Ready or not, 2005 has arrived! It seems like only yesterday we were preparing for the unknown of the new millennium. As a matter of fact, we spend an inordinate amount of time preparing for what we want to do in the future; goals, New Year’s resolutions and other matters. Then just as quickly, we seem to forget what we accomplished in the past. The year 2004 was a busy year and one that was indeed, full of challenges, firsts, and meaningful achievements. The College of Medicine had a great 2004 although it certainly was not without its bumps.

That said, there is much to do in the coming year and beyond. What will this New Year hold for the College of Medicine? 2005 promises to be an exciting and a challenging year as we prepare for the replacement of the old hospital, a new student and guest housing, a new psychiatry center, a new state psychiatric hospital, an addition to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute, a new power plant, a new parking garage and expansion of our outpatient center. However, behind the construction scenes that will soon dominate our landscape, there are numerous faculty, staff and daily infrastructural changes and improvements that occur on a daily basis. These are the ever-changing day-to-day activities that are necessary to meet our operational and future needs, and those of our patients. Some of these activities may be seldom seen; some may be evident immediately; and some may indirectly affect our daily mission. These activities are required to run this large, well-oiled machine, the College of Medicine, and meet our goals and objectives.

2004 can only be described as a great year for the College of Medicine. I am reminded that each of us must involve ourselves in earnest efforts, both professionally and personally, in order for us to realize our collective goals. We must set our goals effectively and let go of our fears. We must create positive attitudes and positive perspectives in all that we do. We must consistently communicate effectively and be persistent in all that we undertake. We must be our “brothers’ and sisters’ keeper” and find ways to support the efforts and aspirations of each other.

I end this note with the hope that each of you will embrace the new year with a new and clearer vision; a new dedication and a new commitment to endeavor to make 2005 an even better year, resulting in new partnerships and new achievements, while working and building together for a stronger College of Medicine. There is still much to do in the coming year and beyond. I encourage each of you to join me in facing these challenges and opportunities of the new year with great anticipation and renewed vigor. We will continue to flourish through our collective commitment, and will embrace the future with new confidence, and exuberant enthusiasm. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

Best regards and a very Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Vice Chancellor, UAMS
Dean, College of Medicine
IT’S OFFICIAL — WELCOME NEW FACULTY

**Romona Davis**, M.D., has joined the Department of Ophthalmology as an assistant professor. She finished her ophthalmology residency at UAMS and is now a comprehensive ophthalmologist who sees patients at the Jones Eye Institute and the John L. McClellan Veterans Memorial Hospital. She received her medical degree from UAMS and her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dillard University. She is a native of Eunice, La.

**Martin L. Bauer**, M.D., has joined the Pulmonary Section of the Department of Pediatrics as an associate professor. Bauer completed his medical degree at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, a residency at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., and served as chief resident at Kapiolani Children’s Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. Bauer served as a pediatric pulmonary fellow at the Children’s Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham. Most recently Bauer was an assistant professor in pediatric pulmonology at the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City.

**Lina F. Chalak**, M.D., will join the Neonatology Section of the Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor in January. Chalak earned her medical degree from the American University of Beirut Medical School, where she also completed a pediatrics residency. Chalak completed a neonatal perinatal medicine fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. She most recently was a medical staff member in pediatrics at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas.

IT’S OFFICIAL — CONGRATULATIONS FACULTY

**E. Robert Burns**, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences, was invested with the Lutterloh Professorship for Teaching Excellence at the COM faculty meeting on December 7. Burns began his work in medical education as a participant and director of the Medical Microanatomy course. He successfully proposed and received funding for a “Partners in Health Sciences” program (Teachers Teaching Teachers) from the National Center for Research Resources, NIH, which was designed to improve science education from kindergarten to high school. Burns received his bachelor’s degree in biology from Hartwick College his master’s degree in zoology (experimental embryology) from the University of Maine, Orono and his doctorate in anatomy (experimental oncology) from Tulane University School of Medicine. He completed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship in cancer pathology at the George Washington University and received a National Cancer Institute Research Career Development Award.

**Thomas Wells**, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, has been named as the director of clinical trials for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). Wells will work as a consultant and resource for the Office of Clinical Trials and the associated ACHRI staff. As the medical director of the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit (PCRU) at ACH, this is a wonderful extension of his duties and will allow him to assist in the development of clinical trials policies, operating procedures, information systems and accounting programs, and new programs to facilitate and promote clinical trials on the ACHRI and ACH campuses. The growth of clinical trials research is a priority at the ACHRI under its new director. It will further strengthen the lines of...
communication between ACHRI and the Department of Pediatrics, where Wells serves as the vice chairman for research. This move should also strengthen communications and facilitate cooperation with the Office of Clinical Trials at UAMS, where Wells serves as director.

**EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK**

**Teresa Hudson**, Pharm.D., has written an abstract entitled “Improvement in Medication Adherence Using Patient-Tailored Strategy” that has been accepted for an oral presentation at the HSRD National Meeting, Feb. 16-18 in Washington, D.C. Co-authors include R.R. Owen, C.T. Thrush, T.L. Armitage and P.T. Thapa.

**Mona Ritchie**, M.S.W., has written an abstract titled “Comparison of Stakeholder Perspectives on the Value of Care Management Activities” that has been accepted for a poster presentation at the Annual HSRD National Meeting, Feb. 16-18 in Washington, D.C. Co-authors include M. Garcia-Maldonado, L.E. Parker, M. Cody, E.M. Yano and J.E. Kirchner.

**Randy S. Haun**, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, in collaboration with co-authors **Sudeepa Bhattacharyya**, **Larry J. Suva**, Ph.D., **Eric R. Siegel**, and Drs. Gloria M. Petersen and Suresh T. Chari of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York, wrote an article titled “Diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer Using Serum Proteomic Profiling” that was published in *Neoplasia: 6* (2004) 674-686.

**Linda L.M. Worley**, M.D., an associate professor in the departments of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Obstetrics & Gynecology, wrote a manuscript titled “Smoke Free Residential Treatment for Dually Diagnosed Pregnant & Postpartum Women” that has been accepted for publication in the *Archives of Women's Mental Health*. Co-authors include Nicola A. Conners, Ph.D.; Cynthia C. Crone, M.N.Sc., A.P.N.; Veronica L. Williams, M.D.; and Patti A. Bokony, Ph.D.

**Greer Sullivan**, M.D., has written a manuscript titled “Facilitating Intervention Research Through Evidence Farming: A Novel Role for Services Researchers” that has been accepted for publication in *Psychiatric* (continued on pg. 4)
Lonnie B. Wright, M.D.; W. Jean Matchett, M.D.; Carlos P. Cruz, M.D.; Charles A. James, M.D.; William C. Culp, M.D.; John F. Eidt, M.D. and Timothy C. McCowan, M.D. co-authored the article “Popliteal Artery Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment” that was published in *RadioGraphics*.

Z. Jimmy Zhou, an associate professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, and his coworkers have published a paper in the December 2004 issue of *Neuron*. The title of the paper is “A Developmental Switch in the Excitability and Function of the Starburst Network in the Mammalian Retina.” The two co-authors who contributed equally to this work are Ji-Jian Zheng, a postdoctoral fellow, and Seunghoon Lee, a graduate student in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics Doctoral Program. The paper has been selected to be featured in a “Highlight” article in *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* and in “This Week in Signal Transduction,” published by *Science*.

A separate article from the Zhou lab was published in the May 2004 *Journal of Neurophysiology*. This paper is titled “Spontaneous Waves in the Ventricular Zone of Developing Mammalian Retina.” Co-authors of this paper are Mohsin Syed (UAMS postdoctoral fellow), Seunghoon Lee, and Shegang He (Chinese Academy of Sciences).

Frits van Rhee, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor in the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, has written an article entitled “NY-ESO-1 is Highly Expressed in Poor Prognosis Multiple Myeloma and Induces Spontaneous Humoral and Cellular Immune Responses” that has been published in the journal of the American Society of Hematology, *Blood*. The co-authors are Susann M. Szmania, Fenghuang Zhan, Sushil K. Gupta, Mindy Pomtree, Pei Lin, Ramesh B. Batchu, Amberly Moreno, Giulio Spagnoli, John Shaughnessy and Guido Tricot.

Michael L. Schmitz, M.D., a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, ACH Pediatric Division, and M. Saif Siddiqui, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, ACH Pediatric Division, have received notification that their abstract titled “Epidural Blood Patch for Successful Treatment of Lumbar Cerebrospinal Fluid Leak from an Intrathecal Catheter” has been accepted as a Walk Around Poster Discussion Presentation for Pediatric Anesthesiology 2005, February 24–27, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Ahmed Ghaleb, M.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and director of Chronic and Acute Pain Management, has a review article entitled “Cancer-Related Neuropathic Pain: Mechanism and Therapy” which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Neuropathic Pain & Symptom Palliation*.

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**THE APPOINTMENT CARD**

Jay H. Menna, Ph.D., a professor and associate dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, was appointed chairman of the Planning Committee of the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE). The IAMSE Planning Committee is responsible for setting the short- and long-term goals of the IAMSE. Menna is a founding member of the IAMSE, an organization with membership in 48 countries. He has also been appointed to the IAMSE Annual Meeting Planning Committee for the July 2006 Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Charlotte Peterson, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Geriatrics, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Cellular Mechanisms in Aging and Development Study Section for the term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2005.

(continued on pg. 5)
Robert E. McGehee, Jr., Ph.D., dean of the UAMS Graduate School, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI). The NSBRI, funded by NASA, is a consortium of institutions led by Baylor College of Medicine that study the health risks related to long-duration space flight and develop countermeasures to mitigate the risks. The Institute’s research and education projects take place at more than 70 institutions across the United States.

George J. Fuchs, M.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Gastroenterology Section, has been selected to serve on the scientific advisory council for the Society of Clinical Pediatrics.

In the News

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., vice chancellor and dean of the College of Medicine, was featured in an article published in the 2004 Winter Edition of the National Medical Association’s publication. The article focuses on the importance of medical education changing with the needs of patients.

Frank Block, M.D., a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, was interviewed by Ron Lieber for a travel article in the Jan. 6 issue of the Wall Street Journal.

Events, Lectures, Workshops

Ali E. Krisht, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, was the honored guest professor to the Helsinki University Central Hospital, Sept. 26-28, where he gave a lecture on Invasive Pituitary Adenomas. He was also the honored professor to the Karolinska Neurological Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, Sept. 29-Oct 1, where he helped coordinate and direct a course on surgical approaches for the treatment of complex brain lesions and aneurysms attended by neurosurgeons from around the world. Krisht was the honored guest to the International Congress of Neurosurgery Del Siglo XXI: Controversies in Neurosurgery in Mexico City, Nov. 17-19. He gave lectures on “Pituitary Adenomas in the Cavernous Sinus: Invasive vs. Infiltrative,” “Giant Intracranial Aneurysms: Coiling vs. Clipping” and “Basilar Aneurysms: What is the Best Treatment Option?”

William C. Culp, M.D.; J. Doug Wilson, M.S.; Lonnie B. Wright, M.D., and Timothy C. McCowan, M.D., will have a poster presentation at the (continued on pg. 6)
a detailed review of the history, rationale, structure and function of meditation will be offered. Mindful yoga, walking meditation, and eating meditation are a variety of multicultural settings. The seminar will also be entitled “Mindfulness and Meditation” January 21 & 22 at the Little Rock Hilton, South University at I-630.

**Mark Your Calendars**

The Arkansas Psychological Association and UAMS Behavioral Medicine and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Programs are co-sponsoring a professional seminar and experiential workshop entitled “Mindfulness and Meditation” January 21-22 at the Little Rock Hilton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The guest speaker will be Jon Kabat-Zinn, Ph.D., a professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Mass., and author of several books, including *Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness meditation in everyday life*, *Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain, and Illness*, *Coming to Our Senses: Healing Ourselves and the World Through Mindfulness*, *Senses: Healing ourselves and the world through mindfulness*, *Mindfulness methods will be employed to demonstrate their potential for improving*.

**Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual General Clinical Research Center Research Education seminar**, to be held March 7-12. These presentations from UAMS and VA experts will cover research topics such as planning for statistical analysis, developing a research plan and applying for funding. The primary audience for this free seminar includes UAMS faculty, fellows, residents, graduate students, medical students, and other health professionals who are interested in clinical research.

The 2005 schedule will be posted soon, but to look at last year’s schedule and presentation materials, go to [http://www.uams.edu/gcrc/gcrc2/education.asp](http://www.uams.edu/gcrc/gcrc2/education.asp). For more information, please contact Jennifer Shinn, GCRC Administrative Director, at 257-5890.

**The UAMS Pain Club** meets regularly at 4:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month (upcoming meetings: Feb. 3 and Mar. 3) in the BMRB-I Room 205/207. The meeting on Dec. 2 discussed a complex patient with intractable pain (presented by Juan Firnhaber, M.D., and Ahmed Ghaleb, M.D.), long-term effects of chronic or repetitive pain, preliminary thoughts about a Basic and Clinical Pain course at UAMS and distinguished speakers in the area of pain research. Recent exciting news in the field of pain research includes definitive evidence on the effects of acupuncture on knee osteoarthritis (40% improvement) and the introduction of a new pain killer, Ziconotide, that works by blocking the N-type calcium channels on nerve cells. Elie Al-Chaer, Ph.D., an associate professor, and Sunny Anand, M.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Critical Care Section, are developing a planning grant for a regional pain center located in Little Rock.

The **Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Continuing Medical Education** division in conjunction with the Arkansas Cancer Coalition is proud to present the 4th Annual CME Cancer Update. This free CME course will be held on Feb. 11 and 19 from 12:15-1:15

Coming to Our Senses: Healing Ourselves and the World Through Mindfulness. For more information and to get a registration form, go to [http://www.uams.edu/gcrc/gcrc2/education.asp](http://www.uams.edu/gcrc/gcrc2/education.asp).

**Guido Tricot**, M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, will speak at the Focus on Myeloma & Plasma Cells Disorders Meeting in Las Vegas on Jan. 22. The title of his talk is “Autologous Transplantation: A Review of the Evidence.”

**Karen Farst**, M.D., an instructor in the Department of Pediatrics and a member of the Team for Children at Risk at ACH, presented a lecture to the Pope County Methamphetamine Community Response Workgroup on December 1 titled, “Methamphetamine Exposed Children in Arkansas.” The workgroup was initiated by the Arkansas State Drug Director, Keith Rutledge, in an effort to build a community oriented response to the problems that methamphetamine use and production bring into a community. Farst’s presentation focused on the adverse medical, developmental and psycho-social effects that a child faces while living in a home where methamphetamine is being used and produced.

**Anjan Sinha**, M.D., F.A.C.C., an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, has been selected to participate in the American College of Cardiology Foundation Teaching Skills Workshop for the Early Career Physician, Jan. 27-28 in Washington, D.C.

**Mark your calendars**

**Jon Kabat-Zinn, Ph.D.**
p.m. via interactive video to 32 distant sites located across Arkansas. Topics covered will be “Breast Cancer Update” presented by Ronda Henry-Tillman, M.D., and “Update on Cervical Cancer” presented by Alexander F. Burnett, M.D., A.A.F.P., A.M.A., ArNA, and Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy credit will be available. For additional information and to register for this free CME ITV course, please contact Daryl Parat at 501-686-7607 or paratdarylj@uams.edu. Lunch will be provided to all pre-registrants.

UAMS ARKANSAS BIOVENTURES

ContourMed, Inc. designs, manufactures and markets unique, patented and anatomically accurate external custom breast prostheses. The company’s mission is to improve the quality of life for breast cancer survivors and all the women served, by harnessing modern technology, producing innovative high quality products and achieving excellence in client satisfaction and customer service. The company operates proprietary 3-D laser scanning devices to construct its life-like products. This advanced scanning process is portable, precise and has reduced the time required in the field to produce an impression for a mold from several hours to approximately 30 minutes.

ContourMed was founded at UAMS in 1998 and invested heavily in R & D activities through July 2001 to bring its technology to a commercially feasible design and manufacturing scale. The first product was launched in August 2001 in the Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri markets. Sales coverage has expanded to include 62 retail partners in 35 states. Recently ContourMed’s Advantage breast prosthesis product (a magnetic-adhesive attachment prosthesis) was selected as the winner of the Medical Design Excellence Awards.

Founding scientist: Dan Eaton
CEO: Mimi San Pedro
Headquarters: 2821 Kavanaugh, Suite 2, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
http://www.contourmed.com/
Email: support@cteh.com
Web site: http://www.cteh.com/

DID YOU KNOW

The COM faculty meeting took place on December 7 in Pauly Auditorium. Speakers at the meeting included Dick Wheeler, M.D.; E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., vice chancellor and dean; I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., chancellor; Olan Nugent; Charlie Smith, M.D.; Jay Menna, Ph.D.; Bill White, M.D.; Bonnie Taylor, M.D., and Gwen Childs, Ph.D.
The first annual Grants Management Awards Banquet, hosted by the College of Medicine, was held on November 15 in the Jeff Banks Student Union Ballroom. The Grants and Cost Accounting office and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs are proud to announce the first recipients of the Grants Management Certification. Participants in the Grants Management Certification Program must complete a minimum of 16 contact hours of grants management training and pass a comprehensive exam in order to receive this award. There are currently 78 participants in the program. Guest speakers at the banquet included Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson, who also presented the awards, Dean Albert Reece, and Olan Nugent.

This year’s recipients of the Grants Management Certification are: Shermaine Bradley, Christina Brockinton, Steve Chapman, Carrie Chiaro, Terrye Cooley, Muralidharan Elambilan, Chris Ellis, Patricia Gminski, Tammy Harmon, Rebekah Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Roy Kitchen, Gemma Moorehead, Tina Moskow, Rebecca Nickleson, Michelle Prynor, Angel Rhodes, Caroline Miller-Robinson, Andrea Roy, Ted Seibs, Felecia Smith, Allison Streepey, Barry Sullivan, Sharon Walburger, Judy Whaley and Laura Wilson. Special recognition awards were presented to Tina Moskow and Chris Ellis for their extraordinary contribution to grants management over the past year.

NEWS OF NOTE

Galen R. Wenger, Ph.D., is the recipient of a $200,000/year (direct cost) grant from the NIAAA. This five-year grant, titled “Alcohol Preference and Cognitive Function,” will examine possible genetic associations between alcohol preference and memory and learning function in inbred rat strains.


John Fortney, Ph.D., has submitted a grant titled “Implementing Telemedicine-Based Collaborative Care for MDD in Contract CBOCs” to the VA. The grant was a VISN/HSR&D Implementation Collaborative submitted by VISN 16 and VISN 22. Co-principal investigators are Mark Enderle (VISN 16 Network Chief Medical Officer) and Susan McDougall (VISN 22 Network Research Officer). Co-investigators include Jeff Pyne, Mark Edlund, Kathy Henderson, Jeff Clothier, Jeff Smith, Lisa Rubenstein, Ed Chaney, Susan Vivell, Matt Chinman and Fen Liu. (Direct Costs: $1,683,003, budgeted over three years. Proposed project period is 7/1/2005 thru 6/30/2008).
COM STUDENTS BUZZ INFORMATION LINK

An e-mail link is available for students to submit information to the BUZZ to acknowledge honors, prizes, presentations, leadership positions, and other noteworthy COM accomplishments. Go to: http://www.uams.edu/com/students/

BUZZ CONTACTS

Thanks to the following list of people who serve as the contacts for the information you see in the BUZZ. Please send any information that you’d like to see in the BUZZ to the appropriate person within your department.

Anesthesiology
Coleen Habenicht, administrator

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Alan Elbein, Ph.D., professor & chair

Cardiology
Roy Kitchens, division administrator

Dermatology
Thomas Horn, M.D., professor & chair

Emergency Medicine
Barry Brenner, M.D., professor & chair

Family and Preventive Medicine
Geoffrey Goldsmith, M.D., M.P.H. professor & chair

Geriatrics
Marsha Hines, RCOA, PR director

Hematology/Oncology
Paulette Mehta, M.D., professor

Internal Medicine
Brent McKay, administrator

Microbiology/Immunology
Roger Rank, Ph.D., professor & chair

MIRT
Janet Aronson, director of communications

Neurobiology & Developmental Sciences
Gwen Childs, Ph.D., professor & chair

Neurology
Sami Harik, M.D., professor & chair

Neurosurgery
Amy Keeland, project-program specialist

OB/GYN
Helen Kay, M.D., professor & chair

Orthopaedics
Jan Hundley, administrator

Ophthalmology
Ashley Hooten, director of development

Otolaryngology
Beth Seward, director of communications and development

Pathology
Kelly Suskie, administrator

Pediatrics
Cindy Collie, special projects analyst

Pharmacology & Toxicology
Becky (Anna H.) Hastings, administrative assistant II

Physiology & Biophysics
Mike Jennings, Ph.D., professor & chair

PM & R
Gwenn Higginbotham, administrative assistant

Psychiatry
Meg Rains, communications and development coordinator

Radiology
Teresita Angtuaco, M.D., professor

Radiation Oncology
Dawn Bolt, administrator

Research
Charles G. Winter, Ph.D., associate dean

Surgery
Kay Allen, administrator

Urology
Alex Finkbeiner, M.D., professor & chair