Message from the Chair

Recently, while driving home from work, I decided to catch up on the day’s events. I tuned into a popular radio news program, but soon realized that this was a mistake. The details of the urgent newscast were sketchy, but it was enough to put together the story…Northern Illinois University…a lone gunman…innocent students and faculty killed or injured…recollections of Columbine, Virginia Tech, the Omaha mall…unfortunately, I think we are becoming all too familiar with this type of incident.

I, like you, immediately wondered what could ever possess any individual to viciously attack defenseless people in such a manner. Just because one is having a “bad hair day” does not justify any deliberate effort to rain on someone else’s parade. Who could be so self-centered and cruel? Well, quite frankly, I think we all can.

Every time any of us are knowingly and intentionally insensitive, rude, spiteful, or vengeful toward others, we exhibit many of the same characteristics of the persons responsible for these heinous acts. Maybe we have not descended to the point of deploying assault rifles, but our evil intent can, nonetheless, be a form of rage. The wounds inflicted by our seemingly innocuous rampage may be rationalized as a mere character assassination, but, in reality, this type of disturbing aggression also can inflict incredible harm.

Perhaps more can be learned from these unfortunate tragedies besides insight into the fragile emotional states of their perpetrators. As we go through our daily professional and personal lives, it would behoove all of us to attempt to truly understand the motivations behind our interactions with others. Do we always try to be constructive, provide help, give hope, or show kindness to our fellow man? Or, is there all too often some other, less honorable impulse behind our behavior?

For the remainder of my commute I decided just to listen to music. It proved to be much more inspiring:

People killing, people dying…children hurting, hear them crying…can you practice what you preach?…would you turn the other cheek?…father, father can you help us with some guidance from above?…people got me wondering…where is the love?

—The Black Eyed Peas

media spotlight

Dr. Kelly Carmichael and Dr. James Bynum recently completed a medical mission to Jutiapa, Guatemala conducted by Operation Rainbow, a non-profit organization that arranges medical missions throughout the world. The mission provided free orthopaedic care for children and young adults in Central and South America. Dr. Carmichael and Dr. Bynum provided volunteer surgical expertise for more than 200 patients. Working almost 14 hours daily, they treated patients suffering from chronic deformities, clubfeet, and neglected fractures; they performed 43 surgical procedures in four days.

Through their compassion and hard work, Dr. Carmichael and Dr. Bynum have drastically improved the outlook of children with severe deformities and have extended UTMB’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery’s mission of compassionate care across the borders of Texas into the lives of others who desperately need it.

Dr. Steven Viegas was recently featured in a report on UTMB’s Telemedicine program presented by local television station KRIV 26. Dr. Viegas, who has been active in telemedicine for years, explained that 500,000 patients have been treated via UTMB’s program. Using a laptop and a webcam, UTMB physicians can examine patients hundreds of miles away; typical patients are workers in isolated locations such as scientists working on the South Pole or passengers or employees of cruise ships. The Telemedicine program, Dr. Viegas says, puts UTMB physicians on call “not just for the hospital, but also on call for the world.” It also keeps both UTMB and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation (DOSR) at the technological fore, always striving to meet patient needs, always working to provide compassionate care no matter how great the challenge or the distance.

--Ronald W. Lindsey, MD
William L. Buford, Jr., PhD, is currently Professor and Director of the Division of Research; he has been with UTMB since 1991. His interest in science and engineering began while attending The United States Air Force Academy in Colorado, where he received a BS in Basic Science in 1968. From there, he went on to California State University in Sacramento, receiving his MS in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 1976. While working as Chief of the Paul W. Brand Biomechanics Lab at Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana, he attended Louisiana State University; he received a PhD in Engineering Science from LSU in 1984. Two major focuses of his research include mathematical and computer modeling of anatomical and physiological systems and the study of human biomechanics and applications in robotics. Dr. Buford has been principal and co-investigator on numerous projects and is dedicated to multidisciplinary, collaborative clinically directed research. Additionally, he has mentored countless students and residents, providing them an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in conducting and publishing research.

Frank M. Ivey, Jr., MD, is currently Professor and Chief of the Division of Sports Medicine, Knee and Shoulder Surgery. While on basketball scholarship to Rice University, he earned a BA in Biology; he then went on to earn his MD from UTMB. He completed his Surgery Internship at Maricopa County Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, his Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at UTMB, and a fellowship in Sports Medicine and Reconstruction of the Knee in Sherman Oaks, California. Dr. Ivey has overseen the DOSR’s Conference on Innovations in Sports Medicine during its entire 25-year history. In addition, he served as team physician to the 1991 Pan Am Basketball Team in Cuba. His research interests include pain control modalities for knee arthroplasty patients and changes in muscle moment arms with various types of knee arthroplasty. His primary interest in sports medicine lies in reconstruction of the knee. Dr. Ivey is a dedicated physician, an innovative researcher, and a life-long learner; he is committed to education, to being accessible to his students, and to instilling enthusiasm and professionalism into all his interactions at UTMB.
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD  
Department Chair  
The John Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair in Rehabilitation Sciences  

Foot & Ankle and Infections & Wound Care  
Maria T. Guidry, MD  
Vinod K. Panchbhavi, MD  

Hand Surgery  
J. Pat Kearney, Jr., MD  
Steven F. Viegas, MD  

Joint Arthroplasty & General Orthopaedics  
Stanley D. Allen, MD  
E. Burke Evans, MD  
Michael J. Grecula, MD  
John W. Kosty, MD  
Kelly W. Stephenson, MD  

Orthopaedic Research  
William L. Buford, Jr., PhD  
Zbigniew Gugala, MD, PhD  

Pediatric Orthopaedics & Scoliosis Surgery  
Kelly D. Carmichael, MD  
David A. Yngve, MD  

Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation  
Mabel E. Caban, MD  
Lilly L. Chen, MD  
Kim J. Garges, MD  
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD  

Sports Medicine and Knee & Shoulder Surgery  
Frank M. Ivey, Jr., MD  
Brian A. Smith, MD  

Trauma  
Stanley D. Allen, MD  
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD  

UTMB  
Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery  
301 University Blvd  
Galveston TX  77555-0165  
409.747.5700  
www.utmb.edu/ortho  

Grand Rounds  

On January 9 in Galveston, E. Anne Ouellette, MD, MBA, Director, Miami International Hand Surgical Services, Florida & Chief, Division of Hand and Upper Extremity, Jackson Health Systems presented “DRUJ and Ulno-Carpal Instabilities.”  

Michele Zembo, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, presented “The Limping Child,” on February 13 in Galveston.  

The Austin Lecture Series continued on January 16 with Leo A. Whiteside, MD, Director of the Missouri Bone & Joint Research Foundation. Dr. Whiteside presented, “Alignment and Ligament Balancing in the Knee.”  

On February 20, Charles A. Rockwood, Jr., MD, Professor and Chair Emeritus at the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, presented “Ethics, Orthopaedics, and Industry.”  

Focus on Biomechanics  

Biomechanics testing involves all forms of mechanical analysis of physiological systems (soft tissue, bone, tendons, cartilaginous structures, muscle systems) and the prosthetic and/or implant devices that enhance, correct, or rehabilitate these systems. The Biomechanics Lab of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation is equipped with an MTS 858 Mini-Bionix materials testing system from MTS Systems Corporation, Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The machine is servohydraulic, computer controlled, biaxial, and employs axial load cells ranging from 500N to 10000N, and a torsional capability of 100Nm. The MTS is available for research within the division, for resident education and departmental projects, and contract work with other institutions. For more information, please contact Randal P. Morris, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation, Research Division, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77555-0174, Phone: 409-747-3206 and Fax 409-747-3240.  

Dr. Jinping Yang and Randal Morris test the biomechanical properties of fixation plates in a cervical spine using the MTS 858 Mini-Bionix testing machine.  

Honoring Our Best  

Kathy Flesher has been the Residency Training Program Coordinator for 16 years. A true, seasoned professional, she began her career in 1974 with UTMB as a department secretary in Occupational Therapy. After working in Pediatrics for 6 years and Pediatric Orthopaedics for 11 years, Kathy assumed the role of Residency Orthopaedic Coordinator in 1992. Kathy has made numerous contributions to the DOSR and to UTMB; she was a founding member of the steering committee of the Association of Residency Coordinators in Orthopaedic Surgery (ARCOS); she is very active with Support Staff Professionals, currently serving as the the membership committee chair. Outside of UTMB, Kathy is a member of the Red Hat Club and a big Aggie mom. In her spare time, she and son Mark snap photographs of Texas courthouses. Throughout her years of service, she has represented UTMB with professionalism and integrity, forging lasting connections throughout the healthcare community. She leads our residency program with a spirit of dedication and enthusiasm; she works tirelessly for our residents to insure their continued success as they graduate and transition to life after the DOSR.  

If you have comments, questions, or news you would like highlighted in a future edition, please contact Rob Cox at recox@utmb.edu or 409-747-5735.
Upcoming Events

2008 AAOS Reception:
--Thursday, March 6, Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco, 6:00-9:00 pm

UTMB Galveston Grand Rounds:
--March 12: Stephen J. Incavo, MD, Department Chair of Total Joint Replacement, The Methodist Center for Orthopedic Surgery, Houston

Austin Visiting Lecture Series:
--March 19: Mark R. Brinker, MD, Director of Acute and Reconstructive Trauma, Texas Orthopedic Hospital, Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston

2008 Eggers Conference:
--April 18-19, Moody Gardens, Galveston; Guest Professor Roger Mann, MD, Director, Foot and Ankle Fellowship, Associate Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California at San Francisco; Please call 409.772.3205 by April 11, 2008 to RSVP

2008 UTMB School of Medicine Commencement Ceremonies:
--May 31, Moody Gardens Convention Center, Galveston; Keynote Speaker and UTMB Alumnus Bernard Morrey, MD, Professor of Orthopedics, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

2008 Resident Graduation:
--June 20, Moody Gardens, Galveston; Distinguished Lecturer E. Burke Evans, MD; Visiting Professor, Augustus A. White III, PhD, MD, The Ellen and Melvin Gordon Distinguished Professor of Medical Education, Harvard Medical School, Boston.