Dean Comments: The Cyclic Nature of our Business

On May 19th, our School of Medicine will graduate another class of physicians. This is a responsibility that lies at the core of our work, and it is one in which we must be fully resourceful. These physicians emerge from our school and join a profession grounded in integrity and anchored in nobility of service to others. They base their craft on what we have taught them and the example that we have been for them. The world is in need of more superbly trained physicians, and our goals of excellence in education are unwavering.

The life cycle of a School of Medicine is continuous. We do not follow a traditional academic year as many other professional schools might. In just a few weeks, we will be conferring degrees on the Class of 2007. I would like to highlight several changes that have transpired since the Class of 2007 first arrived on campus four years ago.

First of all, they arrived at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Medical School. This past November, we officially changed our name to the School of Medicine which is congruent with most university affiliated schools across the country. In 2004 when these students arrived, the Medical School was under the leadership of Dean Steven A. Wartman, M.D., Ph.D.. Dr. Wartman left in April, 2005 to accept a prestigious position as the President of the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington, D.C. Thomas Mayes, M.D., M.B.A., Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was appointed Interim Dean of the School of Medicine until my arrival in March, 2006.

Since this class completed their first year, there have been several changes to the first year curriculum. For instance, we reorganized into Organ System Modules with coordination of courses and topics and decreased the number of contact hours in the first year from over 900 to approximately 750 to allow more time for self study and small group learning.

As the current graduating class became 3rd year students, the Clinical Skills Center opened on campus, a place where aspiring physicians and other health professions students learn the art of physical examination, patient history-taking and bedside manner.

This group celebrated Match Day in March of this year; this is the day when medical students around the country learn which residency program they will serve. This year, of the 193 students applying for Residency programs, 48% are staying in Texas, and 27% are remaining here in San Antonio. We also saw an increase of students going into Internal Medicine, anesthesiology and orthopedics. The most notable increase, however, was in pediatrics, where there are 37 students pursuing this career choice versus 27 last year.

As the students approach graduation, our faculty and staff continue to work diligently as our calendar begins again just a few weeks after graduation. It is a bittersweet time for us, of course, as we say goodbye to these outstanding young physicians. We wish them all continued success and personal happiness. A new 1st year class arrives July 22nd, our current 1st year students begin their 2nd year on July 9th, our current 2nd year begin their 3rd year June 18th and our current 3rd year start their 4th year on July 2nd, spending a large portion of their time completing residency applications and interviews in addition to their clinical duties.

The work of education is constantly in motion, and we are challenged to convey to all learners the essential lesson that, in reality, education in medicine is a life-long undertaking for the best physicians. The pace of discovery demands that physicians be constantly acquisitive for new knowledge, always remodeling their thinking as concepts and therapies change. It is our collective hope that this lesson has been well-learned by this year’s, and all, graduates of our fine school. It is what will distinguish them as superb physicians as their careers unfold.

On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, warm wishes and congratulations to the Class of 2007 and sincere thanks to our faculty and partners for a job well done.
Welcome New Faculty

**Medicine**

Dr. Michael T. Jelinek joined on May 1, 2007 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Jelinek received his medical degree from Universidad Centro de Estudios Technologicos, Santo Domingo and he completed his residency training in Internal Medicine from Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Habib Ghaddar joined on May 1, 2007 as a Clinical Associate Professor. Dr. Ghaddar received his medical degree from The American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon and he completed his residency in Internal Medicine from The Good Samaritan Hospital/John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

**Pediatrics**

Dr. Susan E. Homan joined on May 1, 2007 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Homan received her medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, Illinois. She completed her pediatric residency program at the University of Arizona Health Science Center, Tucson, Arizona and completed her fellowship training in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Radiology**

Dr. Christine Benton joined on May 1, 2007 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Benton received her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 2000 and completed her Diagnostic Radiology residency training here from our program.

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**Department of Neurosurgery**

Cordially invites you to the

**NEUROVASCULAR LECTURE SERIES**

**VISITING PROFESSOR:**

**ALEJANDRO BERENSTEIN, M.D.**

Director, Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery Albert Einstein College of Medicine New York

**TITLE:** PRESENT AND FUTURE IN THE TREATMENT OF CEREBRAL ANEURYSMS

Friday, May 18, 2007

Children’s Cancer Research Institution

8:30 – 9:30 AM • 1st Floor Auditorium

Children’s Cancer Research Institution

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**UTHSCSA medical service trip to Honduras presentation**

Twenty UTHSCSA medical students and their attending, Dr. Sarah Lapey, spent eight months organizing the first UTHSCSA medical service trip to Honduras. Please join us for a presentation of pictures and narratives of our time in Honduras.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 16th

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Howe Conference room (library 5th floor)

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In September 2005, the [UTHSCSA Staff Advisory Council](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=787883792991) was established with 22 members which included representation from the School of Medicine. It is time to elect members for the next two years with the term beginning September 1, 2007. We have a two-step process. The first step is to nominate personnel to serve as your representatives. Current members are eligible. Below is a survey monkey link that will provide the vehicle for you to nominate six representatives. Nominations will close at midnight on Monday, May 21. We will compile the list of nominees from your nominations and send out another survey for the election. If you wish to nominate someone please follow the link below; however, before you do, please ask the person if they are willing to serve (you may also self-nominate) and verify SAC membership eligibility which is shown below: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=787883792991
FOCAL POINTS: Department of Anesthesiology

The Department of Anesthesiology continues to focus on advancing our educational and clinical missions. In May we are concentrating on issues of Critical Care Medicine, and are offering two outstanding lectures by visiting professors:

**Grand Rounds, May 3rd** – Jim H. Philip, M.D., Associate Professor of Anesthesia, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA, will be presenting a lecture entitled “Clinical and Economical Impact of Low Blood / Gas Solubility”.

**24th Annual Fritz Holmstrom Memorial Lecture** – This highly successful and well-attended lecture series presents Bruce Spiess, M.D., Professor of Anesthesiology, Virginia Commonwealth University, who will lecture on “Transfusion and Outcome in Cardiac Surgery.”

If you are interested in attending either of these lectures, please contact Wendy Kang, M.D., at 567-4501 for more information.

Aggressive recruiting has gained us eight highly-qualified, new faculty, two with cardiothoracic anesthesia and critical care medicine certifications. We are still actively seeking a pediatric anesthesiologist.

We have also recruited an outstanding resident class for the 2007-08 academic year. One-third of this class of 12 are UTHSCSA graduates, and all have excellent USMLE scores.

These new residents will help insure our residency program continues to receive high marks from the ACGME Residency Review Committee, who recently conducted a very favorable site visit of our program. We are expecting to receive another 5-year accreditation.

**J. Jeff Andrews, M.D.**
Professor and Chair
Department of Anesthesiology

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
School of Medicine
Office of the Dean, MSC 7790
7703 Floyd Curl Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900
Phone: 210-567-4420
Fax: 210-567-6962
E-mail: meddean@uthscsa.edu

Send all comments to
Georgina Anguiano-Elliott
anguiano@uthscsa.edu

Publications are archive at: [http://som.uthscsa.edu/eNews/Archive.asp](http://som.uthscsa.edu/eNews/Archive.asp)