

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Drs. Jay McDonald, Sarah Morgan, Ken Saag and Sam Brown are actively involved in the State of Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Osteoporosis Task Force. This task force was formed in 1997 for the purpose of promoting the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis in order to reduce the occurrence of complications and deaths from the disease. The annual report is available from the ADPH by contacting Miriam Gaines at (334)-206-5649 or by email at mgaines@adph.state.al.us.

On January 31, 2002 the CMBD and the Center for AIDS Research co-hosted a very successful scientific symposium entitled Metabolic Complications Related to Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART). Bone loss is one of the complications. Speakers included: Steven K. Grinspoon, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital; Morris Schambelan, MD, University of California, San Francisco; William G. Powderly, MD, Washington University; Steven L. Teitelbaum, MD, Washington University; and Philip A. Wood, DVM, PhD, UAB.

The CMBD will host a scientific symposium focused on bone biology and disease on **Wednesday, April 10, 2002**, followed by an external review of the Center. **Please mark this date on your calendar.**

The UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) received a priority score of 139 on a training grant to NIH entitled Comprehensive Training Grant in Bone Biology and Disease, which we believe will be funded.

Since its inception, the CMBD membership has grown to include 83 faculty (11 faculty joined during 2001) and continues to accept new members who can contribute to achievement of the CMBD mission. For membership information please contact me at the address below.

Below is a synopsis of a program that secured space for the CMBD in the new Interdisciplinary Research Building.

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INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, BONE AND MATRIX BIOLOGY PROGRAM

The critical interface between biomedical engineering and the biology of bone and soft tissues (cell adhesion, extracellular matrix biology) will be the focus of the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Engineering, Bone, and Matrix Biology Program. This is an area of strategic importance as evidenced by the creation of the new Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Institute at NIH and the establishment of the NIH BECON (Bioengineering Consortium). The program will be a multidepartment, multischool, fully coordinated program involving Biomedical Engineering (Linda Lucas), the Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (Jay McDonald), the Cell Adhesion and Matrix Research Center (Joanne Murphy-Ullrich), and the High Resolution Imaging Core Facility (Kent Keyser). It will incorporate the entirety of the Biomedical Engineering Implant Program and selected core functions and key investigators from the Bone, Matrix and Imaging Centers. Consolidation of core functions will be a major advantage of this strategic grouping. For example, the Implant Retrieval and Analysis Core (Dental School) and the Bone Histomorphometry and Molecular Analysis Core will share space and equipment. Other cores that will benefit from proximity will be the Human Bone Cell Production Core, Biomedical Modeling and Analysis Core, Biomaterials Characterization and Evaluation Core, Biocompatibility Core, and the High Resolution Imaging Core Facilities. This strategic grouping of related disciplines will facilitate extramurally funded basic and translational research and provide unique opportunities for developing key industrial alliances with the potential for successful application of innovative discoveries to healthcare.

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