

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am extremely happy to announce that **Thomas L. Clemens, PhD** has been successfully recruited to UAB. After an extensive national search, Dr. Clemens has been hired as Professor and Director, Division of Molecular and Cellular Pathology, Department of Pathology. Dr. Clemens, currently at the University of Cincinnati, brings an extremely strong research program focused on mechanisms and consequences of parathyroid and related hormone actions, and is one of the leading authorities on using animal models for dissecting molecular mechanisms of bone disease. He will start on January 1.

An outstanding new clinical website, *Tone Your Bones*, is now available through the UAB Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic. This website is located at www.toneyourbones.org. Please visit this site for information regarding a multidisciplinary approach to preventing and treating osteoporosis.

The CMBD **journal club** will resume its monthly meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2003 with Drs. Gene Siegal and Ken Saag each presenting. This meeting takes place on the first Thursday of each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Conference Room D of the West Pavilion Conference Center. Your attendance and participation in this informative meeting is welcomed.

Upcoming CMBD Speakers: **Benoit de Crombrughe, MD**, University of Texas, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2003; **Theresa A. Guise, M.D.**, University of Virginia, will present a seminar on Thursday, October 23, 2003; and **Laura D. Carbone, MS, MD**, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, will speak on Thursday, December 4, 2003. We welcome suggestions for speakers. Please email Marsha Moore (cmbd@path.uab.edu), Dr. Kenneth G. Saag (kenneth.saag@ccc.uab.edu) or Dr. Xu Cao (cao@path.uab.edu) with your ideas.

Below is a synopsis of a new instrument, Micro CT for Animals, which was recently purchased and is available for users through the CMBD's Small Animal Bone Phenotyping Core, directed by Timothy R. Nagy, Ph.D.

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MICRO CT FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH

We are pleased to announce that the Small Animal Bone Phenotyping Core (SABPC) has been awarded a grant from the HSF-GEF to purchase a micro-computed tomography instrument. The new instrument, which is based on cone-beam technology, will allow us to measure an anesthetized mouse in 5 to 20 minutes depending on the desired resolution (from 30 to 100 microns). Rats and excised bones can also be measured with the instrument. The benefit of micro-CT is the ability to obtain volumetric bone mineral density of both trabecular and cortical bone. Additionally the software allows for image reconstruction in any plane making positioning of the animal less problematic. Therefore, after scanning an intact mouse, it will be possible to analyze bone mineral density of any long bone or vertebra desired without the need to rescan the animal. The system will be extremely useful for longitudinal studies.

In addition to bone measures, the micro-CT can also be used for the determination of the volume and density of soft tissues and the visualization of tumors and arthritic joints. Images from the micro-CT can be viewed at www.imtekinc.com. We plan on having the system functioning by October of 2003.

To discuss use and potential applications of this instrument please contact Dr. Tim Nagy at tnagy@uab.edu.

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