The Medical College of Georgia 1829 - 1963 Chronicle of an Institution,* was undertaken by the Medical Historian in Residence and staff. A table of contents, index of topics, index of names and collection of photographs – none of which had been done – were prepared. The text and references were reviewed for typographical errors, grammar, verification of facts and dates and corrections made as indicated.

However, Mr. Lewis' history has not been published. In this regard, I quote from an article in the April 27, 2001 Chronicle of Higher Education titled *Books Unwritten, Stories Untold,* which asks "What if the book you never finished would have been the book that let the dead speak, the living remember, and you the author at last rest easy after a job well done?"

*Editor's note: In 2003, the Medical College of Georgia celebrates its 175th year of educating health care practitioners and promoting the health of Georgians. To commemorate this milestone, Medical Historian in Residence Lois T. Ellison highlights hallmarks of the university's past in the final Beeper issue of each month. For the complete Moments in History series, visit http://www.mcg.edu/history/mcgmoments.asp.*

Samuel Joseph Lewis, Jr. wrote an unpublished history of MCG in the 1960s. (Photos courtesy of MCG Special Collections)

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**Moments in MCG History**

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Chadwick really tried to heed that advice,” says Chadwick. “When I started, I was looking into the daunting task of earning medical and Ph.D. degrees simultaneously. It would seem overwhelming. After earning a biochemistry degree from UGA in 1998, he enrolled at MCG, taking the rigorous coursework with aplomb; he has a perfect 4.0 grade point average and was named MCG’s student representative for Academic Recognition Day, which celebrates individual academic achievement and recognition within the University System of Georgia. He also received the MCG/UGA Student Exchange Award last fall.

“School is challenging, but it all goes back to the enjoy-the-process thing,” he says. Indeed, school is only one of his priorities. He and wife Jessica, married for four years, enjoy a fulfilling family life and plan to have children once their careers are on track. Chadwick also exercises regularly. He was on the UGA track team and is a frequent competitor in running, swimming and biking races. Chadwick had lunch recently with his UGA mentor. “He said, ‘So, are you enjoying the process?’” Chadwick recalls. “I said, ‘Yeah, I am.’”

It has served him well. After completing his first two years at medical school, Chadwick began the Ph.D. leg of his education, in which he is dissecting the process of membrane recycling. His lab work, overseen by Drs. James R. Goldenring and Nevin A. Lambert, involves identifying the proteins integral to the process.

“There are a lot of potential therapeutic applications if we can selectively spur the recycling process,” he said. “The direct link is still unclear, but we are trying to lay the groundwork by describing the cellular activity.”

He is particularly interested in neuroscientific applications. With a family history of Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease, he is anxious to better understand brain diseases and the potential to protect or reactivate brain cells. He has published two papers in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, citing previously unidentified proteins involved in plasma membrane recycling.

Chadwick will soon complete his Ph.D. work, then finish his last two years of medical school. He handles the rigorous coursework with aplomb; he has a perfect 4.0 grade point average and was named MCG’s 2003 student representative for Academic Recognition Day, which celebrates individual academic achievement and recognition within the University System of Georgia. He also received the MCG/UGA Student Exchange Award last fall.

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Wanted: Research mentors

The Office of Special Academic Programs in the School of Medicine is seeking MCG faculty to serve as mentors during a program for pre-college and college students.

The 22nd Summer Research Apprentice Program, which lasts June 7 through July 25, enables students under-represented in the health professions to conduct research with mentors. Students must prepare a scientific paper and do an oral presentation of their research during the final week of the program. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon Fridays. Mentors receive $250 for lab supplies for mentoring a pre-college student and $500 for mentoring a college student.

Faculty members interested in mentoring may contact Wilma Sykes-Brown at ext. 1-2522.

M.D./Ph.D. student enjoying the process

Chadwick Hales is in the sixth year of the typically seven-year M.D./Ph.D program. (Phil Jones photo)

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It has served him well. After completing his first two years at medical school, Chadwick began the Ph.D. leg of his education, in which he is dissecting the process of membrane recycling. His lab work, overseen by Drs. James R. Goldenring and Nevin A. Lambert, involves identifying the proteins integral to the process.

“There are a lot of potential therapeutic applications if we can selectively spur the recycling process,” he said. “The direct link is still unclear, but we are trying to lay the groundwork by describing the cellular activity.”

He is particularly interested in neuroscientific applications. With a family history of Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease, he is anxious to better understand brain diseases and the potential to protect or reactivate brain cells. He has published two papers in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, citing previously unidentified proteins involved in plasma membrane recycling.

Chadwick will soon complete his Ph.D. work, then finish his last two years of medical school. He handles the rigorous coursework with aplomb; he has a perfect 4.0 grade point average and was named MCG’s 2003 student representative for Academic Recognition Day, which celebrates individual academic achievement and recognition within the University System of Georgia. He also received the MCG/UGA Student Exchange Award last fall.

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Wanted: Research mentors

The Office of Special Academic Programs in the School of Medicine is seeking MCG faculty to serve as mentors during a program for pre-college and college students.

The 22nd Summer Research Apprentice Program, which lasts June 7 through July 25, enables students under-represented in the health professions to conduct research with mentors. Students must prepare a scientific paper and do an oral presentation of their research during the final week of the program. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon Fridays. Mentors receive $250 for lab supplies for mentoring a pre-college student and $500 for mentoring a college student.

Faculty members interested in mentoring may contact Wilma Sykes-Brown at ext. 1-2522.
Putting students first

by Ellen Gladden

It’s a good thing Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston enjoys multi-tasking, because it’s an essential skill in her job.

As the assistant dean of academic programs and student affairs in the School of Nursing, she serves as the records office, compliance office, complaint department, reference desk and a resource center for Medical College of Georgia nursing students.

“We keep all the records for every nursing student - registrations for clinicals, documentation that they’ve taken their immunizations and HIPAA tests, registering students for externships and electives etc,” said Dr. Frank-Alston. “I’m charged with all student-related activities in the school. I really enjoy this job because every day is different and challenging.”

She’s been a familiar face across campus since her arrival in January - attending student and faculty functions in efforts to alert students of the resources her office provides.

“One of my goals is to let students know I’m here for them in many roles: an advocate, counselor and resource person,” she said. “Since this is a new position, senior students or those in graduate programs may not know I’m here for them. Her newly created position was designed by the School of Nursing to fill needs in student recruitment, supervising student records, managing accrreditations reports and student policies and mediating programmatic issues between faculty and students. “I’m committed to developing a model of student affairs in the School of Nursing which, I hope, will serve as a benchmark for other professional schools,” said Dr. Frank-Alston.

With a resume rich in academic leadership positions on campuses from Colorado to Pennsylvania, Dr. Frank-Alston was a great match for MCG. Serving students has always been the common denominator, although her job assignments have varied from residence hall counselor to training faculty on advisement policies and procedures. Her lifelong desire to learn more about human interactions and relationships has fueled her career decisions.

“I always wanted to be an archeologist,” she said. “I decided to stick with cultural (anthropology instead of physical anthropology), which has helped me in my everyday life, but also it’s helped me with the different positions that I’ve had since I graduated because it’s all about people and diverse cultures. It gives you a greater perspective of how people interact in their corner of the world.”

After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from Northwestern State University of Louisiana, she took the first of what would become many jobs on college campuses in residence hall life. “I knew that I needed additional education and training, but I wanted a break before graduate school, so I took a job as a resident assistant,” she said, describing the resident counselor position she accepted at a residential high school program located on the Northwestern campus. “It was a program for honors students to get a living-and-learning college-preparatory experience. I was a resident assistant, but I was also a parent, a disciplinarian and a guardian since they were minors.”

The experience opened several doors for her in student affairs positions from Colorado to Illinois, where she decided to further her education in the field. At Western Illinois University she earned her master of science degree in college student personnel. While working on her doctorate in workforce education and development at Penn State, she married a fellow student and employee, Dr. Sparticus Alston.

“I got my doctorate and gave birth four weeks later. It was quite a busy time,” she said, noting her daughter, Cosette Monique, is now 2 and-a-half years old.

Her doctoral research focused on partnerships in the program include University Hospital, St Joseph Hospital, Ehisenhower Army Medical Center, Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services, the District Attorney’s office and local law enforcement agencies.

For more information, or for an application packet, contact Anne Balick Henry, executive director of Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services, at (706) 774-2731 or via fax at (706) 774-8759.
Researchers probe biological interactions with dental resin

by Christine Hurley Deriso

As plastics find increasing applicability to biomedical products, Medical College of Georgia researchers are putting them under the microscope, literally and figuratively, to ensure their safety.

Plastics have long been a technological mainstay because it can be molded into any shape, then hardened with heat or light. The latter process, called light-polymerized molding, is used in fillings and as denture bases, according to Dr. George S. Schuster, interim associate dean for research in the MCG School of Dentistry and chair of the Department of Oral Biology and Maxillofacial Pathology.

"Resins are used for tooth restorations (fillings) and as denture bases," said Dr. Schuster. "The latter are bioactive." Specifically, Dr. Schuster and his colleagues have found that resins interact with the cell membrane. "The cell membrane, to a great extent, determines whether cells will be stimulated to divide or to die," Dr. Schuster said. "The membrane is one of the major regulators that tell the cell nucleus what to do."

The researchers' cellular research at this point indicates that the interaction seems fairly harmless, but the potential for damage cannot be discounted. For instance, "if the cell gets the wrong signals (because of the resin), it may not divide enough to heal a wound," Dr. Schuster said. Also, collagen is normally produced during wound-healing—a process that, if stymied, could result in abnormally weak tissue at a wound site. An impaired cell membrane could also interfere with responses to the inflammation process.

In fact, inflammation—a normal immune response to injury but an abnormal symptom of many diseases—is a biological process that many researchers want to better manipulate. Resins, therefore, might hold promise for treatments in which issues such as toxicity are currently unfounded, he added. Ultimately, he said, both materials have a valid role in dentistry. "The ultimate goal is to make resins inert," Dr. Schuster said. "But in the meantime, we have to understand how they interact with the body."

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Dr. Rawson named to radiology chair

Dr. James V. Rawson, interim chair of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Radiology since March 2000, has been named chair.

The appointment is contingent on approval by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

“Dr. Rawson has been an aggressive, successful interim chair recruiting exceptional faculty, strengthening radiology’s business operation and overseeing acquisition of major equipment to improve patient care, such as the hospital’s first PET scanner and one of the world’s first open PET/CT scanners,” said Dr. David M. Stern, dean of the MCG School of Medicine. “He’s in the midst of putting together a program that will strengthen basic science and research and enhance more-clinical driven scientific pursuits as well, such as the search for innovative imaging technology. I am pleased that he’s accepted the chairmanship and confident he’ll continue as a forward-thinking leader.”

The new chair also is chief of service and medical director of the Radiologic Services at MCG Hospital. He is a 1989 graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. He completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at New York Medical College in Valhalla, serving as chief resident his final year, before completing a Body Magnetic Resonance Imaging fellowship at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Rawson joined the MCG faculty in 1995.

He earned a certificate in health care evaluation from MCG in 1998 and is working on a master of medical management degree from the American College of Physician Executives.

Dr. Rawson is a member of the Georgia Research Alliance Task Force for Advanced Medical Technology and Devices Planning Group and a member of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Radiological Society. He has served as a Georgia Delegate to the American College of Radiology. He is a member of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence Steering Committee, Trauma Program Performance Committee, Information Services Executive Committee and Cancer Committee for MCG Health, Inc. He serves on the Board of Trustees and chairs the Academic Group Practice Committee of the Physicians Practice Group at MCG.

Dr. Rawson is a manuscript reviewer for Investigative Radiology.

His memberships or fellowships include the American College of Physician Executives, the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Emergency Radiology, the Southeastern Radiology Chairs, the Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments, the American Roentgen Ray Society, the Radiologic Society of North America, the American Medical Association and the Medical Association of Georgia.

Nursing instructor receives national writing award

Matthew Kervin, a certified registered nurse anesthetist and an instructor in the Medical College of Georgia Nursing Anesthesia Department, received the Mary Hanna Memorial Journalism Award from the Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing, the journal of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses.

A panel of peri-anesthesia nurses and a second panel of independent reviewers from other specialties reviewed his article for the award. Selection criteria included journalistic style, originality, clarity of expression, relevance of content to the specialty and overall contribution to the collection of published nursing knowledge.

Mr. Kervin received the award April 10, during the ASPAN’s 22nd National Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. ASPAN was established in 1980 to advance nursing practice specific to peri-anesthesia care through education, research and standards. There are over 5,600 members nationwide. The Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing provides original, peer-reviewed research for nurses in peri-anesthesia settings, including ambulatory surgery, pre-admission testing, post-anesthesia care and pain management.

Mr. Kervin received his bachelor of science degree in natural science and mathematics and his bachelor of nursing science degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He received a master’s degree in nursing from MCG in 1999.

CMC marketing manager named lifetime member of Georgia Parent-Teacher Association

Samm Fusselle, marketing manager for the Medical College of Georgia Children’s Medical Center, was granted an honorary lifetime membership to the Georgia Parent-Teacher Association during the association’s annual May convention.

Ms. Fusselle was honored for her work and support of the Georgia PTA’s health education needs on behalf of the CMC, which is also a sponsor of the Georgia PTA.

“We are very proud of Samm and her recognition,” said Sheila O’Neal, vice president of strategic support. “Her acknowledgment is well deserved. Samm works tirelessly to help advance health education in Georgia.”

Hinman Scholarships awarded

Medical College of Georgia dental hygiene students Allison Holst, Katrina Kelly and Melanie Simmons have received Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society Scholarships.

The Hinman Society has promoted continuing education in dentistry since 1912. It began granting scholarships to dental students in 1986, adding dental hygiene students to the program in 1989 and laboratory technician students in 2003. Scholarships are based on academic performance and need. The society awarded $190,000 in scholarships this year to students at 39 colleges and universities nationwide.

Obituaries

Dr. Joseph Surrao, a second-year fellow in gastroenterology, died May 6, at age 57.

Dr. Surrao was born in Kaduna, Nigeria and attended medical school at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. He received a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene from St. Thomas Hospital in London. He earned a master’s degree in public health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dr. Surrao was a member of the University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He was a 1989 graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. He completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at New York Medical College in Valhalla, serving as chief resident his final year, before completing a Body Magnetic Resonance Imaging fellowship at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Rawson joined the MCG faculty in 1995.

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See MILESTONES page 16
Craig Pulley is SWELL

In Saluting the Work, Excellence, Leadership and Lives of those who comprise MCG, the Beeper asks for your nominations for students, faculty or staff whose work has made a difference on and off campus. Each Beeper spotlights a student or employee nominated by his/her peers for outstanding achievement.

This issue’s SWELL employee is Craig Pulley, energy management systems supervisor in the Facilities Management Division. Mr. Pulley was nominated by a co-worker who noted, “Craig is a well-spoken individual who knows his field like the back of his hand. I believe his excellence has taken our area forward in many ways. He is a dedicated employee who has been at MCG for nearly 14 years. He has many great attributes and gives daily to our facility.”

His team of four monitors and maintains campus energy - lights, airflow systems, fire alarms, security checkpoints and alarms on research equipment. “I enjoy what I’m doing here,” he said. “It’s something different every day. There are always different problems we have to fix. I couldn’t imagine having a monotonous job where you’re always behind the same desk all day.”

A North Augusta native, Mr. Pulley graduated from North Augusta High School and earned an associate degree in occupational technology from Aiken Technical College. He and his wife, Kelli, have three children. When he’s not at work, Mr. Pulley enjoys golf, gardening and cooking.

To nominate students, staff or faculty for the SWELL Award, send a brief description of the nominee to Ellen Gladden at egладden@mail.mcg.edu, FI-1042 (campus mail), or fax 1-8772. Please include the nominee’s phone number. Deadline for the June 12 issue is June 3.
Nursing students excel at national convention

by Ellen Gladden

Five Medical College of Georgia students brought home to Augusta from the National Student Nurses Association Convention in Phoenix this spring.

Nakisha Grey, a rising senior in the School of Nursing, was elected Breakthrough to Nursing Director, a national position that assists state and individual school committees working to recruit and retain nursing students. She will travel locally and nationally to publicize the benefits of entering the nursing profession. At mid-year and annual conventions she'll present seminars on the goals, policies and activities of the Breakthrough to Nursing program.

"I'm pretty passionate about this, so (the time commitment) will be like another class for me," said Nakisha. "I can't do this without being a nursing student, so I have to keep up my grades."

I've already had the spiel from Professor (Nancy) Stark (faculty advisor for the campus chapter of the Student Nurses Association) about grades. I've also had a great deal of support from students and faculty."

To achieve the honor, Nakisha campaigned among several thousand peers during the April 23-27 convention. "I sent an application to nominating and elections committee before the convention," she explained. "There was one other candidate who was from New Jersey. Then we spent the week campaigning. Thank God I had Wendy (Jackson, a fellow MCG nursing student) as my campaign manager. "She was a lot of help, especially in keeping me calm."

Before the election, Nakisha delivered a speech to a crowd of nearly 1,000 -- the convention's House of Delegates, students, faculty and advisors, supporters of the National Student Nurses Association.

"I looked out and there was just a sea of people," she described. "It was nerve-wracking and frustrating, but they said I did an awesome job. It was exciting because it made me think on my feet."

Also during the convention, MCG nursing students Krystal Knight and Michelle Mandish were elected to the House of Delegates. MCG received a Silver Circle Award for a chapter membership of greater than 50.

The Georgia Association of Nursing Students Board was recognized for its online services and Web site development. Serving on the state board from the Augusta campus are Wendy Jackson, Breakthrough to Nursing director; Elisha Huff, community service director; and Krystal Knight, publicity director.

Board members from the Athens campus include Noel Lawson, treasurer; Julie Thacker, secretary; Traci Steinhauer, nominating and elections committee - East District; and Ashley Green, east district director.

500 applications must be received in order for the commemorative license plate to be manufactured. If the required number of applications is received and the manufacturing fee paid, the license plate will be manufactured and issued during the owner's registration period in 2004 upon the payment of a $20 tag fee, $25 special tag fee and ad valorem taxes. If the required number of applications is received and an owner has not paid the $25 manufacturing fee, the license plate will be manufactured and issued during the owner's registration period in 2005 upon the payment of the manufacturing fee, the $20 tag fee, the $25 special tag fee and ad valorem taxes.

For more information, contact your county tag office or 854-0343.

Step up to the plate

Members of the Medical College of Georgia community who are Georgia residents are invited to apply for a 2004 Georgia license plate commemorating the university.

"This is an excellent way to demonstrate your support of MCG and your pride in being a member of the MCG community," said R. Bryan Ginn Jr., MCG vice president for external affairs and government relations. "We welcome the participation of MCG faculty, staff, alumni, students and others who support the university."

Those interested must submit an application and a $25 manufacturing fee to their county tag agent by July 31. The application (form MV-9C) is available on the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety's Web site, www.dmvvs.ga.gov/motor/plates/plate.asp?ptitle=MC.

Five hundred applications must be received in order for the commemorative license plate to be manufactured. If the required number of applications is received and the manufacturing fee paid, the license plate will be manufactured and issued during the owner's registration period in 2004 upon the payment of a $20 tag fee, $25 special tag fee and ad valorem taxes. If the required number of applications is received and an owner has not paid the $25 manufacturing fee, the license plate will be manufactured and issued during the owner's registration period in 2005 upon the payment of the manufacturing fee, the $20 tag fee, the $25 special tag fee and ad valorem taxes.

http://www.mcs.edu/news/beeper/
Make mental health a priority every day

by Kate Wicker

Each year mental illness strikes one in five Americans. Mental health affects personal relationships, life at work or school, and physical health. Yet, people often ignore their emotional well-being. In fact, nearly half of all Americans with a severe mental illness fail to seek treatment, according to the U.S. Surgeon General’s report on mental health.

While not everyone will suffer from clinical depression, anxiety or other mental disorders, it’s important to pay attention to your mental health every day. “Mental health is far more than an absence of a mental illness,” explains Dr. Christian Lemmon, a clinical psychologist and associate professor at the Medical College of Georgia. “Mental health is something all of us want for ourselves because it greatly improves our quality of life.”

Whether you’re currently receiving treatment for a mental health problem or just want to zap some stress out of your life, Dr. Lemmon offers the following tips to help you feel good — inside and out.

- Relax. While it’s easier said than done, devoting at least 20 minutes to relaxation each day will keep you feeling happier and more at peace. “Although relaxation techniques vary from person to person, you should try to choose something that helps you unwind,” Dr. Lemmon says. “This might mean lying down with a good book, jogging, getting a manicure, praying or meditating.”
- Make a plan. Use a calendar or a notebook to figure out what needs doing — and what doesn’t. “It’s important to learn to prioritize because you can’t do it all,” says Dr. Lemmon. “Make your to-do lists realistic and give yourself ample time to accomplish each task. And keep in mind that crossing things off that list helps you to feel like you are accomplishing things, too!”
- Rely on family and friends for support. The support of family, friends and co-workers can really help balance your life. It’s OK to ask for help. In addition, Dr. Lemmon stresses the importance of social involvement. “Spending time with loved ones or seeking out activities where you can meet new people such as a club or class can help reduce feelings of isolation and anxiety,” he says.
- Take care of yourself. Taking care of yourself physically can enhance your mental health. Exercise is a great stress-buster, and eating a healthy diet makes you feel better as well. Catching enough Zzzzzzzs, and avoiding alcohol also help you to feel mentally and physically sound.
- Help others. “Giving of your time and talents makes you feel good, and it’s a great way to network with people who share your interests,” Dr. Lemmon says. An added bonus: Several studies show that volunteers are less likely to experience a major illness than those who do not lend a helping hand.
- Expand your interests. Find something you love — whether it’s a new hobby, taking a vacation or learning to play an instrument — and commit yourself to doing it. “Broadening your horizons gives you a change of pace and a new sense of meaning in your life,” Dr. Lemmon explains.
- Value yourself. You’ve heard it time and time again, but before you can love life, you have to learn to love yourself. “Respect yourself, and avoid self-criticism. Focus on all your positive qualities, including your accomplishments and abilities. Take some time for you every day,” Dr. Lemmon says.
- Seek professional help if you need it. “Too many people don’t seek treatment because of the stigma they might face or embarrassment, but it doesn’t make sense for people to live with depression and other mental health problems when treatments are so effective,” Dr. Lemmon says. “If you think you may be suffering from a mental health disorder, get help.”

May is National Mental Health Month. To learn more about mental illness and for other resources such as the Georgia Mental Health Network, visit the MCG Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Web site at www.mcghealthcare.org/mental/index.htm. For outpatient assessment and care, call ext. 1-CARE.

CMC hosts Children’s Miracle Network broadcast

The Medical College of Georgia Children’s Medical Center will host the 2003 Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) broadcast on May 31 and June 1 as part of the national CMN celebration in Orlando, Fla. The event helps raise money to benefit the more than 170 premier hospitals.

Since partnering with CMN in 1986, the CMC has raised nearly $7 million through corporate sponsorship and various fund-raising events.

“Our goal is always to raise more than last year,” said Cheryl Grace, CMC Annual Fund Coordinator. “100 percent of the money raised here stays here to support our patients.”

WRDW-TV News 12 personalities Richard Rogers and Laurie Ott will host the Augusta event, which airs Saturday from 9 a.m. until 12 a.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., live from the CMC lobby. The broadcast features interviews with former patients and families. Employees, families and friends are encouraged to come, watch and pledge their support.

Don’t miss a Beep! Read every Beeper issue from cover to cover!
**Campus beat**

The following incidents were recorded by the MCG Public Safety Department. Periodic reports of crime-related news on campus are posted in conjunction with federal, state and local laws and are intended to maximize campus safety and awareness. To report crimes or suspicious activity, call MCG Public Safety at 1-2911 or #2911 from a cellular phone.

**Paine College campus crimes**

May 14 at 8:50 p.m., a Paine College professor walking across the Paine College campus was approached by an unknown person who asked to use his phone. The suspect, described as a tall, slim black male with big eyes, then pulled out a pistol and demanded his money. A wallet was reported missing.

A green 1992 Buick LeSabre was entered while parked on the second level of the Ambulatory Care Center parking deck May 19, between 8:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. The vehicle was entered through an open window. A digital camera and briefcase were reported missing.

A blue 2000 Chevrolet Blazer was entered by breaking out the right passenger window while parked on the Paine College campus May 14 at 10:55 p.m. A cell phone and clothing were reported missing.

A green Cadillac DeVille was entered by breaking out the right passenger window while parked on the second level of the Ambulatory Care Center parking deck May 19, between 8:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. The vehicle was entered through an open window. A digital camera and briefcase were reported missing.

A green 1992 Buick LeSabre was entered while parked on the first level of the Children's Medical Center parking deck May 19, between 8:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. The vehicle was entered through an open window. A digital camera and briefcase were reported missing.

A blue 2000 Chevrolet Blazer was entered by breaking out the right passenger window while parked on the first level of the Children's Medical Center parking deck May 7 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. A purse was reported missing.

**Vehicle Break-Ins**

A green Cadillac DeVille was entered by breaking out the front passenger-door window while parked on the first level of the Children's Medical Center parking deck on May 7 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. A purse was reported missing.

A green 2000 Chevrolet Blazer was entered by breaking out the right passenger window while parked on the second level of the Children's Medical Center parking deck May 19, between 8:15 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. The vehicle was entered through an open window. A digital camera and briefcase were reported missing.

Anyone with information concerning these incidents should contact MCG Police at ext. 1-2911.

**Protect yourself and your property**

- Do not leave property - especially face plates or after-market stereo equipment - in your vehicle visible to passers-by.
- Carry your vehicle keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door as soon as you get to the vehicle.
- Use the campus escort service, available 24 hours a day.
- If you see anyone who looks suspicious, lost, confused or out of place, call MCG Police immediately.

**Pediatric clinic promotes fitness**

by Danielle Wong

Childhood obesity can carry into adulthood, leading to high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea and joint problems.

Medical College of Georgia Health System has developed a clinic to teach children lifestyle choices that promote good health.

“This program offers physical fitness, nutritional and medical assessments in order to personalize a program specifically for your child,” said physical therapist Saku Sundaram. “Exercise and diet options are customized to your child’s likes and dislikes. The result is that these children learn to modify their behavior, which can help prevent problems down the road.”

MCG Children’s Medical Center pediatricians Dr. Robert Pendergrast and Dr. Reda Bassali medically assess the participants. “As the region’s only children’s hospital, it’s important that we take the lead on preventive programs such as these in order to reduce the burden of adult disease,” said Dr. Pendergrast.

“In essence, this is our last chance to reach these young people,” said Dr. Bassali. “Once they reach their 20s, it becomes more difficult to retrain the mind and body to make the lifestyle and behavior modifications necessary for weight reduction.”

The program, which lasts an average of six months, begins with an assessment leading to an individualized regimen. Participants visit biweekly the first two months, then weekly so their progress can be monitored and the regimen adjusted if necessary.

After six months, some weight may have been lost, but Dr. Pendergrast hopes more than that comes out of the clinic. “In six months, it’s difficult to expect a complete turnaround of a process that has been going in the wrong direction for years,” he said. “Instead, our goal is for long-term change. We hope that good habits will have been learned so that these kids will grow to become fit, healthy adults.”

Families with children ages 6 to 18 interested in the program may speak with their physicians about a referral or schedule an appointment with Dr. Pendergrast or Dr. Bassali by calling ext. 1-KIDS (1-5437).

Physicians wishing to refer patients should contact the MCG Physical Therapy Department at ext. 1-2481.

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于此处结束
Accelerating toward a cure for breast cancer

by Kate Wicker

Augusta residents got into the fast lane in the battle against breast cancer on Wednesday, April 30.

The MCG Cancer Center partnered with Taylor BMW and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for the Ultimate Drive – an event in which BMW of North America donates $1 to the foundation for every mile test-driven in a fleet of high-performance BMWs.

A caravan of 18 specially decorated BMW cars traveled to Macon on May 1 to rack up more mileage and to promote breast cancer research and education.

Augusta-Richmond County Mayor Bob Young named Tamika Weaver, a local breast cancer survivor, as the local hero for the event. Local heroes act as ambassadors to educate the public about breast cancer. Ms. Weaver volunteers for the MCG Breast Cancer Support Group, the American Cancer Society Relay For Life and other community initiatives.

“I was so honored to be the local hero for the event here in Augusta,” said Ms. Weaver. “And the Komen message is an important one. I can’t stress enough how vital it is for women to receive regular mammograms and perform self-checks at an early age.”

Ms. Weaver was diagnosed at a very young age. “Breast cancer doesn’t discriminate,” she said. “I should know—I was diagnosed with breast cancer when I was 27. It was an unbelievable diagnosis. But it was also an early diagnosis, and after treatment, I’m proud to say that I’ve been cancer free for the past year.”

More than 200 cities nationwide participated in Ultimate Drive event. For six years, BMW of North America has met its 1 million mile/$1 million goal, and, to date, has donated more than $6 million dollars to benefit breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

Over 280 test drivers participated in Augusta, raising over $6,500 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Representatives from the MCG Cancer Center provided breast cancer education to attendees.

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Philadelphia. He was a member of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church. Survivors include wife Carol Surrao; daughters Kristen Surrao and Katelyn Surrao; parents Nicholas Ruben Surrao and Martha Teresa Surrao; brothers Martin Gerard Surrao and Dominic Jude Surrao. In lieu of flowers, please contact the family for donations.

ON THE WEB:
www.mcg.edu/news/beeper