Dean Comments:

It is hard to believe that I have been here at UTHSCSA for 9 months and even harder to believe that 2006 is coming to an end. However, I am proud of our accomplishments to date and the direction we have established for our school.

Last week the official name of our school became the “School of Medicine” from “Medical School,” and a new seal will follow. While this is a small item in the news, the new name conveys a more formal title to the institution, a title which is congruent with the lofty ambition we have for our School.

A number of end-of-year activities are underway. The CTSA team, led by Dr. Robert Clark, is preparing a final draft of our grant application to be submitted in mid-January. Searches for the Chair of Ophthalmology and Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs have identified finalists for the positions and outstanding candidates have been here to interview. Final plans for the new clinical building and new plans for the research building are being articulated. The coding initiative for physicians continues and our Clinical Development and Hospital Liaison teams continue their work. Our effort to create a new dual degree MD/MPH program continues with Drs. Claudia Miller and Nan Clare leading the charge.

All of these activities are aimed at one focused goal: to improve our School so that our students and our patients benefit from the collective expertise of our faculty and staff. I hope everyone on our campus is motivated and excited by the positive direction of our School and is eager to see the trend continue. My personal thanks for your efforts in bringing so many to projects to success.

And let me also extend, on behalf of myself and everyone in the Medical Dean’s Office, warm wishes for a peaceful and happy holiday season.

William L. Henrich, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Dean, School of Medicine
Vice President for Medical Affairs

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The past two months have seen a number of important changes in the San Antonio Cancer Institute (SACI). The successful recruitment of several key positions has strengthened us in the areas of community outreach and population based research, clinical effectiveness, and our basic breast cancer program.

In addition, the SACI Executive Committee has been carefully reviewing current programmatic activities to help determine how we will restructure ourselves for the competitive renewal due on September 25, 2007. We are evaluating programs for their record of obtaining NCI funding and translating discoveries into clinical trials, among other criteria. Only programs with the potential to be rated as outstanding, which clearly demonstrate the capacity to generate significant NCI (or equivalent) funding, and with clear plans for translation will be considered for the competitive renewal.

On October 30, Drs. Cigarroa, Henrich, Fields, Hermann, Slaga and I traveled to Bethesda to meet with representatives of the NCI Cancer Center Branch. We described SACI progress since the last meeting with them about 18 months earlier, and discussed our plans for reorganizing SACI for the competitive renewal. The NCI is generally pleased with our progress and agrees with our plans for how we will structure our efforts as we move ahead. The NCI remains supportive of a cancer center in south Texas and will work with us to provide guidance as we prepare for the renewal.

Nonetheless, significant challenges remain, including the need to boost our NCI funding base, demonstrate better clinical translational plans and capabilities, and further strengthen our population-based studies. It was suggested that we capitalize on our unique ability to train and serve minority populations and to provide information regarding specific grant programs for which we might be eligible in that regard. We will review these suggestions to determine how we might respond.

We will convene the SACI external advisory board in San Antonio in December to discuss our progress, status and plans with them and then submit a formal written report to the NCI in mid-January 2007 reflecting the results of these discussions with the external advisory board.

In summary, we have come a very long way in the past several years, thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of UTHSCSA and CTRC leadership, and thanks to the efforts of many of you. Much yet remains to be done, but regaining comprehensive cancer center status is a clearly tangible possibility for as early as mid-2008, when results of the competitive renewal are released. I appreciate your support as we continue this long and difficult, yet ultimately highly rewarding process.

Tyler Curiel, MD, MPH
Director of the SACI

http://saci.uthscsa.edu/newsletters/
Anesthesiology
Dr. Jason C. Rowling joined on December 1, 2006 as a Clinical Instructor. He received his MD from Des Moines University in 2002. He completed an internship at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2003, & his residency in Anesthesiology at St. Louis University School of Medicine in 2006.

Ms. Elizabeth A. Rivera joined on December 1, 2006 as an Anesthesia Specialist. She received her Master of Science in Nursing degree from the UTHSC in Houston, Texas in 1995 & her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 1987.

Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Dr. Allan D. Coop joined on December 18, 2006 as an Instructor. He received his Ph.D. from John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia in 1997. He will work with several different laboratories on experimental design, development of analysis plans, & identification of training needs in computational techniques & also work closely with & be supported by the UTHSCSA-UTSA Bioinformatics/Computational Biology Facility Core’s technical staff & associated supervising faculty. He will play an integral role in planning the further development & extension of the core facility.

Medicine
Dr. Terry D. Bauch joined on December 1, 2006 as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology. He received his MD from the State University of New York, Health Science Center, Brooklyn, New York in 1988. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine & Primary Care at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas in 1988.

Dr. Garry C. Souffrant joined on December 1, 2006 as Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Education Programs. He graduated from the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico & he completed his residency training at the Harlem Hospital Medical Center in New York city, NY.

Dr. Thwe Htay joined on December 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Medicine. She graduated from Rangoon University Medical College in Rangoon, Burma & completed her residency training at Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Odessa, TX.

Dr. KoKo Aung joined on December 6, 2006 as an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Medicine. He graduated from Rangoon University Medical College in Rangoon, Burma & completed his residency training at Temple University, St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

OB/GYN
Dr. Christina V. Fraser joined on December 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. She received her MD from Southwestern Medical School in 1998 & completed her residency in 2002.

Radiation Oncology
Dr. Chul Soo Ha joined on December 1, 2006 as Chairman & Professor (pending approval from the P&T Committee). He graduated, summa cum laude, from Rice University in Houston, TX in 1982 with a B.A. in Biochemistry. He received his MD in 1987 from Harvard Medical School. He then completed his internship in Internal Medicine at New England Deaconess Hospital in 1988 & his residency in Radiation Oncology at the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy at Harvard Medical School in 1992. Since 2002, He has served as the Medical Director for the Radiation Treatment Center at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Surgery
Dr. Carmelito Arkangel joined on December 1, 2006 as Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine. He received his MD from Rutgers Medical School, Piscataway, NJ in 1977. He completed his residency from Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas in 1980.

Dr. Michael J. Sanchez joined on December 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1990. He completed his internship and residency in Emergency Medicine from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas in 1994.
Announcements:

For travel… Make us your first stop!
UT MEDICINE TRAVEL CLINIC

Diagnostic Pavilion, 4647 Medical Drive
Expertise in pre-travel counseling and immunizations
Country-specific medical and travel advisory information, and advice on travel medical supplies
Complete array of recommended travel vaccinations including Yellow Fever vaccine
Post-travel diagnosis and treatment

Elizabeth A. Walter, MD, Board-Certified Infectious Diseases is joining Jan E. Patterson, MD, Board-Certified Infectious Diseases, Certificate of Knowledge in Tropical Medicine and Travelers Health and George E. Crawford, MD, Board-Certified Infectious Diseases

One-Call Scheduling
(210) 592-0340

UTHSCSA and UT Medicine will offer three additional flu shot clinics at our San Antonio campuses for faculty, staff, and students. There is no charge for faculty, staff, or students.

Schedule:
December 6, 2006 from 8 am to Noon in the Children’s Cancer Research Institute Building Foyer North Campus (Click for Map)
December 7, 2006 from 8 am to 11 am in Room 114/116 of the Academic Administration Building (Click for Map)
December 8, 2006 from 10 am to Noon in the Institute for Biotechnology/Molecular Medicine Room 3.046 (Click for Map)

HSC Auditorium Foyer
Welcome Breakfast
Dr. Chul S. Ha, new Chair for the Department of Radiation Oncology
You are invited!
Friday, December 8, 2006
7:30 am–9:00 am
KUDOS!!!

**President Francisco Cigarroa** elected to Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academics. Election recognizes those who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, healthcare and public health, and is considered one of the highest honors. [Read more in the HSC News...](#)

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**Dr. William L. Henrich**, Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs, elected as the President of the 9,500-member American Society of Nephrology (ASN). The ASN was established in 1967 to promote the study and practice of nephrology, the branch of medicine related to the kidneys and conditions affecting them. Dr. Henrich has also been awarded the John P. Howe Distinguished Chair in Health Policy.

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**Dr. Ian M. Thompson, Jr.**, Chair of the Department of Urology, selected as a co-chair for the Prostate Cancer Work Group, which will be co-convened by the American Urological Association (AUA) and the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

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**Dr. Charles L. Bowden**, Professor of the Department of Psychiatry (pictured with his spouse & former Director of the Briscoe Library, Dr. Virginia Bowden), received the 2006 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the world’s most prestigious awards for psychiatric research. NAMI is the largest consumer-driven organization addressing the needs of the mentally ill in the areas of supportive care, clinical services and research to improve understanding and treatments. [Read more in the HSC News...](#)
This is the title of the most recent updated accreditation criteria released in September 2006 from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The ACCME is asking its accredited providers (our Office of CME) to “re-position its CME enterprise as a strategic asset to the quality improvement and patient safety imperatives of the US health care system.” The ACCME believes that “CME can make an important contribution to the system-based initiatives being implemented in the US today to narrow the quality gap.”

Within our own institution, our Office of CME is re-positioning its mission and goals to respond to critical initiatives such as the Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA). This initiative provides invaluable assessments of need regarding moving our School of Medicine to the next level of excellence in research and clinical services.

The Office of CME serves within the Community Engagement Key Function Group to facilitate dissemination of scientific discoveries and innovations to the community of practicing physicians. For those physicians that are engaged further in the research enterprise, the CME office can facilitate practitioners gaining research skills in recruiting their patients into clinical trials and also translate health service research finding into “performance in practice.”

In a recent Journal of the American Medical Association article entitled “Self-assessment in Lifelong Learning and Improving Performance in Practice: Physician Know Thyself,” authors Daniel Duffy and Eric Holcombe recommends that “medical professions should shift CME and maintenance of certification and licensure to include processes of testing and educational methods that provide interactive feedback to supportively guide physicians in learning new concepts, as well as in changing work processes that lead to better patient care.” The re-positioning of the CME mission with those of the CTSA is critical to accomplish these recommendations but also to contribute to quality improvement and patient safety imperatives of the communities that we serve.

Martha A. Medrano, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for CME

References


Duffy, D, Holcombe, ES, Self-assessment in Lifelong Learning and Improving Performance in Practice, JAMA, September 6, 2006- Vol 296, No. 9

For information on upcoming CME events, visit us at http://cme.uthscsa.edu