THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

CMBD
CENTER FOR METABOLIC BONE DISEASE

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The CMBD continues to be actively involved in a wide gamut of activities. Dr. Sarah Morgan directs the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic. The clinic is multidisciplinary and provides a thorough evaluation of bone mineral density by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA), a patient education class, national counseling and physical therapy evaluation.

She has established an Osteoporosis Fund for Excellence to provide support for the dietician and physical therapy members of the clinic, and funds for future faculty recruitment and equipment needs. A fundraiser is planned for late August or September of this year.

As a joint venture with the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD) and the Alabama State Department of Public Health, Dr. Morgan has scheduled an ISCD-DEXA certification course for June 30-July 1, 2001.

The CMBD also has a very active Visiting/Expert Speaker Program. Recently, our guest speaker was **Stephen E. Harris, PhD,** University of Texas Health Science Center. Two upcoming speakers are **Mone Zaidi, MD, PhD, FRCP,** Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and **Jay Shapiro, MD,** The Kennedy Krieger Institute.

- **Mone Zaidi, MD, PhD, FRCP**
  "Post-Transplant Bone Disease: Clinical Spectrum, Molecular Mechanisms and Therapy"

Thursday, April 26, 2001 • 4:30 - 5:30pm • WP Conference Center, Room D

- **Jay Shapiro, MD**
  "Osteogenesis Imperfecta"
  Thursday, May 3, 2001 • luncheon seminar (exact time to be announced) • *WP Conference Center, Room D*
  "Bone and the Trip to Mars"
  Thursday, May 3, 2001 • 4:30 - 5:30pm • *WP Conference Center, Room D*

Future speakers include: Ernesto Canalis, MD, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Robert P. Heaney, MD, Creighton University; and Roberto Pacifici, MD, Washington University.

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

NIH/NIAMS RESEARCH CORE CENTER (RCC) ESTABLISHED

UAB has received a five-year, $1,946,507 (Direct Cost) grant entitled, "UAB Core Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders," from the National Institute for Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). The project period is April 1, 2001 through March 31, 2006. The goal of the RCC grant is to use a coordinated interdisciplinary approach to identify and characterize the key mechanisms underlying bone loss and regeneration and the systemic and local factors that regulate these processes, as a basis for the development of innovative therapeutic strategies. UAB is one of only five recipients of NIAMS sponsored research core centers in musculoskeletal disorders, joining New York University, Yale University, University of Michigan and University of Connecticut.

The RCC includes three cores and a pilot project program:

CORES:

Core A: Administrative Core (PI: Jay M. McDonald, MD)

Core B: Human Bone Cell Production Core (PI: Xu Cao, PhD) – Provides human osteoblast stem cells and osteoclasts to investigators.

Core C: Histomorphometry and Molecular Analyses Core (PI: Gene P. Siegal, MD, PhD) – Provides state of the art bone histopathology, histomorphometry and related molecular techniques to investigators.

PILOT AND FEASIBILITY PROJECTS (P&F):

P&F #1: Adhesion of Osteoblasts to Implant Materials (PI: Susan L. Bellis, PhD)

P&F #2: The function of Smad3 in osteoblast differentiation (PI: Xingming Shi, PhD)

P&F #3: Role of PYK2 and FAK in regulating osteoclastic bone resorption (PI: Wen-Cheng Xiong, MD, PhD)

P&F #4: Long-term gene therapy for osteoporosis (PI: Selvarangan Ponnazhagan, PhD)

Funding of the RCC will provide the resources to continue the development of our multidisciplinary approach to common research problems in bone disorders and to promote greater productivity from UAB in this expanding area of research.