

President's Message



Dear School of Medicine Alumni:

I would like to welcome the Class of 2011 to the Alumni Association! On May 21, our newest class of graduates joined thousands of proud alumni who are forever grateful for the outstanding medical education we received, which allows us to pursue the noble profession of making lives better as competent and compassionate physicians and medical educators.

Drawing upon our fond memories and warm affection for our alma mater, the Alumni Association is committed to nurturing the friendships we formed in school while supporting the school's leadership and enhancing the educational experience of our current and future medical students. Our Alumni Relations staff, David Perryman and Sonia Rogers, have done an outstanding job of working with the Alumni Board to develop new initiatives that will enable us to stay informed, get involved, and become invested in the School of Medicine.

To help us **stay informed**, we launched a quarterly electronic newsletter this spring called ***Alumni Today***, which provides up-to-date information about Alumni Association programs and events as well as news about fellow alumni. We have also worked closely with the Office of Development to launch a new online community for the Health Science Center called ***HSCconnect***. Please take a moment to register on HSCconnect so that you can update your profile page, search for classmates, post class notes, and make secure online gifts. I also encourage you to become a fan of our alumni ***Facebook*** page to make real-time fun connections with former classmates and other alumni. You can access all of these resources from our website at **www.SAMedAlum.com**.

We currently offer a number of programs and activities designed to help more of our alumni **get involved**. In the past 18 months, for example, we have launched

alumni chapters in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) and Dallas to help our graduates in those areas make valuable professional contacts as well as personal friendships. Special thanks go to Drs. Maria Dill '86 (Alumni Board member), Alberto Pena '02, Nolan Perez '98, and Javier Saenz '82 (Alumni Board member) in the RGV, along with Drs. Bill '90 and Chiufang Hwang '92 and Barry Wilcox '92 in Big D. We have also started hosting an alumni reception each summer in the Raleigh-Durham area with the help of Dr. Mike Brennan '78, Alumni Board member. In the coming year, I will work with another Alumni Board member, Dr. Keith Saxon '77, to initiate a New England alumni chapter. In addition, Alumni Board members, Drs. Payal Patel '10 and Rob Mohr '10, have launched a Young Alumni Chapter focused on hosting special events and delivering unique resources to alumni who have graduated since 2000. We continue to host our quarterly "Connect the Docs" receptions for our San Antonio-area alumni. Beyond alumni chapters, we encourage alumni around the country to participate in our HOST (Help Our Students Travel) Program to support fourth-year students interviewing for residency programs. With the leadership of Dr. Pam Camosy '80, Alumni Board member, we also have developed some unique opportunities for alumni to mentor students in community service programs as well as allow students to shadow them in their clinics.

I also hope you will join us in **becoming invested** in our alma mater. The Alumni Association's fundraising efforts directly support the educational experience of our medical students. The ***Student Education Enhancement Fund*** supports students' community service learning, medical outreach trips, tutoring services, summer research projects, and clinical skills training. The ***Alumni Class Endowed Scholarship Program*** recognizes and rewards outstanding students with scholarships. Our goal is for all of our alumni to give every year to one of these programs at a level that is comfortable for you and your families. Every gift matters, and all gifts are 100-percent tax deductible. The Alumni Association recognizes all donors with engraved nameplates on plaques in the Alumni Association Student Lounge. We also list donors on our website and in *FUTURE* magazine. Please visit our website to make your secure online donation today. If you have made a donation to one of these funds in the past, please know that your gift has already made a positive impact on the educational experience of our

students. We will start posting stories on the website this fall that illustrate how alumni giving has impacted students.

With heartfelt gratitude, we continue to celebrate the many contributions of our Founding Faculty, whose vision and hard work have made all our dreams as physicians possible. At our May alumni dinner honoring our Founding Faculty, the Alumni Association presented Dean Francisco González-Scarano, M.D. with a \$10,000 check to support the Student Education Enhancement Fund. We made this gift in honor of these early professors who helped establish and grow our school. To preserve their inspirational stories, we have worked in collaboration with Health Science Center Libraries, the School of Medicine, and the Office of Development to create and post video interviews of Drs. Marvin Forland, Carlos Pestana, Arthur McFee, and other Founding Faculty on our website. Special thanks go to Kim Warshauer, Director of Development, for spearheading this important tribute.

As I near the end of my first year as your President, I continue to be humbled by the large cowboy boots into which I've stepped. I wish to express heartfelt appreciation for the inspirational leadership of Dr. Larry Holly '73, our immediate Past-President of the Alumni Association. With genuine love and deep commitment, Larry led our Alumni Association to new heights while epitomizing what it means to be an engaged alumnus. He has given generously of his time by presenting CME courses at Reunion Weekends and serving on the selection committee that confirmed Dr. William Henrich as President of the UT Health Science Center. In addition, Larry has built an exemplary medical practice in Beaumont, Texas, and has been a leading figure in the effort to revolutionize the way medicine is practiced in our country. So it gives me great joy to inform our alumni that a gift had been made to the Health Science Center in Larry and Carolyn's honor that will fund renovations to the new Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Auditorium. It is only fitting that the place where so many of the events of greatest significance to medical students, parents, grandparents, friends, and alumni will take place in a facility bearing his name. I hope you will visit campus soon, sit in the new Holly Auditorium, and reflect on how this school has changed your life and what we can do together to support the outstanding visionary



leadership of President Henrich, Dean González-Scarano, and our new Senior Associate Dean for Students, Florence Eddins-Folensbee, M.D.

Carpe Diem!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Pronio-Stelluto M.D." in a cursive script.

Valerie Pronio-Stelluto, M.D., F.A.C.P. '90
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