

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

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Photo by Erin Sanders, Baltimore Running Examiner

On the cover

Second-year medical students from USU endured the 26.2-mile Marine Corps Marathon in October in support of the Wounded Warrior Project. The students added weight to their rucksacks based on monies donated, carrying between 37 and 45 pounds each for the trek. (See story Page 5.)



The five 'Ws' of USU curriculum reform

by Air Force Col. (Dr.) Arnyce Pock



Air Force Col (Dr.) Arnyce Pock

Like the many U.S. medical schools that have taken steps to significantly revise their curricula, the USU School of Medicine is in the midst of re-designing the way medical students are prepared for future careers. The impetus for this effort began in June 2009, with a period of “discovery” led by Dean (Dr.) Larry Laughlin. Dean Laughlin charged two senior faculty leaders (Dr. Louis Pangaro and Dr. Alison O’Brien) with the task of assembling a faculty-based team to review various curricular models and formulate the key tenets and goals of a revised curriculum.

Termed “Molecules to Military Medicine,” this faculty-led initiative is oriented around three guiding principles: integration of the basic sciences throughout all four years of the medical school curriculum; the importance of incorporating early and meaningful patient contact; and, adapting the course of instruction to better utilize advanced technologies and contemporary learning styles. Taken together, these principles are designed to retain USU’s existing strengths while incorporating the critical components described in the recent Carnegie report (aka the “new Flexner Report”).

To achieve these goals, four primary, multi-disciplinary committees were

established: a Pre-Clerkship Advisory Committee, a Clerkship Committee, a Post-Clerkship Committee, and an Assessment Committee. In turn, the committees are assisted by a team of seven Task Forces and four Support Groups. The senior chair of each of the primary committees along with Drs. O’Brien (Faculty Director for the Basic Sciences), Pangaro (Faculty Director, for the Clinical domains) and Col. (Dr.) Arnyce Pock (Director of the newly-established Office of Curriculum Reform), comprise the Curriculum Reform Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, in consultation with the Curriculum Reform Advisory Committee, is tasked with developing a comprehensive plan for curricular reform which will be presented to the Dean for final review and approval.

The committees are comprised of basic scientists, practicing clinicians and medical students, all of whom are actively engaged in this effort. This is important as the School of Medicine is committed to having the revised curriculum in place by August 2011. Among the many revisions being formulated are plans to:

- Teach the basic elements of biochemistry, anatomy, pathology, microbiology, human context in medicine, medical ethics, etc., in a series of integrated units vs. the traditional use of stand-alone courses.
- Condense the traditional, pre-clerkship period from 2 years to approximately 16 months.
- Integrate key aspects of the basic sciences throughout each of the core clinical clerkships.
- Increase utilization of case-based learning, with much of the teaching to be accomplished in small groups vs. large lecture halls.
- Revise and more fully integrate essential elements of the military unique curriculum into each of the multi-disciplinary modules.
- Combine the traditional ‘core’ clerkships into three 16-week blocks, with

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CDHAM Pandemic Response Program in Kenya

by Charles Beadling, M.D.



Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) recently participated in a workshop, including a conference and table top exercise that explored the effects of an influenza epidemic, in Mombasa, Kenya, August 23-27. Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Carlos Williams, director of Education and Civil-Military Medicine, led the team from CDHAM to facilitate the workshop.

The week-long event was remarkable in three ways: the team hosting the exercise, the participants, and the historic context surrounding the workshop.

The visibility of subject matter experts from Kenya and other African nations to highlight the building of capacity in Partner Nations was a key feature in the event. In addition to CDHAM staff, facilitators included other DoD personnel from the U.S. Africa Command, representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development and members of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), the International Medical Corps. It was an excellent example of the synergy possible when complementary strengths of different groups are applied through interagency and civil-military partnerships. This “whole of

society” approach is included in current DoD guidance.

The participants of the workshop also represented the whole of Kenyan society. Military and civilian government leaders, including the director of the Kenyan National Disaster Operations Center, worked alongside NGOs such as the Kenyan Red Cross. One of the workshop’s primary objectives was to identify steps to help Kenya better prepare for future disasters, and on the last day participants read a list of more than 30 such steps. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to build relationships between agencies that would likely not have otherwise formed, and that will lead to future collaborations.

The Constitution and government in Kenya had been handed down by the British when independence was granted nearly fifty years ago. This contributed to the outbreak of domestic violence in Kenya several years ago that almost destroyed the country. That threat led to the development of a truly-Kenyan Constitution, which included diverse ethnic groups and a new form of government. The new Constitution was signed into effect on August 27, 2010, and senior Kenyan leaders each swore an oath to it. CDHAM’s workshop concluded on a new national holiday, amidst the country’s celebration.

“Being able to share that day with our Kenyan partners was truly an honor and a privilege,” said Charles Beadling, M.D., director of CDHAM.

CDHAM will participate in a number of upcoming workshops in countries throughout Africa, as part of the Disaster Planning and Preparedness Program and the Pandemic Response Program, executed in partnership with U.S. Africa Command. The goal is regional stability through sustainable capacity-building, ultimately increasing U.S. national security.

“It is a tremendous opportunity for USU students and faculty to participate in these Medical Stability Operations,” Beadling said.

Curriculum Reform

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- each block containing two related disciplines plus a week of combined, comprehensive assessments.
- The post-clerkship period will also provide an opportunity for a “Capstone Project.” Due to the extensive resources involved in implementing a project of this type, the Capstone Project will be phased in over a period of time, with initial participation likely to be offered to students with strong academic standings.
- There are also plans to expand the traditional Bushmaster and Kerkesner

Field exercises, so that MS-I, MS-II, and MS-IV students, along with selected members from the Graduate School of Nursing, actively engage in a truly combined field exercise.

Further details will be included in future editions of “The Pulse,” however readers are encouraged to visit the Curriculum Reform website (<http://www.usuhs.mil/curriculumreform>), which includes an increasing array of related information.

A successful curriculum reform effort requires the active support of the entire USU family, so any ideas, comments or suggestions can be sent directly to Col. Pock at arnyce.pock@usuhs.mil.

The Pulse Spotlight: Multi-discipline Laboratory team

by MC1 Chad Hallford



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Front row - Daniel K. Jackson, Yolanda Bobbitt, Ron Rivenburgh and George Harriss(Director). Back row - Christopher Moore, Marcus Henry, Megan Fitzgerald, Sean Coppie and Joseph B. Prendergrast.

The MDL team has a wide range of responsibilities centered on the coordination and support of student teaching. Through five distinct program areas, staff members are available for logistical, technical or instructional support in the areas of anatomical sciences, examination grading, classroom and laboratory support, and student teaching.

The MDL team has members as junior as five months to as senior as 28 years. Some have prior experience within USU, the DoD, or the Federal Service. “Length of service doesn’t matter as much with this team because they perform well together to make sure that all needs are met,” said George Harriss, MDL director.

“They are focused, committed and dedicated.”

Various attractors brought this team together initially, but these professionals enjoy working with the people of USU - interacting and working as a University team. They also treasure the opportunities available for learning - from on-the-job to additional academic classes. Several of the team commented that it is where they do much of their work that they enjoy the most - in the Anatomical Teaching Laboratory.

Across the team, the advice was to “learn, learn, learn,” and to take advantage of the many training opportunities available to USU staff and families. Some also suggested the best way to really learn is to ask often, and speak your mind to those who can create change to help.

This motivated team excels for the University in their words simply “because we work ‘together’ as a team,” said Harriss.

Congressman Patrick Kennedy visits USU campus



Photo by Tom Balfour

Patrick J. Kennedy, a member of Congress from Rhode Island, visited the USU campus recently to learn about the progress being made in the field of regenerative medicine for the treatment of auto-immune disorders and cancers. Kennedy, in his eighth term representing Rhode Island, is the son of the late Senator Edward Kennedy (Mass.). Along with a tour of the campus, Kennedy met with representatives of the Center for Neurosciences and Regenerative Medicine and members of the university leadership.

USU President Receives SECDEF Award, Inducted into Military Order

by Sharon Willis

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) President Dr. Charles L. Rice was recently awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service for his seven months performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and the Order of Military Medical Merit for outstanding support of the Army Medical Department.

The Exceptional Civilian Service award was presented to Rice, who was surrounded by staff members from both USU and Health Affairs, by Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Clifford L. Stanley in a surprise ceremony held in Stanley’s Pentagon office.

“While serving as the Department’s senior health official, Dr. Rice spearheaded efforts to improve the most significant warfighter care issues, including strengthening the psychological health of our total force, educating leaders on suicide risk factors, and promoting evidence-based practices to improve early identification and management of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries,” read the award citation.

Rice held the post from March until September 2010.

In a separate ceremony, Rice was inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit by Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker. The Order of Military Medical Merit is a unique, private organization founded by the Commanding General of U.S. Army Health Services Command in April 1982 to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department (AMEDD) personnel. Membership in the Order

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Events bring out USU Support

by Ken Frager

More than 40 USU representatives participated in the recent Army 10-Miler, Marine Corps Marathon and the Marine Corps 10K in Washington, DC.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Rupa Dainer (SoM '95) ran her first marathon as a member of the "Run to Honor" team. "My husband signed me up to run while I was in Afghanistan," laughed Dainer, a pediatric anesthesiologist. "I told him I had started running for exercise and one of his Naval Academy classmates needed another member for his team...which honors fallen Naval Academy grads. I thought he was kidding, but I made him agree to support me by taking care of our children while I trained. It was a great experience."

Air Force 2nd Lt. John Trentini, an M.D./Ph.D. student, volunteered to provide post-race massage for the athletes. "I am interested in sports medicine so giving sports massage after a big race is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with hundreds of people. Post-race massage is one of the highlights of running a marathon for a runner, so providing this service was extremely rewarding."

Edmund Burke, a program support specialist in USU's Administrative Support Division and a competitive runner, finished second in his age group in the Army 10-Miler for the second straight year. "When I race, I'm in total control and my body is on high alert as I outpace some competitors while hunting others. I prepare for this game every day, for the better the preparation, the better the results (in theory). No matter how a race goes, I enjoy the camaraderie of all the like-minded zealots drawn to the same event, and I give thanks for the feeling of being coarsely alive. People of all abilities (especially wounded warriors in wheelchairs or running on prosthetic limbs) participate - and they really inspire me. They're the real story."

Marching for a cause

by Ken Frager



Photo by Ken Frager

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences participated on a number of levels in the 35th Annual Marine Corps Marathon. From medical care providers, to volunteers to participants, USU was well represented in what has been called "The People's Marathon." But one group of second-year medical students decided that their participation in the marathon meant more than challenging themselves to reach new milestones or supporting an exceptional event.

According to Army 2nd Lt. Andrew Oh, "We wanted to find a way to do something medically- and mission-relevant to demonstrate our support for injured service members, those who we will be taking care of in the near future, but we wanted to help them in a different way."

Oh, a prior-service infantryman, used to ruck march the Boston Marathon with his ROTC students at the University of Massachusetts. Gathering his USU classmates into a team of 13, the group decided to march the Marine Corps Marathon and raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project, adding one pound of weight to their ruck sacks for every \$20 raised. Ultimately the group raised more than \$10,000 and carried between 35 and 45 pounds each for the entire 26.2 mile course.

"I was too tired to appreciate what we did the day of the Marathon," said Army 2nd Lt. Jason Beachler, a first-time marathoner. "After sleeping on it, I was

more proud of us than I thought I'd be. We did something few have ever done and most would never attempt. We raised a ton of money for a great cause and we had to earn every step. I never considered running a marathon until I experienced that atmosphere. I don't plan on ever rucking it again, but I would definitely run that event in the future."

Those sentiments were shared by Navy Ens. Christina Blum. "It was awesome! I think at different points before the marathon we all questioned how we were going to complete 26.2 miles, especially as the weight we had to carry kept growing as we raised more money. But once we got there it was game time, and the excitement from the crowd was really motivating. We received a lot of encouragement from the spectators, the other runners and the Marines lining the course, so we really had no other option but to finish."

According to Oh, he doesn't anticipate a repeat performance for the 36th Marine Corps Marathon because the team will be off working on their respective residencies, so logistically it won't be possible. But he added, "Maybe the up and coming first-year students will take the baton and start a tradition."

Other USU team members were: 2nd Lt. Daniel Hiles, 2nd Lt. Ilya Latyshenko, Ens. Rudy Schmiedecke, 2nd Lt. Ian Rymer, 2nd Lt. Joshua Fenderson, Ens. Matthew Willett, Ens. Maya Solomon, 2nd Lt. Zachary Bevis, and 2nd Lt. John Fletcher.

USU Research funding

by Ken Frager

Continuing a steady upward trend that began almost a decade ago, a recent survey from the National Science Foundation identified the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) as experiencing the most dramatic growth in federally financed research and development expenditures over the last five years.

An article in the Chronicle of Higher Education recently listed the top 100 institutions in the category based on total dollars, which placed USU in the 84th position. But the USU's total funding over the last five years has improved by 32 positions in the rankings, the greatest increase among the top 100 institutions.

"This growth is directly attributable to the hard work and concerted efforts of our faculty and staff, in our clinical, translational and basic science research efforts," said Steve Kaminsky, PhD,

Rank 2009	Institution	Dollars (in thousands) 2009	Rank 2004	5-year change in rank
1	Johns Hopkins U	\$1,587,547	1	0
2	U of Michigan (all campuses)	636,216	4	+2
3	U of Washington (all campuses)	619,353	2	-1
4	MIT	532,618	9	+5
5	UCSD	511,428	5	0
6	U of Wisconsin, Madison	507,898	8	+2
7	U of Colorado (all campuses)	500,123	11	+4
8	U of Pennsylvania	499,498	7	-1
9	U of California, San Francisco	483,667	10	+1
10	Columbia U.	483,111	12	+2

USU's vice president for Research. "It demonstrates once again that our exceptional teams across departments are competing very well for projects from many sponsors, including the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and others. We are not basing our research on one source, but in fact, we are very effective across the board."

SECDEF Award

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denotes distinguished service which is recognized by the senior leadership of the AMEDD.

"Dr. Rice has been a strong voice for the highest quality and most mission-focused medical and nursing education for our Army personnel during his tenure as President of USU," said Schoomaker. "Throughout this protracted armed conflict, his efforts to keep the school strong and to ensure that we have a robust force of new physicians, superb graduate-level nurses and other health specialists have been very much appreciated by my colleagues and me in Army Medicine. I have long sought an opportunity to formally express our gratitude and the awarding of the AMEDD's Order of Military Medical Merit, or O2M3, upon the completion of his tenure as the leader of the MHS while at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs seemed most fitting."

Sim Center celebrates decade of service



Photo by Tom Balfour

The National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center opened its doors to the USU community for tours recently in celebration of the Center's tenth anniversary. Center staff demonstrated the full scope of training and education resources to the dozens of visitors who visited throughout the day. Shown here, staff in the Surgical and Medical Skills Laboratory demonstrate their full-scale operating/emergency room mock-up and mannequin simulators to provide highly realistic scenarios for surgical and emergency medicine training.

Navy's 235th



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Navy Cmdr. Rene Hernández (Ph.D.), as the oldest Sailor present, along with Information Systems Technician Seaman Apprentice Alex Board, the youngest Sailor present, cut the Navy birthday cake as part of a Naval tradition. University Sailors gathered and celebrated the 235th Navy Birthday with Shipmates past, present or honorary, Navy families and the University family October 13.

Briefs

Flu Vaccine update

The USU Family Health Center continues to vaccinate all uniformed active duty, faculty and staff.

Vaccinations are available while supplies last from 0800 to 1200 and 1300 to 1530 daily, except on Tuesday afternoons.

All Tricare-eligible beneficiaries can obtain their flu shots or mist at 1245. These patients include:

- All patients ages 2 to 9 years who do not fall into another group can receive mist

Shots are available for:

- Children ages six to 35 months
- Children ages 2 years and up
- Children ages 9 yrs and up who are immuno-compromised

A limited number of vaccinations for the USU civilian population will be available through the Civilian Occupational Health and Safety Office. The specific dates and times have not been determined and will be distributed.

For questions or specific concerns related to civilian vaccinations, contact Andrea Sorrell Eaton at 295-9444.

New carpool guidance

The USU is currently transitioning to the new carpool program and any groups who wish to use the carpool garage at USU will have to apply to the NSAB.

An authorized carpool group can park in any of the spaces 1 thru 41 in the carpool area at this time. Once the carpool garage is full all other carpool groups will have to seek parking in the USU garage.

Drivers who arrive as the only member of their carpool group should not park in the assigned carpool area prior to 9 a.m. These drivers should park in the general USU parking areas.

To legally park in the USU carpool area a vehicle must have an L-1 sticker on the rear of your vehicle and a carpool rearview mirror hanger.

The carpool area will be open to all "L1" and "W" stickers between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Drivers should also be aware that the base police will be enforcing this program. The USU Security office will assist in enforcing the program.

Drivers at AFRRRI should be aware that they are not included in the USU carpool program.

If you have additional questions you may contact the USU Security Department at 295-3033.

Using computer resources

Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices:

Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network including MDL and lecture hall spaces; connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system.

Personnel must not permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games and social engineering sites.

Common Access Card Renewal

A large number of federal University employees will be required to renew their Common Access Card (CAC) by December 2010.

CAC renewal is extremely important to maintain access to DTS (Travel) and all DAI (Time keeping/ Procurement) applications.

Appointments at NNMC will fill up fast during this time period, and

Thursdays starting at 7:30 a.m. is the only day NNMC will accept walk-ins.

Please note people can renew their CAC at any RAPIDS location site. Online appointments at convenient locations can be made by using the following link: <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil/default.aspx>. Alternate locations can be found at the following link: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>.

Contractors must be updated in the Contractors Verification System (CVS) by the USU Security Department prior to issuing or renewing a CAC.

Professional activities

The Department of Defense and USU policy requires that all employees, both military and civilian, receive approval for engaging in any activity outside their work environment, which involves their professional expertise or government occupation, and involves compensation.

This approval is required prior to engaging in the activity.

In order to get approval, any employee can complete a USUHS Form 1004. This completed form must be approved and signed by each department chair or activity head.

These forms are available in the General Counsel's office or online at the USU OGC Web site.

Completed forms must be turned in to the General Counsel's office. The form will be routed to the appropriate dean, brigade commander or USUHS president.

Once processing is completed, a copy of the approved form will be returned to the employee for the employee's records.

ESC meetings

The Enlisted Social Committee holds its monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of every month.

Meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria's small dining room.

Being a part of the ESC is an excellent way for USU enlisted personnel to actively pursue volunteer opportunities at USU.



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