Dean Comments:
As many of you know, I hosted a Town Hall meeting in early March. Although I offered brief remarks on the outcome of this meeting and the topics covered in the March edition of this newsletter, I feel it is important to expand on several key areas that will drive our success.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
There are specific accomplishments in each of our mission areas of research, education, and clinical care that are critical milestones on our path toward becoming an elite school of medicine.

In Research, the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) consortium has begun at 12 academic health centers (AHCs) located throughout the nation. UTHSCSA is among the additional 52 AHCs which received a planning grant to develop proposals which, if funded, would allow them to join the consortium. When fully implemented in 2012, about 60 institutions will be linked together to develop the discipline of clinical and translational science. Dr. Robert Clark is the Principal Investigator of our grant and Drs. Robin Brey, Michael Lichtenstein, and Ken Hargreaves, all from UTHSCSA, serve as Co-Principal Investigators. They are part of a group of over 150 colleagues from around the South Texas region. Our team established the Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science (IIMS) as the home for the CTSA in San Antonio. Dr. Clark serves as the IIMS Director and Dr. Brey serves as the Deputy Director, assisting Dr. Clark with the day-to-day management of the IIMS. The mission of the IIMS is to achieve optimal integration of clinical and translational research, education, training and career development across all UTHSCSA schools and among its diverse partner organizations in the South Texas Region. The partners who have joined us from Bexar County include: Brooke Army Medical Center, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care, the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, the San Antonio Cancer Institute, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, the San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, the Southwest Research Institute, the University Health System, the University of Texas College of Pharmacy, the University of Texas San Antonio, the University of Texas School of Public Health, the US Army Institute of Surgical Research and Wilford Hall Medical Center.

In Education, we have several programs which distinguish our institutions. One is the 4-year MD-MPH dual degree program that the School of Medicine, in partnership with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, has established. This program is one of only a handful of such programs in the U.S. and, to my knowledge, the only 4-year program in Texas.

The goal of this dual-degree program is to address the significant shortage of trained public health professionals in the State, especially in the South Texas border region. The Masters in Public Health (MPH) is the most widely recognized professional degree in public health. It equips students for leadership roles at the local, state, national, and international levels. Physicians with an MPH degree hold professional positions in a wide spectrum of settings, including clinical practice, academic medical centers, research institutions and public health agencies. continues on next page...

William L. Henrich, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Dean, School of Medicine
Vice President for Medical Affairs
John P. Howe, III, M.D.,
Distinguished Chair in Health Policy
In addition, four members of our faculty have distinguished themselves as they now hold 4 of the 28 elected chairs for The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the organization that accredits GME programs in the U.S. While we have had a number of Review Committee members over the years, this is the first time that the chair positions have been so heavily concentrated among our faculty. My congratulations go to Chair, Nuclear Medicine, Dr. Darlene Metter; Chair, Urology, Dr. Ian Thompson; Chair, Resident Committee, Dr. V. Seenu Reddy; and Vice Chair, Anesthesiology, Dr. Lois Bready who will assume the Chair later this year.

Another program that has been extremely successful for our School of Medicine is the Facilitated Admissions for South Texas Scholars (FASTS). This program works in partnership with several undergraduate universities in the South Texas area to select outstanding students for facilitated acceptance to UTHSCSA School of Medicine. Students must be outstanding academically with an interest in medicine. Students are screened by a committee at their respective universities and then forwarded to the School of Medicine admissions committee for further assessment. Based on successful academic performance, interview results and continued interest in medicine, the students can then be conditionally accepted to the School of Medicine. Upon selection, the students will then spend six weeks in San Antonio during the summer prior to their sophomore year to participate in an academic enrichment program and continue to receive advising, counseling and tutoring opportunities throughout their time as an undergraduate student.

We have seen a 15% increase in applications in the last two years at our School. The credentials of matriculating first year students are superb: an average GPA of 3.6 and an average science GPA of 3.5. As we continue to pursue the recruitment of the very best students to our School in the future, the Associate Dean for Admissions, Dr. David J. Jones, our faculty and staff and I are grateful to our volunteer and adjunct faculty for their generous assistance in the recruitment of tomorrow’s physician corps.

In our Clinical area, the groundbreaking of the UT Medicine Multidisciplinary Ambulatory Clinic demonstrated major commitment from our leadership to provide state-of-the-art art facilities for our patients, students, faculty and staff. The building, which was initially designed to be six floors, will now add two additional floors to house faculty offices and be eight floors in height. 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 while providing first quality clinical care for our patients.

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. We are also working diligently to improve faculty packages to maximize retention and design highly competitive recruitment packages to attract Nobel Laureate discovery.

THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

All of the accomplishments I mentioned above are building blocks toward achieving our goal to create a preeminent identity for our School of Medicine. However, we will not be successful without a bold and thoughtful financial plan in place to achieve this. As I discussed in our open meeting, our five year comprehensive financial plan includes an investment of over $130 million in our faculty and well over $250 million in new construction and renovations to our existing infrastructure. These monies will come from the reinvestment of 15-16% of current state dollars over five years to the growth of academic programs, an investment of $12,350,000 from Discretionary Fund Reserves from Six Departments/Centers, and an agreement between the Departments/Centers and the Dean to invest most of the UPL fund on our academic future.

This is a bold vision, but one that is based on a solid foundation. Our most valuable assets are our faculty. We must retain our outstanding faculty and be on a continuous search for new faculty who can enhance our mission. Additional strength comes from our position of excellent alignment for this vision between Dr. Kenneth Shine, the Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs at the University of Texas, Dr. Francisco Cigarroa as President of UTHSCSA, and the School of Medicine as represented by the Dean and leadership of our School. We are all dedicated to the goal of having our School of Medicine among the elite health institutions in the country. In the days and weeks following our meeting, I have received consistently positive and enthusiastic feedback about the course we have chartered. As I noted several times in my remarks, it is abundantly apparent to me that we will achieve this goal exclusively through the dedicated efforts of our faculty and staff. I am optimistic about our prospects for success, and I am delighted to serve with you in this effort.

Please provide any feedback in our plan to me, and thank you for your work on behalf of our school.
Welcome New Faculty

**Anesthesiology**

Dr. Scott Kercheville joined on April 1, 2007 as an Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and completed an anesthesia residency from their program.

Dr. Gary B. Elliott joined on April 1, 2007 as an Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree in 1979 from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. He completed his residency in anesthesiology in 1982, and he completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology in 1983.

**Medicine**

Dr. Reza F. Ghohestani joined the Division of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery on April 1, 2007 as an Associate Professor (pending approval from the Promotion, Tenure and Committee). He received his medical degree from Shiraz University School of Medicine in 1993 and completed his residency training at the University of Pennsylvania Health System in 2003.

Dr. Francis J. Giles joined the Division of Hematology and Oncology on April 1, 2007 as a Division Chief and Professor (pending approval from the Promotion and Tenure Committee). He will serve as the Director and AT&T Chair, Institute for Drug Development at the GCCRI. He graduated from the National University of Ireland and completed his residency training at University College in Galway, Ireland.

Ms. Julie C. Stuckey joined the Division of Cardiology on April 1, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She received her nursing degree from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Nashville, TN in 2004.

**Neurosurgery**

Dr. Murat Digicaylioglu joined on April 1, 2007 as an Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from Ruhr University in 1989. His specialty is on prevention of neuronal damages by stroke, ataxia, and other neurodegenerative diseases.

**Radiation Oncology**

Dr. Aidenag Diaz joined on April 16, 2007 as an Associate Professor (pending approval from the Promotion, Tenure and Committee). He received his medical degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1988. He completed his residency in Radiation Oncology from University of California at San Francisco in 1994.
Announcements:

Health Walk
May 2, 2007
10:30 am—1:30 pm
Employees who register for $20.00 to run or walk two laps around the track will receive the official UTHSC 2007 HealthWalk t-shirt. Those interested in contributing, but not participating in the walk, may receive a t-shirt by contributing $20.00. The UTHSC HealthWalk is unique to San Antonio, providing a way for health professionals to raise money to support the local March of Dimes chapter. All proceeds are used right here in San Antonio.

Call 567-0540 for registration locations

Center for Integrative Health
PRESENTS
Ways to Release Stress Now!
(Experiencing Massage)
With Guest Speaker: Jann Henry, LMT
Ms. Henry trains Massage techniques to medical staff being deployed to Iraq as in service for BMC & Wilford Hall. Her massage company provides ambulatory care for soldiers in post acute phases.

May 3rd, 2007
12:00pm-1:pm
Room 108 ABB
(Academic & Administrative Building)
UTHSCSA
For more information call (210) 567-7865
http://cih.uthscsa.edu (210) 567-7826

The following faculty, fellows and students appeared in the news (television, print media or radio): Dr. James Anderst, Pediatrics/Ctr. for Miracles; Robert Black, fourth-year student, School of Medicine; Dr. Charles Bowden; Psychiatry; Dr. Tyler Curiel, Medical Oncology; Dr. Michael Escamilla, Psychiatry; Dr. Sharon Fowler, Medicine/Epidemiology; Dr. Clifton Fuller, Fellow/Radiation Oncology; Dr. Francis Giles, Institute of Drug Development; Dr. Robert Hart, Medicine/Neurology; Dr. William Henrich, SOM Dean & VP for Med. Affairs; Dr. Rucha Jani, Medicine/Endo/Diab/ Metab.; Drs. Karnad & Beeram, Medical Oncology; Dr. Charles Keller, CCRI; Dr. Julio Palmaz, Radiology; Dr. Rose Rodriguez, Psychiatry; Drs. Rosende & Giles, Ophthalmology/Oncology; Dr. Corinna Ross, Fellow/ Barshop Institute; Masoud Saman, second-year student, School of Medicine; Dr. David Sherman, Medicine/Neurology; Drs. Palmaz & Sprague, Radiology; Dr. Abraham Verghese, Center for Med. Humanities
MATCH DAY 2007

After completing five weeks of didactic courses, the fourth year class is preparing for graduation. In March, the majority of the class learned in which residency program they matched to during the Match Day party. Most of the students were very pleased with the results of their specialty and location. Forty-eight percent of the class will be staying in Texas and 27% will be here in San Antonio. The 52% leaving Texas will be going to twenty-eight different states. Listed below are the most popular specialties and the number of students who matched into them:

- Internal Medicine 38
- Pediatrics 37
- Anesthesiology 17
- Family Medicine 13
- Obstetrics and Gynecology 12
- General Surgery 11

The third year class is eagerly anticipating fourth year and will begin registering for rotations on May 1. The second year class has completed finals and will be preparing for the USMLE Step 1 exam, which they will accomplish before beginning third year on June 18. The first year class will end finals on May 11 and many of these students will be involved in research projects or preceptorships over the summer.