

# UAB Medical Center Listed Among "The Best in Medicine"

The University of Alabama Medical Center is ranked among the top 25 hospitals in the country in a book entitled *The Best in Medicine*.

Authors Herbert J. Dietrich, M.D., a former Harvard and University of Pennsylvania Medical School faculty member, and journalist Virginia H. Biddle interviewed some 300 leading physicians, medical professors, hospital administrators and medical researchers in arriving at their list of top medical institutions.

The key question posed to the physicians interviewed was "What ten hospitals, excluding their own, would they go to for treatment in their own specialty for themselves or their own families?"

UAB Medical Center ranked third in frequency on the list of hospitals mentioned.

The authors note that major medical centers in general achieve their status by making the skills of many consulting specialists and the latest medical technologies available to the patient and his or her physician.

"But the "super-hospitals" — meaning those judged as being the very best by a majority of medical professionals — have the added distinction of housing the innovators and pioneers of today's far-reaching research programs," the book continues.

UAB's many strong departments in medicine and surgery such as critical-care cancer treatment program, work in genetic cloning of tumor-specific antibodies, nuclear cardiology research, pioneering in arthritis rehabilitation, and expertise in hand surgery and treatment of spinal cord injuries were singled out for particular mention, as was its \$100 million annual research budget.

A chapter on emergency travel is devoted largely to UAB's Critical Care Transport Service, called "The most complete and possibly most efficient service ever offered to doctors and their patients."