



February 24, 2010
UNC Department of Medicine

Media Spotlight

Jan Busby-Whitehead, M.D., (Geri) was quoted in a *Michigan Today* [article](#) about end-of-life issues.

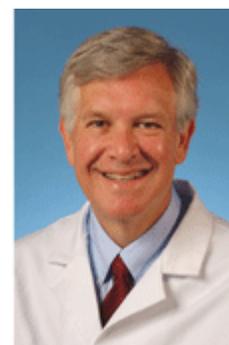
Nortin Hadler, M.D., (Rheum) was interviewed by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and spoke about health care reform. To listen to the interview, click [here](#). Dr. Hadler was also quoted in an *ABC News* [article](#) about high-tech medicine. He was also [interviewed](#) on *The Progressive Pulse*.

Cam Patterson, M.D., (Cardio) was quoted in a *CNN.com* [article](#) about multiple heart attacks.

Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D., (Hem-Onc) recently published research in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. The research was [featured](#) in Vital Signs.

From the Chair's Office

Last week the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC) was awarded \$13.6 million in federal recovery funds to support the adoption of electronic health records and other technology by primary care providers across the state.



Marschall S. Runge, MD, PhD

This is a great achievement for AHEC and all of you who participated in this effort. As you all know, electronic health records are vital to improving patient safety and making health care more efficient, and perhaps eventually, more affordable. As you also know, the implementation of electronic medical records in any medical practice is a complex and expensive process, which requires a great deal of time and planning to work effectively. These recently-awarded funds will allow NC AHEC to hire and train over 40 individuals who will provide invaluable assistance to practices all over North Carolina who are making the transition to electronic record keeping.

In addition, the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF), the official State Designated Entity responsible for coordinating the state's health IT improvement efforts, is slated to receive \$12.9 million to facilitate Health Information Exchange among physician practices.

With the leadership of Bob Berger and others, we at UNC have been very successful in developing and implementing the technology necessary to bring our records, procedure ordering, and prescription systems to the forefront of sophistication and efficiency. As it is our mission to serve the entire state of North Carolina, we all very much hope that patients and physicians in every area of the state will soon benefit from these advances.

I encourage you to read the press releases posted [here](#) to learn more about these awards and how NC AHEC and the HWTF will use them to benefit the people of our state. Congratulations to all whose efforts helped to secure these funds.

Lectures

Announcements

- **Stephen Bernard, M.D.**, (Hem-Onc) is one of five UNC researchers who

Grand Rounds

Thursday, February 25

Noon - 1 p.m. Clinic Auditorium

Laura Hanson, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor of Medicine

Division of Geriatric Medicine

Associate Professor of

Epidemiology

Co-Director, Center for Health

Ethics

Co-Director, UNC Palliative Care

Program

"Advance Directives in the

Context of Health Care Reform"

31st Annual Minority Health Conference

Friday, Feb. 26, Friday Center

Keynote speaker, Robert E.

Fullilove, Ed.D.

"Building Community in the Age

of Information: Fighting Health

Inequality in the Modern World"

More information [here](#).

Hettleman Lectures

"Aging and Cancer: A Rock and a Hard Place"

Friday, March 26, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Bondurant Hall, G100

Dr. Brian Strahl, Associate

Professor of Biochemistry and

Biophysics

Presenting at 2:15 p.m.

Dr. Norman Sharpless, Dept. of

Medicine (Hem-Onc) and

Genetics

Presenting at 3:15 p.m.

have received a University Cancer Research Fund Clinical Innovation Award. To read more, click [here](#).

- Recently, Todd Peterson [announced](#) that he will retire from his position as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of UNC Hospitals, as of June 30, 2010, after a very successful tenure of 20 years. Gary Park will lead a search for his replacement. Click [here](#) to read the search announcement.
- Larry Keith, a pioneer in recruiting minority students into the health professions, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010 from cancer. He was 58. For more on Mr. Keith's life and work, read [here](#).
- Three patients burned during the Haiti earthquake, who have been undergoing treatment at the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center, recently held a press conference. To see the video, click [here](#).

To submit items, contact Sarah_Perry@med.unc.edu. Archived issues can be found [here](#).