

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) was established to provide a broad-based multidisciplinary research, training, and service Center focused on metabolic bone disease with a general mission to support, catalyze, and integrate clinical activities, clinical research, basic research, and education. Since its inception, the CMBD membership has grown to include 73 faculty and continues to accept new members who can contribute to achievement of the CMBD mission. For membership information please contact the address below.

The CMBD achieved full university-wide center status on October 1, 1999, through the University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers Program. This will allow the CMBD to fund three one-year \$20,000 grants, renewable for up to three years. In addition, successful applicants will participate in an NIH Research Core Center application (due June 14, 2000), which could provide up to \$33,000 per year for these projects in Year-2 and possibly for Year-3 and Year-4.

Dr. Harry Blair of the CMBD has received UAB Health Science Foundation, General Endowment Fund support for a Bone Structure and Cellular Analysis Laboratory (Co-Investigator: John P. Williams, Ph.D.), which will serve as a core facility for cellular and molecular analysis of bone. The facility will be available for investigators throughout the UAB campus. This facility will support competitive clinical and basic research studies using bone biopsy as an end point, provide the needed infrastructure to support further programmatic development in the CMBD, and should directly improve the competitiveness of numerous Principal Investigators at UAB. It is estimated that the facility will process 400 – 500 specimens per year.

Jay M. McDonald, M.D., Director, Center for Metabolic Bone Disease

Email: CMBD@path.uab.edu; *Office:* 205-934-6666; *Website:* <http://cmbd.path.uab.edu>

JOURNAL CLUB

The UAB CMBD Journal Club was initiated at the inception of the CMBD. These meetings serve a number of valuable purposes, most important of which is sharing an enthusiasm for a comprehensive multidisciplinary interactive program in metabolic bone disease at UAB.

With the growth of the CMBD, the focus and activities of the journal club have been broadened. The expanded and enhanced journal club entitled “Bone and Cartilage: Biology and Disease” has been actively meeting since February of 1999. “We have averaged about 25 attendees each session,” says Kenneth G. Saag, MD, MSc, director of the revamped journal club. Saag reports that each session is divided in half, with review of both a basic and a clinical science article. This new format was designed to encourage a wider representation of attendees from a variety of bone-related disciplines. Article presenters have included members of the Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Clinical Nutrition, Comparative Anatomy, Medicine (Rheumatology, Nephrology), Pathology, and Physical Therapy. “We have particularly encouraged participation by junior faculty members and allied health professionals with special expertise in bone disease,” according to Saag. Whenever possible, each session has been centered around a theme encouraging both the clinical and basic science articles to be topically related. The journal club meets on the first Thursday of each month from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. and is open to all interested parties. Refreshments are provided.

For additional information, Dr. Saag may be contacted at 205-934-0893, or emailed at ksaag@uab.edu.

Kenneth G. Saag, M.D., M.Sc.
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
ksaag@uab.edu