Dean Comments:
As we head into the holiday season, the pace of activities in the School of Medicine continues to be brisk. Several notable events are ongoing:

First, I would like to congratulate Dr. Thomas C. Mayes, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, in his appointment as Physician-In-Chief (PIC) for the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital. In this role, Dr. Mayes will provide oversight and coordination for education, research and clinical quality and serve as a liaison between the UTHSCSA pediatric department faculty, medical staff, and administration. He will also serve as a catalyst for the development of practice guidelines and care protocols as appropriate.

This enhanced affiliation for UTHSCSA and CHRISTUS Santa Rosa called for the establishment of certain specialty programs at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa, such as the Children’s Heart Program and additional enhancements designed to consolidate and coordinate the highest level of pediatric care by both academic physicians and private sector physicians.

Second, the groundbreaking of the UT Medicine Multidisciplinary Ambulatory Clinic occurred on October 24, 2006. This $95 million, 250,000-square-foot ambulatory center will complement existing health care in the South Texas Medical Center and move San Antonio to a new level of academic medicine and education.

The ambulatory center will be the practice site of U.T. Medicine San Antonio, which consists of Health Science Center physicians and is the largest multi-specialty practice group in South Texas. It is crucial that as medicine moves toward ambulatory care, outpatient surgery and out-of-hospital services, our students gain experience in this type of setting.

Third, I anticipate interviewing Chair candidates for the Department of Ophthalmology in December. My thanks to Dr. Randal Otto and the search committee for their excellent work in bringing this process along.

Fourth, candidates for our Vice-Dean position have been visiting. We have had the privilege of interviewing several truly outstanding leaders.

Last, my wife, Mary, and I would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for a safe and peaceful Thanksgiving Holiday to our faculty, staff, students and residents.

Dean, School of Medicine
Vice President for Medical Affairs
Town Hall Meeting regarding the UT Medicine Multidisciplinary Ambulatory Clinic

The Clinical Development Team (CDT) had their first Town Hall Meeting on October 16, 2006. The following goals were discussed. To view the meeting, click HERE.

PCS - Private Consult Service was implemented in May 2006
- Goal: facilitate faculty-to-faculty referrals of commercial and Medicare patients between UT Medline providers
- Goal: decrease the outsourcing of commercial and Medicare patients
- UT Medicine faculty who have agreed to participate and accommodate private consults have made special arrangements in order to ensure routine consults can be scheduled within 2 weeks of receiving the request
- Referral requests are made via a dedicated PCS phone number (257-1889) or fax number (257-1441)
- UT Medicine PCS staff ensure that an appointment date/time is given to the referring provider within 24 hours of the call, and work directly with the UT Medicine Central Verification Unit to ensure authorizations are received and complete financial clearance is obtained.

Physician Response Team (PRT) Development
- Goal: implement an escalation process for physicians to receive a timely response to requests for assistance in the delivery of care in the UT Medicine clinics

Phones
- Goal: improve telephone services at UT Medicine clinics – improve access for patients calling to schedule appointments and/or leave messages for providers; reduce transferred calls; improve professionalism of staff manning the phones
- Goal: publish one primary phone number in directories staffed by UT Medicine Call Center caller navigation staff
- Comprehensive telephone services assessment initiated September 2006 to determine optimal telephone workflow reconfiguration
- Telephone workflows redesign to be initiated following the assessment

Commercial Volumes
- Goal: achieve sufficient commercial and Medicare volumes to meet business plans by the opening of the MARC
- Goal: decrease “leakage” of commercial and Medicare patients from UT Medicine providers
- Current and breakeven volumes of patients appropriate for the MARC (based on business and strategic plans) have been identified
- CDT members meeting with Chairmen/Division Directors October 2006 to review data and develop plans for reaching target volumes

Commercial and Medicare “leakage” summaries prepared – initial distribution to Departments/Divisions October 2006

Physician Coding
- Goal: UT Medicine faculty will have the primary responsibility of coding all office based services at the point of care by August 2007
- Goal: fee tickets will be collected at the front desk at the end of each encounter 100% of the time
- Lecture- and internet-based training under development
- Coders identified as “super coders” for point of service support to providers who are learning to code
- Coding support line, 257-1875, under development
- UTM utmcoding@uthscsa.edu, available October for coding support

The CDT is interested in hearing about your ideas and questions. Please email these to Irma Sanchez at sanchezi@uthscsa.edu. We hope these conversations will provide the guidance we need to accelerate progress toward our best possible future.
Welcome New Faculty:

**Anesthesiology**
Dr. John J. Andrews joined on November 1, 2006 as Chairman and Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from the UT Medical Branch, Galveston, TX in 1980 and completed his residency in Anesthesiology from their program in 1983. He will participate in the clinical and academic missions of the department. He will be primarily responsible for the administrative management of the department, recruitment and retention of faculty of department faculty, as well as development and oversight of the academic clinical and research programs.

**Medicine**
Dr. Hilda T. Draeger joined the Division of Clinical Immunology on November 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. She graduated from the UT at Houston Medical School and completed her residency training at the University of New Mexico Health Science Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Psychiatry**
Dr. Shailesh Jain joined on November 9, 2006 as Assistant Professor. He comes to us from UT Southwestern School of Medicine, where he is completing a T-32 National Institute of Mental Health Research Fellowship. He received his medical degree from University of Calcutta, India in 1986. His research interest is in unipolar mood disorders across the lifespan, and includes pediatric mood disorders.

**Ms. Natalie J. Maples** joined on November 1, 2006 as a Faculty Associate. She has a B.S. in Psychology from Texas A&M University and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from St. Mary’s University.

The Department of Pediatrics is pleased to announce the successful recruitment of Gail E. Tomlinson, M.D., Ph.D., as the chief of the Division of Hematology, Oncology and Immunology of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and as the deputy director of the Children’s Cancer Research Institute (CCRI). She will also be appointed as professor of pediatrics. Dr. Tomlinson will begin her new roles in January 2007.

This recruitment has been made possible through the joint efforts of the Department of Pediatrics, the CCRI, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the Cancer Therapy Research Center and CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital. We know that Dr. Tomlinson will make an excellent addition to the CCRI and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and we look forward to her scientific, educational, and clinical leadership in her new roles. We would also like to publicly acknowledge and thank Dr. Anne-Marie Langevin for her outstanding service as Interim Chief of the Division over the last several years. She has ably led the Division and recruited a number of key faculty members and expanded clinical outreach and programs of this key Division in the Department.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Tomlinson and thanking Dr. Langevin.

Thomas C. Mayes, MD, MBA
Professor and Chairman
Department of Pediatrics

Sharon Murphy, MD
Professor of Pediatrics and Director
Children’s Cancer Research Institute
Announcements:

Hosted by the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA)

- Game between MSI & MSII ladies
- Halftime Show: Male Cheerleaders
- Saturday, November 18th, 2006
- Kickoff at 11:00 am
- Lunch at 12:15 pm provided by School of Medicine Alumni Association
- Bring your family & friends
- Limited bleacher seating, bring lawn chairs &/or beach towels
- Tickets & t-shirt sale starts November 13 through November 17, Medical School Lecture Foyer

  Ticket only $5  T-Shirt only $12  Both (ticket & t-shirt) $15

All proceeds will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

The School of Medicine donated $139,267 with 22.2% participating.

It is time once again to order your Reach Out and Read holiday cards! All sales from the cards will benefit the Reach Out and Read Programs of the UTHSCSA. Reach Out and Read is a national, non-profit organization that strives to make literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric care, so that children grow up with books and a love of reading. At every well-child check-up between ages 6 months and 5 years, children who come to our clinics receive a new, developmentally appropriate book to take home and keep. Through Reach Out and Read, children start school with a home library of 9 beautiful children’s books and their parents understand that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to prepare their children for school. Funds from the card sales will be used to purchase new books for the Reach Out and Read Programs in the Department of Pediatrics: the Children’s Health Center and the Premiere Program. The Children’s Health Center is the training clinic for the pediatric residents at the UTHSCSA and provides primary pediatric care to a large population of low-income families. The Premiere Program is run by the Division of Neonatology and provides comprehensive follow-up care for premature infants. Currently, these programs are distributing about 4000 books per year to children in San Antonio.

Ordering the cards is simple. Please request the card brochure from Dr. Rebecca L. Huston. Just send your order and check to me through campus mail. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE SHIPPING, since I will send them to you through campus mail. The check should be made out to: UTHSCSA.

Thank you for your support of our Reach Out and Read Programs! Happy Holidays!
Announcements:

Invitation to a Workshop About Developing Proposals for New Doctoral Degree Programs

Doctoral education is a costly undertaking for any institution. Understanding Coordinating Board policies and procedures will facilitate planning activities for all Texas public universities and health-related institutions that intend to propose new doctoral programs.

The Academic Affairs and Research staff would like to invite you to attend a workshop about developing proposals for new doctoral programs, to be presented on Friday, December 1, 2006, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Coordinating Board Offices. The workshop will include presentations by Coordinating Board staff regarding the most important aspects of planning and program request development. Attendance would be appropriate for academic administrators at the provost, graduate dean, college dean or department level, as well as for faculty who have or expect to have direct responsibility for proposal development activities.

There is no charge to institutions for this workshop, but seating in the Board Room is limited. To accommodate a wider audience, we have arranged to broadcast the workshop (similar to how the Board meetings are broadcast on-line) so that any interested faculty or staff members who are unable to attend the workshop would be able to watch the broadcast. Those who attend can receive email questions from their colleagues during the workshop if they bring laptops with wireless capability.

Please contact Cheryl Rosipal (cheryl.rosipal@thecb.state.tx.us) for registration’s information. Deadline for registration is Friday, November 17, 2006. We will accommodate requests in the order they are received. An agenda will be e-mailed on Monday, November 20, 2006, to those who have indicated their intention to attend the workshop.

San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative (SATAI) will present a brief overview of Basic Biotechnology for Non-Science Professionals

- Overview: Biotechnology Industry
- Overview: Drug Discovery & Development Process
- DNA Structure & Function
- Key Biotech Applications
- Key Biotech Techniques

November 16, 2006, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Norris Conference Center at the Crossroads Mall, San Antonio, Texas 78201

There are a limited number of slots available for participation, so enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis.

To Register: Call 210.458.2523 extension 8. Leave your name & telephone number. Course pricing $500 per person, tax deductible contribution to SATAI.
Congratulations!!

The third annual Innovations In Health Science Education Conference was held last month in Austin, Texas. This conference is sponsored by the UT System and is attended by all of the Texas Health Science Centers. I am very pleased to announce that the winner of the Innovation in Health Science Education Award was Dr. Patricia Brewer, Associate Professor in the department of Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health. This is a competitive award and the three finalists must present their project at the conference for final judging. Dr. Brewer’s project is GATEways: Gross Anatomy Teaching Enhancement. The project was nominated by Dr. Douglas Murphy and collaborators on the project were: Drs. Nancy Girard, Linda Johnson, Ron Philo, Omid Rahimi, Frank Weaker, Vick Williams and Ms. Janis Rice.

Robert Esterl, MD, Transplant Division, Department of Surgery, one of 13 inaugural members of the University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education, has been closely involved in the education effort of our medical students. Read HSC News story ...

The Trauma Division, Department of Surgery, is pleased to announce that TRISAT (Trauma Institute of San Antonio) has been awarded a Department of Defense grant of $1.35 million for trauma and burn research. Dr. Ronald Stewart, Chief of Trauma, is the principal investigator; these funds will be used for multi-site, multi-study research between the Health Science Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, and Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center.

Dr. Darlene Metter from the Department of Radiology has been accepted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology due to her outstanding contributions & service to radiology.

Dr. Robert Parker from the Department of Family & Community of Medicine was selected as President-elect of the Texas Geriatric Society.
Alumni Association Highlights

Fall is upon us and another successful reunion season has just passed. Approximately 70 alumni returned to attend the recent Alumni Weekend and Reunion Celebration from October 19-21, 2006. While here on campus on Friday, alumni were treated to a special tour from the Office of Recruitment and Outreach and a Medical School update from the Dean’s office. Alumni were thrilled to have the opportunity to see the many changes to the campus and listen to the experiences of the current medical students. The off-campus events included a margarita mixer and Distinguished Alumnus gala on Saturday evening at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel where the Alumni board presented Dr. Patricia Sulak with the Distinguished Alumnus medal for her service to the school and community. Special guests requested by alumni, Drs. Marvin Forland, Carlos Pestana, Linda Johnson, Kent Keeton and James Young were also in attendance throughout the weekend.

The School of Medicine Alumni Association sponsors many activities during the year to give students, alumni and members of the community the opportunity to network and share their experiences with one another. Most recently, the Alumni Association sponsored the first place award for the Student Research Day winner. Dr. James Young, for whom the award is named, presented the first place winner, Rachel Giese, with the $1,000 award at the Alumni Weekend Luncheon on Friday, October 20. In addition to the Student Research Day award, the Alumni Association also presented Student Merit Awards ($1,000 each) to students who excelled in leadership and in community service. Y. Linda Xie, MSII, author of the winning Marvin Forland Essay on Humanism in Medicine was given her award by Dr. Marvin Forland at the Alumni Weekend Luncheon also.

On October 11th and 12th, current students spent their evenings calling School of Medicine donors to thank them for their recent gifts. These students, all of whom are scholarship recipients, said it felt great to personally thank the donors who make their scholarships possible and enable them to get this education from UTHSCSA. Many donors were surprised to hear from students but appreciated the personal calls to say thank you.

The School of Medicine Alumni Association will contribute to the upcoming 5th Annual MSI and MSII Power-Puff festivities on November 18th by providing lunch for the participants and guests. Alumni are invited to attend and cheer on the students. All proceeds go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Imelda Treviño, Director of Alumni Association