

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the UTMB Institutional Review Board (IRB) recently was awarded accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Accreditation by the AAHRPP is the highest national standard of excellence for protecting human subjects who participate in research studies. Accredited institutions voluntarily agree to adhere to research standards that in many cases are stricter, or exceed Federal requirements and to seek new safeguards for protecting research participants.



The accreditation process required the institution to comprehensively and critically examine the human research protection program, which includes the IRB and related programs such as quality assurance, conflict of interest, contracts, compliance, legal and the investigational drug service. The culmination of this process was a site visit by the AAHRPP on June 2-4, 2009 in which a rigorous, peer-review evaluation was conducted. Many individuals including IRB members, principal investigators, study coordinators, Research Services staff, and university leadership took time out of their busy schedules to interview with the site visitors. Our successful accreditation was achieved by the efforts of these individuals, as well as those of April Vanderslice, CIP (IRB Manager), Carmen Radecki Breitkopf, PhD (IRB Director *ad interim*), Wayne Patterson, PhD (former IRB Director) and Bill New (Associate Dean for Research Administration and Institutional Official).

This accreditation by the AAHRPP is a testament of our commitment to provide ethically sound clinical research, and I congratulate everyone involved in this tremendous accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Garland D. Anderson, MD  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Thomas N. and Gleaves T. James Distinguished Chair