

Yung R. Lau

Inspired by stories of medical missionaries read to him by his mother as a young child, six-year old Yung Lau decided that when he grew up he would be a doctor. He never wavered from that goal, nor has he ever regretted that decision. His patients are extremely grateful for that decision, as well as the passion and expertise Yung brings to his work as a pediatric cardiologist.

Yung describes his decision to go into pediatric cardiology as God's leading, through the opening and closing of doors. The end result is a great match between Yung's desire to intervene to improve patients' lives and his skills in "tinkering" with electronic devices. His specialty is electrophysiology, which is the treatment of heart rhythm disorders. Being the only pediatric electrophysiologist in the state of Alabama, Yung sees patients with heart defects and rhythm disorders from across the state as well as the panhandle of Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana.

With a medical degree from Loma Linda University, a residency from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (Pediatrics) and a fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina (Pediatric Cardiology), Yung is well qualified for his role as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is currently providing medical leadership in the planning and building of the cardiac units in the new \$500,000,000 Children's Hospital of Alabama.

Yung sees patients, trains medical residents, lectures, conducts research and presents scholarly papers at professional conferences. His list of lectures and manuscripts is extensive and covers a vast range of topics related to heart disorders. Yung is recognized as an outstanding physician by his peers and has been listed since 2005 in the "Best Doctors in America" directory.

Along with practicing medicine, Yung finds time to volunteer his skills and knowledge to benefit the community. He serves as Medical Director for Alabama Lifestart, a program that has put AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in every high school in Alabama. He also serves as Medical Director for Wired Together, a Weekend Camp to support children at risk for sudden death and their families. Yung has volunteered multiple times at the Birmingham Zoo, helping with evaluation and treatment of primates with congestive heart failure. This has brought comments from many of his patients who recognize his photo at the ape house at the zoo. He is also active in his local church, serves on the school board for Hoover Christian School, and continues to play his cello.

Beyond his medical accomplishments, Yung's real passion is "finding God in everyday life and discovering again and again that He is so much bigger than we can ever imagine." His greatest joys come from his growing relationships with his wife, Carmen, and their three children, Christopher, Carissa, and Sarah.

We are honored to present Yung Lau, class of 1980, with the Alumnus of the Year award. We are grateful for the contributions Yung is making to improve the quality of life for his young patients and we are proud to claim him as an alumnus of Georgia-Cumberland Academy.