The School of Medicine lost a very valued member of its faculty. Dr. Roman Hlatky, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery, died September 20, 2006 in an automobile accident on his way home from University Hospital. Dr. Hlatky was born September 4, 1968 in Trencin, Slovakia.

Dr. Hlatky received his Medical Degree in 1992 from Charles University, Faculty of Medicine Hradec Kralove, in the Czech Republic. He then completed a residency in Neurosurgery in 1999 from the same institution. After completion of his residency, Dr. Hlatky completed a clinical fellowship in 1992 at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. His focus of research was on “Disturbances of Cerebral Blood Flow after Severe Head Injury,” and he studied under the guidance of Drs. Robert G. Grossman, Claudia S. Robertson and Alex B. Valadka. He continued his studies with the completion of a basic research fellowship in 2002 also at Baylor College of Medicine. His area of research again focused on CBF and its regulation in e-Nos deficient mice following brain injury. Drs. Grossman and Robertson again directed his study and research.

After completion of his research fellowships, Dr. Hlatky continued his education and completed two clinical fellowships. In 2003, he completed a Neuro-Oncology fellowship in the Department of Neurosurgery at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan under the guidance of Dr. Murali Guthikonda. In 2004, he completed a fellowship, again in Neuro-Oncology, in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas under the guidance of Dr. Raymond Sawaya.

Dr. Hlatky then joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery. His clinical interests included neuro-oncology, neurotrauma and general neurosurgery. His research interests included both neurotrauma and neuro-oncology. He was a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, National Neurotrauma Society, International Society for Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, Society for Neuroscience, Czech Society of Neurosurgery, Czech Physician Society, European Association of Neurological Societies and the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. During his short career, he received seven awards and published over 100 journal articles and book chapters.

He leaves behind a wife, Radka, and a twelve year old son, Roman.

I would like to extend my sincerest sympathies to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Hlatky. Not only has our campus lost a vital member of our faculty, but we have lost a valued member of society. Dr. Hlatky will be greatly missed.

The service was held on September 30th, 2006 at Porter Loring North Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the Roman Hlatky, M.D. Memorial Fund has been established at Frost Bank to benefit his wife and son. In addition, the Roman Hlatky, M.D. Memorial Research Fund has been established to continue his research in the Health Science Center department of neurosurgery.

William L. Henrich, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Dean, School of Medicine & VP for Medical Affairs
You are cordially invited
to the groundbreaking ceremony
for the new ambulatory clinic
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
11 a.m.
Corner of Floyd Curl Drive & Sid Katz Drive
San Antonio, Texas
Reception following ceremony
RSVP: castor@uthscsa.edu or 210/567-9218

Clinical Development Team charged to launch the
UT Medicine Multidisciplinary Ambulatory Clinic

The Clinical Development Team (CDT) was initiated in June and will be responsible for launching our UT Medicine Multidisciplinary state-of-the-art ambulatory clinic (formerly called the MARC) which is scheduled to open in 2008. This team is chaired by Randy Otto, MD and includes Thomas Mayes, MD, MBA, Gabe Martyak, DO, MBA, Edward Grab, MBA, Elly Xenakis, MD, Carlayne Jackson, MD, Jan Wilson, EdD, Bill Allen, MHA and Tyler Burnett, MSSW. Dr William Henrich oversees the team and will continue to monitor its progress.

The CDT has identified twenty-two areas deserving serious attention and resolution. Some of these areas include: patient service, communication with faculty and staff about changes in group practice infrastructure, improvement of commercial volumes, physician coding and cost allocation.

Dr. Henrich has made his enthusiasm about this endeavor clear. His vision in developing the CDT was to enable a rapid transformation of our faculty practice in order to provide a means to financially support our critical missions of education and research.

The CDT will hold a Town-hall meeting on Monday October 16, 2006 at 5:00pm in lecture hall 3.102B in order to discuss some of their initiatives including: Private Consult Service, Physician Response Team, Phone Services, Physician Coding, and Improvements in Commercial Volumes.

Members of the CDT will be holding individual meetings with Department Chairs, Center Directors and Division Chiefs over the next several weeks to ascertain their specific needs and concerns. They will also communicate up-to-date information regarding CDT initiatives and timelines.

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.
New Director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research

Amelie Ramirez, DPH, appointed as the Director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research in the School of Medicine and as the Director of Outreach and Health Care Disparities at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center. She will be a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Her new positions was effective October 1, 2006.

Dr. Ramirez graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Houston. In 1977 she earned a Masters of Public Health in Health Services Administration from the University of Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health in Houston, Texas. She later earned a Doctor of Public Health in Health Promotion also at the University of Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health in 1992.

As a behavioral science and health communications investigator, she directs and participates in several research projects involving Latinos and such issues as breast cancer genetics, cancer risk factors, impact of breast cancer on families, breast cancer survivorship, and smoking prevention and cessation. Over the past 25 years, she has directed numerous state, federal and privately funded research programs focusing on human and organizational communication to reduce chronic disease and cancer health disparities affecting Latinos and other populations. She has authored over 60 peer-reviewed articles and is the recipient of state and national awards in the area of health disparities research and the advancement of Latinos in medicine, public health, and behavioral sciences professions across the United States. She is a recognized spokesperson for cancer disparities reduction and is a member of various national and regional advisory groups and coalitions. Her most recent appointments include membership on the National Cancer Advisory Board of the National Cancer Institute, the National Advisory Council of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Chair of the National Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Board of Directors for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, and the Media and Counter Marketing Panel of the American Legacy Foundation.
Welcome New Faculty:

Anesthesiology

Dr. Asha R. Chari joined on October 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor. She received her medical degree from Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, India in 1994. She then completed a residency program in Internal Medicine from the UT Medical Branch in 2003 and completed her residency from our program in June 2006.

Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Dr. Dora P. Chalela joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. She was faculty at Baylor College of Medicine’s Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center who will relocate to the UTHSCSA as part of the recruitment of Dr. Amelie Ramirez, Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research. She comprises the backbone of Dr. Ramirez’s research and is vital to the mission of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and Community Outreach, as well as the San Antonio Cancer Institute (SACI) and the School of Medicine.

Mr. Kipling J. Gallion joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. Mr. Gallion was at Baylor College of Medicine’s Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center who will relocate to the UTHSCSA as part of the recruitment of Dr. Ramirez, Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research. She comprises the backbone of Dr. Ramirez’s research and is vital to the mission of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and Community Outreach, as well as the SACI and the School of Medicine.

Dr. Sandra San Miguel de Majors joined on October 1, 2006 as Instructor/Research. She was faculty at Baylor College of Medicine’s Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center who will relocate to the UTHSCSA as part of the recruitment of Dr. Ramirez, Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research. She comprises the backbone of Dr. Ramirez’s research and is vital to the mission of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and Community Outreach, as well as the SACI and the School of Medicine.

Mr. Kimberly A. Wildes joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. She was faculty at Baylor College of Medicine’s Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center who will relocate to the UTHSCSA as part of the recruitment of Dr. Ramirez, Director, Institute for Health Promotion Research. She comprises the backbone of Dr. Ramirez’s research and is vital to the mission of the Institute for Health Promotion Research and Community Outreach, as well as the SACI and the School of Medicine.

Family & Community Medicine

Dr. Sandra Guerra-Cantu joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. She is a 1998 graduate of Texas A & M where she received her medical degree. She completed her residency training in June 2001 from the Santa Rosa Family Practice Residency program in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, she successfully completed a one year Preventive Medicine/Public Health residency training in December 2002.

Dr. Larry Morning Star joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. He is a 1983 graduate of the UT at Austin where he earned his Bachelor degree in Zoology. He also received a Master of Public Health in 1997 from the University of Texas - School of Public Health and in 2005 received a Doctor of Public Health. Ms. Sharlyn D. Ravago joined on October 1, 2006. She is a 2006 graduate of The University of Iowa, College of Medicine where she received her Masters in Physician Assistant Studies. She will work at our Acute Care Clinic at University Health Center - Downtown.

Dr. Lewis C. Rose joined on October 1, 2006 as Clinical Associate Professor. Dr. Rose is a 1954 graduate of the University of London, United Kingdom. She received his diploma in Obstetrics from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist, London, England in 1959.

Medicine

Dr. Michael J. Brumlik, Ph.D. joined the Division of Medical Oncology on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. He graduated from the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1994.

Neurosurgery

Dr. Stephen R. Neece joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from UTHSCSA in 1973. He then completed a neurological surgery residency in 1979.

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Dr. Hareesh Bhaskaran Nair joined on October 1, 2006 as an Instructor. He joined our department in the Division of Reproductive Research in November 2003 as post-doctoral fellow from the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at University of Pittsburgh. He has completed his Ph.D. and has many years of research experience.

Dr. Blake Ofobike joined on October 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor/Clinical. She received her medical degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 2002 and she graduated from our residency program in June 2006.

Pediatrics

Ms. Patricia Amerson joined on October 1, 2006 as a Faculty Associate. She received her Master of Science degree in Nursing from UTHSCSA in 2001. She also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1998.

Psychiatry

Dr. Carmina G. Bernardo joined on September 1, 2006 as an Instructor. She is board certified by the Philippine Board of Psychiatry. She is currently employed by the Makai Medical Center in Dasmarias, Cavite, Philippines, where she teaches psychiatric interviewing skills and techniques to medical students.

Dr. Ricardo Salazar joined on October 1, 2006 as Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from Pontificia Bolivariana University School of Medicine, Columbia in 1991. He completed his residency in General Psychiatry from The University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio. His primary responsibilities will include attending on the University Hospital Psychiatry Inpatient Service, providing outpatient adult psychiatric services at the Frank Bryant Clinic of the Barrio Comprehensive Clinics.

Dr. Douglas E. Williamson joined on October 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor. He graduated from University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He will be named the Dielmann Professor of Genetic and Environmental Risk and will serve as Director of the Program on Genetic Epidemiology in the Division of Genetics. He brings expertise in research on gene-environment interactions that are essential to a center grant in this area that we have proposed.

Dr. Jennifer A. V. Wood joined on October 1, 2006 as an Assistant Professor. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Mississippi in July 2005. She is a clinical psychologist on the staff of the Psychology Service at the Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital, South Texas Veterans Health Care System. She has expertise on telemental health applications and efficacy, and clinical research on rural mental health issues.

Surgery

Dr. Renata B. Bastos joined Division of Cardiothoracic on October 1, 2006 as Clinical Assistant Professor. She received her medical degree from Federal University of Espirito Santo, Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1994. She completed her residency in General Surgery at Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center and Cardiothoracic Surgery from our program. She was honored with the distinction for Extraordinary Academic Efforts in Research and Development from the Society for the Development of Surgical Research. In addition, she has the distinction of being the author of various scholarly articles and presentations in the field of surgery.
## UTHSCSA History of NIH Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>UTHSCSA Total NIH Funding (millions)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$43.4 (4% ↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$57.2 (32% ↑)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$62.1 (9% ↑)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$67.5 (9% ↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$74.2 (10% ↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$79.8 (8% ↑)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$74.8 (9% ↓)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>NIH Rank 2004</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>NIH Rank 2005</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>UTHSCSA</td>
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<td>$79.8 M</td>
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<td>U Illinois</td>
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<td>$81.4 M</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>$82.4 M</td>
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<td>Dartmouth</td>
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<td>Med. Col. Wisconsin</td>
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<td>U Miami</td>
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<td>U Mass</td>
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<td>$108.9 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTMB</td>
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<td>$104.3 M</td>
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## NIH Rankings by NIH-Categorized Department

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<tr>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>04 $</th>
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<th>Rank of #</th>
<th>05 $</th>
<th>05 #</th>
<th>Rank of #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>$29 M</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>37/112</td>
<td>$19.2 M</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>47/112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>32/95</td>
<td>$6.3 M</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>33/95</td>
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<tr>
<td>OB/GYN</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>36/76</td>
<td>$3.3 M</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17/77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>36/86</td>
<td>$793 K</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>63/88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>66/92</td>
<td>$1.5 M</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>68/93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1.2 M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15/32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophth</td>
<td>$457 K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55/60</td>
<td>$292 K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fam Med</td>
<td>$295 K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>31/45</td>
<td>$297 K</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rad</td>
<td>$57 K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>68/68</td>
<td>$176 K</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66/68</td>
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1In FY 2005 Medicine numbers do not include SACI
2In FY 2005 Urology was listed separately from Surgery
2006 Grants Submissions

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<th>Months</th>
<th>Total Dollars</th>
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<td>April</td>
<td>NIH: 0.00, Other: 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>NIH: 10,000,000.00, Other: 20,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>NIH: 20,000,000.00, Other: 30,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>NIH: 30,000,000.00, Other: 40,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>NIH: 40,000,000.00, Other: 50,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Research Day Winners

(Left to Right) Rachel Giese, Wendy McCurley, Travis Cotton, Dr. William Henrich, Steven Kim, Brian Cox and Raul Reyes

Alumni Weekend
October 20-21, 2006
For more details visit:
http://som.uthscsa.edu/alumni/
Announcements:

Case Western Reserve University Women in Medicine Survey
Drs. Bilimoria, O’Neil, and Christopher Stevens, researchers from Case Western Reserve University’s Weatherhead School of Management, are conducting a survey to explore the career experiences of women in the medical fields. The Case Institutional Review Board, Office of Research Compliance has approved this research. To participate, go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=149942230920. For more information, contact the researches: diana.bilimoria@case.edu, deborah.oneil@case.edu or christopher.stevens@case.edu.

2007 Southern Regional Professional Development Conference
The 2007 Southern Regional Professional Development Conference for Women in Medicine and Research is March 30-April 1, 2007 at the J.W. Marriott in Houston, TX. Proposals for conference workshops are now being accepted. The theme of the conference is "Breaking Barriers: Speaking Up, Standing Up and Taking Charge (While Having a Life)." To see the Call for Proposal information, go to http://www.mdanderson.org/prof_education/cmecs/display.cfm?id=64d8a5ae-6a7f-48d4-8e371ebce8b5977f&method=displayfull&pn=6b1866eb-d2d7-4cee-9769db428bb091a4

Thursday, January 25, 2007 and Friday, January 26, 2007
The Westin Horton Plaza, San Diego, CA
As part of the workshop, department chairs and faculty will:
• examine the mindset of a donor
• learn how to present research and educational initiatives as compelling donor opportunities
• receive tips on working with development staff as a team
• explore how to cultivate grateful patients
• learn how to become an effective contributor to a culture of philanthropy
This workshop will take place just prior to AAMC’s Faculty Affairs Professional Development Conference.

Registration materials available online in October.
For more information, contact Chris Tucker, 202-828-0989 or ctucker@aamc.org

SECC 2006
The School of Medicine donated $80,514 with 11.6% participating. You may continue to donate online at http://www.uthscsa.edu/unitedway/secc2006/. Username is your computer’s login name and password is UTHSCSA9999 (birth date MMDD). We would like to beat our numbers from last year, $151,133 and 36.1%. Please check the SECC website for events and updates, http://www.uthscsa.edu/unitedway/secc2006/. The drawing for the gifts basket was a success. We receive about $450 in donations. Thank you to everyone who participated.
The new Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics began operation within the School of Medicine on June 1, 2006 after transitioning from being a Center. The major focus for the Department is on the development of interdisciplinary research within laboratory, clinical and community settings. The Department plays a vital role in the educational mission of the University by providing training in epidemiology, biostatistics, disease prevention, and critical appraisal of the medical literature. We also advance the disciplines of epidemiology and biostatistics through the conduct of methodological research. This includes the development of new statistical analysis methods for high throughput genomic and proteomic information. In support of the University’s research mission, we maintain a large clinical research computer-based data management facility, as well as a bioinformatics/computational biology core facility. With the transition into a new academic department as well as a physical move to the Central Campus this December, we project rapid growth in terms of new faculty and staff recruitment. We have launched a new doctoral program in applied statistics with a focus on biostatistics and bioinformatics that will have a significant impact on the research capabilities of the School of Medicine and the Health Science Center. Several of our research, educational, and external activities are described below.

**Education Activities**
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics faculty teach the biostatistics and clinical epidemiology core curriculum for the K30-Funded Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) degree program. We also co-direct the annual Introduction to Clinical Investigation short course. Our faculty serve as mentors for the K30 clinical research fellows, for the new Institutional K12 Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MAC) fellows, and serve on various dissertation committees.

A new doctoral degree in Applied Statistics with an emphasis in Biostatistics and Bioinformatics was approved in December 2005 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This program represents the efforts of the Department of Management Science and Statistics at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and the extensive medical and health-related expertise of faculty from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Health Science Center. The program admitted 11 students in the Fall of 2006, two of whom are employees of the Health Science Center.

This Ph.D. program addresses growing national, state and local demands for individuals with doctoral training in the areas of biostatistics and bioinformatics. In this age of advanced technology, there is an increasing demand for individuals with the expertise in designing experiments and analyzing large complex biological data sets via the latest advances in computational methods. Biostatisticians are in very high demand. In the growing biomedical field they develop methods for evaluating the efficacy and safety of new medications/drugs, surgeries, and other treatments; in the cutting edge research of bioinformatics they address issues of disease susceptibility, design of molecular targets to treat disease, development of new modalities of treatment such as gene therapy, and genomic and proteomic research. Prior to the launch of this new Ph.D. program, there were only two other public universities in the state that offered doctoral degrees in Biostatistics.

This partnership between the Health Science Center and UTSA will address an area of unmet need throughout the region. It will provide unique opportunities for students to integrate the methodology with real research problems that arise in the biomedical sciences. UTHSCSA will provide outstanding opportunities for doctoral students to serve as research associates for large grant projects. Students will take courses in statistics at UTSA and in epidemiology and clinical trials methodology at the UTHSCSA. This program provides an opportunity for both part-time and full-time students to pursue a doctoral degree.

**Research Activities**
The Department has a growing and diverse extramurally funded research base. Our NIH direct cost funding for FY2005-2006 is $955,172, up 33% from the last fiscal year. More importantly, our collaborative efforts on large institutional grants impact over $20 million of extramural awards to UTHSCSA each year. The Department interacts with other academic units of the School of Medicine, other schools at UTHSCSA, as well as other UT components in San Antonio.

Under the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, along with UTSA, we were funded to develop a Bioinformatics/Computational Biology Program. We established a Computational Biology Initiative (CBI) Core Facility. The facility consists of support staff, space specifically designed to facilitate research collaborations, as well as significant computing resources. The facility is supervised by several computationally-oriented faculty bridging both institutions. The major goal of this program is to increase the use of computational methods in biology for researchers across both institutions. Day-to-day operations of the CBI Core Facility are run by an Executive Director currently managing a staff of 5 software and hardware experts in high performance computing cluster and parallel computing. Two Ph.D. level Scientific Liaison instructor positions were filled within the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. These individuals have significant experience in both experimental and computational biology. Our liaisons provide an interface between the technical expertise in the CBI Core Facility and experimental biologists.

We continue to expand our Clinical Informatics Core Facility. We use a standardized approach for the development of clinical research data applications. Over the
past four years, we have partnered with the UTHSCSA Office of Academic Informatics Services to develop a distributed data system that supports large scale multi-institutional clinical and population-based research projects. This system features high security and a simple web-based interface to access research database applications. We have also integrated laboratory-generated data sources, and specimen repository cataloging into the system.

In addition to conducting epidemiology research, the Department plays a central role in university-wide research activities including: the San Antonio Cancer Institute; the Children’s Cancer Research Institute; the Frederic C. Banting General Clinical Research Center; the Veterans Evidence-based Research, Dissemination, and Implementation CenTer (VERDICT); Hispanic Center for Bipolar Disorder; and the Barshop Center for Longevity and Aging Studies. Other large collaborative projects involving our faculty include the assessment of the mechanisms of orofacial pain, detection and significance of antifungal resistance in oropharyngeal candidiasis, and the epidemiology and evaluation of the long-term cognitive effects of lupus. Our Department plays a key role in the development of the UTHSCSA Clinical Translational Science Award. We closely interact with a number of other departments and centers within the School of Medicine, including Surgery, the Transplant Center, Pediatrics, Medicine, Otolaryngology, Psychiatry, and Obstetrics/Gynecology.

Nationally, the department chair, Dr. Brad H. Pollock, serves as the principal investigator of the $9 million National Cancer Institute-funded Children’s Oncology Group (COG) Community Clinical Oncology Program Research Base grant. This grant funds the cancer prevention and control activities of the COG as well as the participation of community oncology centers in the therapeutic clinical trials of the group, including our local South Texas Pediatric CCOP consortium comprised of the pediatric oncology programs at Christus Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital, Methodist Children’s Hospital, Wilford Hall Air Force Base, and Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi. Nationally, we have developed a research program that is at the forefront of studying the interactions between obesity and childhood cancer. We are also working with pediatric oncologists and epidemiologists from around the State to develop a pediatric tumor registry with a biorepository to support genetic epidemiology research. We completed a large international intervention trial testing the use of a video game designed to increase adherence to prescribed treatment regimen for adolescents and young adults with cancer. We have developed new statistical methods for the analysis of 2-D gels used for protein expression profiles assessments in pro-technology as well as extension of methods used to evaluate time series microarray DNA expression profiles. These methodological contributions facilitate the expansion of our University research base. Dr. Joel Michalek, former principal investigator of the Air Force Health Study that examined the long-term health effects in veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, recently published a series of articles using new statistical methods. Agent Orange and other herbicides sprayed in Vietnam to destroy enemy crops and jungle cover contained cancer-causing dioxin. The study has compared airmen directly involved with the spraying missions, called Operation Ranch Hand, to Air Force veterans who served in Southeast Asia but had no role in spraying. These publications describe significant cancer risks associated with Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam.

Regional Center for Health Workforce Studies (RCHWS)

On February 1, 2006 the Center for Health Economics and Policy and its Center for Health Workforce Studies (RCHWS) were incorporated into the Department. These programs combine the efforts of faculty from UTHSCSA and UTSA under a teaming agreement signed off by the Presidents of both institutions. The agreement was established so that the two universities can foster collaborations in the area of workforce studies and health policy research.

Institute for Health Promotion Research

We are pleased that Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez will be joining the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics this month. Dr. Ramirez will be the Director of the new Institute for Health Promotion Research in the School of Medicine and Director of Outreach and Health Care Disparities at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center. She is an internationally renowned researcher with a focus on behavioral science and health issues in the Hispanic population. She will be joined by Mr. Kipling Gallion, a health communications research expert and by several other faculty and staff. We are delighted to welcome them into the Department.

State Activities

We participated in a University of Texas System Task Force on Public Health under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Shine’s (University of Texas Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs) to evaluate current and future public health needs for the state. As a result of this effort, we are forging the creation of a new San Antonio public health collaborative involving UTHSCSA, UTSA, the UT School of Public Health-San Antonio Regional Campus, and the Bexar County Metro Health Department. The goal of our local effort is to identify synergies between these organizations and to build a common infrastructure to efficiently engage in public health research and practice. In addition, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is also involved with the Texas Cancer Registry from the Department of State Health Services both in terms of identifying funding sources to continue to improve the quality of the Registry as well as serving in a scientific advisory capacity for the Registry’s Data Working Group. A tumor registrar was hired by the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics to serve in our Laredo campus. This regional registrar will increase the timeliness and quality of reporting of cancer cases in that region to the Texas Cancer Registry.

Specific questions about the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics can be directed to: Brad H. Pollock, M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
Congratualtions!!

Sharon B. Murphy, MD, Professor and Director of the CCRI, *San Antonio Business Journal*'s, 2006 Women’s Leadership Award in the Not-for-Profit Sector

Jan Patterson, MD, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Medicine, **2006 Faculty Senate Leadership Award**

Marvin L. Meltz, PhD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, **President-Elect of the South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society**

Andrew K. Diehl, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine/General Medicine, **Selected as the 2006 Texas Academy of Internal Medicine Laureate**

Edward Sako, MD, Professor, Department of Surgery and Chief of Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery, STVHCS, **Invited to serve on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Cardiac Surgery Consultants Board**

Michael Escamilla, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, “**South Texas Medical Genetics Research Group**”, ERAHC Innovative Research and Development Program, **grant awarded $400,000 for 3 years**