

## Human Assurance Committee Chairman, Dr. George Schuster, Retires after 34 Years of Service to the HAC



Left to Right: Michelle Christiano, OHRP Director; Dr. George Schuster, HAC Chairman; Ivy Tillman, OHRP Assistant Director

Dr. George S. Schuster has retired from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) as a faculty member of the School of Dentistry after 38 years as a teacher, researcher, mentor, administrator and leader. During that time, Dr. Schuster served to protect the rights and welfare of human research participants as a member of the Human Assurance Committee (HAC) for more than 34 years. Not only did Dr. Schuster serve on the HAC, but he was also Vice-Chairman for six years and then Chairman for the past 22 years. His contributions to the protection of human subjects are unparalleled and we appreciate his tireless dedication to the university and most importantly, the protection of human research participants.

During the past three months, senior leadership worked with Dr. Schuster and the Office of Human Research Protection to identify several potential candidates for the challenging role of HAC Chairperson. Senior leadership also reviewed the needs of the institution as it moves forward with the research mission and the recent accreditation of its human research protection program by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). The Chairperson of any institutional review board (IRB) must be dedicated to the protection of human research participants and this dedication may be at direct opposition of the investigator's research plan or even the school. This individual must have a strong communication style, leadership skills and the ability to make the hard decisions that may pit their academic career against the wants of the institution that they serve. This individual must have the full support of their current department chairperson as well as their Dean to meet the requirements of this position.

It is with these requirements in mind that senior leadership selected Dr. Richard Sattin as the HAC Chairman effective September 15, 2008. Dr. Sattin is the Director of Research for the Department of Emergency Medicine and currently a full voting member of the HAC. Prior to joining the faculty at MCG, Dr. Sattin served on multiple research-related Internal Review Committees for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as well as several professional medical organizations. We are very grateful to Dr. Schuster he will continue to serve the university as Interim Chair of the HAC until September 14, 2008. He will remain as an advisor for six months to ensure a smooth transition as well as to provide in-depth training to Dr. Sattin. We are also grateful to Marjorie Phillips, MS, RPh who has agreed to remain as Vice-Chairperson. It is with this strong foundation of knowledge and experience that Dr. Sattin will begin his career as the Chairman of the HAC.

Over the next few months, changes will be required in the informed consent documents to change the contact information for the section on the "Rights of Research Subjects" from Dr. Schuster at 706-721-2991 to the Office of Human Research Protection at 706-721-1483. Additional changes on FDA Form 1572 will be required after Dr. Sattin becomes the Chairman. We ask for your patience and consideration during this time of extensive change and we encourage you to welcome Dr. Sattin to this new role.