

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

NEW CHAIR HERALDS UMMC NEUROSCIENCE GROWTH

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JACKSON, Miss. – Dr. Alexander P. Auchus has joined University of Mississippi Medical Center as professor and McCarty Chair of Neurology in the School of Medicine. He will see patients through University of Mississippi Health Care.

“My reasons for being here are to further grow the Department of Neurology, expand the reach of clinical neurosciences at UMMC and strengthen our position as a regionally recognized center for neurological education, patient care and research,” Auchus said.

Before joining the Medical Center, he was a professor of neurology and director of Alzheimer’s research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. His research interests are Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in non-Caucasians. He previously led Emory University’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center satellite clinics, where he treated mostly African-Americans, and he worked as a consultant neurologist in Singapore, studying stroke-related dementia in their ethnic Chinese population.

Auchus said the vision of Dr. Dan Jones, former vice chancellor for health affairs, was a significant influence on his deciding to join the Medical Center. Other factors that made the Medical Center attractive were a single leadership structure with the hospitals, the recent consolidation of University Physicians into a multispecialty group practice and the unique position of UMMC as the state’s only academic health science center.

A New Jersey native, Auchus earned his M.D. at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and completed residency training in neurology at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he was chief resident. He also completed a research fellowship at Cornell University Medical College and a clinical fellowship in geriatric neurology and neuropsychiatry at Emory University.

Auchus, married to a clinical psychologist and father of two children, hopes to collaborate with existing research studies at the Medical Center and continue his investigative work. Increasing the department’s faculty is also high on his agenda.

The foundations of neurology, including stroke, epilepsy and neuromuscular services, are well represented at UMMC, but he says he wants to make those areas “bigger and better.” He also plans to recruit new faculty in neurological sub-specialty areas such as neurocritical care, movement disorders and neuroimmunology.

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Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: LAGriffin@pubaffairs.umsmed.edu.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state’s only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical

programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://info.umc.edu/>.