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The Beat Newsletter

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## The Beat Newsletter

College of Medicine

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# The Beat



University of South Alabama  
College of Medicine

January 1995

## MEDICAL SCIENCE BUILDING EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

Planning for expansion and renovation of the Medical Science Building (MSB) began five years ago with the services of Glazner Associates and March & March architectural firms. The original design included three phases to be completed over five to seven years. The three phased design incorporates a number of special features which have added to the complexity of construction, making this new facility unique in this region of the country. The completed project will expand and modernize the University's centralized facilities for research involving the use of animals, while also expanding office and laboratory space to meet the needs of a growing biomedical research program.

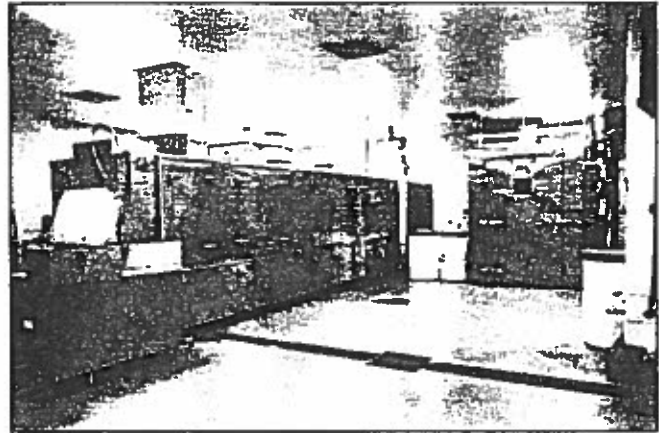
Phase one, completed this summer, added 77,000 sq. ft. to the west end of the MSB. This included completion of a first floor addition and shelled-in second and third floors. The first floor of this addition, was designed to provide a "state-of-the-art" animal research facility which meets all policies, guidelines, and regulations governing the use of animals in research. The facility includes a biocontainment suite, a reverse osmosis water purification system (to eliminate contaminants in drinking water), a computerized control system for maintaining or modifying environmental conditions within animal housing areas, and a computerized card-key security system which provides access to authorized persons only.

Phase one was designed with a 17,000 sq. ft. ground floor basement, which houses most of the mechanical components of the building such as air handlers and boilers. It is also equipped with a diesel powered generator capable of supplying electrical power to all essential services within the building. In addition to the fixed equipment included in the construction contract, \$480,000 in matching NIH grant support was obtained by Dr. Christian Abee, of the Department of Comparative Medicine, to replace obsolete equipment and purchase new fixed equipment for this facility.

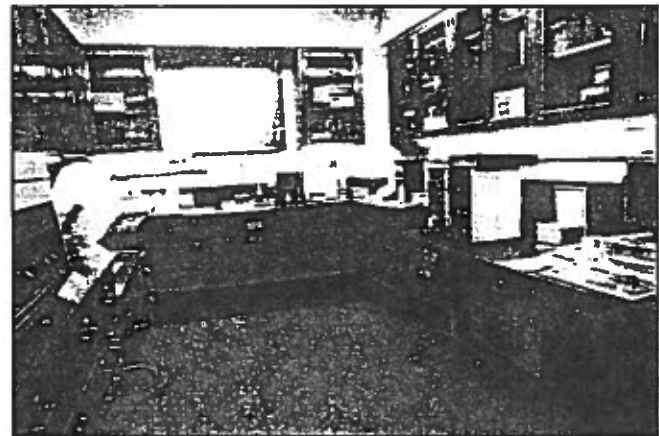
Phase two is presently underway and involves renovation of 10,000 sq. ft. on the first floor of the MSB and is scheduled for completion in March, 1995.

COM funds have been combined with a \$500,000 matching grant obtained by the Department of Comparative Medicine to help finance phase two. This renovation project is designed to provide a large experimental aseptic surgery suite with an adjoining imaging laboratory for research requiring sophisticated surgical manipulation. Also included in phase two is a diagnostic laboratory suite for hematology, clinical chemistry, and diagnostic microbiology support

of the laboratory animal medicine program of the University. Once phase two is completed, this renovated space will be combined with the first floor expansion to form a 35,000 sq. ft. centralized vivarium facility that is designed to meet the biomedical research support needs of the entire University.



Preliminary discussions of financing and design of phase three are underway. Phase three will include construction of the interior space on the second and third floors of the shelled-in MSB addition. The entire 20,000 sq. ft. on each floor will be designed as laboratories and offices in support of the COM's biomedical research program. Once this phase is completed, the plan for expansion of the MSB that was originally begun in 1988, will have been completed.



# INSIDE:

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New College of Medicine Department Heads Named

## NEW FACULTY



**Amjad Hossain, Ph.D., (OB/GYN)** received his M.Sc. from the Univ. of Waterloo in Canada and his Ph.D. in microscopic anatomy in a joint program of Northeastern Ohio University and Kent State University. Dr. Hossain was on the faculty at the Medical College of Georgia prior to USA.



**Richard Whitehurst Jr., M.D., (Pediatrics)** received his B.S. in Medical Technology at the University of Alabama and his M.D. at USA. He completed a fellowship in neonatology at the University of Miami following his residency in Pediatrics at USA.



**Fuad Ramadan, M.D., (Surgery)** received his B.S. in Biology and Chemistry and his M.D. from the American University of Beirut. He completed a residency in general surgery and a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Paul Shaw, M.D., (Anesthesiology)** received his B.S. at Harding University in Arkansas and his M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at USA's Medical Center.



**Connie Uzel, M.D., (Medicine)** received her B.S. in Medical Technology at Arkansas State University and her M.D. at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She completed a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at USA following a residency in Internal Medicine.



## NEW PATENT ISSUED

The USA Medical Science Foundation has been granted a patent for the development of a sialic acid binding lectin which can be isolated from a squirrel monkey intestinal protozoa, *Tritrichomonas mobilensis*. The organism was first isolated in the virology laboratory of Mr. Frank Pindak of the Department of Pathology, who later reported the presence of a hemagglutinin in the culture media. Further biochemical research work by Drs. David Wells and Pavol Demes, revealed that the hemagglutinin preferentially binds to sialic acid-containing glycoproteins and can be purified by affinity chromatography on mucin sepharose. These studies were extended by Dr. Paul Babal who demonstrated that the lectin could be useful for histochemical staining and developed monoclonal antibodies against the purified lectin.

Sialic acid is present on the membrane proteins of many mammalian cell types as well as many secreted glycoproteins. This sialic acid lectin can be isolated from cultures of the protozoa using simple biochemical purification techniques that can easily be scaled

up to commercial proportions. These efforts have demonstrated that the lectin can be used for histochemical staining of both frozen and formol -paraffin processed tissues.

The lectin shows particularly high affinity for the luminal surface of vascular endothelium and endothelial tumors, making it an excellent endothelial cell marker. It also recognizes epithelial cell membrane glycoproteins which may exhibit changes during tumor development. Because there are few sialic acid specific lectins commercially available, the *T. mobilensis* lectin is a potentially useful and marketable tool for histochemical and biochemical studies of sialoglycoproteins.

The patent was awarded to the South Alabama Medical Science Foundation on July 19, 1994, and listed Pindak, Wells, and Demes as the co-inventors. Licensing arrangements are currently being sought with several biochemical and medical supply companies.

## NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS NAMED



**ARNOLD LUTERMAN, M.D.**, was appointed Chair of the Department of Surgery on July 1, 1994. Dr. Luterman joined the USA faculty in 1981 and in 1987 was named the Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery.

A native of Montreal, Luterman earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from McGill University. He was recognized for

"Outstanding Academic Achievement" and named University Scholar at McGill. His residency training was at McGill University, Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, and at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. In 1976, Luterman completed a fellowship in trauma and burns at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Before coming to the USA, Luterman served as Assistant Attending Surgeon and Assistant Medical Director of Emergency Services at The New York Hospital, Associate Attending Surgeon at Jamaica Hospital in New York, and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Cornell University. At USA, Luterman has served as Medical Director of Emergency Services, Surgical Intensive Care, SouthFlite Aeromedical Service and the Trauma Services Division. He was named Medical Director of the USA Burn Center in 1982.

Dr. Luterman is a fellow in both the American College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Surgeons Canada. He is a member of numerous professional committees, including vice chairman of the Alabama State Committee on Trauma and Chair of the Burn Prevention Committee. Luterman's publications focus on the treatment and prevention of burns.



**JOHN ROTHROCK, M.D.**, was appointed chair of Neurology in November 1994. Dr. Rothrock was most recently Professor of Neurology at the University of California, San Diego.

Rothrock, a native of Virginia, attended Washington and Lee University and received his M.D. from the University of Virginia in

1977. After completing a residency in Neurology at the University of Arizona, he joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Neurology. In 1983, he was recruited to the University of California in San Diego, and was promoted to Professor in 1993.

Rothrock's memberships include the American Academy of Neurology and the National Stroke Association. Since 1983, Rothrock has been extensively involved in research on the management of stroke symptoms. As principal investigator for numerous studies of acute intervention in patients with stroke, Rothrock plans to develop a stroke center at the USA Medical Center.



**MARK GILLESPIE, Ph.D.**, will begin as Chair of the Department of Pharmacology on January 1, 1995. He is currently Professor and Chairman of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Kentucky School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Gillespie received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kentucky. Following a two-year postdoctoral

fellowship in cardiovascular-pulmonary research at the Univ. of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, he joined the faculty at the Univ. of Kentucky. In 1988, he was appointed Chair of the Division of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and was promoted to full professor in 1992 with joint appointments in the University of Kentucky Graduate Center for Toxicology and the Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine.

Gillespie is currently the principal investigator on two NIH grants to study mechanisms of pulmonary hypertension, a co-investigator on two other projects to study drug-induced pulmonary toxicity, and a program project grant award to investigate mechanisms of head trauma-induced lung injury.

Gillespie serves as a member of the NIH Lung Biology and Pathology Study Section. Memberships include the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the American Thoracic Society, and the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Physiology.

Gillespie has achieved significant national visibility in his research. He brings a wealth of academic experience in the field of pharmacology, toxicology, and experimental therapeutics to the University.



**STEVEN TEPLICK, M.D.**, will be appointed Chair of Radiology effective February, 1995. Teplick is currently Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Radiology, Univ. of Arkansas College of Medicine in Little Rock.

After graduating from the University of Vermont, Teplick attended Medical School at Hahnemann Medical College and received a M.D. degree in 1967. He was a resident in Radiology at Boston City Hospital and joined the faculty at Boston Univ. in 1974. He subsequently moved to Hahnemann University Hospital. He was then recruited to his current position at the University of Arkansas.

Teplick is an examiner for the American Board of Radiology and a member of American College of Radiology, the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology, and Seminars on Interventional Radiology. Teplick specializes in gastrointestinal radiology with research on primary and metastatic liver tumors.

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: OPHTHALMOLOGY

*The Ophthalmology Department began initially as a division of the Department of Surgery. In 1988, Ophthalmology became a free standing clinical department within the College of Medicine.*

### MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Department of Ophthalmology has a fourth year medical student elective rotation. Approximately two students per month take advantage of this elective. They are exposed to all sub-specialty areas of Ophthalmology. In addition, the medical students are offered the opportunity to perform basic eye research within the department. Faculty members within the department also provide physical diagnosis training to the second year medical students.

### RESIDENCY TRAINING

The department has a unique ophthalmology resident association with the Ochsner Foundation in New Orleans. Ochsner sends a first year resident, two second year residents, and a third year resident to rotate through the department. The affiliation between USA and Ochsner has been cited by the Residency Review Committee as an excellent example of providing residency training without increasing the number of medical sub-specialty graduates.

### VISION RESEARCH

The Department of Ophthalmology stresses collaboration in its research efforts. In 1992, the Lions/USA Eye Research Institute was established. The charter of this organization states its primary responsibility is to raise funds to be used by Ophthalmology for eye research. Over \$200,000 has been deposited in the Community Foundation of the South, the Lions/USA Eye Research organization. The interest gained from this money is distributed to scientists who are performing vision research at the University. Drs. Robert Lausch, Stephen Kayes, Steven Pittler, Richard Honkanen, John Oakes, and Joseph Metcalf have received funds from the Lions/USA Eye Research Institute to support their research. The goal of the Eye Research Institute is to raise one million dollars within the next five years.

### FACULTY

**Leonard S. Rich, M.D.**, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, began at the University in 1982 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery. He was named Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology in 1988. Dr. Rich did his fellowship training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in pediatric ophthalmology. His clinical interests involve patients with ocular misalignments, congenital diseases of the eye, and retinopathy of prematurity. Dr. Rich has performed clinical studies on the use of contact lenses in pediatric ocular problems.

**Saunders L. Hupp, M.D.**, has been with the University since 1985. Dr. Hupp was recently promoted as full professor with tenure within the Departments of Ophthalmology and Neurology. He completed his neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Hupp's primary practice interests include neurological diseases of the visual system. He has a large group of patients with blepharospasm and other facial dystonia disorders requiring injections of Botulinum toxin. In addition to his neuro-ophthalmological practice, Dr. Hupp has an interest in cataract surgery.

**Bonnie Weston, M.D.**, joined the department in July of 1993. She completed a two year cornea fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her research interests, while at the Mayo Clinic, involved the evaluation of corneal topography systems and the effect of diabetes on the cornea. Over the last year, Weston has seen patients with degenerative corneal diseases, inflammatory conditions of the anterior ocular segment, chronic inflammation of the eyelids, dry eye patients, cataract patients, and glaucoma patients. She is also working in the lab with Dr. Robert Lausch investigating herpes simplex infection of the cornea.

**Martin L. Thomley, M.D.**, completed his fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida, in June of 1993. He then served an additional year as Chief Resident and Instructor in Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer. Dr. Thomley will concentrate his practice in the diagnosis and management of all aspects of retina and vitreous disease including retinal detachment, diabetic retinopathy and retinal vascular disease, macular disease and surgery, ocular inflammatory and infectious disease, intraocular tumors, and ocular trauma.

**Brent A. Murphy, M.D.**, completed a two year oculoplastic and orbital surgery fellowship under the direction of Ralph E. Wesley, M.D., at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. During his fellowship, Dr. Murphy performed research involving immunohistochemical localization of growth factors in orbital lymphoid hyperplasia and lymphoma, thyroid related orbitopathy, and lacrimal gland inflammations and neoplasia. Dr. Murphy will be available for consultation regarding disorders of the eyelids, orbital tissues, and the rear drainage system. He also has an interest in cosmetic eyelid surgery and reconstructive surgery. Patients with thyroid orbitopathy and orbital tumors will benefit from Dr. Murphy's expertise.

### OPTOMETRY SERVICES

**Drs. Murray Glusman, Steve Roosch, Alethia Gaines, and Duane Schrosk** are optometrists associated with the Department of Ophthalmology. They see eye patients at the Health Services Building, the Prime Health Wright's facility, and a satellite office in Fairhope. They provide primary eye care within the department and have a special interest in contact lens fittings and low vision evaluations.

### PATIENT CARE FACILITIES

The eye care physicians in the Ophthalmology Department see patients at the Health Services Building and the Mastin Eye Clinic. Between these two facilities, Ophthalmology sees over 25,000 patients a year. The department employs a contact lens technician, ophthalmic photographer, and an optician. Patients requiring glasses or contact lenses can have this service filled within the department. In addition, an ophthalmologist from Birmingham visits the Mastin Eye Clinic every two months to fit patients requiring a prosthetic ocular device.

The Department of Ophthalmology is eager to collaborate with basic science and clinical departments regarding patient care and/or research projects. If individuals within the University community are interested in collaborative projects, call the departmental office at 460-6499.

## CONGRATULATIONS . . .

### Foster Honored by Hahnemann University

John Foster, Ph.D., was recently named 1994 Graduate School Alumnus of the Year by the Graduate School of Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Foster, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, was honored for his work on how pathogenic bacteria cause diseases, such as food poisoning and typhoid fever.

### Gardner Elected President of Pathology

William A. Gardner, Jr., M.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology at South Alabama since 1981, will become President of the U.S. and Canada Academy of Pathology in March of 1995. Dr. Gardner received a B.S. from Wofford College, and an M.S. (Anatomy) and M.D. degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed an internship, residency and fellowship in Pathology at Johns Hopkins University and was Chief Resident at Duke University Medical Center. Prior to accepting the chair at USA, Dr. Gardner held faculty positions at the Medical University of South Carolina and Vanderbilt University.

### Haynes and Myles Join Leadership of Mobile

Drs. Johnson Haynes and Hattie Myles have been selected to the Leadership Mobile Class of 1995. Dr. Haynes is Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Director for Clinical Programs of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. Dr. Myles is Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Special Programs and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Education.

### Taylor Receives "Distinguished Lectureship in Physiology" Award

Aubrey Taylor, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, received the "Distinguished Lecturer in Physiology" Award from the American College of Chest Physicians.

### McBryde Honored at a Reception

The University of South Alabama Medical Alumni Association held a reception in honor of Dr. Angus McBryde, Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. McBryde recently completed a year as president of the Southern Medical Association.

### Lawrence Selected to Health Services Research Institute Fellow

James Lawrence, M.D., has received a Health Services Research Institute Fellowship. The Health Services Research Institute, which is funded by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, is designed to develop health services research skills of minority faculty

through a mix of formal programming and individual work. Dr. Lawrence is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Ambulatory Care Services.

### Recipients of the Medical Student Research Award

Richard Spiro and Richard Maughon are the 1994 recipients of the *Clyde G. Huggins Medical Student Research Award* for their outstanding presentations on Medical Student Research Day. Spiro's oral presentation was titled "TNF in the Regulation of Iron Uptake." His project was sponsored by Dr. Marcel Conrad in the Department of Internal Medicine. Richard Maughon's poster presentation was on the "Regulation of Oligodendrocyte Survival by Myelin Associated Glycoprotein." Maughon was sponsored by Dr. Anthony Gard in the Department of Structural and Cellular Biology.

### Spencer Marsh Accepts New Position

Spencer Marsh, Director of the Biomedical Library, has accepted the position of Director of the Health Sciences Center Library at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Mr. Marsh joined the USA Biomedical Library in 1990. During his tenure, he designed the new facility for the Campus site and planned the move. He also incorporated the COM microcomputer lab into the Library unit and designed and implemented a computer-based management system. We wish him well in his new position and acknowledge his contribution to the College of Medicine.

*If you would like to submit  
an article for publication,  
please forward it to:*

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