

Med School Watercooler

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

Friday, June 23, 2023

Foundations of Teaching course to be offered

Starting in fall 2023, the Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development will launch a new program titled Foundations of Teaching. This six-session course will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Strada Patient Care Center first-floor conference room.

- Aug. 15: Backward Course Design: Part 1
- Aug. 29: Backward Course Design: Part 2
- Sept. 12: Interactive & Active Learning: Technology in the Classroom
- Sept. 26: Assessment Design & Feedback
- Oct. 10: Writing & Analyzing Exam Questions
- Oct. 24: Small Group/Bedside Teaching



Sessions will be taught by faculty and staff from the Innovation in Learning Center, the Whiddon College of Medicine and USA Health. Two hours CME per session will be provided.

Please contact Amanda Arnold at akarnold@southalabama.edu for more information or to register. Space is limited.

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Pharmacy Residency Program provides vital training



Outgoing pharmacy residents Linda Tran, Pharm.D., left, and Amanda Sweat, Pharm.D., work in the emergency department at USA Health University Hospital.

When Kate Dorsten moved to Mobile a year ago to complete her pharmacy student rotations, the Birmingham native was impressed by the collaborative culture she observed at USA Health.

"I saw firsthand the team-based approach taken to patients and how clinicians in this health system are dedicated to every learner's instruction," said Dorsten, who graduated from Auburn University's Harrison College of Pharmacy.

Now she is poised to begin the next phase of her training as one of two pharmacy residents in a yearlong program at USA Health. "My long-term career goal is to work in a role that has both clinical and administrative functions," she said. "I enjoy working with rounding teams and providing patient education, but I also am passionate about improving processes that enable clinicians to provide the best patient care possible."

On July 1, USA Health will welcome Dorsten and Julia Goudeau, a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, as the third class of participants in the PGY-1 program, which is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

ShaRhonda Watkins, Pharm.D., M.B.A., director of the program, said pharmacy school graduates are not required to complete a residency, but doing so enables them to specialize and practice at the top of their pharmacy license. "It helps to have that deeper clinical knowledge and work as part of a multidisciplinary team that focuses on patient safety," Watkins said. "In some states, pharmacists can work alongside primary care physicians to help fill gaps where access to healthcare is limited."

During the year, pharmacy residents spend five-week rotations being exposed to a variety of experiences including adult medicine, pediatrics, critical care, administration, ambulatory care and pharmacy practice. They can choose electives in emergency medicine, surgical trauma and pediatric intensive care. Residents also gain experience conducting research in practical areas of institutional pharmacy.

"Our program is designed to capture pharmacists who either have just graduated from pharmacy school or have decided to take a nontraditional route and pursue a career first and realize that they would like to pursue a more clinical route," Watkins said. "Once the PGY-1 residents complete the program, they can apply for more specialized training in a PGY-2 program in areas such as ambulatory care, infectious diseases, critical care and more. Similarly, residents can begin their careers in a clinical setting such as a hospital or clinic."

As the new residents prepared to enter the program, outgoing residents offered some advice for success: Take each task as it comes. Try not to get overwhelmed. Remember to breathe. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

"USA Health is a teaching health system, so take advantage of the learning opportunities," said Linda Tran, Pharm.D., a Mobile native and outgoing resident. "Rotations can be tailored to your interests; all you have to do is ask!"

Tran, who graduated summa cum laude from Auburn's Harrison College of Pharmacy, said her co-resident, residency program director, preceptors and department provided a strong support system during her PGY-1 year. "They provided consistent encouragement to ensure my success and growth," she said. "Although it wasn't always easy, I am grateful for the opportunities that I received and the experiences that I had throughout the year."

Tran attended the 2022 Midyear Clinical Meeting of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, rounded solo on several medicine teams, presented her research at conferences, and taught a three-hour lecture to second-year pharmacy students.

She will transition from her residency to a position as a clinical pharmacist in the medical intensive care unit at University Hospital. Her professional interests include critical care, emergency medicine, infectious diseases and academia.

"Take every experience you are offered. Learn as much as you can, because this is the time to do it," said Amanda Sweat, Pharm.D., who also is finishing up her PGY-1 year. "Once you are settled in your career, you won't get the chance to explore a random opportunity you have interest in for five weeks at a time."

Sweat said she appreciated the safe space and patience that her preceptors and attendings provided for her to learn so much in a year. "I also loved learning alongside the medical residents," she said. "I felt that we were in this together and that it was OK to ask questions and learn from each other."

Sweat plans to pursue a PGY-2 year in ambulatory care at Sacred Heart Health System in Pensacola, Florida. "Ambulatory care is getting popular and is a branch of pharmacy where we work in a clinic setting with other pharmacists and physicians, and sometimes in a collaborative practice agreement," Sweat said. "We can see more complicated cases – patients with hypertension, diabetes and more – or more simple cases to help physicians with their patient load."

USA Health's pharmacy ambulatory care PGY-2 residency at the USA Health Family Medicine Center is a separate program that helps second-year pharmacy residents develop expert-level, evidence-based knowledge in the area of chronic disease management.

[Learn more about the Pharmacy Residency Program.](#)

Faculty and staff complete Academic Medicine Coach Training Program



Binata Mukherjee, M.D., M.B.A., leads the Academic Medicine Coach Training Program.

Emily Wilson, Ph.D., and the Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development would like to congratulate the most recent cohort of faculty and staff who completed the Academic Medicine Coach Training Program. These individuals will begin coaching students as they journey through medical school.

- Stephanie Aikin
- Natalie Bauer, Ph.D.
- Laura Boatright, M.D.
- Amber Bokhari, M.D.
- Greg Brower, D.V.M., Ph.D.
- Alexandra Chanto-Wetter, Ph.D.
- Clista Clanton
- Hamayun Imran, M.D.
- Vaughan Lee, Ph.D.
- Myria Mack-Williams, M.D.
- Uzoma Obiaka, M.D.
- Melissa Perez-Garcia, M.D.
- Rick Rowell Jr., M.D.
- Shima Sidahmed, M.D.
- Aldo Trovato, M.D.
- Shannon Tyler, M.D.
- Richard Whitehurst Jr., M.D.
- David Williams, Ph.D., M.P.A.
- Katie Williams, M.D.



The Academic Medicine Coach Training Program is led by Binata Mukherjee, M.D., M.B.A., assistant dean for faculty and professional development.

The tentative schedule for the next cohort is February through May 2024, every other Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. Please contact Amanda Arnold at akarnold@southalabama.edu for more information or to sign up for the Spring 2024 Academic Medicine Coach Training Program.

Medical students, residents compete at regional emergency medicine conference

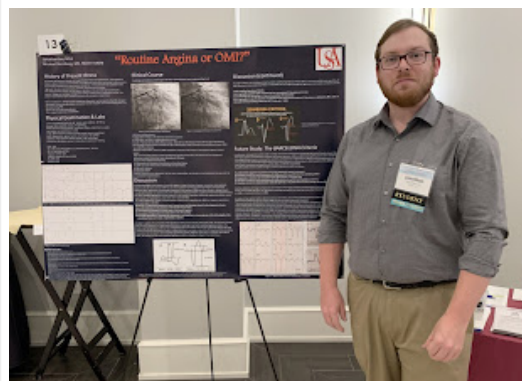


From left, Andrew Washington; Jelani Bender; Jonathan Lee; Christina Mattingly, M.D.; Noelle Ahmed, M.D.; Carly McRae, M.D.; and Michael Sternberg, M.D., attend the American College of Emergency Physicians' Emerald Coast Conference.

Three medical students from the Whiddon College of Medicine and three emergency medicine residents from USA Health recently participated in a regional poster competition. The American College of Emergency Physicians' Emerald Coast Conference was held earlier this month in Destin, Florida.

Medical students and residents from emergency medicine programs throughout the Southeast including Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Kansas presented abstracts in case study and research categories.

Rising fourth-year medical student Jonathan Lee was awarded first place in the case study category for his poster that considers improvements in EKG algorithms to differentiate routine angina from an occlusion myocardial infarction.

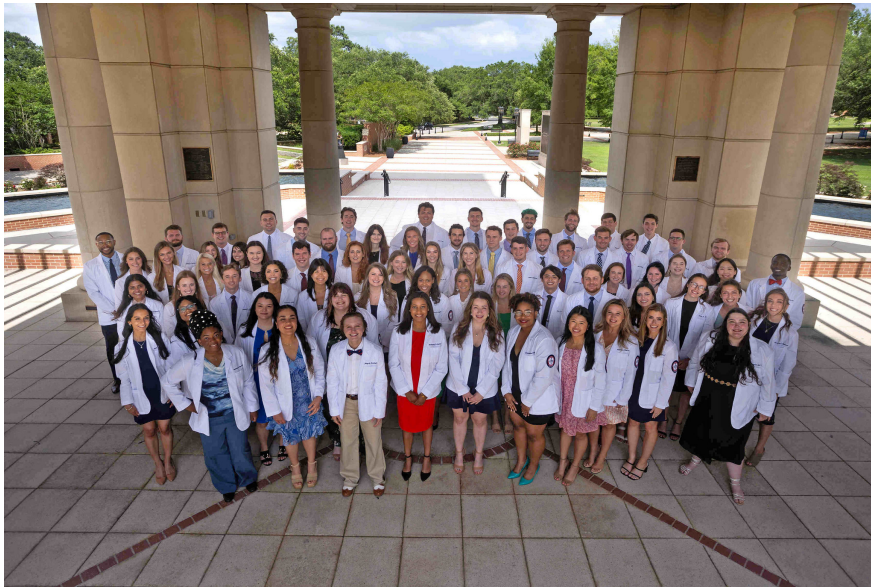


Jonathan Lee won first place in the case study category for his poster presentation.

The USA Department of Emergency Medicine sponsors the students' and residents' participation in the annual conference. "We have established a reputation for excellence that greatly assists our medical students in acquiring competitive residency positions as well as providing multi-state exposure to our program," said Michael Sternberg, M.D., professor of emergency medicine and director of student education, who leads the group each year.

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Class of 2025 receives white coats, GHHS members inducted



The Class of 2025 received their white coats at a ceremony held June 16 at the Mitchell Center.

Members of the Class of 2025 at the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine were cloaked with white coats, marking the transition into their clinical training, in a ceremony on Friday, June 16, at the Mitchell Center.

During the ceremony, 72 third-year medical students took the Medical Student Oath, a promise to uphold the human aspects of medicine such as sensitivity, compassion and respect for patients.

Anna Foust, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics, was the keynote speaker. She encouraged the students to “get to know your patients, ground yourself, and give yourself grace to grow.” As the students are immersed in the clinical setting for the first time, they will have missteps and mistakes. “You may fail to notice something on a physical exam, forget to ask a patient a question, or completely blank on rounds,” she said.

Reflecting on her own experience in medical school, Foust said, “When I would get a question wrong, I would sometimes ruminate on it, and this negativity can lead to more mistakes. By giving myself grace, I could accept my own imperfections and focus on growing to become a better physician.”

Victoria D. Antonello, president of the Class of 2025, recognized her classmates for arriving at their much-anticipated White Coat Ceremony and for all their accomplishments – big and small – along the way.

“Congratulations to those of you who have published papers, headed up organizations, run marathons and half marathons, volunteered countless hours, overcome illness, received scholarships, created art and music, and at times continuously mustered up the courage to get out of bed and study. I know that some days even that was difficult,” said Antonello, whose mother helped her don her white coat on stage.

“Amidst the stressful weeks, challenging topics, and even disappointments, your drive, discipline, dedication to your education, and passion for medicine triumphed and brought you closer to your ultimate goal of becoming competent physicians.”



Class President Victoria D. Antonello speaks to her classmates at the White Coat Ceremony.

Also during the ceremony, senior medical students, residents and faculty were inducted into the USA Chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society (GHHS). Inductees – elected by vote of medical students – were selected for practicing patient-centered medical care with integrity, compassion and altruism. They also received GHHS pins.

The inductees included:

Class of 2024 Medical Students

- Arcole Sims Brandon
- Tiara Dean
- David Michael Gahan
- Carey Patrick Johnson
- Marjorie Teel Jones
- Christian Andrew Manganti
- Jessica Marie Moore
- Justin Ryan Penninger
- Lameace Ayman Sayegh
- Trentyn M. Shaw
- Claudia Paige Stephens



GHHS inductees pin each other during the ceremony.

Residents

- Hayden Alford, M.D., Department of Surgery
- Santiago Diaz Gonzalez, M.D., Department of Neurology
- Shyla Hossain, M.D., Department of Psychiatry
- Angela Mosley-Johnson, M.D., Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Nicole Weidow, M.D., Department of Pediatrics

Faculty

- Anna Foust, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
- Melody Petty, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Recipient: Melody Petty, M.D.

White Coat Ceremony is sponsored in part by the USA Medical Alumni Association.

[View more photos from the ceremony on Flickr.](#)

Monday, June 19, 2023

Third-year students prepare for clinical rotations



Prior to receiving their white coats last week, third-year medical students attended M3 Clerkship Orientation.

Orientation kicked off with training in basic life support and advanced cardiovascular life support.

During the week, students also learned about maintaining a work/life balance, succeeding in their third year, and diversity, equity and inclusion in the clinical environment.

