

Outstanding Alumni: Dr. Eric L. Wallace, '98



Eric Wallace received his BS in Spanish from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Following his graduation from college, he was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to live abroad in Mexico for one year. He graduated AOA from medical school at UAB. He completed his residency training at UAB as well after which he served as Chief Medical Resident.

After residency pursued a nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University and served as Chief Nephrology fellow. There he was awarded the Hugh Jackson Morgan Award for best fellow in the Department of Medicine. After his fellowship, Dr. Wallace joined the faculty at UAB where he has earned numerous accolades including the C. Glenn Cobbs Award two years in a row for being elected by his peers as one of the top 10 clinicians in the Department of Medicine.

Currently, he is the Director of the UAB Home Dialysis Program and co-director of the UAB Fabry Disease Clinic. Since becoming a member of the faculty, his research has been focused on eliminating geographic and socioeconomic barriers which prevents patients from accessing specialized care. Due to his research, he was named to the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Health Initiative.

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"I think that my life journey has been influenced by Donoho in many ways. Now as an educator, myself, I think that the most important thing is not what is taught but how to learn. Donoho did a fantastic job in teaching how to learn and how to push and challenge yourself. The small size of Donoho was also a huge influence in my life journey. I am and have always been pretty small and very unathletic. However, at Donoho, I was allowed to try and compete in anything. In the JV football team, I was a lineman. (I think my job was to trip people as they trampled over me to get to the quarterback.) On the track team, I threw discus. I would not have ever been able to even try these things at a larger school. But by trying, I learned that any skill can be learned with enough dedication and practice. This experience is what has had the most influence. An attitude that if I don't know about something I can learn about it and start doing it. "