Researcher receives $3.38 million grant to study PTSD

By Rebecca Schwan

A University of Toledo researcher has received a $3.38 million award from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the brain for early signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after an injury.

PTSD is increasingly recognized as a major mental health problem, with an estimated eight million adults suffering from some form of the disorder as a result of a traumatic event.

The largest grant received by the University from the National Institute of Mental Health, the competitive award was given to Dr. Xin Wang, associate professor of psychiatry in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, to use MRI imaging to study the early development of PTSD in trauma victims.

His study titled “Study of Early Brain Alterations That Predict Development of Chronic PTSD,” will receive $755,000 in 2016, and a total of $3.38 million over a period of four and a half years, pending oversight and review of annual congressionally approved NIH funding levels. The NIH study section that peer-reviewed Wang’s proposal ranked it in the top 4th percentile for “major research” among those competing for mental health research funding.

The research project will study trauma patients who agree to be monitored for a period of a year during which time they will be evaluated using non-invasive, functional magnetic resonance imaging technology. This state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment is only available at UT Medical Center. Study participants will be recruited from the emergency department at UTMC, as well as the ProMedica and Mercy Health Systems.

“This cutting-edge technology is a safe, non-invasive and non-radioactive way to examine the brain for mechanisms...” continued on p. 2

IN THE NEWS: Dr. Xin Wang, associate professor of psychiatry, spoke last week at a press conference to announce his $3.38 million award from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the brain for early signs of post-traumatic stress disorder after an injury.

Historical perspective

Andrew Young made history come alive at the Edward Shapiro Distinguished Lecture Sept. 29 as he shared his 60 years of experiences in the civil rights movement, the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, and as mayor of Atlanta. More than 500 attended his talk in Savage Arena. Young focused particularly on the impact of poverty and economic disparities and on working together to address national and global issues. He was the first African American to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and the former member of Congress and mayor of Atlanta worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement to organize desegregation efforts throughout the South. The lecture was presented by the College of Arts and Letters.

Division of Student Affairs extends hours

By Carly Wiegand

The Division of Student Affairs has extended office hours and is open Wednesdays until 8 p.m.

“As a division, we understand not all students have classes between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; therefore, the extended office hours will assist us in our efforts to aid students in their academic and social endeavors,” Dr. Kaye M. Patten, senior vice president for student affairs, said.

To see offices and centers that are part of the division, go to utoledo.edu/studentaffairs.

“It is our hope students will take advantage of the services or assistances provided by the office hours to complete course assignments, network and collaborate with staff, identify ways to get involved, share or brainstorm programming ideas, and take advantage of the educational...” continued on p. 3

continued on p. 2
International human rights activist to speak at UT Oct. 3

By Rebecca Schwan

A Norwegian anesthesiologist, trauma expert, humanitarian and human rights activist will share his experiences working to save lives during the Israeli attacks on Gaza at a lecture at The University of Toledo.

Dr. Mads Gilbert will speak Monday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m. in the Lois and Norman Nitschke Auditorium. A reception will be held after the lecture, and Gilbert will sign copies of his latest book, Night in Gaza, which will be available for purchase.

Gilbert heads the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University Hospital of North Norway and is a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Tromsø.

For more than 40 years, Gilbert has supported solidarity work with the Palestinian people, serving during several intense, violent periods in the Palestinian territories and in Lebanon. He is renowned for his work, including his books Eyes in Gaza and Night in Gaza, which document the horrors of Israel’s Operation Cast Lead, an attack that killed about 1,400 Gazans, and Operation Protective Edge, which killed more than 2,000 civilians.

Gilbert’s visit is organized by UT Students for Justice in Palestine, an advocacy group whose mission is to raise awareness of issues facing the people of Palestine and pursue social justice as global citizens.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to have Dr. Gilbert visit the UT campus,” said Shahrazad Hamdah, a UT higher education graduate student and steering committee member of the student organization. “We invite anyone interested in health care or humanitarian efforts to hear this respected physician and human rights activist speak about his experiences.”

The lecture is sponsored by Tiffin Area Pax Christi, Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition, Project Peace, Northwest Ohio Free Speech Alliance, United Muslim Americans of Toledo and Al-Madinah Community Center.

President Sharon L. Gaber received a flu shot from Meghan Haar, a graduate student in the College of Nursing, as other UT leaders lined up for vaccines from nursing students. Free flu shots will be offered to all physicians, faculty, staff, residents, students, health-care workers and volunteers starting Monday, Oct. 3, and ending Tuesday, Nov. 15. This is the second year for the universal flu shot policy.

Flu shots are required for individuals who work in the hospital and ambulatory clinics, and for those whose duties require them to enter patient care areas. Proof of vaccination is required by Thursday, Dec. 1. A full immunization schedule is available online at https://webinfluenzaapp.utoledo.edu.

Individuals need to complete the vaccine administration questionnaire found on this website prior to receiving a vaccination. Those wishing to receive a flu shot outside of the flu clinics must upload proof of immunization to this website. While not required for faculty, staff and students on Main Campus, vaccinations are highly encouraged, and clinics will be available for those wishing to get a flu shot.

$3.38 million grant

continued from p. 1

of PTSD development after acute trauma,” Wang said. “Patients will be tracked for one year to identify possible changes in the brain that differentiate the PTSD development and normal recovery free of stress symptoms. We hope to identify the early changes in the brain that occur in the days following a trauma that place a patient at high risk of developing the disorder.”

Wang said PTSD can manifest itself in a number of symptoms ranging from nightmares and flashbacks to paranoia, irritability and difficulty concentrating.

“Patients experiencing PTSD can find it to be relatively minor or totally disruptive to everyday activities,” he said. “It is our goal to monitor brain changes that occur during the progression of PTSD symptoms to develop future preventative or curative treatments and improve the lives of those who experience a traumatic event.”

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur visited Health Science Campus last week to celebrate the award.

“This is a very significant development,” said Kaptur, whose advocacy in 2006 on behalf of returning military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan led to research funds secured for what became known as the Kaptur Combat Mental Health Initiative.

The Department of Defense program involved the monitoring of 3,000 members of the Ohio National Guard in research coordinated by Case Western Reserve University and The University of Toledo.

Kaptur also is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, which has responsibility for funding and oversight of the National Institutes of Health.

“PTSD will touch all of our lives, either personally or through a loved one, friend or colleague,” Kaptur said. “Combat, car accidents, blunt force trauma and contact sports are but a few examples of injuries that can lead to this condition. Dr. Wang’s research could identify and lead to new medical responses for those most likely to suffer from PTSD.”

Wang first developed this acute PTSD study with civilian automobile accident victims in 2013 with support from an NIH pilot grant. His research at UT has drawn attention from national and international PTSD researchers.
Three added to UT’s Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor

By Rebecca Schwan

The University of Toledo Medical Center last week recognized three individuals for their contributions to the field of emergency medical services at the Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor Ceremony.

UT President Sharon L. Gaber, Dr. Christopher Cooper, executive vice president for clinical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and Dr. Kristopher Brickman, professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, spoke at the event.

“This is the sixth year we have honored those who have made a significant contribution to the field of emergency medicine,” Brickman said. “The individuals recognized are the trailblazers in their field, and they have set the gold standard for what it means to be an emergency medicine professional.”

The Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor, made possible through funding from The Blade, was established in 2011 to celebrate the achievements of those who have lived a life of self-sacrifice in committed service to the emergency medicine community.

Each year, nominations are submitted by a committee of community stakeholders and reviewed by a multidisciplinary selection committee.

This year’s honorees are:

• Carl W. Neeb, retired Toledo fire chief. After serving 30 years with the Toledo Department of Fire and Rescue, Neeb retired as chief of the department in 1980. He was known as the “Father of Paramedics” in Toledo due to his invaluable contributions in establishing emergency medical services within the Toledo Fire Department. His expertise and involvement helped develop and implement Lucas County’s Advanced Life Support System and was instrumental in its success as one of the first and finest systems in the country.

• Bruce D. Janiak, professor of emergency medicine, Medical College of Georgia. Janiak was the first resident in emergency medicine in the United States and is recognized as one of the fathers of the specialty. He is considered a true visionary in the field, having explored and implemented concepts such as telemedicine well before it became standard practice. He served as president of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Emergency Department Benchmarking Alliance, an organization that defines the best clinical and administrative practices. He is a lecturer, instructor and author, as well as a consultant specializing in medical malpractice.

• Judith A. Ruple, registered nurse. Ruple was chair of the National Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee Education Subcommittee for the American Heart Association and president of the National Association of EMS Educators. She was the director of the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Program in the UT Department of Health and Human Services. Ruple served as a content level leader of the National EMS Education Standards Project and was the principal investigator for the State of EMS Education Research Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. She has written more than 30 publications and received numerous grants for research and development in the area of emergency medicine education.

Toledo Fire Chief Luis Santiago, left, presented Carl Neeb with a plaque for the Emergency Medicine Wall of Honor.

Dr. Paul Rega, assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, left, presented a plaque to Bruce Janiak.

Judith Ruple was unable to attend the ceremony.

Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee Education Subcommittee for the American Heart Association and president of the National Association of EMS Educators. She was the director of the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Program in the UT Department of Health and Human Services. Ruple served as a content level leader of the National EMS Education Standards Project and was the principal investigator for the State of EMS Education Research Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. She has written more than 30 publications and received numerous grants for research and development in the area of emergency medicine education.
UT helps launch White House mentoring program in Toledo

By Meghan Cunningham

The University of Toledo helped launch the White House mentoring program called My Brother’s Keeper in Toledo that will prepare local students for college and career readiness.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and Michael D. Smith, special assistant to the president and senior director of cabinet affairs for My Brother’s Keeper at the White House, organized a kickoff event Sept. 23 at Waite High School that included UT President Sharon L. Gaber, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Willie McKether, and Rocky and Rocksy supporting the initiative.

“I cannot think of a better cause than one that focuses on saving our boys and young men,” said McKether, who helped lead the effort to launch the My Brother’s Keeper initiative in Toledo. “I grew up without a father and understand the challenges of not having a strong man in my life during my formative years. I feel honored to be associated with this critically important initiative.”

The local My Brother’s Keeper initiative will connect male students of color with community leaders through mentoring relationships and educational events. It is aligned with the national initiative that works to ensure all youth receive a quality high school education and graduate with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training.

“Ohio is losing future doctors, engineers, teachers and entrepreneurs because of an opportunity gap,” Brown said. “My Brother’s Keeper is about building strong children, who will grow into the leaders of the future, and who won’t be bound by a society that has too often been set up to hold them back.”

“We’re thrilled to see Toledo step up and commit to the goals of My Brother’s Keeper,” Smith said. “Toledo is one of nearly 250 communities nationwide that have accepted the MBK Community Challenge and are working tirelessly to tackle inequity and expand opportunity for our children in greatest need.”

In September 2014, President Obama issued a challenge to cities across the country to become “MBK Communities” to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born.

The six goals of the challenge are ensuring all youth:

- Enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready;
- Read at grade level by third grade;
- Graduate from high school;
- Complete postsecondary education or training;
- Have a job once out of school; and
- Remain safe from violent crime.

UT is among the community leaders organizing the local initiative with McKether serving in a chairperson role. Now that the challenge has been accepted in Toledo, he is working on a plan to build the local My Brother’s Keeper community of mentors and mentees.

The next step toward establishing a local chapter requires McKether to convene a community meeting to establish mentorship priorities for Toledo.

For more information on the Toledo My Brother’s Keeper initiative, visit utoledo.edu/diversity/brothers-keeper.

In the shade

Student Matthew Pavlich sat under a tree and checked his phone on a hot day last month.

Photo by Rachel Nearhoof
Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival scheduled for Oct. 5

By Cathy Zimmer

The UT community is invited to join the UT Confucius Institute in celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Ingman Room.

“This event is free and will feature fun activities, snack food and prizes,” said Xinren Yu, international programs coordinator who works with the Confucius Institute. “There will also be free moon cakes, which is a traditional treat served during the Mid-Autumn Festival.”

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular harvest event celebrated by Chinese people. The festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar. It is called Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Festival because of the celebration’s association with the full moon on this night, as well as the traditions of moon worship and moon gazing.

The festival consists of three fundamental meanings that are closely tied to one another: gathering, such as family and friends coming together; thanksgiving, to give thanks for the harvest; and praying for babies, a spouse or other family members for a good future.

The Confucius Institute at The University of Toledo is committed to serving the region of northwest Ohio by providing education in Chinese language and culture; developing and enhancing China-related scholarly research/discovery, academic programs and educational/training programs that support business outreach/engagement; and offering opportunities for cultural exchanges between China and the United States.

The institute is part of the Center for International Studies and Programs, which is committed to the belief that effective cross-cultural interaction leads to global understanding and ultimately to a more rewarding human experience and to a better, more peaceful world.

Learn more about the Center for International Studies and Programs at utoledo.edu/cisp.

Chasing immortality

Dr. Deborah M. Coulter-Harris recently read from her new book, Chasing Immortality in World Religions, in the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections in Carlson Library. The book by the senior lecturer in the UT Department of English Language and Literature was published in August by McFarland & Co. Inc. The University Barnes & Noble Bookstore will host a reading and book-signing event with Coulter-Harris Friday, Oct. 14, at 5 p.m. Chasing Immortality in World Religions will be for sale at the event.

One for the books

Toledo author Warren Woodberry talked about “WWIII: The War Against Women” during the 19th annual UT Banned Books Week Vigil Sept. 29 on the fifth floor of Carlson Library. More than 600 stopped by during the daylong event that champions the right to read, think, speak and create freely. More than 200 banned books were given out as door prizes, along with 50 T-shirts and 15 gift bags, according to Dr. Paulette D. Kilmer, professor of communication and organizer of the vigil. Brittany Turner, a sophomore majoring in nursing, won $50 in cash from New Sins Press.
October is Filipino American History Month, and The University of Toledo is ready to celebrate.

“Filipino American History Month is not only a time in which we can promote the Fil-Am culture and background, but also educate on the role that the Filipinx community plays in our everyday life,” Allan Mendoza, UT business student and president of the Filipino American Association, said. “Filipino American History Month is a time in which we celebrate the importance of a population of some 3.4 million people in the United States alone.”

“Promoting diversity is central to the University’s mission statement,” Belinda Wheeler, interim systems administrator for the Toledo Excel Program and chair of Filipino American History Month Planning Committee, added. “Filipino American History Month affords students an opportunity to explore and celebrate a culture that may be different from their own. It is also a time to recognize the many contributions made by the Filipino people.”

Listed by date, events for Filipino American History Month to take place at the University are:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 5** — Filipino American History Month Kickoff, noon to 2 p.m., Student Union Trimble Lounge. Stop by to play trivia and games, check out the Filipino American Association information table, and see a traditional dance demonstration.
- **Thursday, Oct. 6** — Paint the Spirit Rock, 8:30 p.m., the Flatlands. Join members of the Filipino American Association to add some color to the landmark on campus.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 12** — Dessert Workshop, 5 p.m., Presidents Hall Multipurpose Room. Stop by to learn to make — and sample — a traditional Filipino treat.
- **Monday, Oct. 17** — Dance Party, 6 to 9 p.m., University Hall Room 5130G. Get your groove on and learn some traditional Filipino American steps.
- **Thursday, Oct. 20** — Filipino American Association Halloween Party, 7 to 9 p.m., Student Union Room 2584.
- **Saturday, Oct. 22** — Philippine Culture Night, 5 to 10 p.m., Student Union Ingman Room. Tickets for the event that will feature dinner and entertainment are $7 for students and $10 and are available at Ask Rocky in the Student Union.

For more information on these events, call the UT Office of Multicultural Student Success at 419.530.2261.
University plans events for LGBTQA History Month

The University of Toledo will celebrate LGBTQA History Month with several events this October.

The Office of Multicultural Student Success, LGBTQA+ Initiatives and Spectrum UT are dedicated to serving the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied students.

Observing LGBTQA History Month is important for several reasons, according to Danielle Stamper, graduate assistant for LGBTQA initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Student Success.

“Celebrating honors the historic leaders of the LGBTQA+ community; celebrating offers an opportunity to highlight LGBTQA+ history and culture; celebrating creates awareness of the LGBTQA+ community for all people; and celebrating reminds us all that LGBTQA+ history is part of larger history,” she said.

“As an LGBTQA+ student at UT, the fact that The University of Toledo is celebrating LGBTQA History Month demonstrates that UT is continually striving to be an ally that welcomes, respects and celebrates its LGBTQA+ students.”

Listed by date, events scheduled to increase awareness for LGBTQA History Month include:

- **Wednesday, Oct. 5** — Spectrum Film Screening, “Major!” 7 p.m. in Student Union Room 2582.
- **Thursday, Oct. 6** — Safe Place Training, noon, Student Union Room 2582.
  — Spectrum Kickoff Meeting, 8 p.m. Student Union Room 2591.
- **Monday, Oct. 10** — “Self-Hatred Is Not Therapy,” a panel discussion on conversion therapy, 6:30 p.m., Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 11** — “Self-Hatred Is Not Therapy,” a panel discussion presented by Spectrum and the UT Feminist Alliance, 6:30 p.m., Student Union Room 3020.
- **Thursday, Oct. 13** — Spectrum Meeting, 8 p.m., Rocky’s Attic.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 18** — LGBTQA+ Advisory Meet-and-Greet, noon to 1 p.m., Student Union Room 3020.
  — Spectrum Hate Crimes Candlelight Vigil, 8 to 9 p.m., Student Union Steps.
- **Thursday, Oct. 20** — Spectrum Film Screening, “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” 8 p.m., Student Recreation Center Oak Room.
- **Friday, Oct. 21** — Keynote Address and Performance by Mal Blum, singer-songwriter, 8 p.m., Student Union Ingman Room.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25** — LGBTQA+ Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Student Union Room 2500. Free professional shoot that will provide prints to all participants.
  — Acronym Meeting, 6 p.m., Student Union Room 2500. Acronym is a support group for LGBTQA+ students.
  — Film Screening, “A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde,” 6:30 p.m., Student Union Room 2579.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 26** — “It’s Not All Rainbows and Glitter,” discussion presented by the UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program, noon, Student Union Room 2579.
  — Acronym Meeting, 6 p.m., Student Union Room 2500. Acronym is a support group for LGBTQA+ students.
  — Spectrum UT Halloween Ball, 8 p.m., Student Union Room 2591.
The University of Toledo will receive a substantial donation from Mel and Jean Miller to the Tutoring Enhancement Program in the Rocket Academic Center that will support tutoring needs for all of UT’s student-athletes.

The Millers’ gift will create a new Rocket Launch tutorial program that will provide student-athletes with individual academic coaches to help with time management and study skills. The gift is part of a larger donation from the Millers that also benefits the College of Engineering and UT Medical Center.

“We are very grateful for this generous gift from Mel and Jean Miller,” said Deputy Athletic Director Dave Nottke. “Their donation will have a tremendously positive impact on the academic well-being of our student-athletes.”

Ericka Lavender, UT assistant athletic director for academics, said the Millers’ gift will have a positive impact on an academic environment that is already thriving. UT recently was awarded the Mid-American Conference Institutional Academic Achievement Award for the fourth time in the last five years. The award is presented annually to the conference institution that achieves the highest overall institutional grade point average for the academic year. UT’s student-athletes had a combined GPA of 3.235 for the 2015-16 academic year.

“This gift will significantly increase the budget of Student-Athlete Academic Services, creating more opportunities to provide one-on-one tutoring and individual academic coaches for our student-athletes,” Lavender said. “On behalf of Student-Athlete Academic Services, we would like to thank the Millers for their donation, which will greatly assist our student-athletes in their pursuit of academic excellence.”

Mel Miller is a former Rocket standout in football and track and field, competing for UT from 1965 to 1969. Miller played on UT’s first MAC Championship football team in 1967, and he earned first-team All-MAC honors as an offensive guard in 1968. On the track, Miller set the school record in the pole vault at 16-0, which also set the record at the Penn Relays and earned him honorable mention Academic All-America honors.

He excelled in the classroom, as well, earning Academic All-MAC honors in 1966. He graduated from UT with a degree in civil engineering in 1970. Miller also received the American Legion Medal for the highest grades in the ROTC program, and later served in the U.S. Army. He was voted into The University of Toledo Varsity T Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

Jean Miller graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1969 with a degree in education. The Millers were married in 1969. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

“We have been blessed, and this allows us to help others participate in an outstanding educational experience at The University of Toledo,” Mel said. “Also, we hope this will help to inspire others to participate more fully in giving.

“We believe that it is important for student-athletes to not only develop their athletic skills, but also to successfully complete their academic studies that will lead to a degree in a field that will set the stage for their careers.”

By Paul Helgren

Friday night movie

“La Grande Illusion,” a 1937 French war film directed by Jean Renoir, will be projected from 16mm film by the UT Department of Theatre and Film Friday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts Room 1039. The 114-minute movie focuses on French officers who are taken prisoner during World War I and plot to escape. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students; UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older; Classic movies will be projected from film in November, December, February, March and April. Full season passes, which include all plays and film events for the 2016-17 Theatre and Film Department Season, are available through Sunday, Oct. 23. A full season pass is $120 for general admission, $70 for UT employees and alumni, military members, and seniors 60 and older; and $65 for students. For more information, call 419.530.ARTS (2787) or go to utoledo.tix.com.
Students learning to work together to impact patient care and patient safety

By Carly Wiegand

At The University of Toledo, interprofessional education is a required part of the health sciences curricula.

This 14-week program has been designed to provide a variety of interprofessional learning activities and educational experiences that include clinical skills training, clinical cases and patient simulations. Students are assigned to interprofessional teams and have the opportunity to collaborate with peers from other health-care professions using an experiential, case-based learning approach to patient care.

This semester, the UT Interprofessional Approach to Patient Care Program has 579 students who are divided into 48 smaller groups.

The goal is for students to begin to feel comfortable working in a team environment and to learn how to communicate effectively.

“Interprofessional education has gained much visibility due to accreditation requirements, but the more critical impetus is recognition that effective interprofessional teams can improve patient care and patient safety and help avoid medical errors,” said Carol Hasbrouck, director of the School for Interprofessional Education and assistant professor in the Department of Medicine.

“As consumers, we really want health-care team communications to be very strong and built on mutual respect among the team members.”

She added, “We have a list of objectives for all the students. The primary ones are to help students recognize the impact and importance of the health-care team on patient safety and care, to understand and respect the roles and responsibilities of health professions besides their own, and to demonstrate the ability to listen actively and encourage ideas and opinions of other team members.”

DaZy Aphasia Centre founder receives award for increasing awareness of communication disorder

By Josephine Schreiber

Jackie Davis-Zychowicz, the founder of the DaZy Aphasia Centre in the College of Health and Human Services, has been honored for her efforts in aphasia education with the Voices of Hope for Aphasia Founder’s Award.

She received the honor at a gala in Florida Sept. 30. According to Voices of Hope for Aphasia, the Founder’s Award is intended to recognize people who have made extraordinary contributions to understanding the communication disorder by fostering success in groups, helping family and friends, or educating the community about aphasia.

“I am honored and speechless,” Davis-Zychowicz said. “I accepted the award for all northwestern Ohio area people with Aphasia and their families and friends.”

After suffering from a stroke 11 years ago, Davis-Zychowicz started a support group with her husband, Frank, and Melodie Dregansky for people with aphasia.

This support group led to the opening of the DaZy Aphasia Centre in 2007 and eventually its relocation to The University of Toledo Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, which is in the Health and Human Services Building on Main Campus.

Aphasia is a communication disorder that results from damage to the parts of the brain that contain language, typically in the left half of the brain. Individuals who experience damage to the right side of the brain may have additional difficulties beyond speech and language issues. Aphasia may cause difficulties in speaking, listening, reading and writing, but does not affect intelligence.

According to the National Aphasia Association, about 25 percent to 40 percent of people who survive a stroke get the disorder.

“The DaZy Aphasia Centre is a place where people with aphasia can come and feel safe while learning to be able to communicate again,” Davis-Zychowicz said. “We are a family, and you will always feel accepted.”

In addition to housing the DaZy Aphasia Centre, the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic offers several programs, including audiology services and preschool services for children with communication and learning problems.

Since opening in 2007, the DaZy Aphasia Centre has helped more than 60 families of persons suffering from the disorder.

“It’s Jackie who has come forward for those who want to do something but are too scared,” Frank Zychowicz, UT alumnus, said.

“I am so proud of the support that we have given both the person with aphasia and their family and friends. Isolation is a very real problem following a diagnosis of aphasia. I see the progress of the members, using their talents and their communication tools,” Davis-Zychowicz said. “Our center gives them new connections with people that understand what they are going through.”

The DaZy Aphasia Centre offers individual sessions, group sessions and other activities, including music therapy.

For more information about the DaZy Aphasia Centre, contact Michael Dillon, clinical program supervisor, at michael.dillon@utoledo.edu.
UT Medical Center Blood Drive set for Oct. 6

By Carly Wiegand

The need is constant and the gratification is instant: Mark your calendars for The University of Toledo Medical Center Blood Drive, which will be held Thursday, Oct. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Morse Center Room 3065.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Nearly 5 million people need blood transfusions every year.

“We need to keep hospitals’ inventories constant so they have enough blood on the shelf in cases of emergencies, as well as planned surgeries,” Diane Smith, account manager at American Red Cross, said.

“Blood products are perishable and need to be constantly replaced. The strength of the American Red Cross Blood Services lies in the active involvement of people who voluntarily donate blood to meet demands in their community.”

The goal for this blood drive is 47 units of blood, she said.

Preparation is important when giving blood.

“Our No. 1 deferral is low iron, but there are many things you can do to raise the iron level in your blood. Eating foods rich in iron at least one week before the drive will help. You can search the Internet for lists of foods rich in iron. The benefit is that those foods will also give you more energy,” Smith said.

“We also encourage pushing fluids the day before and the day of donation. Get a good night’s rest, wear a short-sleeved shirt, and eat a good breakfast and lunch,” she added.

Donors can save time at the blood drive by using Rapid Pass. On the day of the drive, log on to redcrossblood.org/rapidpass to read the required material and answer all the health history questions in advance. Print out the verification form or send it to your e-mail where you can access it with a smartphone. The verification form is needed to show at the drive. Donors also must bring a photo ID on the day of the drive.

To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code “UTMED” or call 1.800.733.2767.
UT Health hosts Wellness Expo Oct. 8

By Rebecca Schwan

To promote healthy living in northwest Ohio, UT Health will hold a free Wellness Expo Saturday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Glendale Medical East, 3333 Glendale Ave., Toledo.

Local health experts will present information on a variety of topics, including the effects of physical activity in the prevention of diabetes, how stress and depression play a role in cardiac disease, care for expectant mothers, and Lucas County Health assessment data.

Attendees will have access to free health screenings, including blood glucose, blood pressure, lung capacity and HIV testing. Flu shots also will be administered at the event.

“We want to empower individuals in northwest Ohio to take charge of their own wellness and are pleased to provide this opportunity to share important health information to the members of our community,” said Dr. Johnnie Early, event organizer and dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Vendors will share information about smoking cessation, managing blood pressure, preparing healthy meals, asthma control and heart health. Representatives from Life Connection of Northwest Ohio, the American Heart Association, Lucas County Children Services and other community resource organizations also will be on hand to share information about their services.

Visit http://uthealth.utoledo.edu/webforms/health-expo.html or call 419.383.1904 to pre-register.

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES:

Open enrollment for health plans runs through Monday, Oct. 31.

Employees are asked to log in to the myUT portal and review health benefit elections and make changes as needed.

For those not planning to make changes and who do not have a medical spending account, their medical, pharmacy, dental and vision coverage will carry over to 2017.

For more information, contact Human Resources through email at benefits@utoledo.edu or by calling 419.530.4747.
The University of Toledo and ProMedica have joined together in an Academic Affiliation to enhance medical education and health care in our region. It’s the next generation of medicine.

TOLEDOS GOING TO BE THE NEXT GREAT CITY.

“The Academic Affiliation will attract the brightest students to this area. We can give them the opportunity to be part of a system that will really help them be better doctors. I see a tremendous rebirth. Toledo’s going to step into its destiny.”

Jerry Jones
Chairman & Founder, Woodlands Consulting Group

Find out more about The University of Toledo – ProMedica Academic Affiliation at:
TheNextGenerationOfMedicine.com