Dean's Comments: Major Announcements and Updates

The School of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio has had a very exciting month! We have been notified of two major accomplishments achieved by our Faculty.

The first is the announcement by The National Academies, independent advisers to the nation on science, engineering and medicine, of the election of Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., and Cynthia D. Mulrow, M.D., M.Sc., to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. Dr. Ramirez, a nationally recognized leader in research of cancer disparities affecting Hispanics and other populations, and Dr. Mulrow, a widely respected leader in evidence synthesis, systematic reviews and practice guidelines in medicine, join Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D., president of the HSC and professor of pediatric and transplantation surgery, and Bettie Sue Siler Masters, Ph.D., the Robert A. Welch Foundation Distinguished Professor in Chemistry, as the four Institute of Medicine members from the UTHSC at San Antonio. Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H., director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is the fifth IOM member from San Antonio.

The second major accomplishment is a notification from the National Institute of Health that the HSC has been selected to receive $33 million to serve as a center for the National Children’s Study, the largest analysis of child and human health ever conducted in the United States. Daniel E. Hale, MD, Professor of Pediatrics is the Principal Investigator for UTHSCSA and the Donald J. Dudley, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology is the Co-Principal Investigator.

The National Children’s Study will assess the effects of environmental and genetic factors on children’s health. The Health Science Center will manage participant recruitment and data collection at sites in Bexar, Hidalgo and Travis counties. The study eventually will follow a representative sample of 100,000 children from before birth to age 21, seeking information to prevent and treat some of the nation’s most pressing health problems, including autism, birth defects, diabetes, heart disease and obesity. It is expected to help children across the U.S. and shape child health guidance, interventions and policy for generations to come. This is the fourth major national NIH-sponsored pediatric study that has come to UTHSCSA in the past four years.

The others are TODAY, HEALTHY and TrialNet. The TODAY study is a project to identify the effective treatments for type 2 diabetes in children. UTHSCSA is one of 14 centers in the US and 1 of only 2 chosen in Texas. Dr. Hale is the Principal Investigator for UTHSCSA. HEALTHY is primary diabetes prevention program working with the San Antonio Independent School District and the Social and Health Research Center (SHRC). Roberto Trevino, MD, from the SHRC is the Principal Investigator. UTHSCSA is 1 of 7 centers in the US and 1 of only 2 in Texas chosen for this project. TrialNet is a type 1 diabetes natural history and prevention project. UTHSCSA is the only major ancillary site in Texas. The Texas TrialNet Center is at UT Southwestern in Dallas. Dr. Hale is also the Principal Investigator for TrialNet at UTHSCSA.

We were chosen to be the a Center for the National Children's Study (the only Center chosen in Texas) because of our demonstrable success in: a) building partnerships in the community, b) recruiting children and families for long-term longitudinal studies and c) working with other institutions locally, regionally and nationally on multisite and multicenter projects.

Many individuals and organizations were instrumental in bringing the National Children's Study to south Texas and UTHSCSA. Key individuals who deserve recognition include Drs. Daniel Hale, Donald Dudley, Amelie Ramirez and Peter Nathanielz, all at the Health Science Center, and Drs. Fernando Guerra and Bryan Alsip of the Metropolitan Health District. I would also like to recognize the exceptional support we received from institutional partners and key community leaders in Bexar, Hidalgo and Travis Counties as well as our faculty and staff at our regional campuses in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

When fully operational, the annual costs/expenses will be $5-9 million per year, and there will be about 20 employees at each of the 3 sites (Bexar, Hidalgo and Travis Counties).

These accomplishments reflect positively on our outstanding faculty and demonstrate the effectiveness of our continuing regional cooperation and collaboration. Additionally, a team from the Health Science Center and the President of the BCMS, Dr. Delbert Chumley, traveled together to Mexico City to visit the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM). The HSC signed an agreement with UNAM last year which includes student exchanges, continuing medical education opportunities and joint research ventures. Our visit included briefings with the leadership of UNAM’s Medical School, tours of academic and clinical facilities, exchanges with professors and students as well as meeting to determine additional opportunities for exchange. We all came away very impressed with UNAM’s programs, it’s students and it’s faculty, and look forward to a joint effort to help develop San Antonio as a destination of choice for health education and care.

These accomplishments of our Faculty and our School are paramount to our growth as a “Medical Destination” in the United States. Our Health Science Center is privileged to bring such positive notoriety to San Antonio in this regard.

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

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Welcome New Faculty

Family & Community Medicine
Dr. Stella Koretsky joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. She received her medical degree from State Medical and Pharmaceutical University “Nicolae Testemitanu” in 1990. She completed her Family Medicine residency training on June 30, 2007 from UTHSCSA. In addition, she completed seven months of internship training at Christus St. Joseph Hospital in 2004.

Ms. Griselda Cossio joined on October 24, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She received her Bachelor of Science in Health Care Services from UTHSCSA in 2007. In addition, she received a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Texas Pan American-Edinburg.

Medicine
Dr. Lenin Mahimainathan joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Bharathiar University then received his Master of Science in Biochemistry from Bharathidasan University and then received a doctoral degree in Biochemistry from the University of Madras.

Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dr. J. Edgar Bost joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1981 and then completed his residency training from Baylor College of Medicine in 1986.

Ophthalmology
Dr. Heidi I. Becker joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. She received her medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School in 2003. She then completed her internship from Texas Tech University Health Sciences center – School of Medicine in 2004. Also, she completed her residency training from the UTHSCSA in 2007.

Orthopaedics
Ms. Katrinia Demel joined on September 28, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She received her Bachelor of Art in Psychology/Sociology from Saint Mary’s University in 1990 and then received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Family Nurse Practitioner from UTHSCSA in 2007.

Pediatrics
Ms. Lisa J. Matasovsky joined on October 3, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bethel University in 1996 and then received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Minnesota in 2006.

Psychiatry
Dr. Donald Dougherty joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. He graduated cum laude in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Bridgewater College and then obtained a Master of Science in Experimental Psychology followed by a Doctorate of Philosophy in Experimental Psychology at Ohio University. He then completed an NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Psychopharmacology in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Dr. Charles W. Mathias joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. He received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Indiana University, a Master of Science in Applied Biopsychology and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Applied Biopsychology from the Department of Psychology from the University of New Orleans. In 2004, he completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Psychopharmacology in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Dr. Dawn M. Richard joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1997, Magna cum Laude and then completed her PhD in Human Behavioral Neuroscience in 2004 at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She completed a post-doctoral fellow at Wake Forest University.

Dr. Michael A. Dawes joined on October 1, 2007 as Assistant Professor. He received a Bachelor of Art in Zoology and Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1982 and then received his medical degree at the University North Carolina in 1986. He completed psychiatric residency training at the Medical College of Georgia in 1990 and then went to complete a Health Services Research Fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas in 1992. He then completed a two year Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 1994 at the Harvard Combined Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program.

Surgery
Ms. Susan McCollow joined on October 1, 2007 as a Faculty Associate. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at UTHSCSA in 1993. She then went on to receive her Master of Science in Nursing in 2001, also from UTHSCSA.

Dr. Ruben Lopez joined on October 22, 2007 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from The University of Michigan Medical School in 1991 and completed his surgical residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston from 1991-1996, where he also completed his fellowship in Trauma Surgery in 1997, and Cardiothoracic Surgery in 1999.
The following faculty, fellows, residents, staff and/or students appeared in the news (television, print media or radio): Dr. Antonio Anzueto, Pulmonary Medicine; Dr. Oralia Bazaldua, Family/Community Med.; Dr. George Crawford, Med/Infectious Diseases; Dr John Dermody, Alumnus; Dr. Lewis Greenberg, Medicine/Clinical Affairs; Dr. William Henrich, Dean, School of Medicine; Dr. David Jimenez, Neurosurgery; Dr. Join Luh, Radiation Oncologist Resident; Dr. Martha Medrano, Psychiatry; Dr. Eric Mortensen, General Medicine; Dr. Nicolas Musi, Diabetes; Dr. Dacia Napier, Former Resident; Dr. Kristen Plastino, Obstetrics/Gynecology; Dr. Bradley Pollock, Epidemiology/Biostatistics; Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy, Pediatrics; Dr. Amelie Ramirez, Epidemiology/Biostatistics; Dr. Gustavo Roman, Medicine/Neurology; Dr. Carlos Rosende, Ophthalmology; Dr. I. Jon Russell, Clinical Immunology; M. Saman, MS III; Dr. Sandra Sanchez-Reilly, Geriatrics; Dr. David Schneider, Family/Community Med.; Sharon Smith, Surgery; Dr. Ronald Stewart, Surgery; Dr. Theresa Stewart, Obstetrics/Gynecology; Dr. Leonel Vela, RAHC

_Celia Thompson_, Institute for Health Promotion Research, was named a Ford “Warrior in Pink.” This recognition allows her to share her story as a breast cancer survivor. Read more in the HSC News...

_Dr. Amelie G. Ramirez_, Director of Institute for Health Promotion Research, appointed to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Scientific Advisory Board.

_Drs. Amelie G. Ramirez and Cynthia Mulrow_ elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Read more in the HSC News...

_Dr. Pam Otto_, Professor and Director of UHS Radiology, has been selected by University Hospital System as Physician of the 3rd Quarter. The award will be presented to Dr.Otto at the UHS Board of Manager’s Meeting scheduled on 10/23/07.

The **Regional Academic Health Center’s employees and students** held a bake and garage sale to raise money for about four local charities. They raised about $400 in cash and donated left over items from the garage sale.

_Dr. Daniel L. Santa Maria_, Resident of Rehabilitation Medicine , recognized by the American Board of Physical Medicine for passes part of the boards with the highest score in the nation.

South Central Region Hyundai Dealers, Hyundai Motor America, donated to the HSC $30,000 for pediatric cancer research.

_Dr. Janet Realini_, Family & Community Medicine, appeared on Texas Public Radio regarding Project WORTH. To listen to the broadcast, please visit [http://www.tpr.org/programs/news.html](http://www.tpr.org/programs/news.html) and select A Pregnant Pause: Part 2: Project WORTH.

U.S. Army and the HSC signed a five-year $11.3 million contract to **support trauma research.**
Announcements

Dr. L. David Hillis has been selected as the Dan Parman Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Hillis currently holds the Daniel W. Foster Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine and is the Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Dr. Hillis is one of our country’s most eminent cardiologists and leaders in academic medicine. After graduation from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, he was a house officer in Medicine at UT Southwestern and served as the Chief Medical Resident under Dr. Donald Seldin. His cardiology training was served at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital under the tutelage of Dr. Eugene Braunwald. Upon completion of his training, Dr. Hillis joined the faculty at UT Southwestern where he has become known over the years as a leading authority on ischemic heart disease and coronary artery disease.

Please congratulate Dr. Jan Patterson who has served as Interim Chair of the department so ably. She has proven to be a superb recruiter, a creative administrator and an excellent leader and motivator. Dr. Patterson is a physician and scientist of the first rank, and all of us are enormously grateful to her for her service.

The national search for our new Chair was a tremendous effort by many, and I would also be remiss if I did not extend my thanks and appreciation to Dr. Bob Schenken and the Medicine Chair Search committee which consisted of Drs. Brigitte Bailey, Jane Barbosa, Joel Baseman, Bonnie Blankmeyer, Andrea Carpenter, Robert Esterl, Anthony Infante, David Jimenez, Darlene Metter, Robert Parker, Amelie Ramirez, Robert Reddick, Spencer Redding, and Christi Walter as well as our hospital and clinic partners, Dr. Richard Bauer, Mr. Don Beeler, Dr. Karen Fields and Mr. George Hernandez. To each of them go our thanks for their rigorous and successful efforts.

Please welcome Dr. and Mrs. David Hillis to San Antonio and extend sincere thanks to Dr. Patterson for her excellent service. A reception will be announced in the near future.

Dr. Ruth E. Berggren has been selected as the Interim Director of the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics. Dr. Berggren assumes the leadership of the Center from Dr. Abraham Verghese who led the program to national prominence during his five years of excellent service.

Dr. Berggren is an Associate Professor of Medicine and is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. She received her MD degree from Harvard, her medical training at the Massachusetts General Hospital and infectious diseases subspecialty training at the University of Colorado.

Please wish Dr. Berggren well in her new role.

Dr. Charles Akos Szabo has been selected as the Interim Chair of the Department of Neurology. The Department of Neurology was elevated from a Division in the Department of Medicine to a freestanding Department by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on September, 2007.

Dr. Szabo is currently an Associate Professor and Director of the Epilepsy Surgery Program in the School of Medicine. He is Board Certified in Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy. He received his MD degree from the University of Vienna Medical School and his medical training and Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Please congratulate Dr. Merrill Carolin for her thoughtful stewardship of the Division of Neurology for the past ten months. Dr. Carolin’s guidance was particularly helpful in leading the Division to Departmental status.

Please wish Dr. Szabo well in his new role and in thanking Dr. Carolin for a job well done.

Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases: Update Symposium
November 9, 2007 from 7am to 5:45pm
GCCRI 8403 Floyd Curl Dr.
Contact 210/567-4446 to register by credit card

The deadline for submitting the 2007-2008 Regularly Scheduled Series (also known as RSCs) Applications for CME Credit is Friday, November 16, 2007. Send completed applications to Hilda Cheatum in the CME Office. If you have questions, please contact Hilda Cheatum via e-mail cheatum@uthscsa.edu or call 567-4447.
FOCAL POINTS: DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY MEDICINE

The mission of the Department of Family and Community Medicine (FCM) is to invent a healthier future for families and communities in San Antonio, South Texas and beyond. Investigators in the department are re-inventing the way primary care is organized and delivered and unlocking the mysteries surrounding domestic violence by using complexity science.

Associate Professor Michael Parchman is conducting innovative research to change the way diabetes care is delivered in primary care offices. His research focuses on improving quality and outcomes of care for patients with type 2 diabetes who are seen in primary care settings. He recently completed an observational study of the care provided to patients with type 2 diabetes in 20 diverse primary care clinic settings across South Texas. The results of this work led to a recent $2 million R18 translational research grant from NIDDK to conduct a cluster-randomized trial of an organizational intervention to reduce risk factors for diabetes complications among patients who are seen in primary care clinics. The intervention and measurements in this trial are based on the assumption that these clinics are complex adaptive systems and exhibit non-linear dynamic behavior. Funding started May 1, 2007 and recruitment is underway in the South Texas Ambulatory Research Network, the practice-based research network (PBRN) comprised of primary care physicians in South Texas based out of the department.

Professor David Katerndahl is conducting clinical research designed to unlock the patterns of domestic violence expression among families attending our clinics. Along with co-investigators Drs. Sandra Burge and Robert Ferrer, he applies innovative concepts from complexity science to attempt to understand and predict the dynamics of domestic violence. A pilot study funded by the National Science Foundation demonstrated the feasibility of a methodology using telephone diaries for daily assessments of partner interactions and violence.

Professor Jaén is leading the evaluation of a large and ambitious project designed to transform medical practices into patient-centered medical homes. The project is supported by grants from the Commonwealth Fund and the American Academy of Family Physicians. This $8 million project involves a national trial of 36 primary care practices implementing the TransforMED model of care. The early lessons from these national trials can be seen in action in our clinics. Whether patients are seen at the Leonard G. Paul Family Health Center at the Diagnostic Pavilion, the Family Health Center Downtown or at any of the geriatric clinics throughout the city, patients enjoy advanced access, outstanding quality care and superb patient service. We offer extended office hours from 8AM to 7 PM every day and are open on Saturday mornings. We still accept new patients. You can call us at 592-0150.

KUDOS to Robert L. Ferrer, MD, MPH, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Research of FCM. His paper “Contact with U.S. Primary Care and Specialty Clinicians by Demographics, Insurance, and Health Status” was selected as a Distinguished Paper at the North American Primary Care Research Group Annual Meeting in Vancouver, October 20-22, 2007.

Carlos Roberto Jaén, MD, PhD, Professor and Chairman of Family and Community Medicine, has been selected as the Vice Chair of the Expert Panel of the U.S. Public Health Service that is revising the Clinical Guidelines “Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence” scheduled for publication in early 2008.

Carlos Roberto Jaén, MD, PhD, FAAFP
The Dr. John M. Smith, Jr. Professor and Chairman,
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