Dean Comments:

There are a number of recent significant developments which deserve prominent mention. First, we have completed our search for Interim Assistant Dean for the MD/MPH Program. Second, we have achieved unprecedented representation on the Council of Chairs for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Third, we had excellent attendance for our Town Hall meeting last week.

Dr. Claudia Miller, Professor and Vice Chairman for Community Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine, and Director of the South Texas Environmental Education and Research Program (STEER), has been appointed as Interim Assistant Dean for the MD/MPH Program for 25% of her time. As the current founder and Director of STEER Dr. Miller has worked diligently in South Texas to promote public health and border health instruction along the Texas-Mexico border to medical students and other health professionals. Over the past decade, STEER’s hands-on, community-based approach to teaching has attracted hundreds of health professions students from across the nation to Laredo and Harlingen, and has garnered State and federal awards for excellence in environmental education.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the organization that accredits GME programs in the U.S. consists of 28 ACGME Review Committees. Of the 28 elected chairs, 4 are held by our own UTHSCSA faculty. While we’ve had a number of Review Committee members over the years, this is the first time that the chair positions have been so heavily concentrated in among our faculty. The line-up includes:

- Chair, Nuclear Medicine RRC, Dr. Darlene Metter;
- Chair, Urology, Dr. Ian Thompson;
- Chair, Resident Committee, Dr. V. Seenu Reddy;
- Vice Chair, Anesthesiology, Dr. Lois Bready – she will assume the Chair later this year.

Please join me in congratulating these four individuals.

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

School of Medicine Vision, Goals and Plan

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at the Town Hall meeting on the 6th. We covered a lot of ground and I thought it might be helpful to include a short discussion about the Town Hall here, to clarify any questions you may have or to provide a summary for those of you that were not able to attend.

The Town Hall began with highlights from research, clinical and educational areas. We accomplished many of our goals through research awards, key faculty recruitments and of course launching the building phase for UT Medicine which will serve as our Clinical Enterprise.

Each of these achievements aligns directly with our vision “to join the ranks of elite Schools of Medicine through our traditional missions of healing, teaching and discovery”. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that this is a tumultuous road, one laden with competition for the top students, faculty and staff; one where the attainment of government funds has become increasingly difficult; and one that is not too different from what every other ambitious School of Medicine is pursuing.

So what sets us apart? We are now in perfect alignment. What does this mean? It means that from Dr. Shine at UT System, to Dr. Cigarroa at the Health Science Center, to me at the School of Medicine, we all want the same thing. Our goals and our vision are perfectly aligned. This rarely happens in an organization and we are privileged to work with such visionary leaders. This alignment is key to our success as it will help to bridge the gaps and pave the road ahead for us. Our five year plan, which I went over in great detail at the Town Hall meeting, is bold, but attainable and very conservative. I have looked at only funds we have, not funds we could or might obtain through avenues such as philanthropy, grants or other less predictable sources.

If I tried to communicate any one message at the Town Hall, it is that we are well positioned, financially viable and possess the intellectual property to take our School of Medicine from a very good school to an elite school!

I thank all of you for your daily contributions to our School of Medicine as we move forward to fulfill our vision.
Welcome New Faculty:

**Anesthesiology**

Dr. John Richardson joined on March 1, 2007 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Richardson received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and completed an anesthesia residency from their program in 1978.

**Family & Community Medicine**

Ms. Colleen Stephens-Kelly, GNP joined on March 1, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She is a 2006 graduate of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in the Nurse Practitioners Program. In addition, she received her nursing degree from our program.

**Medicine**

Dr. Raymond M. Costello joined on February 23, 2007 as Clinical Professor in the Division of Neurology. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1971 and completed an internship from the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Mr. Gary L. Tyson joined on February 23, 2007 as a Faculty Associate in the Division of Cardiology. He graduated from the University of Texas – El Paso in 1977.

**Pediatrics**

Dr. Julie La Barba joined on March 1, 2007 as a Clinical Instructor. She received her medical degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2002 and also completed her pediatric residency here.

**Psychiatry**

Dr. Jim Mintz joined on January 16, 2007 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and is cross appointed in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Mintz received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from New York University. He has been at UCLA for almost 30 years and was most recently Professor in residence in Psychiatry (primary) and Biostatistics. He brings an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience to our University.

**Surgery**

Ms. Elizabeth J. Wylie joined on March 1, 2007 in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery as a Faculty Associate. Ms. Wylie received her Master of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston in 2001.

Mr. Stanley S. Oatman joined on March 16, 2007 as a Faculty Associate in the Division of Emergency Service. Mr. received his Bachelor of Science degree from Columbus University and The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.
Announcements:

Wellness SYMPOSIUM: March 19-20, 2007, Austin, Texas
Promote wellness through primary prevention as a top health priority of the UT System community. Establish the UT System as the model culture of primary prevention and wellness in Texas, and harness the enormous influence of the UT System to promote primary prevention to all of Texas through Example, Education, Research and Collaboration with Communities and legislators.

Register Here
Information provided by: http://www.utsystem.edu/hea/wellness/homepage.htm

Center for Integrative Health
Experiencing Integrative Modalities
(Reflexology, Acupressure & Massage)
April 5th, 2007
11am-12:20pm & 12:25pm-1:45pm
ROOM 2.040 MED
(classrooms under Subway)
UTHSCSA
For more information call (210) 567 7826
http://cih.uthscsa.edu

The Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) Program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2007 semester. Application submission deadline is May 1, 2007. For more information visit our website: http://msci.uthscsa.edu or contact Michael Lichtenstein, MD (Program Director) at lichtenstei@uthscsa.edu and Juanita Sherfield (Academic Coordinator) at sherfield@uthscsa.edu / (210) 567-4631.
Announcements:

Girard ("Rod") Seitter IV, administrator, Department of Urology, has advanced to Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, the international professional society of healthcare leadership and management. Fellow status is the highest level of achievement in ACHE and includes board certification in healthcare management; at present, about 3,000 healthcare executives hold this distinction. Additionally, Seitter is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and recently graduated from the U.S. Army War College, one of the nation’s highest military education institutions. Graduation includes conferment of a Master’s degree in strategic studies.

Kudos

The following faculty appeared in the news (television, print media or radio): Dr. Michael Arambula, Psychiatry; Dr. Karen Brooks-Searle, Surgery; Dr. Robert Brzyski, OB-Gyn; Dr. Stephen Cohn, Surgery; Dr. Tyler Curiel, SACI/Medical Oncology; Dr. Kenneth Cusi, Endocrinology; Dr. Sharon Fowler, Medicine/Epidemiology; Dr. Sandra Fox, Ophthalmology; Dr. Bonnie Furner, Dermatology; Dr. David Glahn, Psychiatry; Dr. Daniel Hale, Pediatrics; Dr. Steven Haffner, Medicine/Epidemiology; Dr. Carlos Roberto Jaén, Family/Community Med; Dr. Stephen Kraus, Urology; Dr. Joel Michalek, Epidemiology/Biostatistics; Dr. Claudia Miller, Family/Community Med; Dr. Henry Perkins, Medicine; Dr. Ana Saucedo, Medicine Dermatology; Dr. Michael Stern, Medicine/Epidemiology; Dr. Ian Thompson, Urology; Dr. Abraham Verghese, Medical Humanities/Ethics; Dr. Roberto Villarreal, So. Tx. Health Res. Ctr.
OVERVIEW
Urology is a very specific medical/surgical discipline involved in the treatment and prevention of diseases and conditions of the genitourinary tract. It is a broad-ranging discipline, yet is organ-site and function-specific. Urologic subspecialties represented today at UTHSCSA include urologic oncology (including prostate, kidney, and bladder cancer specialists), Urinary Incontinence and Female Urology, Neurourology, Endourology, Stone Disease and Laparoscopy, Pediatric Urology, and Reconstructive Urology. The Department of Urology Residency Program currently has a five-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The program receives applications from very strong medical school graduates and has a very talented group of residents. Fellowships in Urologic Oncology (accredited by the Society of Urologic Oncology) and Female Urology/Urodynamics are also offered.

Since 1998, there have been many changes in Urology: Currently, 8 surgeon faculty, 5 basic research faculty, 2 fellows, 15 residents, and approximately 75 support staff are a part of Urology. Another pediatric urologist has accepted an appointment beginning this July and another clinical faculty member is actively being recruited bringing the total clinical faculty to ten by the end of fiscal year 2007. The Urology residency program has been expanding from 2 residents per year to 3 per year since 2004. By 2010, a total of 18 Urology residents will be in training at UTHSCSA. Urology became an independent Department in 2004 previously having been a Division of the Department of Surgery. The clinical practice has grown both in volume and in locations. In addition to the Urology clinic located at Christus Santa Rosa Northwest, a new Multidisciplinary GU Cancer Clinic opened in October 2006 at CTRC. Urology is projected to occupy about 8,300 square feet in the new UT Medicine clinical building. Operative cases are performed at University Hospital, Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, Christus Santa Rosa Northwest Hospital, Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center Downtown, and St. Luke’s Baptist Hospital.

RESEARCH
Since 1998, the Department of Urology has been directly awarded in excess of $14.1 million in grant awards and responsible for another $3.14 Million in funding to other Departments related to Urology, for a total of $17.2 Million in grants received by the University. Three research programs specifically noteworthy of brief mention are the San Antonio Biomarkers for Risk of Prostate Cancer (SABOR), Urinary Incontinence Treatment Network (UITN), and the laboratories of Dr. Pratap Kumar and Dr. Rita Ghosh. The SABOR program, one of three prostate cancer centers (the others are Johns Hopkins and Harvard) supported by the National Cancer Institute to discover and move to the clinic new tests for the detection of prostate cancer. UTHSCA is the only institution in the United States that has recruited a multi-racial, multi-ethnic population to discover and validate new biomarkers for prostate cancer. Approximately 3,500 men have been enrolled of whom over 50% are either minority or underserved populations. continues...
Department of Urology Spotlight continues

The Urinary Incontinence Treatment Network (UITN) is the largest clinical research trial on urinary incontinence funded by the NIH. UTHSCSA is one of the clinical centers across the country that comprises the Network. Areas of study include research in common types of treatment for urinary incontinence (surgical, minimally invasive, behavioral, drug) as well as diagnostic work-up including development of questionnaires and urodynamics testing. Much of the work is focused identifying treatments that are more efficacious and their ability to improve quality of life. The Principal Investigator at the UTHSCSA UITN site is Dr. Stephen R. Kraus, Department of Urology, who achieved several major recognitions within the network.

Pratap Kumar, Ph.D. and Dr. Rita Ghosh, Ph.D. joined UTHSCSA in 2005. Dr. Kumar is a world-renown investigator in prostate cancer and in prostate cancer prevention. He and Dr. Ghosh bring a nucleus of investigators to collaborate with the SABOR clinical scientists, biostatisticians, and epidemiologists to rapidly move prevention strategies to clinical practice. The long-term objective of Dr. Kumar and Ghosh’s research program is to obtain a better understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in the development and progression of prostate cancer, bladder cancer, and melanoma.

Publications are archive at: http://som.uthscsa.edu/eNews/Archive.asp