

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Tennessee Medical Center – Knoxville

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FIGURE 1. The University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville.



FIGURE 2. Faculty and residents of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in June 2005. *Left to right:* Drs Eric R. Carlson, Jason Kennedy, Josh Campbell, Andrew Cheung, Chad Pfohl, John-Wallace Hudson, Ballard Smith, J. Michael McCoy, William High, Jack Gotcher, Otto Slater, Tate Viehweg, Mykle Jacobs, Tim McConnell, and David Gerard. Missing from photograph are Dr Carroll Shanks and Dr David Johnson.

The University of Tennessee Medical Center opened its doors on August 9, 1956, as the University of Tennessee Memorial Research Center and Hospital. On that day, 12 ambulances drew up in front of the Knoxville General Hospital to begin the task of moving its patients to

health care professionals awaiting their arrival at this newly established University of Tennessee facility. Men sporting neckties and clad in white, long sleeved shirts, lined up stretchers on which patients were transported to the ambulances parked outside. Interestingly, the first patient treated in the new hospital was James Daughtery who suffered from minor facial lacerations. The Department of Oral Surgery at Knoxville General Hospital, originally established in 1951 by Dr John Sullivan, was transferred educationally as well as physically to the newly opened University of Tennessee Memorial Research Center and Hospital. Dr Sullivan, who obtained his oral surgery training under the direction of Dr Albert Harvey (who was the first trained oral surgeon in East Tennessee) and Dr Byron Harrison (a graduate of the Grady Memorial Hospital oral surgery program), served as co-chairs of the Department from 1956 until 1974. The inception of the program included 1

year of clinical oral surgery training. In the early 1960s the program increased in length from 1 year of clinical oral surgery to 2 years of training that included 1 year of clinical oral surgery and 1 year of didactics. In 1967 the program increased from 2 years to 3 years in length so as to conform to Tennessee Board of Dentistry criteria for an individual to advertise as an oral surgeon. During this time, the 3 year program consisted of 1 year of oral surgery in Knoxville followed by 1 year of anesthesia training in Knoxville combined with didactic training at the University of Alabama, followed by 1 final year of oral surgery in Knoxville. From 1970 until 1974 Dr Wayne R. Witt was active in the education of the residents in the program. At this time, residents were primarily responsible for indigent patient care, with occasional assistance on selected attending private cases. In November of 1974, Dr Donald Chase became Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillo-

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facial Surgery and director of the residency program. In 1976, he created a 4 year program that quickly became recognized as one of the premiere residency training programs in our specialty. Dr Chase's other accomplishments included the modernization of the outpatient facility. He also provided greater integration of resident activities and attending activities in the interest of education. On July 1, 1982, the indigent care program in Knox County ended, thereby representing a catalyst for further integration of the residents in attending activities, a primary objective of Dr Chase's academic mission. Dr Chase's administration and academic mission continued to blossom in the 1980s. In 1987 Dr Chase developed the University of Tennessee Tissue Bank with Mitchell Goldman, MD of the Department of Surgery in the medical center. Dr John-Wallace Hudson was appointed director of Hyperbaric Medicine in 1983 that led to significant advances in wound care management in the medical center. In 1983 Dr J. Michael McCoy, an oral pathologist, joined the faculty after having completed his training in oral and maxillofacial surgery under the direction of Dr Chase. Dr Carroll Shanks was appointed director of continuing education for the Department from 1990 to 1996, and was successful in developing programs that attracted national audiences. Dr David Gerard, director of the electron microscopy laboratory in the medical center since 1986, received an academic appointment in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery under Dr Chase in 1991. His main objective was, and continues to be, directing the research initiative in the Department. Due to Dr

Chase's multi-disciplinary initiatives, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery gained tremendous national reknown during the 1980s, and resident education benefited significantly.

From an administrative standpoint, Graduate Medical Education programs during this era were under the umbrella of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. In 1992 the Graduate School of Medicine was established in Knoxville that gave fiscal and administrative autonomy to the Knoxville programs. Dr Hudson served as the director of residency training from 1986 until 2002. Dr Chase continued in his role as Department chairman until 1998 when illness forced his early retirement. Following Dr Chase's retirement, Dr Jack Gotcher served as acting Chairman of the department from 1998 until 2002. Dr Eric Carlson became the fourth Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as well as the director of the residency program on August 1, 2002 and continues to serve in this capacity today. Dr Carlson's accomplishments in this role to date include an increase in enrollment in the program from 1 to 2 residents annually, effective July 1, 2003. In 2004 Dr Carlson arranged for an optional doctor of medicine degree curriculum to become available to interested residents at the conclusion of the program. As a trained oral/head and neck cancer surgeon, Dr Carlson has played a prominent clinical and administrative role in the developing University of Tennessee Cancer Institute. He established the head and neck tumor board in the fall of 2002, and oral/head and

neck cancer cases are currently the third most common cancers operated upon in the medical center under his direction. Residents in the department now receive extensive and comprehensive training in this discipline in our specialty. A fellowship program in oncologic and reconstructive surgery was initiated in 2005. The residency program currently offers training in all aspects of oral and maxillofacial surgery including oral/head and neck cancer surgery, trauma surgery, cleft, craniofacial and orthognathic surgery, cosmetic surgery, temporomandibular joint surgery, and the full gamut of dentoalveolar surgery.

The University of Tennessee Medical Center (Fig 1) is now a nationally recognized and well respected tertiary care facility in East Tennessee with 605 licensed beds that consists of the University of Tennessee Memorial Hospital and the Graduate School of Medicine. Its centers of excellence include the Cancer Institute (foreground of Fig 1); Level I Trauma Center; the Heart, Lung and Vascular Institute; Women's Healthcare; and the Brain Institute. The Graduate School of Medicine currently offers postgraduate training in 10 departments. Five full time faculty and 5 volunteer faculty from the community comprise the teaching staff of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Fig 2). This faculty has received national and international recognition for their individual clinical efforts in our specialty, a feature that truly makes this department and residency program exemplary.