Dean's Comments: RESIDENCY MATCH TRENDS

On March 20th, fourth year medical students around the country eagerly awaited their entry into residency programs. The students in our School of Medicine were no different. Outside in the fresh Texas air, spouses, parents, children, faculty, staff and students, stood anxiously listening as each student was called up to the stage and given an envelope that would reveal their destiny.

For over 50 years, Match Day has become a rite of passage for graduating medical students across the country and across the generations. The Match was established in 1952 to provide a fair vehicle for students to apply to residency programs. According to the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), which conducts the Match, more than 94 percent of seniors who applied for residencies this year were paired with a program of their choice – the highest percentage in more than three decades. This year, 99 percent of School’s 197 students were successful in obtaining a position.

As significant as Match Day is for the medical students, it is equally significant for the healthcare profession as a whole. Match Day unveils the latest trends regarding residency selection. “It tells us where our student’s interests lie and how those interests compare nationally,” said Dr. Nanette Clare, Senior Associate Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

This year there was a marked increase in family residency positions, 7.6 percent nationally up from 7.2 percent. There were also more family medicine positions offered, reversing a significant decline in available positions since 1998. The highest number of students went to the Internal Medicine specialty followed by Anesthesiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics respectively. In an unusual surge we had 15 students match to psychiatry.

Approximately 46 percent of our graduates matched to resident training sites in Texas, which includes about 19 percent who stay here in San Antonio. The other 54 percent of graduates matched to programs across the United States. Having such a large percentage stay here in the South Texas Region or return to San Antonio is critical, as our region depends on the School of Medicine to serve as the primary provider of physicians and on the Health Science Center as the primary source for healthcare professionals. In addition, programs which exist at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen provide educational rotations for third and fourth year students, and, ultimately, lead to physicians assuming positions of leadership in the lower Rio Grande region of Texas.

Schools of Medicine exist to educate the future of health. In South Texas, our Health Science Center at San Antonio is a beacon in that charge. As a community of physicians and healthcare providers, it is our responsibility to encourage our students and become examples to them as they go into their residency programs to hone their skills in the various specialties.

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
Welcome New Faculty

Anesthesiology
Dr. Erik A. Boatman joined on May 1, 2008 as a full time Clinical Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1999.

Dr. Ethan Ross Rosenberg joined on May 19, 2008 as a full time Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from The University of Miami School of Medicine in 2002 and completed an internship and residency from the University of Virginia in 2007.

Radiology
Dr. Won S. Song joined on May 5, 2008 as a part time Clinical Assistant Professor. He earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 2001. He completed his Nuclear Medicine residency training at the HSC in June 2006.

Rehabilitation Medicine
Dr. J. William Wellborn joined on April 21, 2008 as part time Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from the University of Mexico, School of Medicine in 1983. He completed his four year Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation residency at the HSC in 1986.

Medicine
Dr. Swaminathan Padmanabhan joined on April 16, 2008 as a full time Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology & Medical Oncology at CTRC. He received his medical degree from Bangalore Medical College in 1996 and completed his residency training at Wayne State University in 2000. He completed his fellowship from University of Miami in 2003.

Surgery
Dr. Martin G. Schwacha joined on May 5, 2008 as full time Assistant Professor (pending P&T). He received his master of science in Physiology/Cell Biology in 1991 and his Ph.D. in 1992 from Albany Medical College. He completed his internship and residency at Gamble Institute of Medical Research in 1994 and Temple University School of Medicine in 1997.

Opthalmology
Dr. Saher Maswadi joined on May 1, 2008 as a full time Research Instructor. He earned his bachelor of science in Physics at Mu’Tah University in 1996 and his Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Hull Kingdom in 2002. He completed his residency in Ophthalmic laser application at the HSC in 2004.

Mr. Larry Pizzola joined the Division of Emergency Medicine on May 1, 2008 as full time Faculty Associate. He received his bachelor of arts in Physician Assisting from Creighton University in 1986 and his Masters of Physician Assistant Studies with a specialty in Cardiovascular Surgery from University of Nebraska in 1998.

Psychiatry
Dr. Elizabeth Hare joined on May 1, 2008 as a full time Instructor. She received her bachelor of arts in Biology from Bryn Mawr College in 1991 and her Ph.D. in Genetics from George Washington University in 1998. She has worked in the Division of Psychiatric Genetics at HSC for two years as a post doctoral fellow. She completed her internship at the US Psychiatric Genetics Research Training Program, San Antonio.

Dr. Alejandro Betancourt joined the RAHC on May 19, 2008 as part time Clinical Assistant Professor. He received his bachelor of science in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico in 1989 and his medical degree in 1992.

Dr. Robert O. Crous joined the RAHC on May 19, 2008 as part time Clinical Assistant Professor. He received his medical degree from the University of Stellenbosch in 1971. He completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency at the University of the Free State and at the University of Calgary in 1977.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gail Tomlinson, MD, PhD, appointed as the Interim Director of the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute (GCCRI). Dr. Tomlinson assumes the leadership of the GCCRI from Dr. Sharon Murphy who has led the Institute since its inception over five years ago.

Dr. Tomlinson is a Professor of Pediatrics and the Greehey Distinguished Chair in Genetics of Cancer. She currently serves as the Division Chief of Hematology, Oncology in the Department of Pediatrics and as the Deputy Director, Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Tomlinson is Board Certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and received her medical training at the George Washington University School of Medicine and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Duke University. She completed an internship and residency at the National Children’s Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Later, she completed a research fellowship in cancer genetics at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, followed by a formal fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Dr. Tomlinson directs the national registry of children with tumors of the liver. She has served on multiple national committees focusing on advancing research in childhood cancer and has published over 100 scientific papers. Her work in the genetics of childhood liver cancer was presented at the Best of Late-Breaking Research Session at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research. In 2006, she was also honored with a special appreciation award from the American Cancer Society. She will begin her duties effective May 1, 2008.

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office would like to announce the following conferences:

- 5/30/08 – Diabetic Guidelines and Treatment (jointly sponsored by the Community Medical Associates-UHS)
- 6/2/08 – HIV Update for Native American Providers (jointly sponsored by the Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas)
- 6/6-8/08 – 45th Annual Teaching Conference – Pediatrics for the Practitioner (sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics)
- 6/6-8/08 – Texas Infectious Disease Society Round Up 2008 (jointly sponsored by the Texas Infectious Disease Society, San Antonio, Texas)
- 6/27-7/2/08 – 31st Annual Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting (jointly sponsored by the Research Society on Alcoholism, Austin, Texas)

Please visit the CME website for more information: [http://cme.uthscsa.edu/](http://cme.uthscsa.edu/).
The following alumnus, faculty, fellows, residents, staff and/or students appeared in the news (television, print media or radio): Dr. Sunil Ahuja, Infectious Diseases; Dr. Steven Bailey, Medicine/Cardiology; Dr. Robin Brey, SOM dean’s office/research; Dr. Robert Campbell, Orthopaedics; Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, President; Dr. Tyler Curiel, UTHSC/CTRC; Dr. Daniel DeArmond, Thoracic Oncology/CTRC; Dr. Pedro Delgado, Psychiatry; Dr. Frank Giles, Hematology/Oncology/CTRC; Dr. Sandra Fox, Ophthalmology; Dr. Carlos Jaén, Family/Community Medicine; Dr. Scott Johnson, Surgery; Dr. David Jones, SOM dean’s office/admissions; Dr. Morton Kahlenberg, Surgery; Dr. Robert Marciniak, Hematology/Oncology/CTRC; Dr. Alan Peterson, Psychiatry; Dr. Kristen Plastino, Obstetrics/Gynecology; Dr. Basil Pruitt, Surgery; Dr. John Roache, Psychiatry; Dr. Vivek Singh, Psychiatry; Dr. Ian Thompson, Urology/CTRC; Dr. Ken Washburn, Transplant Center; Dr. Kaye Wilkins, Orthopaedics; Dr. Bin Zhang, Hematology/Oncology (March 2008)

Dr. Michael L. Parchman, Family & Community Medicine, was asked to serve as a liaison member of the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), representing the American Academy of Family Physicians. The National Diabetes Education Program is a federally funded program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and includes over 200 partners at the federal, state, and local levels, working together to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with diabetes. http://ndep.nih.gov/

His submission to the Academy Health Annual Scientific meeting in June was selected as one of the outstanding abstracts submitted. Academy Health is the professional home for health services researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners, and a leading, non-partisan resource for the best in health research and policy. The title of the presentation is: “Are efforts to improve technical quality of care competing with improving clinical outcomes?: the case of the elevated A1c.” http://www.academyhealth.org/

Dr. Carlayne Jackson, Neurology & Otolaryngology, was elected as a Fellow in the 2008-2009 Class of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM).

Neal Jackson, MS I, was elected as President and Laura Probst, MSI, was elected as Vice President of the Student Government Association for 2008-2009.

Rosemary Ojo, MS2, named as the School of Medicine 2008 Ambassador Scholar. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of North Texas. As an undergraduate, she received numerous honors and participated in many programs and organizations. She is currently the President of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and served as the Recruitment Chair her first year. Rosemary has been involved with the School of Medicine Office of Admissions Recruitment Committee and the Pre-Matriculation Program.
Selection of the School of Medicine Class of 2012 occurred this past February 1 and was a great success. Outstanding students were selected into a class of 240 including 51% men and 49% women and 25% underrepresented minority students. The average age of the class is 23. The grade point average of the accepted class was 3.61 and the average MCAT, 30. These academic averages only partially indicate the outstanding quality of our students as many of them have distinguished themselves through personal achievements both during and after their university studies.

The first and second year medical students organized an outstanding Welcome Weekend this past April. The purpose is to provide information on matriculating to our school, living in San Antonio, student life activities and financial aid information. Dean William Henrich welcomed over 180 of our accepted students and over 100 guests. The weekend festivities included a welcome reception Friday evening, breakfast on Saturday followed by presentations from Associate Deans and other resource personnel. Dr. Sunil Ahuja provided an outstanding presentation on his research and the role medical students can play in the discovery process. Tours, lunch and an afternoon of activities focused on housing was topped off by a barbecue and “friendly” softball game. It was a great opportunity for the Class of 2012 to get to know each other.

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