

Med School Watercooler

NEWS FROM FREDERICK P. WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Friday, May 14, 2010

Alabama's 2005 Professor of the Year to Speak at COM



The next Distinguished Scientist Seminar will be presented by Dr. Guy Caldwell on May 20, 2010 at 4 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building (MSB) auditorium. His lecture is titled "Traversing a Wormhole to Combat Parkinson's Disease."

Dr. Caldwell is an associate professor in the department of biological sciences at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He received his undergraduate degree in biology from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, in 1986 and his Ph.D. in cell, molecular and developmental biology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1993. Subsequently, he completed postdoctoral fellowships from the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke at Columbia University in New York.

In 2001, Caldwell was named a Basil O'Connor Scholar of The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for his research into the molecular basis of childhood birth defects of the brain. This work included establishing a new animal model for epilepsy.

Using a worm known as *C. elegans*, the Caldwell lab discovered that a protein called VPS41 prevented dopamine-producing neurons from dying. In humans, the death of dopamine neurons leads to tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity associated with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Caldwell was selected as the 2005 Alabama Professor of the year in recognition of his dedication to undergraduate education.

For more details on Dr. Caldwell's research, please visit:
<http://www.ua.edu/academic/professorofyear/vitae.html> . For additional information, please contact Natalie Kent at 461-1548 or visit:
<http://www.southalabama.edu/com/dss.shtml> .

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COM Spring Faculty Assembly Meeting

The USA College of Medicine Spring Faculty Assembly meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2010, at 4 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room (Richard Room) at USA Medical Center. For additional information, contact Dr. Todd Standley at tstandley@usouthal.edu.

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Class of 2010 Commencement Exercises



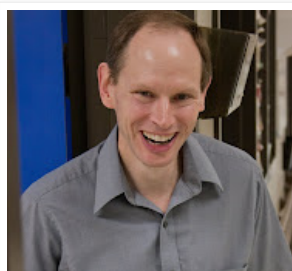
COM Class of 2010 Drs. Casey Cockrum (*left*) and Christina Cochran (*right*) smile as they walk into the USA Mitchell Center on May 8, 2010, for the University of South Alabama Spring Commencement. Dr. Cockrum will continue her residency training in the combined medicine-pediatrics program at USA. Dr. Cochran will join pediatric residency program at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.



Left to Right: Drs. Gregory Culpepper, Megan DeShazo, Margaret Ege, James Frost, Talia Gates and Cassidy Koonce stand as graduates march into the USA Mitchell Center last Saturday.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [2:43 PM](#) No comments:

Family Medicine Center Implements EHR Software



The University of South Alabama Family Medicine Center is now using Electronic Health/Medical Record software to enhance care for patients.

Dr. Robert L. Duffy (*left*), assistant professor of family medicine at USA, said the software will free up time to care for patients. The laptop device can be carried into the exam room, eliminating the need for paper charts.

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everything else in the health system - one of the first," Dr. Duffy said. "We wanted to get the clinic that houses a variety of specialties, such as and then move on to other areas."

clinic with the USA College of Medicine that is in the software. According to Dr. Duffy, the clinic should be finished fine-tuning the system by the end of June. Then, it will be implemented in other USA clinical sites.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

USA College of Medicine's Honors Convocation



Moments after receiving their doctoral hoods, Drs. Marcus Bell (left) and Gautam Bhatia (right) read the Hippocratic Oath with classmates at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine's Honors Convocation on May 7, 2010, at the USA Mitchell Center.

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Monday, May 10, 2010

Library Art Exhibit Features Work of USA's Medical Illustrator

An art exhibit titled "Three Take on Texture" is now showing in the third floor gallery of the University of South Alabama Main Library.

The exhibit features the work of Lynda Smith Touart, medical illustrator for the University of South Alabama's College of Medicine, along with the ceramic work of Yuko Takushige Jordan and the pine needle basketry of Teri Odell.

A reception will be held on May 20, 2010, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the gallery. The exhibit will be on display until June 30, 2010.

The library is free and open to the public. Visit <http://library.southalabama.edu/index.html> for library hours.

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