

Med School Watercooler

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

Thursday, March 8, 2018

USA Department of Pathology Hosts Dedication Ceremony



Jean Tucker, widow of Dr. J. Allan Tucker Jr., hugs Dr. Elliot Carter after a dedication ceremony honoring the service of her late husband on March 5, 2018.



Ann Gardner, widow of Dr. William Gardner Jr., hugs Dr. Andrea Kahn and Dr. Elliot Carter after a dedication ceremony honoring the service of her late husband on March 5, 2018.

The University of South Alabama Department of Pathology recently hosted a dedication ceremony honoring the service of Dr. William Gardner Jr. and Dr. J. Allan Tucker Jr., on March 5, 2018 at the Moorer Clinical Sciences Building.

The event was held in the Pathology Library, which was dedicated in memory of

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Dr. William A. Gardner Jr. for his leadership and many contributions to the USA Department of Pathology. At the event, the Pathology Resident Office Suite was also dedicated in memory of Dr. J. Allan Tucker for his leadership and commitment to graduate medical education.

"Dr. Gardner and Dr. Tucker embodied the virtues that are uniquely part of the culture found in academic medical centers," said Dr. John V. Marymont, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the USA College of Medicine. "As leaders in the USA College of Medicine, they both served as outstanding teachers, mentors for both students, residents and faculty alike. It is fitting that the rooms that will bear their names closely reflect the contributions they made during their careers and the high standards they set for those who follow in their footsteps."

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the event.

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Making an Impact 7,899 Miles Away



Patients at Kibogora Hospital – located 7,899 miles away from Mobile, Ala. – often walk up to 20 miles to receive medical care. Hospital beds are positioned less than a foot apart and patients sometimes have to wait until the next day to be seen by a physician.

"If a pediatric patient had difficulty getting food at the hospital, the other mothers would provide food for them," said Kirastan Brasfield, a fourth-year student at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. "They watched each other's children and were a great support to one another, which was a stark contrast to the individualistic society often found here in the United States."

Brasfield – along with 11 USA medical students and eight USA physicians – recently returned from a month-long medical mission trip to Rwanda, Africa, where they worked alongside Congolese and Rwandan physicians.

The students had the opportunity to assist a 269-bed self-supported facility, which provides surgical, pediatric, maternity, neonatal and general medical services to a population of more than 250,000 people. They also made home visits – examining patients and offering what they could to help.

Brasfield said one of her most memorable days was a home visit with a patient who was wheelchair bound due to neurological complications of HIV. "My classmate and I observed the palliative care nurse ask questions about his health and any social issues that he experienced," she said. "We also prayed for him. Having the ability to not only serve with friends and classmates, but also to study scriptures and worship with them was a huge blessing."

Patients at the hospital spoke Kinyarwanda – the national language of Rwanda –

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USA Department of Pathology Hosts Dedication Ceremony

Making an Impact 7,899 Miles Away

Pediatrics Hosting Grand Rounds March 16

USA Welcomes Dr. Amanpreet Bath

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and the students had to learn how to overcome the language barrier.

Brasfield said she soon discovered the benefit of learning a handful of basic Kinyarwanda words to help her establish a rapport with patients. "We are taught to communicate as part of good bedside manner, so I think we all felt bad about not being able to speak with the patient to explain what we were thinking about their diagnosis, our plan to treat, or just to provide some reassurance," she said. "I noticed that patients and their parents appreciated when we found a common thing to laugh about, and we provided some amusement to our Rwandan friends when we butchered the language."

"It was very difficult for me to express my sympathy toward a patient since I could not speak their language," said Francie O'Hea, another student at the USA College of Medicine. "I found the easiest way to sympathize with a patient during a time of grievance was to sit and hold their hand or give them a reassuring hug."

O'Hea said "murakoze," Kinyarwanda for "thank you" was her most used phrase. "I also learned 'muraho,' which is 'hello,' 'amakuru,' which is 'how are you,' 'witwande,' which is 'what is your name,' and 'mwiriwe,' which is 'good afternoon,'" she said.

O'Hea spent the majority of her time on the labor and delivery service, in the maternity wards and in the obstetrics operating rooms. "I had the opportunity to work with Rwandan obstetricians and gynecologists and family medicine physicians who taught me a great deal about the care of antepartum and postpartum patients in a part of the world where there are very limited resources, access to medications and prenatal care," she said. "I learned how to think critically and adapt quickly, as there were few labs that could be drawn and very few diagnostic tools."

"The types of diseases seen in Africa are completely different than what we see in the U.S.," O'Hea added. "There was definitely a big learning curve, but by the second week I knew how to treat a woman in her second trimester of pregnancy who had just been diagnosed with malaria."

O'Hea coins the mission trip a success, as the group was able to impact many patients at Kibogora Hospital, often rounding on more than 30 patients each day. "Our group was fantastic," she said. "We were efficient and worked well together in order to get things done. All of us have 'go-getter' mentalities, so in retrospect, I believe we were able to accomplish a great deal."

As she completes her final year of medical school, O'Hea said she will apply the lessons she learned on the trip throughout her career. "Participating in this trip was the best decision I could have made," she said. "I learned so much and met really amazing and loving people along the way. It was truly remarkable and reminded me that we have a lot to learn from the grateful, happy and patient people of Rwanda."

The mission trip is sponsored by the Christian Medical Ministry of South Alabama (CMMSA). To learn more about CMMSA and supporting medical mission trips like these, visit <http://cmmsa.org/#/missions>.

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the trip.

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Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Pediatrics Hosting Grand Rounds March 16



Dr. Prasit Nimityongskul, professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon with USA Physicians Group, will present "Pediatric Orthopaedic Pitfalls and Emergencies" for March's pediatric grand rounds.

The event will take place Friday, March 16, 2018, at 8 a.m. in the conference room on the first floor of the

Strada Patient Care Center.

Dr. Nimityongskul will discuss pediatric orthopaedic infections, trauma and tumors in extremities.

The event is open to faculty, staff and students at USA.

A light breakfast, coffee and beverages will be provided. For additional information, contact Katie Catlin at kncatlin@health.southalabama.edu.

The Strada Patient Care Center is located at 1601 Center St. in Mobile.

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USA Welcomes Dr. Amanpreet Bath



Dr. Amanpreet Bath recently joined the University of South Alabama College of Medicine as an assistant professor of internal medicine and serves as an internal medicine physician with USA Physicians Group.

Dr. Bath earned her medical degree from the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences in Punjab, India. She completed her residency at the University of California, Los Angeles Kern Medical Center, where she served as chief resident.

Dr. Bath is a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine. She also is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association.

To make an appointment with Dr. Bath, call (251) 470-5890.

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