

# Radiology focus

**UAB** SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE  
Knowledge that will change your world

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Chief of Pediatrics

Yoginder Vaid, MD was recently appointed Chief of Radiology at Children's Hospital. Thank you, Dr. Stuart Royal, for your 27 years of remarkable service. Although Dr. Royal will continue his clinical service duties, he will also focus his time on international outreach. He has had a tremendous impact on our trainees and the children in the State of Alabama.

### New UAB Clinic in Leeds

The current UAB Medicine-Moody clinic is being replaced with a new clinic in Leeds this summer. Additionally, UAB will house an outpatient diagnostic center adjacent to the clinic featuring MRI, CT, ultrasound, digital X-ray, bone-density scanning, and mammography.

To learn more, [click here](#).

### Chief Quality Resident

We are proud to announce that Molecular Imaging Resident Devaki Suras, MD was selected for the UAB Medicine Chief Quality Resident Program. Only eight residents were selected for this important inaugural program whose purpose is to further understanding of quality improvement concepts and techniques, as well as to develop the skills needed to effectively promote and establish high quality care services within the healthcare system as a whole.

### RSNA Reception

We had a great turnout at the UAB Radiology Alumni Social at last's years RSNA meeting in Chicago. It was a pleasure to visit with so many of our former residents who now work all over the US and as far away as Spain. We were happy to report exciting updates from 2014, and we look forward to providing more encouraging news at this year's social. Continued partnerships between our alumni and UAB faculty are among our highest achievements. Thanks to your own generous support, we have raised over \$30,000 for the Koehler Fund for Education and the Stanley Fund for Leadership.

### 2014 Quality Variance Award Winner

Congratulations to our Mammography Section for winning *The Patient Centered Award* for 2014. It is a tremendous accomplishment to receive a quality award two years consecutively, and mammography also received the highest overall Press Ganey scores for the entire year. In 2013, they were awarded for having the highest hand hygiene compliance rate. We are proud of this group's hard work and dedication in providing excellent patient care!

## Tributes to Jiri Vitek

"It is with a heavy heart that I share that Dr. Jiri Vitek, Dr. Eva Dubovsky's brother, passed away on December 19 in New York. Dr. Vitek was a brilliant neuro-interventionalist who served on our department faculty until his retirement in 1998. Our condolences to his family during this difficult time."

Chief of Cardiology "My sincere condolences to a great man and taught me much." - Dr. Underwood

"I have been destroyed by Jiri Vitek's death. He was not only one of my best friends ("my brother" as we used to say), but also my permanent contact with those marvelous years in Birmingham. I will miss his trips to Valencia, the long talks we had about everything imaginable, and the 1983 discussion about how to save the world by using a laser beam less than a year ago. I will miss his had..."



"I also remember several fond and funny moments while working with him as a resident in neuro. He was instrumental in the development of carotid stenting here at UAB in collaboration with Chief of Interventional Cardiology, Dr. Gary Roubin."

- Satinder Singh

"I was a great in his field when I started to know him and Neurosurgery degrees in his past, then Radiology as well, he made the perfect neuro-interventionalist. He remained humble, but proud: the brilliant pro-

"His molecular diagnosis and intervention was published in numerous articles and chapters. Interestingly might be the "Cook Vitek" mammography a simple task for many. Just

"I was told that he was ill, I emailed and did not realize that my good friend was gone. I hope you to be, he kept us to let him know what a great person he was, and a true Gentleman."

"Sad news indeed. He was well ahead of his time in many ways. I vividly recall assisting him with many extraordinarily challenging neuro-interventional cases during a time when few would consider such feats. We are all the better for such talent."

- David Bolus

Thank you

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Angel Tree gifts this year. We are certain that our angels enjoyed a very special Christmas due to everyone's generosity.

# Cyclotron Progressions

[For more details, click here to review UAB eReporter's article.](#)

## New Scans to Track Brain Diseases

Robert Kessler, M.D. joined the Radiology Department in 2013 as Director of Neurochemical Brain Imaging and PET Neurotracer Development. Since UAB's T24 Cyclotron was already in place, Dr. Kessler was able to quickly develop specialized brain PET imaging tests to track changes in the brain. With this ability to look at molecules and receptors in the brain, Dr. Kessler can use specialized PET scans to study a vast array of diseases in the brain, looking at everything from dementia to tumors and schizophrenia.

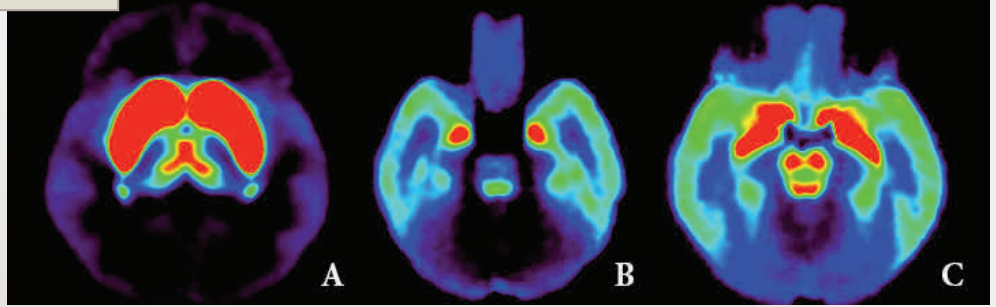
Dr. Kessler's involvement in developing new tracers at NIH and at Vanderbilt University ultimately shaped his career path. 18F-Fallypride and 18F-FPEB are radioactive molecules that bind specifically to dopamine and glutamate receptors. Dr. Kessler's research concentrates heavily on the dopamine receptors in order to discover the underlying meaning of chemicals in the

brain which referee one's pleasures and reward-seeking behaviors. Through understanding the effects of dopamine release on receptors, and by monitoring these dopamine levels, Dr. Kessler can show how dopamine directly relates to addictions, impulses, and one's ability to feel pleasure.

With UAB's state-of-the-art equipment, Dr. Kessler has furthered our understanding of what happens at a molecular level in the brain when a disorder or addiction arises. Dr. Kessler also has begun working with the neurotransmitter glutamate to continue developing and perfecting tracers with the T24 Cyclotron. Glutamate, like dopamine,

can be observed through the PET tracers that bind to glutamate receptors. The glutamate study will not only provide invaluable insight into the process of addiction, but will also contribute to research projects on topics such as depression, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease.

Through his pursuit of knowledge and many years of hard work, Dr. Kessler has done an extraordinary job in answering questions about many challenging diseases! He is a true asset to the UAB Radiology Department, and we expect to see continued great discoveries in his future with us.



### Alabama Board of Pharmacy

Recently, the UAB Cyclotron Facility was granted a full State Board of Pharmacy in November, and with the exclusion of a few minor requests, the Institutional Pharmacy license, and the Nuclear Pharmacy License. Denise Jeffers, Director of Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance, continues to do an exceptional job in making continuous improvements to the facility.

### Visiting Professor of Radiology

**Wael E. Saad, MD, FSIR**

*“Endovascular Management of Gastric Varices”*

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Boshell Building, BDB 334

### Radiology Grand Rounds

**Wael E. Saad, MD, FSIR**

*“Ectopic Varices: Approach to Imaging & Management”*

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

5:00 p.m. (\*Refreshments at 4:30 p.m.)

Wallace Tumor Institute, 101 (training room)

### Business & Leadership Lecture

**Cheri Canon, MD, FACR**

*“Radiology Job Market”*

Thursday, February 19, 2015

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tishler Conference Room, JT N307

## FUNDS

**Our Goal:** Over the next five years, we hope to raise \$500,000. Please read about our leadership and education funds and consider contributing.

The **Robert J. Stanley, M.D. Leadership Fund** is appropriately named in honor of Dr. Stanley's many decades of leadership. We have begun incorporating a Business & Leadership Conference curriculum for our residents, designed to provide additional opportunities for in depth leadership training. As healthcare is undergoing monumental changes, we must invest in the training of our future leaders in order for the specialty of Radiology to remain viable. Therefore, funds received will provide opportunities for leadership development for trainees and faculty.

The **Robert E. Koehler, M.D. Education Fund** is named in honor of Dr. Koehler's lifelong educational accomplishments. The first project will be a new learning laboratory for our trainees. The need to expand our curricular offerings is vital in preparing our residents to be well-rounded radiologists for the future.

### To Give A Gift:

By mailing a check written to the “UAB Department of Radiology” and mail it to the following address:

1720 2nd Avenue South  
SC 339C  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0017

Or, you may give a gift online by clicking the fund of your choice:

- [Stanley Fund for Leadership](#)
- [Koehler Fund for Education](#)

*Created By: L. Newell*