President W. Rahn tours Printing and Copying Services, spends time with children in the MCG Child Care Center.

Presidential Preschool

Auxiliary Services

Fast facts

The Division of Auxiliary Services manages and oversees the institution's retail activities including:
- Bookstore
- Child Care Center
- Copying and Printing Services
- Debit Card System (Express Card)
- Food Services (Contracted)
- Vending (Contracted)

Comprised of approximately 30 employees, the division also manages the rental of Alumni Center banquet rooms and supports the Wellness Center, Student Housing, Student Health and Parking Services with funding assistance and budget management. These functions, including Auxiliary Services Administration, are self-supporting entities and are not funded with state appropriations. All retail activities are operated solely for the convenience and necessity of students, faculty, staff, visitors, and in some instances, patients.

The division's administrative offices are on the second floor of the Student Center. For more information, visit www.mcg.edu/Auxiliary or contact Director of Auxiliary Services Justin Pittman at ext. 1-4101 or jpittman@mcg.edu.

Tumor bank aids research

by Toni Baker

A tumor repository that supports cancer research in Georgia by making tissue and blood as well as pertinent clinical data available to scientists is under development at the Medical College of Georgia.

The Georgia Cancer Coalition and the MCG Department of Pathology are funding the repository that will reach across Georgia to major cancer treatment facilities. This repository or tumor bank has a dual role, serving as the local repository supporting cancer researchers at MCG as well as the designated central repository for the statewide network, said Dr. Judith Giri, director of the Tissue and Serum Repository.

MCG Medical Center and DeKalb Medical Center are the first two hospitals to participate in the statewide network. Hospitals in southeast Georgia towns, including Brunswick and Savannah, will join soon and Dr. Giri is working with hospitals in the northwest region of the state as well.

Tumor banks that make fast-frozen, quality tissue available to scientists are being developed across the country to enable innovative studies such as identifying new biomarkers to aid cancer diagnosis and developing more targeted treatments. "The availability of properly preserved tissue is a limiting factor for a lot of research," said Dr. Giri, a cancer biologist.

"The places that excel in cancer research all have extensive bio-repositories," said Dr. Stephen C. Peiper, chair of the MCG Department of Pathology, GCC Distinguished Cancer Clinician and Scientist and medical director for the new repository. "We are working to produce a bank for Georgia with abundant clinical information that reflects the state's ethnic and racial diversity. The ultimate goal is to improve cancer research and cancer care in Georgia. This repository will be a valuable asset for MCG's new Cancer Research Center now under construction," Dr. Peiper said of the five-story, 160,000-square-foot building at the intersection of R.A. Dent and Laney Walker Boulevards scheduled to open in early 2006.

Patients having cancer surgery at participating hospitals will be asked about donating tissue that would normally be discarded after the surgery and diagnostic process are complete, Dr. Giri says. The MCG Surgical Research Service, directed by Mary Anne Park, has helped obtain consent from MCG patients. "Often there is sufficient tissue left over that would be discarded but that could be a very valuable tool for researchers," Dr. Giri said. "But the diagnosis is always first." Patient privacy also is paramount. As an extra safeguard for donors, tissue will be kept in the repository for 30 days in case a new testing need arises.

Donated tissue is rapidly frozen, then stored in liquid nitrogen freezers on the MCG campus.
Managing GroupWise e-mail quotas

Do you feel like your e-mail account is a monster that’s eating your resources whole? Here are some tips to help put that monster in a cage:

1. The quota for each GroupWise mailbox is 200MB. Check how much space you have used by placing the cursor over the mailbox percent at the bottom of your GroupWise account.

2. The GroupWise client is set to automatically archive mail and telephone messages after 60 days and appointments, tasks, and notes every 180 days. Changing the limit to 30 days will archive more frequently.

3. Also, messages that include attachments take up more space than messages without attachments. To manually archive a message with attachments:
   • Right click the message
   • Select “Move to Archive”
   • Archived mail does not count toward GroupWise mailbox quota, and can be viewed by:
     • Opening GroupWise
     • Selecting “File”
     • Selecting “Open Archive”

Other resources are available at www.mcg.edu/its/Help/email/archive2.htm and www.mcg.edu/its/Help/email/quota.htm

For more information, contact the ITSS Help Desk at ext. 1-4000 or e-mail ITDSUPPORT@mcg.edu.

Clinical research support grows

by Toni Baker

Carol G. Terry has been named assistant director of the Office of Clinical Trials Compliance.

Ivy R. Tillman has been named clinical research training coordinator for the office that oversees clinical research at MCG, the MCG Health System and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta.

“Carol and Ivy will strengthen two important aspects of our office: providing the educational support researchers need for their clinical studies and ensuring those studies are effectively and efficiently reviewed,” says Michelle Christiano, director of the Office of Clinical Trials Compliance.

Mrs. Terry serves as administrator of the Human Assurance Committee, MCG’s institutional review board, or IRB, that approves studies involving humans or human tissue or records. She also is MCG’s liaison with a second institutional review board that is available to MCG researchers for certain industry-sponsored studies.

Mrs. Terry has worked as an auditor in the Office of Clinical Trials Compliance since March 2004. She began her research career as a study coordinator for the MCG Department of Surgery and later coordinated the Stroke Prevention Trial in Sickle Cell Anemia for the Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. She also served as program manager for the MCG Center for Clinical Investigation. Other responsibilities have included working as a nurse educator in the MCG Department of Family Medicine and as a clinical nurse specialist for the Children and Youth Project. She earned her undergraduate nursing degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia and a master of science degree in nursing from MCG.

As the new clinical research training coordinator, Mrs. Tillman manages educational programs regarding protection of human research participants for research team members. She is spearheading MCG’s move from a Web-based education program developed on campus to the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative developed at the University of Miami. This approach will enable some standardization of the educational program that will ease transition for new faculty. Mrs. Christiano says. Mrs. Tillman also works closely with Recruitment Coordinators United in Excellence.

“She has developed regulatory and good practice workshops and every other Friday is bringing in guest speakers to help study coordinators prepare for certification exams by the Association of Clinical Professionals and the Society of Clinical Research Associates,” Mrs. Christiano says. Mrs. Tillman’s previous responsibilities included clinical research coordinator and research compliance coordinator at Walton Rehabilitation Hospital in Augusta. She also has worked as a research project coordinator and research assistant at MCG. She is a 1997 graduate of Clemson University and a certified clinical research coordinator by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals.
times, especially important for industry-sponsored trials with tight deadlines. Our faculty have asked for this to help them be more competitive.”

Each year about 400 research protocols – including 100 industry-sponsored clinical trials – are submitted for review by MCG’s IRB, which meets monthly, Mrs. Christiano explained. Chesapeake Research Review, Inc., meets three times weekly.

MCG selected Chesapeake as a second IRB because it was the first to receive full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protections Programs and the Partnership for Human Research Protection, Inc., she says.

Town hall meetings about the new IRB option are set for noon-4 p.m. Tues, July 12 and 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Wed, July 13, in Room 108 of the Greenblatt Library.

MCG rallies behind the Relay

The MCG community played a tremendous role in the success of Augusta’s 2005 Relay for Life, according to the American Cancer Society South Atlantic Division.

“This was the best relay yet, even considering our original date was canceled due to weather,” said Tricia Miller, senior community manager for the society. “We had a record-breaking 92 teams participate this year and 38 corporate sponsors, which gave us a grand total of $332,154 with money still coming in. A big thanks to MCG [employees and students] for all your hard work and support.”

Designed to celebrate cancer survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society, the local Relay for Life, held at the Family Y on Wheeler Road, was almost rained out a second time. But a brief break in the showers June 3 allowed the event to continue, inspired by music from the band, Borderline and DJ Dr. Chris Gibbs. Teams took turns walking or running laps, trying to keep at least one member on the track at all times. A survivors’ lap allowed cancer survivors to walk together and celebrate their success. A luminary ceremony honored those who died of cancer.

This year, a dozen MCG teams plus MCG’s corporate sponsorship of the event raised $14,415.15 for cancer research.

MCG Relay for Life teams, captains and team total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dream Team, Department of Family Medicine</td>
<td>Dorothy Clifford</td>
<td>$1,529.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crothall Warriors</td>
<td>Katina Burke</td>
<td>$519.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Radiation Therapy, Michelle Rocque</td>
<td>$2,280.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCG Children’s Medical Center, Heather Evans</td>
<td>$2,122.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCG 5 South, Trisha Loveday</td>
<td>$1,080</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCG Breast Cancer Support Group - The Pink Butterflies, Renee Townsend</td>
<td>$955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCG Orthopaedic, Michelle Mangano</td>
<td>$697.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCG Cancer Center and Gynecology Support Group - The Sweet Peas, Donna Wheatley and Nettie Engels</td>
<td>$2,731.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MCG teams total: $11,915.15
MCG Corporate Sponsorship: $2,500
Grand MCG total: $14,415.15

(Employees from the MCG Executive Team led by Doug Fine, the MCG Pain Clinic and MCG Perinatal Express combined fundraising efforts with other MCG teams.)

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The Ultimate Driving Machine
Dental program will optimize students' clinical experience

by Christine Hurley Deriso

The School of Dentistry has created a Comprehensive Care Program to optimize the patient care delivered by students as part of their training.

Junior and senior dental students treat patients, supervised by faculty members, in the School of Dentistry building on the corner of 15th Street and Laney Walker Boulevard to supplement their skills and serve the community. The new program will centralize the service through the school’s general dentistry clinics.

"The school has always offered comprehensive care to our patients, but the care was managed and delivered in specialty clinics supervised by specialists," said Dr. Frank Caughman, associate dean of patient services in the School of Dentistry.

In the new system, which will be fully implemented next summer, the students will be supervised by experienced generalists. This system will optimize continuity of care and preclude the existing problem of student dentists occasionally struggling to arrange appointments in specific clinics, Dr. Caughman said.

"We envision a system where the senior class will be divided into two teams with patients assigned to both the student and the team," Dr. Caughman said. "The faculty for each team will be consistent throughout the year, so faculty will have a more active role in each patient’s treatment which should lead to more efficient patient care."

See CAUGHMAN page 5
New program director helps shape role of health informatics

by Christine Hurley Deriso

Amanda Carroll-Barefield, assistant professor of health informatics in the School of Allied Health Sciences, has been named program director for the undergraduate and certificate programs in the Department of Health Informatics.

The department offers an applied informatics degree in health information administration. This degree prepares graduates for roles in health information administration. Both programs are offered on campus and online. Ms. Carroll-Barefield’s responsibilities will include oversight of accreditation standards and curricular updates.

“Ms. Carroll-Barefield’s experience and expertise in informatics and distance education make her a perfect match for the role of program director,” said Dr. Carol Campbell, chair of the Department of Health Informatics and associate dean for distance education.

Ms. Carroll-Barefield explained, when MCG School of Allied Health Sciences.

“The program emerged, he charged him with creating a program that is unique for the role of program director,” said Dr. Carol Campbell, chair of the Department of Health Informatics and associate dean for business operations in the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences.

“I’m pleased she has accepted this new role in our department.”

“Overseeing these programs is particularly vital as health informatics assumes an increasingly important role in health care on both an individual and societal level,” said Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences.

“Health informatics is assuming a central role as our country moves toward electronic health records and ever-growing vigilance to ensure patient privacy,” said Ms. Carroll-Barefield. “It’s very exciting to be educating students during such a pivotal point in health care. Our programs prepare graduates to lead these innovations in health care delivery.”

Ms. Carroll-Barefield earned a bachelor’s degree in health information management from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in administration from Central Michigan State University. She is completing doctoral work in instructional technology and distance education from Nova Southeastern University.

She joined the MCG faculty in 1998 and is a member of the American Health Information Management Association.

A Place to Hang Your Heart

Undoubtedly Mother Nature is the major developer here! Designed for leisure, situated on a large, deep cove, this 4 bedroom, 3½ bath home offers lakefront home is first-class all the way. Custom built, all electric, old heart pine floors, pecky cypress walls, Great Room with masonry fireplace, 23x12 screened porch, double garage, security, satellite, and sprinkler systems are but a few of the amenities. The double tier dock with floating lifts at your back door affords opportunity for unlimited water play. Offered at $750,000, the return justifies the investment. 46-B Hill Drive, Modoc, SC. Call Carol for a private showing.

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All dressed up and waiting, this 4Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2,700 square foot Summerville Cottage could be your dream starter! The harvest of amenities include: beautiful living room with arched bookshelves; wood burning fireplace; large eat-in kitchen with new tile floor and cabinet facelift; huge utility/laundry room; sun porch with new tile floor; large screened in back porch; outside workshop and garage; freshly painted and ready to fill with your favorite things! Offered at $229,900. Call Carol for a private showing.

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Progress report

MCG President Daniel W. Rahn discussed the campus Life Sciences Business Development Center, the state's Life Sciences Innovation Center, with leaders from the Georgia Senate and local legislative delegation during a June 22 campus visit. Dr. Rahn told the guests how MCG is actively recruiting and encouraging new startup companies in the life sciences as part of a statewide initiative. The legislators toured the incubators of the Georgia Medical Center Authority and MCG. Pictured clockwise with Dr. Rahn are Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson; Sen. Jeff Mullis, chair of the Science and Technology Committee; Randy Hall, former senator; Bryan Ginn, vice president for External Affairs; Sen. Don Balfour, chair of the Rules Committee; and Sen. Tommie Williams, majority leader. Page one photo, Dr. Michael Gabridge, associate vice president for technology transfer and economic development, led the tour. (Phil Jones photos)

Special scalpel reduces blood loss, facial nerve trauma in salivary surgery

A harmonic scalpel that uses ultrasound to coagulate as it cuts can reduce blood loss and postoperative facial paralysis in patients who need a portion of their salivary gland removed, surgeons say.

Infection of the sponge-like parotid gland is uncomfortable but temporary, says Dr. Christine G. Gourin, otolaryngologist at the Medical College of Georgia. But when the gland develops cancerous or benign tumors or stones that interfere with saliva flow, a rather tricky surgery to remove part or all of the gland is needed. Surgical removal is delicate because the parotid sits between the cheekbone and jawbone and the facial nerve runs right through it, Dr. Gourin says of the gland which contributes a watery fluid to the saliva mix that helps lubricate the mouth and tongue and digest food.

The hidden name in this issue is worth $50.00 to someone.

You, perhaps.

remove the gland and surgical ties or electrocautery to stop bleeding. A small pilot study published in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery in 2004 described how the harmonic scalpel could reduce operative time and blood loss in patients who had benign disease and needed only a portion of their gland removed.

The new expanded study, published in the June issue of Laryngoscope, compared a larger mix of patients: 41 patients who underwent conventional surgery and 44 who underwent harmonic scalpel parotidectomy for benign or malignant disease and required superficial or total gland removal.

In the superficial group, the harmonic scalpel reduced blood loss during surgery, drainage afterward and facial nerve trauma, says Dr. Gourin, corresponding author on the study.

See GOURIN page 14
Taking stock:

Campus inventory under way

by Ellen Gladden Jones

Assistant property control officers are conducting a campus inventory through Aug. 1. Approximately 16,000 items valued at $91 million will all be accounted for during the process, according to Property Control Officer Kevin Doyle.

The annual event involves teaching nearly 50 employees to accurately record information on state-owned equipment valued at $1,000 or more. "Each department has an assistant property control officer who monitors equipment for their department, including loan agreements for equipment that leaves campus, and reporting where items are located," said Mr. Doyle, noting laptop computers often go home with employees on loan agreements.

This year, Mr. Doyle and his staff have met individually with all departments to discuss protocol. Employees conducting the counts will get a download of all items in their department from the Asset Management Web site. Assistant property control officers will log locations of items such as computers, microscopes and centrifuges. The information will be tallied and included in the Asset Management system, according to Mr. Doyle.

"We are audited by the state annually," he said. "This means they will find a random piece of equipment on our inventory and go out with the assistant property control officer to verify the item is where we said it was. So, it is very important that we know where every piece of equipment is at all times."

Ironically, computers have both helped and hindered the processes, said Mr. Doyle, who recalls doing inventory with pen and paper.

"We used to be required to inventory every item over $100, and it literally took us two years to cover the entire campus. We had [an employee] whose job every day was to type changes to the inventory brought in on handwritten sheets," he said.

With the Asset Management module in PeopleSoft, property control officers now download a spreadsheet of items and bar code numbers from the supply administration Web site and e-mail their reports. However, keeping track of the frequently mobile computer terminals can be a headache, according to Mr. Doyle.

"Computers break down, get upgrades and are moved from one office to another. A lot of times, people forget to let their property control officer know where they’ve moved them. Keeping track of the inventory through the year is really the best plan, so when inventory time comes it’s not such a chore," said Mr. Doyle.

"We want to make the process easier for everyone involved," he said, noting the department hopes to have bar code scanners for next year’s inventory.

For more information, contact Mr. Doyle at ext. 1-2154.

Beeper’s “Look What I Grew!” Contest Needs You

Do you have homegrown vegetables maturing in your garden? You could reap rewards from your crop in the Beeper’s third “Look what I grew!” gardening contest. Share your fattest, skinniest and most unusual-looking fruits and vegetables with the Beeper and you could earn gift certificates from gardening stores and several area restaurants and bookstores.

Got a noteworthy homegrown piece of produce you’d like to enter? Contact Beeper Editor Ellen Gladden Jones at 1-4410 (phone) or egladden@mail.mcg.edu (e-mail) or send a photo of you with your garden gem to FI-1042 (intracampus mail). Entries should include a picture of the grower with the vegetable or fruit. Categories include, but are not limited to: Fattest Produce, Longest Produce, Most Unusual-Looking Produce (i.e. grew in an odd shape). Send us what you think is noteworthy and tell us why. We’ll award prizes for your gardening skills.

All gardeners must be MCG-affiliated. Only students, retirees, current employees or spouses of MCG, MCG Health, Inc., or Physicians Practice Group are eligible for prizes. All produce must be home-grown.

Deadline for entries is July 12. Winners will be published in the July 21 issue.

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Parents’ example sets stage for life of service

by Christine Hurley Deriso

The irony is striking.
Dr. Miguel A. Zuniga, director of the Medical College of Georgia Public Health Program, is a native of Honduras, where mass poverty dooms many children to malnutrition. In his adopted country, childhood obesity is epidemic.

“Eighty percent of children under 5 in Honduras are malnourished and underfed,” said Dr. Zuniga. “Here, we see an excess. This is a health promotion issue.”

And he knows of no higher calling than promoting health. Throughout his 20-year career as a practitioner, teacher and researcher in public health, Dr. Zuniga has always sought opportunities to move his expertise from ivory towers into the community.

For instance, last year he teamed with a school district in Mississippi to promote healthier lifestyles by measuring teachers’ and students’ body mass index. The teachers, armed with donated pedometers, were given a goal of numbers of steps to take during the day to increase their activity levels and model good habits for their students. The school created a walking trail on campus, and businesses donated prizes for those who exceed their goals.

As the teachers and students devise ever-more creative ways to incorporate more walking into their day — parking farther from the school, taking longer routes from one area of school to the next, walking the trail during recess — Dr. Zuniga hopes their body mass indices will take a dive. He will measure them every year for five years, then analyze and report the results.

“Part of our job is to collaborate and provide service,” Dr. Zuniga said. He has always felt an obligation to serve his community, particularly now that he is modeling the value for his children, age 8 and 11. One of 10 children born to parents with second-grade educations, Dr. Zuniga is filled with admiration for the example they set. “My parents moved from a rural area to the capital city of Honduras so we could have an education,” he said. “Otherwise, their circumstances would have been repeated, with us working in the fields at a very early age. They told me my job was to go to school and get an education.”

He and his siblings all excelled. “I’m very proud of my parents for what they did for us,” he said. “I know they’re proud of us, but the reality is that we, their children, are so thankful for what they did. It’s something I try as a parent to replicate.”

His wife, Dr. Genny Carrillo-Zuniga, an MCG assistant professor of health informatics who was named a 2005 biomedical informatics fellow by the National Library of Medicine, shares his values. They follow their children’s schoolwork closely, reading the same textbooks and even the same books they read for pleasure. “That way, we are learning and enjoying things together,” Dr. Zuniga said. They travel as much as possible to Dr. Zuniga’s childhood home in Honduras and his wife’s in Mexico to keep their children close to their roots. “Our life,” Dr. Zuniga said, “is very full.”

Michelle Prope in nursing administration introduces Buffy, a 16-month-old Jack Russell/Corgi/Dachshund, who was rescued by Molly’s Militia on the day she was to be euthanized. “When I saw her, I couldn’t resist her charm,” says Ms. Prope. “Needless to say, she is spoiled rotten.”
Don't forget the decals, hangtags

Parkers in MCG decks and lots must display new vehicle hangtags and decals effective July 1. Citations are being issued to vehicles in MCG parking areas without proper identification. Hangtags and decals were mailed through campus mail in June to faculty and employees. Student materials were mailed to the address designated in their registration e-mail. For questions or more information, contact the MCG Parking Services at ext. 1-2953.

MCG Health, Inc. participants in the MCG Parking Program will receive notice of their parking assignments from the MCG Health, Inc. Parking Office. These parkers should address questions about parking assignments to the MCG Health, Inc. Parking Office at ext. 1-7275. Physicians Practice Group parkers in the MCG Parking Program will have their parking assignments coordinated through PPG administration.

We pledge

School of Dentistry Sophomore Kevin Harrison signs the dentist pledge during the school's third annual White Coat Ceremony June 24 in the Large Auditorium. Dr. Logan Kiley II, MCG's 2005 School of Dentistry Distinguished Alumnus, led students and faculty in a reading of the pledge and witnessed students signing the pledge after each received their coat from Dean Connie Drisko. The event was attended by special guests Dr. James Reynerson III, chair of the Georgia Section of the American College of Dentists, and Dr. Gerrit C. Hagman, regent from District 5 of the International College of Dentists, who as keynote speaker encouraged students to keep research, professionalism and ethics in their dental careers. (Phil Jones photo)

Alumna donates $10,000 to nursing chair

by Christine Hurley Deriso

Dr. Linda Ellis has supported her alma mater throughout her adulthood, but her most recent gesture brings her full circle.

Dr. Ellis, Associate Professor and Associate Dean Emerita of the School of Nursing, recently donated $10,000 to the school's E. Louise Grant Chair. The chair honors the school's founding dean, a woman who launched countless nursing careers,

including Dr. Ellis'. The chair was established and partially funded through a gift in the will of Dean Grant. Dr. Ellis' gift brings the funding level to around $375,000; the chair will be fully endowed at $500,000. The funding will supplement the salary of a world-class faculty member, bolstering MCG's tripartite mission of education, research and clinical care, according to School of Nursing Dean Lucy Marion.

"Dr. Ellis' gift is meaningful on so many levels," said Dr. Marion. "She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from MCG, then joined the faculty in 1972 and came out of retirement last year to serve as interim associate dean when we needed her. It's impossible to overstate her many contributions to our school and the university as a whole.

Dr. Ellis, originally from Statesboro, Ga., recalls Dean Grant's gift of inspiring others while insisting on the highest of standards. "She and the early faculty were quite visionary, and I really think it's important to get this endowment funded by the time [the MCG Health Sciences Building] opens."

The Health Sciences Building, which will house the School of Allied Health Sciences and School of Nursing, is scheduled to open in mid-2006.

"Now more than ever, private philanthropy such as Dr. Ellis' makes a critical difference in helping the MCG School of Nursing achieve its vision of becoming a premier nursing school," said Dr. Marion.

Such generosity is particularly important to attract bright young minds to the nursing profession and to optimize their education, she said.

"The MCG School of Nursing is the largest nursing school in Georgia, and it is extremely important to ensure its academic future, particularly in light of a nationwide nursing shortage," said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn.

"Endowed chairs help us recruit and retain the highest-caliber academic nurses and go a long way toward ensuring that future."

Since retiring for the second time from MCG, Dr. Ellis enjoys gardening and recently opened her home to the Augusta Daylilies Society to showcase her flowers.

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2006 Saturn Ion

2006 Saturn Relay

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Searel Scholars Program
MCG has been invited to submit an application to the Searel Scholars Program for fiscal 06. The program will award 15 grants of $80,000 per year for three years, with funding for the second and third years contingent upon the submission of acceptable progress reports. Candidates for this funding opportunity should have begun their first appointment in a tenure track position at the assistant professor level on or after July 1, 2004, and be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, chemistry, medicine and the biological sciences. Because MCG may submit only one application, Dr. Barry Goldstein and Dr. Steve Schwab will screen potential applicants for the institution. To nominate a candidate, send a letter of recommendation and the applicant’s curriculum vita to Schirley Schulte (CJ-3315) by July 15. Details of the program and application process are at www.searel.scholars.net.

Volunteers needed
Second-year students in the School of Medicine are seeking volunteers from the MCG community to plan a 5K race to support diabetes research in November, which is National Diabetes Awareness Month. All levels of time commitment are acceptable. Performers related to health disparities, meets monthly and welcomes new members. The group sponsors think tanks for researchers developing studies, brown-bag educational/research discussions and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. A Community Advisory Board consisting of approximately 25 minority leaders provides guidance and feedback. For more information, contact Dr. Jeannette Andrews, chair of the group, at ext. 1-4812 or janrewes@mcm.edu.

MCG Arts Council seeks performers
Performing artists - solo, group, instrumental, vocal and dance, from the MCG community are needed for the MCG Arts Council’s Noon Arts Conference Series for 2004-05. To share your talents during these free midday concerts, e-mail Dr. Kathleen McKie at kmckie@mcg.edu or call ext. 1-0175.

Blood donors needed
The MCG Blood Donor Room is seeking donations of all types. All blood drawn at the MCG Blood Donor Room is used for MCG patients. To donate, call ext. 1-3694, or stop by the Blood Donor Room on the first floor of the Sydenstricker Building, room 1200.

Graduate to help train Olympic athletes
Andy Eberheart, a 2005 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Physician Assistant, will volunteer in the Division of Sports Medicine at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. “I will spend two weeks providing medical care to the U.S. National Teams in residence at that time,” said Mr. Eberheart.

Making a good impression

The Learning Curve
Editor’s note: The MCG Division of Human Resources lists training opportunities in this monthly column. Courses are free for MCG employees and are held in room 1151 of the Annex unless otherwise indicated. For more information about training courses not listed here, contact Training and Development Manager Al Kennedy at ext. 1-5197. Registration forms and course descriptions are located at http://www.mcg.edu/hr/training/. Complete and submit one form per participant, per class.

July 11 - Peoplesoft Basics, 1-4 p.m.
July 12 - Peoplesoft Financials, 1-4 p.m.
July 14 - Peoplesoft Query, 1-4 p.m.
July 18 - Word Level I, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 19 - Excel Level I, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 19 - Sexual Harassment, 2-4:30 p.m.
July 20 - PowerPoint Level I, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 20 - Faculty Affairs Promotion and Tenure, 2-4 p.m.
July 21 - Access Level I, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 22 - Groupware Level I, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 25 - Word Level II, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 25 - Diversity, 2-4 p.m.
July 26 - Excel Level II, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 27 - PowerPoint Level II, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 27 - P-Card training, 2-4 p.m.
July 28 - Access Level II, 9-10:30 a.m.
July 28 - Budget Development, 11 a.m. - noon (CJ 3302)
July 29 - Groupware Level II, 9-10:30 a.m.

THANKS for reading
Breast cancer uses growth factors to lure stem cells

by Toni Baker

Like a siren song, breast cancer secretes growth factors to attract stem cells that then use those cells—which normally promote healing—to help it survive, researchers have found.

In the laboratory, the researchers have documented secretion of growth factors FGF2 and VEGF by breast cancer cells, seen these factors bind to receptors on stem cells then watched stem cells migrate toward the cancer. When they took the growth factors away, the deadly migration decreased.

"These stem cells are there to make normal tissue; they make fat, cartilage, bone," says Dr. Adam Perry, general surgery resident at the Medical College of Georgia. "But if you have a tumor, it will in a sense mimic some tissue type to get the cells to come and help form the environment that is called the tumor stroma that it needs to get beyond a certain size. That's really when cancer becomes clinically problematic."

Knowing how tumors attract the stem cells they need to thrive opens up new avenues for earlier detection, better staging and more targeted therapies, he says.

Dr. Perry's work on this fatal attraction between cancer and adult bone marrow stem cells earned him the Peter J. Gingrass, M.D. Memorial Award for the best paper presented by a medical student or non-plastic surgery resident during the recent 50th anniversary meeting of the Plastic Surgery Research Council.

"When you have a growing tumor, the tumor cells cannot stand alone," says Dr. Edmond Ritter, MCG plastic surgeon and senior co-investigator. "Tumors have specific colon cancer or breast cancer or melanoma cells, but they also have to have supporting framework which includes fibroblasts as well as blood vessels.

Normally, FGF2 makes connective tissue and VEGF makes blood vessels. It was known that tumors contain these growth factors as well as others and that they utilize stem cells to help build the infrastructure they need. "We wanted to figure out what attracts these stem cells," says Dr. Perry. "What makes them move?"

"You need blood vessels. You need other tissue that forms basically a home or a nest for the tumor," says Dr. Erhard Bieberich, MCG biochemist and senior investigator. "Without that, you don't get metastasis. Without the activity of those stem cells, metastasis would only grow to a particular size but it would not be life-threatening. But once the body response kicks in and accepts the metastasis as some sort of useful tissue, it really gets dangerous."

The MCG researchers hypothesized that growth factors secreted by tumors cells might play a role in this acceptance.

Dr. Bao-Ling Adam, a cancer researcher and proteomics expert, helped measure levels of FGF2 and VEGF—both proteins—using a high-tech approach that enables evaluation of hundreds of proteins at one time.

Cells need protein to survive and cells normally keep some proteins they make and shed others, Dr. Adam says. Much as a blood test can show what proteins are being secreted in the body, the researchers looked in the cell culture media where the cancer cells resided to see what proteins were being secreted.

"We wanted to see what kind of molecules are released in the media and then what molecules attract stem cells," says Dr. Adam. They are still working to identify other molecules that were secreted, but FGF2 and VEGF were definite standouts.

"In the case of breast cancer, FGF2 and VEGF meet the criteria as candidate molecules and we believe they have an important role but are not the only answer as to why stem cells migrate," says Dr. Ritter, who specializes in reconstruction following mastectomy.

The researchers say different kinds of tumors likely send out different growth factors to lure stem cells. In fact, they've already shown that melanoma also uses VEGF but not FGF2. "You don't want to treat every tumor alike," says Dr. Ritter.

They believe knowing the factors that help lead stem cells astray is an important first step in stopping the deadly attraction. "The first generation of chemotherapy was more targeting the cell division of cancer," says Dr. Bieberich. "Now we are entering a new phase where we are targeting more the communication pathways."

Possibilities include using antibodies or other small molecules to block growth factor receptors or even turning the tables on cancer by arming stem cells with a mechanism to kill the cancer once they connect, he says.

Dr. Perry has seen the need for options other than chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery in his relatively short professional life.

"What we are doing now is looking at more precise, specific ways to treat cancer on cellular level. This requires an immense understanding of tumor biology and what is going on. We are trying to chip away at that puzzle."

Dr. Perry is just completing a year of research in the laboratories of Drs. Bieberich and Adam. He plans to pursue a plastic surgery fellowship after completing his surgery residency.

A significant part of the initial work for these studies was conducted by Kathryn Tucciarone, who worked as a research assistant in Dr. Bieberich's lab. Dr. Jack Yu, chief of the Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Dr. Thomas N. Wang, surgical oncologist, also supported the studies.
Study volunteers needed

Bipolar Disorder
Children age 10-17 are needed to study a medication for bipolar disorder. Participants must have some or all of these symptoms: extreme shifts in energy, mood or behavior; difficulty functioning in school, with friends and/or at home; sleep changes; impulsivity; excessive irritability; and impaired ability to concentrate. Participants will receive medical and psychological evaluations, treatment, investigational medication and close medical supervision free. For more information, call ext. 1-7968 or ext. 1-0409.

Breast cancer prevention
Healthy women over age 30 are needed to participate in the study of a painless, portable device that uses electrical current to examine breasts for cancer. The Medical College of Georgia is one of some 20 centers across the world studying the device. The study takes about one hour, and a recent mammogram is required. For more information, call Charlene Weathers, nurse, study sub-investigator and coordinator, at ext. 1-9683; or visit www.z-technic.com.

Asperger’s Disorder
Volunteers are needed for a 12-week study to assess the use of risperidone to treat Asperger’s disorder in children, adolescents and adults. Participants will receive risperidone, make six clinic visits and take two magnetic resonance imaging tests. Medication and study services are free, and participants will be reimbursed for related expenses. For more information, call ext. 1-7835.

For more information about clinical trials and studies at MCG, visit www.mcg.edu/news/newsbriefs/studies.html.

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ACROSS
1. The late great George of WBBQ
6. Former French colony in Africa
10. Trait of ASL users
14. Make amends
15. First-class
16. Sicilian volcano
17. Garment beneath a toga
18. Wife of a rajah
19. Final golf stroke
20. Decree
21. Early elections
23. Calculate
25. New Braves pitcher Jorge
26. Disgorge
29. Tolkien letters
33. One of four on Riverwatch
34. Singles
35. Small parasitic insect
36. Dweeb
37. Peach State’s Bavaria?
38. Peach State’s Bavaria?
39. Black bird
40. Native of Jerusalem
42. Augusta’s __ Park
43. Tie locations
44. Grecian architectural style
45. Superior Court judge
46. Bulldog home
47. Troll
48. Bulldog home
49. Gandhi for one
50. Stage plays
51. Engage in a card game
52. Tamil name for Siva
53. Overhead
54. Water wheel with buckets
55. Very small island
56. Solitary
57. Small parasitic insect
58. Raise trivial objections
59. Rectangular wall pillar
60. Increase in size

DOWN
1. Course hazard
2. Musical study piece
3. Grecian architectural style
4. Giggle
5. Zone
6. Rime
7. Superior Court judge
8. Moon of Mars
9. Risperidone
10. Decree
11. Sewing case
12. Poker stake
13. Lipids
14. Ryoken lead-in
15. Sides
16. Zilch in Madrid
17. Junk
18. Donations to the poor
19. Equipment
20. New Age singer
21. One of four on Riverwatch
22. Risperidone
23. Underwater
24. Sisters
25. Bride
26. Bomb
27. Engage in a card game
28. Queen
29. Risperidone
30. Engage in a card game
31. Increased in size
32. One of four on Riverwatch
33. One of four on Riverwatch

**Solution on page 15**
Milestones

Dr. Guion named fellow
Dr. W. Kent Guion, associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Allied Health Sciences, has been named an inaugural fellow in a program designed to optimize educators' cultural competency.

The Health Research and Education Trust
Competence Leadership Fellowship was created by the Health Research and Education Trust and Health Forum in partnership with the Institute for Diversity in Health Management, the National Center for Healthcare Leadership and the American Hospital Association.

Fellows will participate in online computer conferences, attend leadership meetings in conjunction with the Health Forum Leadership Summit and implement a cultural competency project. Dr. Guion’s proposed project is a cultural competency Web-based toolbox. He also received a scholarship to help defray the costs associated with participation.

“What a great opportunity to be selected as one of the inaugural fellows in what should be a transformative and intellectually stimulating experience,” said Dr. Guion. “I’m sure I will benefit greatly from the interaction with other fellows and the learning experiences.”

“The goal of the fellowship fits with our strategic vision and parallels the type of activities our school encourages,” said Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences. “I believe this opportunity is timely not only for our school but for society as a whole.”

Faculty Senate officers elected
Dr. Jerry A. Lambert, assistant professor of family medicine, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the School of Medicine Faculty Senate.

Other new officers are Dr. Robert R. Schade, chief of the Section of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, president-elect; Dr. Jay J. Pillai, associate professor of radiology, vice president; and Dr. Shirley E. Poduslo, professor of neurology, secretary.

Other members of the 2005-06 Faculty Senate Executive Committee are immediate past president Dr. Jack Yu, chief of the Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and 13 senators at large.

The number of at-large members was increased this year to increase the diversity of faculty representation and maximize communication with the medical school dean, Dr. Lambert said.

New senators are:
Dr. Thomas J. Alred, associate professor of pathology
Dr. Cheryl J. Barnes, associate professor of medicine (dermatology)
Dr. Jatinfer J. Bhatia, vice chair for clinical research, Department of Pediatrics, and chief, Section of Neonatology
Dr. Norman B. Chutkan, associate professor in orthopaedic surgery
Dr. Stephanie L. Goei, assistant professor of ophthalmology
Dr. Iqbal M. Khan, professor of obstetrics-gynecology
Dr. Deborah L. Lewis, professor of pharmacology and toxicology
Dr. Kathleen M. McKie, associate professor of pediatrics
Dr. Paule C. Barbeau, assistant professor of pediatrics/Georgia Preventive Institute
Dr. Carl R. Menckhoff, assistant professor of emergency medicine
Dr. Petro Moreno-Huerta, instructor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine
Dr. Derek A. Schreiber, assistant professor of physiology
Dr. Stuart A. Thompson, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Ms. Witter named development director
Pamela B. Witter, formerly executive director for the Walton Foundation for Independence Inc., has been named director of development for the School of Allied Health Sciences.

She began June 6. Ms. Witter succeeds Gia Johnson, who has been named MCC’s associate director of alumni affairs.

In her five years at Walton, Ms. Witter spearheaded fundraising efforts to support the Walton Rehabilitation Healthcare System. Her other positions have included director of business development for Easter Seals East Georgia, project facilitator for Goodwill Industries Inc. and assistant director for the Domestic Violence Intervention Center of the CSRA.

Ms. Witter earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing from Winthrop University. She earned paralegal certification from Augusta State University and a certificate of excellence in nonprofit leadership and management from the University of Wisconsin and the Learning Institute for Nonprofit Organizations through the Georgia Center for Nonprofits.

In 2005, she was an instructor and facilitator for the Georgia Center for Nonprofits’ Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership and Management Series. She is an alumna of Leadership Augusta and a member of the Georgia-Carolina Toastmasters and Toastmasters International, the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Chief resident named Family Medicine Resident of the Year
Dr. Ryan Rees, chief resident in the Department of Family Medicine, has been named the 2005 Family Medicine Resident of the Year by the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians, Inc.

The award recognizes outstanding leadership and academic skills and participation in professional and community activities. Dr. Rees will receive the award in November during the academy’s annual Scientific Assembly in Atlanta.

“Ryan has great ability to relate to the patient, solve problems and manage time and patient flow,” said Dr. Paul Forney, director of resident educational programs and vice chair of the MCG Department of Family Medicine, in a letter of nomination. “He has strong leadership abilities, dedication to the family medicine concept, and is an unusually effective leader.”

Dr. Rees received his doctorate of medicine from the American University of the Caribbean. During his three years of residency training at MCG, he served on numerous curriculum committees and participated in American Academy of Family Physicians and Georgia Academy of Family Physicians activities.

He volunteered at the Salvation Army Women’s Health Clinic and the Wee Can Ski program for physically impaired children. Dr. Rees completed his residency June 30 and is practicing at Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Obituaries
Elease H. Stone, a retired environmental service technician, died May 30, at age 91. Mrs. Stone served MCG for 20 years. Survivors include daughters Elaine Tate and Rhonda Tolbert; stepdaughter Yvonne Brown; sons Arthur Stone and Marvin Stone; sister Lorine Brown; brother-in-law Ben Stone; and sister-in-law Vivian Hall.

Dr. Daniel S. Feldman, a retired professor Emeritus in the Department of Neurology, died June 5, at age 79. Dr. Feldman served MCG for 20 years. A Philadelphia native, Dr. Feldman received his undergraduate and doctorate of medicine degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He served as a medical officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps. He completed residency and fellowship training in neurology at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. Dr. Feldman held leadership positions in professional societies including the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, the American Academy of Neurology and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He was a senior associate examiner of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Survivors include wife Dr. Elaine Bossak Feldman; daughter Dr. Susan Townsend; sons Mitchell Feldman and Daniel Feldman Jr.; brother Albert Feldman; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Medical College of Georgia Foundation, c/o Department of Neurology, 1120 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30912.

Eugene Harvey Jr., a retired physical therapy aid, died June 8, at age 83. Mr. Harvey served MCG for six years. Mr. Harvey served in the U.S. Army for 28 years and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church where he served on the Men’s Usher Board. He was a lifetime member of the Carter-McDaniel-Way VFW Post 235. Survivors include wife Wynell Harvey; children Ardis Harvey-Gomez, Eugene Harvey III and Timothy Neal Harvey; and four grandchildren.


Captain Michael Luther retired June 30 with 30 years of service to the Department of Public Safety. The department honored him June 23, at a campus reception and a dinner at Scooners Barbeque. Director of Public Safety Mitch Jones (left) presented Captain Luther with a plaque and his duty weapon as mementos of his service. (Photo provided)
GOURIN... from page 6
In the 13 patients who needed total parotidectomy, no significant differences were noted between the four who had conventional surgery and the nine who had harmonic scalpel parotidectomy. Researchers say their findings warrant further study of the scalpel's potential in patients with malignancies who need their entire gland removed.

"We pooled our data and looked at patients with all kinds of tumors and more extensive surgery and found that the harmonic scalpel was just as effective when it was used for malignant disease," says Dr. Gourin.

"When malignant disease involves the deep lobe of the parotid gland underneath the facial nerve, there is more risk from the surgery but the harmonic scalpel appears to be safe for use in this area."

While the number of patients with deep lobe disease was small, the evidence showed the harmonic scalpel worked as well as the standard approach and suggested a trend toward some of the same improvements seen with less extensive surgery, Dr. Gourin says.

The facial nerve is the main reason Dr. Gourin sought better surgery options. "Anything we use in the parotid gland to cut tissue or stop bleeding cannot harm the nerve. Standard electrocautery is not a great option because there is a rim of thermal injury around the tip of the cautery blade that can theoretically injure facial nerve branches," Dr. Gourin says. The harmonic scalpel, which uses ultrasonic vibrations instead of electricity to coagulate tissue, doesn't have this potential for collateral injury.

Facial nerve injury, resulting in paralysis including a droopy smile and inability to completely close the eye, is the biggest risk of parotidectomy. Another consequence can be a sunken-look where the parotid is removed. Dr. Gourin and her MCG colleagues now use fat from the abdomen to fill the deficit. "We are doing it more and more," even with cancer because the fat will not interfere with follow-up treatment, she says.

She noted that about 80 percent of parotid tumors are benign but must be removed because they keep growing and risk becoming malignant.

The harmonic scalpel came into use in 1993 and is widely used for other head and neck surgeries, such as thyroid surgery, where it's been shown to reduce surgery time, and tonsillectomy, where it reduces postsurgical pain. Patients included in the parotid gland study were treated at MCG Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta from 1999-2004.

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.

Vehicle Theft - Harper Street
A vehicle theft was reported to the Richmond County Sheriff's Department on June 26 between 3 and 4 p.m. The victim asked the suspect drive him to MCG in his 1995 tan Jeep Cherokee. The suspect dropped the victim off on Harper Street at the Specialized Care Center entrance; however, the suspect then drove off, taking the vehicle without permission.

Vehicle Theft - Circle K
A vehicle theft was reported to the Richmond County Sheriff's Department on June 26 between 3 and 4 p.m. The victim asked the suspect drive him to MCG in his 1995 tan Jeep Cherokee. The suspect dropped the victim off on Harper Street at the Specialized Care Center entrance; however, the suspect then drove off, taking the vehicle without permission.
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**QUOTATION**

**QUOTATION BUZZLE SOLUTION:** Page 12: “Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.” — George S. Patton, 1885-1945

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TUMOR... from page 1

where it can be kept for decades. To help ensure patient privacy, tissue is given a number, then categorized in the database by information such as diagnosis, treatment and clinical and pathological information. This clinical database for banked tumor tissue will soon be available to help researchers develop approaches for early diagnosis or tailor therapy, Dr. Giri says.

Before human tissue is used, the research protocol must be approved by an Institutional Review Board, such as MCG's Human Assurance Committee. Researchers with approved studies can search the developing database, fill out a form and access the material.

"If you start with tissue that is of poor quality or the diagnosis is not correct, you end up doing a lot of work that is unproductive or misleading," says Dr. Giri, who knows firsthand the importance of access to the right material. As a researcher and department head working for a biotechnology company in San Diego, she spent a lot of time contacting hospitals trying to find appropriate tissue to identify new monoclonal antibodies that would target solid tumors for destruction. Often she could not find the human tissue needed to complete her studies. She came to MCG in August 2004 when the opportunity arose to help solve that problem for other researchers.

"We are just getting started," says Dr. Giri, who has talked to hospital representatives and physicians statewide about joining the network. Health care providers, scientists and patients all seem to want to help with this major new initiative. "Cancer patients are very altruistic," says Dr. Giri. "Anyone who has had cancer would like better treatments and cures in the future. Their health care providers share that goal."

For more information, contact Dr. Giri at ext.1-5279 or jgiri@mcg.edu.