

## HEADLINES

*in Utah and  
the Intermountain West*

### New Administrators Oversee Quality Improvement, Planning

Quality improvement and strategic planning will receive extra attention with two new positions added to the administrative team for the Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences.

Erik D. Barton, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., has been named assistant vice president for health systems quality improvement. He focuses on patient safety and quality monitoring and improvement for University Health Care, and reports to Richard J. Sperry, M.D., Ph.D., associate vice president for health sciences academic and clinical affairs. Barton continues to serve as associate professor and chief of the Division of Emergency Surgery in the School of Medicine.

Marilynne Paine, M.P.H., has been appointed assistant vice president for health sciences strategic initiatives. Her primary responsibility will be facilitating planning for a new ambulatory care center. Paine joined University Health Care last February. Previously she was assistant vice president for medical affairs and chief of staff for the University of Michigan Health System, where she led strategic initiatives, including planning and construction of an ambulatory care facility, and the redesign of the medical school curriculum.



Erik D. Barton, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.



Marilynne Paine, M.P.H.

### PEAK Academy Joins Well U to Promote Staff Fitness

Promoting healthy lifestyles isn't only academic at the College of Health. PEAK Academy, a clinic within the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, has teamed up with the University Benefits Office in the new Well U Program.

A voluntary and confidential program, Well U encourages staff and faculty to take responsibility for their health—and receive a discount on their health insurance premiums by doing so. Individuals undergo an assessment, which includes a family health history, lifestyle questionnaire, and biometric screenings: blood pressure, cholesterol, fasting glucose, resting heart rate, weight circumference measurement.

PEAK (Performance Enhancement through Applied Knowledge) performed 1,500 biometric screenings for staff last summer and continues to offer the service to new employees at four campus locations: Human Resources, Student Services, University of Utah Hospital, and the PEAK Academy office.

Based upon their HealthQuotient, or assessment score, employees receive lifestyle coaching from WebMD, an online health information service. Tips range from online courses to suggested activities, goal trackers, and medical self-care.

Campus-based resources play an integral role in Well U. PEAK Academy offers classes, such as swimming, weight training, yoga, Pilates, and running training, to help faculty and staff stay active. Enhancing the health of University employees has long been a goal of the PEAK Academy, according to Traci Thompson, M.S., director and instructor in exercise and sport science. Established in 1979, PEAK also provides practical training education in health and fitness services for students, in addition to professional services to the community.



**Pleasing to the Eye** The nursing team at University of Utah Hospital's Eccles Critical Care Pavilion helped design the new fifth floor, which opened last July to rave reviews from patients and staff alike. The pavilion expansion, which includes 26 additional private patient rooms and modular nursing stations, is the first phase of University Hospital's \$130 million project that includes a four-story addition to the helipad parking terrace and a new five-story Patient Care Pavilion, scheduled for completion in summer 2009. The University Hospital Foundation is raising \$20 million in community support to build the new pavilion.

### Five More Faculty Named Benning Chairholders

Five School of Medicine faculty members have been named to prestigious H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chairs in the past year, bringing the total number of appointees to 11.

Twelve Benning chairs were established in August 2005 with a \$22.5 million bequest from the late Arthur E. Benning, former president and chairman of the board of Amalgamated Sugar. The chairs are named in memory of his parents. Once the final chairholder is selected, the faculty will form the core of the H.A. and Edna Benning Medical Society, which will sponsor an annual event focusing on leading-edge medicine.

The newest appointees are: Cheryl M. Coffin, M.D., professor and chief, Division of Pediatric Pathology, School of Medicine, and medical director of Pathology Services and chair of the pathology department at Primary Children's Medical Center; Lynn B. Jorde, Ph.D., professor of human genetics; Dean Y. Li, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of internal medicine and associate director of the M.D.-Ph.D. program; Susan E. Mango, Ph.D., associate professor of oncological sciences, associate investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics; and Carl S. Thummel, Ph.D., professor of human genetics.

They join chairholders: D. Ware Branch, M.D., obstetrics and gynecology; J. Michael Dean, M.D., M.B.A., pediatrics; Jerry Kaplan, Ph.D., pathology; Gerald G. Krueger, M.D., dermatology; Edwin A. "Steve" Stevens, M.D., radiology; and Wesley I. Sundquist, Ph.D., biochemistry (see pg. 26).

### New Additions to Medical School Dean's Office

Two members of the School of Medicine faculty recently were named to the administrative staff of the Dean's Office.

Edward P. Junkins Jr., M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of pediatric emergency medicine, is the new assistant dean for diversity and community outreach. He replaced Ronald M. Harris, M.D., M.B.A., who continues as assistant vice president for health sciences diversity. Junkins joined the U medical school faculty in 1997.

Donald E. Kohan, M.D., professor and chief of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension in the Department of Internal Medicine, was appointed



Edward P. Junkins Jr., M.D., M.P.H.



Donald E. Kohan, M.D.

assistant dean for graduate medical education (GME) and chair of the GME Committee. He replaced Larry G. Reimer, M.D., who continues as assistant dean for curriculum in the School of Medicine. Kohan has been a U faculty member since 1990.

### McMahon Named Chair of Psychiatry Department

William M. McMahon, M.D., nationally recognized for his research on autism and Tourette's syndrome, was appointed chair of the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine last summer.



William M. McMahon, M.D.

He replaces Bernard I. Grosser, M.D., who stepped down as chair after serving 29 years.

McMahon, professor of psychiatry and adjunct professor of pediatrics, was one of two Utah investigators involved in the Autism Genome Project, a worldwide consortium of researchers that identified a gene that may predispose individuals to autism (see pg. 6). He also was co-principal investigator on a study published last spring by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found Utah has the third-highest rate of autism in 14 states studied.

McMahon joined the U psychiatry faculty in 1982 after

completing a two-year fellowship in child psychiatry. He received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Kansas.

### Departures Cap Nearly 60 Years' Service to Health Sciences

Whether measured in real estate or virtual reality, University health sciences grew in part to the efforts of two administrators stepping down after some 30 years each of service: Bernard I. Grosser, M.D., and Wayne J. Peay, M.L.S.

Grosser, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, stepped down last June after serving 29 years as chair: a U of U record. Under his leadership, the department grew from 15 to 60 faculty members and from 12 to 35 residents. Research grants and contracts increased from one in 1978 to 28 this year.



Bernard I. Grosser, M.D.

Grosser, who continues as a full-time faculty member, is credited with conceiving the idea for what is now University Neuropsychiatric Institute. Located in Research Park, the hospital provides care for both in- and outpatients. Grosser was one of 75 psychiatrists nationally—and the only one in

### Pharmacy Professor Teams Up to Teach Drug Policy Class

A University Professorship is entitling a College of Pharmacy faculty member to explore new intellectual ground with undergraduate students: inconsistencies in drug theory, policy, and practice.

Arthur Lipman, Pharm.D., professor of pharmacotherapy, is part of an interdisciplinary team of three 2007-08 University Professors teaching "Drug Theory, Policy, and Practice: An Interdisciplinary Analysis," which investigates inconsistencies within and between disciplines, and their different approaches to drug issues. He is joined by Margaret Battin, Ph.D., distinguished professor of philosophy, College of Humanities, and Erik Luna, J.D., professor, S.J. Quinney College of Law. The three collaborated on a book, *Drugs and Justice: Seeking a Consistent, Coherent, and Comprehensive View*, published in September by Oxford University Press.

The new course will include a historical examination of drug policy development; an analysis of mechanisms for controlling drugs; and an exploration of theoretical, policy, and practical dilemmas that underlie the uneven conceptual basis of current thinking about drugs, as well as the possibility of a new approach. The team of University Professors is organizing a university-wide colloquium and major drug policy conference set March 13-14, 2008, at the U. Keynote speaker will be former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph Califano, who established the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

Utah—honored by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill with the 1997 Exemplary Psychiatrist Award in recognition of his dedication to improving the lives of those with brain disorders.

William M. McMahon, M.D., has been named as the new chair (see this page).

Peay, a driving force in implementing technology in higher education and libraries, is retiring as director of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library in October after a 30-year career. In 2000, he became a Fellow in the Medical Library Association; recently, he was named a Fellow in the American College of Medical Informatics (see pg. 9).

Peay was instrumental in Utah winning a contract from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine in 2001. He also helped oversee construction and administration of the Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Health Sciences Education Building, which opened in August 2005.

In 1970, Peay began his library career as a bindery clerk. He helped move the library into its current building, dedicated in 1971. After serving as serials librarian at Washington University in St. Louis, he earned a

master's degree in library science from Columbia University. Peay returned to the U in 1977, moving up the ranks to director in 1984.

Joan Stoddart, deputy director of Eccles library, has been named interim director, while a search is underway.

### Nelson Heads Public Affairs

Christopher Nelson was named director of the health sciences Office of Public Affairs last July. The former associate director, Nelson is responsible for coordinating media relations, internal communications, and a variety of publications for the health sciences and University Health Care.



Christopher Nelson

Nelson received degrees in communication and political science from the U, and joined the health sciences public affairs staff in 1996 as a media relations specialist and editor of the internal newsletter, *Pulse*. He also served as manager of public relations and marketing at the University's John A. Moran Eye Center.

Prior to working at the U, Nelson completed internships at the White House in Washington, D.C., KSL Television in Salt Lake City, and the U of U President's Office.

### Caring Connections Expands Services

Changes have been underway recently at University Health Care's Caring Connections: Kathie Supiano, M.S., L.C.S.W., was named director, and grief support groups are being offered in Utah Valley.

Supiano, bereavement coordinator for University Hospitals & Clinics and a member of the Palliative Care Team, replaced Beth Vaughan Cole, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., who retired from the U



Kathie Supiano, M.S., L.C.S.W.

College of Nursing last May. Cole had coordinated Caring Connections: A Hope and Comfort in Grief Program since its inception 10 years ago.

Supiano, who joined University Health Care about two years ago and is assistant professor at the College of Nursing, is expanding Caring Connections' services. Weekly grief support groups are being held in Orem at the University's Parkway Health Center.

The program's educational component also is growing. Specially trained graduate students from nursing, social work, and genetic counseling will work alongside licensed facilitators in leading grief support groups. The number of first-year medical students completing rotations in bereavement and palliative care also will be increased.

### One U Serving Many Communities



Two national organizations have recognized University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics as an asset to the communities it serves.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked University Health Care among the country's top providers in its 18th annual survey of America's Best Hospitals released last July. Gynecologic and cancer care were rated 18th and 32nd, respectively. Huntsman Cancer Hospital, part of University Hospitals & Clinics, was recognized in the cancer-care ranking.

In a separate list of America's Best Children's Hospitals released in August, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Primary Children's Medical Center (PCMC) 18th. The U of U Department of Pediatrics faculty serves as the medical staff for the hospital, owned by Intermountain Healthcare. Edward B. Clark, M.D., U professor and chair of pediatrics, is PCMC medical director.

In its annual *State of the Hospital Industry* report, Cleverly & Associates recognized University Hospital as one of the nation's Top 100 Hospitals. It scored better-than-average in financial strength and performance, cost structure, and hospital charge structure.

A hospital provides value to its community when it is financially viable, reinvests back into its facility, maintains a low-cost structure, and has reasonable charges, according to Cleverly & Associates, a company that provides benchmarking and consultative services to hospitals.

The *U.S. News & World Report* ranking marks the 14th year the U has been included in the nation's top 50 hospitals—not an easy feat considering that only 173 out of 5,462 hospitals evaluated met the qualifying standards: membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals; affiliation with a medical school; and the availability of advanced services and specialties.

To be ranked in the top 50 specialties, a hospital had to either have treated a minimum number of Medicare or Medicaid patients who had specific conditions or underwent specified procedures, or have been named among the best by physicians in the latest three annual surveys.

### MRI to Track Changes in Brains of Autistic Patients

To understand how the brain changes in autistic patients as they age, Janet E. Lainhart, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry and pediatrics in the U School of Medicine, received a big boost last summer: \$2.5 million from the National Institute of Mental Health.

The five-year grant will enable her to continue a longitudinal study of 100 children and adults with autism, and 72 control subjects, in which she uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to identify physical changes in the brains of the autistic group and correlate those with clinical measurements as the disorder progresses. All scanning uses the 3T MRI at the University's Center for Advanced Medical Technology.

Data collected by Lainhart, a member of the U of U Brain Institute, will contribute to the National Database on Autism Research and may lead to improved treatment and prevention strategies. Recent studies have found that autism is 20 times more prevalent nationwide than 20 years ago and that Utah has one of the highest rates of the disorder (see pg. 6). Co-investigators are from the U, Brigham Young University, University of Wisconsin, and Harvard University.

### Nursing College Tapped for VA Partnership

The University of Utah College of Nursing is one of four schools in the nation selected to participate in a new partnership: the VA Nursing Academy.

Funded by a grant with an estimated total value of \$3.68 million from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Utah academy will fund 10 new nursing faculty positions at the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City in partnership with the U. With the additional faculty, the College of Nursing will increase undergraduate enrollment by 80 students over the next five years.

"The Salt Lake VA Nursing Academy distinction will take our partnership to the next level of collaboration as we address the nursing faculty shortage together and enrich the educational experiences of our students," said Maureen R. Keefe, R.N., Ph.D., dean of the U College of Nursing.

Some 42,000 qualified applicants were turned away from the country's nursing schools last year due to a shortage of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, and clinical mentors, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. To help ease the shortages of both nursing faculty and students, the U already has established several unique collaborations.

The College of Nursing has partnered with Intermountain Healthcare for the past three years in the neonatal nurse practitioner program. Intermountain nurses serve as volunteer clinical faculty and mentor students during clinical residencies. Seventeen graduates of the two-year graduate program have been supported by Intermountain scholarships and are practicing at Intermountain's Primary Children's Medical Center and Utah Valley Regional Medical Center.

The U College of Nursing also has collaborated with the VA, Intermountain, and University Health Care in the Clinical Faculty Associate Model Program, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The program enables nurses to divide their time between teaching

undergraduate nurses and working at the bedside, while taking master's-level classes (see pg. 12).

The other nursing schools participating in the VA Nursing Academy are: University of Florida in Gainesville; San Diego State University; and Fairfield University in Connecticut.

### U Begins Cord Blood Collection Program

Umbilical cord blood, a rich source of adult stem cells that can be used in place of bone marrow for transplants and other therapies, will be easier to access in Utah with the launch last May of the University's Umbilical Cord Blood Program.

As part of the Utah Center for Cell Therapy, the program will collect and test cord blood units for future transplants. Donations are being accepted from women delivering at University of Utah Hospital; eventually, the program will be expanded to include other area hospitals.

"Bone marrow transplants have been a standard of treatment for many years," said Linda L. Kelley, Ph.D., center director and associate professor of internal medicine in the medical school's Division of Hematology/BMT. "The advantages of cord blood over bone marrow are that it is more readily available, it's tissue that would normally be discarded as hospital waste, and it can be banked and made available when a patient needs it."

Some 7,000 cord blood transplants are performed worldwide each year to treat leukemia, metabolic storage disease, and aplastic anemia. The University's program is part of the National Umbilical Cord Blood Network, established through a bill sponsored by Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch. The Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 allocated some \$90 million to set up the network and provide ongoing funding until 150,000 cord blood units are banked.

## Health Sciences Drive U of U Economic Engine

When it comes to venturesome, health sciences lead the campus. Eight of 17 start-up companies launched by the University of Utah within the last year are the result of technologies developed by faculty in the School of Medicine and College of Pharmacy.

“The University’s innovative faculty is turning good ideas into good businesses,” noted Jack Brittain, U senior vice president for technology venture development. “New jobs and tax revenues created from the companies continue to add to Utah’s economic strength.”

Companies from the health sciences are:

- **Rescue Medical Systems, Inc.**—developing a novel CPR training device for the mass market, which was featured on NASA’s online journal (*Dwayne Westenskow, Ph.D., Department of Anesthesiology, School of Medicine*).
- **Thermimage**—focusing on a unique imaging system and algorithms to detect pediatric kidney infection (*Brent Snow, M.D., Division of Pediatric Urology, School of Medicine*).
- **Osteoseek, Inc.**—developing bone-targeting polymeric drug delivery systems and manufacturing methods to produce polymers and related copolymers to deliver the drugs (*Doug Wang, Ph.D., Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, College of Pharmacy*).
- **ImageTeck**—expanding on its technology, marketed by NuSkin, to detect carotenoid levels in the eye by using a unique 3D imaging algorithm and new laser technology (*Paul Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, John A. Moran Eye Center, School of Medicine*).
- **LV Partners**—using the Utah Population Database to develop a personalized medicine fund around the identification of unique biomarkers for selected diseases (*John Hoidal, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine, and Mark Leppert, Ph.D., Department of Human Genetics, School of Medicine*).
- **ContraDyn, Inc.**—commercializing a minimally invasive technology for image-guided cancer treatment using contrast-enhanced MRI with photodynamic therapy (*Zheng-Rong Lu, Ph.D., Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry*).



**Inaugural Class** They’re already working in hospitals and private genetic testing and counseling companies across the country—Los Angeles to Milwaukee, Dallas to Boise—after receiving the first master’s of science degrees in genetic counseling from the University of Utah School of Medicine last May. Twelve more students are enrolled this fall in the two-year interdisciplinary program, the only one offered in Utah. The graduates are, left to right: back row—Zoe Lewis, Kit Clark, and Heather Hussey; front row—Jennifer Saam, Michelle Kempf, and Candice Meldrum.

- **UGEN**—developing a unique breast cancer diagnostic that uses gene expression analysis to stratify breast cancer patients for risk of recurrence and matches molecular tumor subtypes with appropriate drug regimens (*Phil Bernard, Ph.D., Department of Pathology, School of Medicine*).
- **Navigen**—using molecular genetic techniques to identify genes that predispose patients to retinal diseases and developing diagnostics and drug therapies to prevent the diseases (*Kang Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and Dean Li, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Internal Medicine*).

## Genes for the Blue-Jean Crowd

To meet the spiraling interest in genetics, the University’s Genetic Science Learning Center (GSLC) will use a new \$750,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to reach out to younger students.

The GSLC is redesigning basic genetics sections of the Learn.Genetics Web site with new 3-D animations, interactive experiments, and in-class learning experiments for students in grades five to 10. The project, “Genetics for Your Life,” also will provide resources and professional development materials for educators. Anyone who wants to learn more about genetics may use the site—<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu>—noted Louisa A. Stark, Ph.D., GSLC director.

The HHMI grant, one of 31 awarded nationally, is part of a \$22.5 million initiative to help research universities connect with local schools to stimulate interest in studying science.

