The STCEC provides students the opportunity to learn in an environment that is different and unique geographically, culturally and medically. The faculty is made up of dynamic and engaged professionals who value their important role in preparing the next generation of physicians. Additionally, in the Valley students encounter a confluence of health care challenges, diseases as well as environmental factors that is unlike any other area in United States. Culturally the Lower Rio Grande Valley shares a great deal with the rich culture of neighboring Mexico. South Padre Island is only a 45-minute drive away, where you can find world-famous beaches, restaurants and resorts. Our new clinical simulation hospital will be opening in the Fall of 2013. This state-of-the-art facility will include simulation rooms for surgery, intensive care, emergency medicine, and labor/delivery, among others. All these factor and many others make the STCEC a powerful and unique experience for today’s medical student.

When you to come to the STCEC for your 3rd and/or 4th year of medical school, you will participate in clinical clerkships and rotations that are primarily one-on-one with the attending physician educator. Given the number of teaching sites and volume of patients, you will have ample opportunities to hone your skills in physical examination, diagnosis and treatment and to observe and assist in procedures, surgeries and baby deliveries. Over the past ten years, students who come to the STCEC have been accepted to some of the top residencies across the country.
EXPERIENCE. THE DIFFERENCE.

The University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio offers clinical education in the third and fourth year of medical school at two sites: the main campus in San Antonio and the South Texas Clinical Education Campus (STCEC) in Harlingen, Texas.

All students complete their preclinical education in San Antonio and clinical education in either San Antonio or South Texas. Starting with the entering class of 2014, applicants will be able to apply to both the San Antonio Clinical Education Campus (CEC) and South Texas CEC through the TMDSAS application process. Applicants should indicate on the TMDSAS application their intent to apply to both programs, and applicants will be interviewed in San Antonio for positions at both CECs. A separate interview for the South Texas CEC positions is not required.

CLINICAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH TEXAS

The educational division of the School of Medicine’s Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) is the South Texas Clinical Education Campus (STCEC) and is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. The STCEC offers several unique value-added educational experiences in border medicine, community-service learning and public health to complement the excellent clinical training provided at this regional medical campus. If you choose to study at the STCEC for your 3rd and/or 4th year, you will have the opportunity for a significant amount of hands-on medical education as you work one-on-one with your School of Medicine faculty member.

In addition to receiving a quality medical education, students have the opportunity to observe first-hand the important health challenges confronting one of the most medically underserved regions in the country. This includes opportunities to participate in research and community-based projects that focus on addressing the disproportionately high rates of chronic and infectious diseases. Clinical rotations occur in a variety of settings: large private and public hospitals and clinics, multispecialty care clinics, faculty private practice offices, and mobile clinics that travel to the rural “Colonias” to bring medical services to the residents who might otherwise have no access to care.
EXPERIENCE.

UNIQUE MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Because of the tropical climate and the proximity to Mexico, as well as various public health and environmental factors, students at the STCEC encounter a confluence of infectious diseases and other conditions one would have to otherwise leave the United States to find. Dengue fever and tuberculosis rates here are among the highest in the continental U.S. The incidence of diabetes, heart disease and many other conditions are higher here as well.

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION
FOR A COMMUNITY IN NEED

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is designated as one of the most medically underserved regions in the United States. Medical students have the opportunity to be part of community-based projects aimed at improving health or research efforts seeking solutions to address the complex health issues of this region. This is an opportunity that benefits students and the local community. You learn while contributing to the overall efforts to improve the health of the communities in the Valley. The epidemiology of risk factors, environmental health and infectious disease transmission on the border are just a few of the public health issues you can study here. As a student you will have the opportunity to make a difference every day in the lives of local residents as you prepare yourself for residency.
EXPERIENCE. A COMMUNITY-WIDE PARTNERSHIP

With more than 220 active clinical faculty practicing throughout the region, students attending the STCEC have a tremendous scope of opportunities in nearly every different setting found in medicine today. The STCEC has partnerships with hospitals for graduate and undergraduate medical education in Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Brownsville, including partnerships with the Veteran’s Administration Hospital, Su Clinical Familiar and other clinical venues. This means ample opportunities for students to get the experience they need to be better physicians and attain the residency programs they prefer.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

EXPERIENCE. FUN IN THE SUN

Students also have the time to enjoy the many great things to do in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The famous South Padre Island beaches are only 45 minutes away, but Harlingen itself has a lot to offer, too. This small but vibrant community takes advantage of the great tropical climate to celebrate its culture and way of life year round. Whether the weekly outdoor blues concerts at McKelvey Park, hiking and biking the Arroyo River trails, a match at the H.E.B. Tennis Center or a round at the Tony Butler Memorial Golf Park, there is no shortage of reasons to spend time in town.
Next door to the main campus is the Clinical Research Unit (CRU) which includes clinical and translational research. Researchers gather data on everything from diet to water quality to poverty for the National Children’s Study--just one major research programs housed here. The 80,000-square-foot facility consists of exam rooms, laboratory facilities, and offices for clinical researchers and statisticians. A portion of the facility is used by the South Texas Veterans Health Care System for an outpatient clinic.

The nearby RAHC Medical Research Division in Edinburg focuses on diseases that disproportionately affect the border populations of South Texas. This includes the mechanisms involved and prevention of obesity, diabetes, cancer and infectious diseases, including the development of a vaccine to prevent tuberculosis. As part of the Texas Consortium for Chronic Disease Prevention, researchers are working to prevent or reduce the incidence of chronic diseases in children and adults through research in nutrition and physical activity education and outreach.