

# DEAN'S CORNER E-NEWSLETTER

*Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*July 7, 2005*

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine began a new tradition last Thursday, with our first Pre-Clinician's Ceremony sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. We are only the second osteopathic medical school in the country with such a tradition. The keynote address was delivered by William Anderson, DO, a pioneer in osteopathic medical education, a surgeon, and a leader of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. This ceremony marks the transition from second to third year in the medical school; but more importantly it is the start of formal clinical rotations and the added responsibilities related to direct patient care. In addition the Coleman Pre-Clinical Award was presented by our students to John David Orr, DO, and the new Basic Science Educator Award was presented to James Caffrey, PhD. Congratulation to both of these faculty members, as well as our entire faculty for the critical work you all do at shaping the future of our next generation of physicians, health care providers and scientists. In addition, congratulations to the class of 2007 who orchestrated this new tradition for the Health Science Center and TCOM.

Please supply any pertinent information to my office ([deantcom@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:deantcom@hsc.unt.edu)) by the third Thursday of the month, for inclusion in this Newsletter.

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### Student Affairs:

Thomas Moorman, Ed.D.

*Associate Vice President for Student Affairs*

## **Day on the Hill**

Doug Shriner, the Director of Financial Aid, was recently in Washington, D.C. to attend AACOM's "Capitol Hill Day" in conjunction with the AACOM's annual meeting. Together with Dr. Bruce Dubin and students Leslie Houston and Elizabeth Pearch, he visited the congressional offices of Senators Cornyn and Hutchinson and Congress-people Granger and Burgess from the House among others. Issues discussed included Title IV and Title VII regarding student aid funding and the current bills related to each. Funding for higher education runs a very real risk of being drastically cut this year with proposed federal budget reductions. Other groups, along with the one from Texas, were on the hill June 22 to try influence and minimize those cuts.

## **Pre-Clinician Ceremony**

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine initiated their first Pre-Clinician Ceremony on June 30, 2005. Dr. William Anderson, Past President of the American Osteopathic Association and Dr. Roy Martin, Associate Professor of Clinical Ethics each addressed the incoming MS 3 students with words of encouragement. Dr. James Caffrey was presented the Basic Science Faculty Member of the Year Award and Dr. David Orr received the M.L. Coleman Pre-Clinical Faculty Member of the Year Award. Both were acknowledged for their teaching and service to students. Additionally, six area Medical Residents were recognized for excellence in teaching. Congratulations to the Medical Student Class of 2007 on their transition from the classroom to the clinic. The Pre-Clinician ceremony was sponsored by grants from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the American Osteopathic Association. A special thanks to the Medical Student Government Association and the Class of 2006 for hosting the event.

## **The Class of 2009 is coming!**

The Medical Student Class of 2009 will be arriving on campus for orientation on Monday, July 25.

### **Clinical Affairs / Faculty Practice:**

Robert Adams, D.O.

*Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs/Chief Medical Officer*

[No article this month.]

### **Educational Programs:**

Don Peska, D.O.

## *Associate Dean for Educational Programs*

It's an old joke in graduate medical education....."don't get sick on July 1". Last week saw the start of a new academic year for our internship and residency programs around the State of Texas. We begin 2005-2006 with nearly one hundred house staff in osteopathic programs at our affiliate teaching sites. Additionally, the year begins with the applications of two more sites, Brazos Valley Family Medicine and Conroe Family Medicine, either pending before the American Osteopathic Association or in the final stages of development. Our new doctors are enthusiastic and anxious to work but are just a little green. Perhaps just as important to them is that they have now joined the workforce and can start retiring a mountain of student loans. We wish them all success in their endeavors and look forward to having them as professional colleagues.

### **Academic Affairs:**

**Bruce Dubin, D.O., J.D.**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Medical Education*

### **A New Start to a New Year**

As the academic year begins again this July/August, we are looking forward to some exciting changes in the Department of Medical Education. The Everett Hall renovation will be completed with new carpeting, seats, and electronic access to the internet at every chair. Students will be able to bring their laptops into the Everett classroom and instructors will utilize our "library without walls" as they teach students the finer points of medicine. Also second year students will receive advanced training in the use of laptop access to MDConsult and PDA access to important information during year II that will prepare them for their all important clinical rotations.

This new year we are further extending our utilization of clinical integrated sessions in both years one and two with the additional incorporation of integrated keypads and case presentations rather than lectures. TCOM has been in the forefront using this learning methodology among all the osteopathic medical schools in the country. This model of teaching provides increased learning and advanced critical thinking, as the classroom shifts from a place of pure knowledge acquisition to an atmosphere of acquisition and application of medical precepts. We look forward to furthering this process.

Congratulations to all the TCOM faculty and staff who participated in the recent educational meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in Bethesda, Md. UNTHSC/TCOM was responsible for over 30% of the seminar presentations and 40% of the poster presentations at this conference. A job well done by hardworking individuals. Our presentations were well received and greatly appreciated by the entire osteopathic academic community.

### **Clinical Research:**

Michael Clearfield, D.O.

*Associate Dean for Clinical Research*

The new Grant Peer Reader Committee has been formed and is accepting grants for review prior to their being submitted for funding. In order to make this process work you should submit the grant a month before the due date so that the grant can be reviewed and modified if necessary before submission. Please send the grants for review to Dr. Dillon's office.

Please send in your intramural grant requests for probable allocation of funding in September. As previously stated in this column new faculty, grants focused on OMM, diabetes/metabolic syndrome/obesity, and geriatric issues will have a priority score. Other areas will probably also be funded so do not hesitate to submit your pilot project.

The first dual degree conference for our profession occurred last week at Michigan State. From all accounts it was a success and plans are being initiated to have a second conference next year. More to come on this issue.

As this academic year approaches the home stretch I am happy to report that we have already surpassed last year in research funding. A hearty congratulations for all of you who have contributed to the research efforts not only this year for all the years of our growing success.

### **PA Studies:**

Hank Lemke, P.A.

### **TCOM Faculty and Students Provide Medical Mission to Nicaragua**

Patti Pagels PA-C returned recently from a week-long medical mission trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua, where she was accompanied by PA student Sapril Nguyen and her sister Kim (who is applying to TCOM next year as a DO student) and Maro Ohanian (MS-4 from the DO class of 2006). Together, PA Pagels and her associates examined and treated nearly 400 patients over 4 days. Pagels reports encountering maladies that stretched from Otitis Media, heart murmurs, and congenital syndromes to Hypertension, Diabetes, gastritis, thyroid nodules, and rheumatoid arthritis during their charitable clinic operations. "We were part of a dental and optical mission as well," says Pagels, who worked with a local physician Dr Edgar Javier Davila, a recent graduate of the National University in Managua, Nicaragua. The team also contributed medicines to a local Nicaraguan public hospital having an estimated value in excess of \$10,000.

### **PA Program Admissions News**

We look forward to enrolling 30 new PA students at the Health Science Center this Fall. Thirty new PA students will be participating alongside other Health Science Center students in

orientation activities scheduled for July 25th - 29th. The PA students will begin their first semester of classes and their new careers on August 1st!

### **Test Bank Progress**

A very special “thank you” goes out to Ms. Natasha Cha, PA-C, who is a graduate of the UNTHSC PA Class of 2005. For the past 6 weeks, while also studying and preparing for the national PA certifying exam, Ms. Cha has been contributing to her Alma Mater by building the corpus of our electronic test bank. Ms. Cha has personally read, categorized and typed more than 600 test items that will serve as cornerstone of the PA program’s developing test bank. She’s done a great job for us and we wish her the very best as she will soon move into her new role as a full-fledged PA working with Dr. Rubin in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology. No doubt she will prove herself as a great asset to their efforts as she has done here in PA Studies.

### **Linda Reed to Research How Medical and PA Students Learn**

Linda Reed, PA, Associate Director for PA Studies and Ed.D. candidate, presented her proposed research project during Education Grand Rounds on June 27th. Ms Reed is planning to evaluate Non-Cognitive Contributors to Success and Failure in Medical Professions Training Programs as a part of completing her doctoral degree requirements. During the upcoming new student orientation, she will administer the first of two surveys designed to assess and measure the D.O. and PA students motivations to learn and hopefully discover what factors contribute to successful learning; the second survey will given at the end of the first semester. PA Reed hopes to broaden the scope of her research in this area to other schools later after her dissertation is complete.

### **Science and Health News:**

#### **US moves to spur digital health records nationwide**

*Reuters Health*

[June 8, 2005]

By LISA RICHWINE

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government is taking steps to help spawn a nationwide network of electronic medical records that are easily accessible but protect patient privacy, Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said on Monday.

A new advisory panel will make recommendations aimed at prodding the private sector to establish standards so medical records can be shared throughout the health-care system, Leavitt said.

"In order for health IT (information technology) to move forward, we have to have interoperable standards ... creating a system where information is digital, privacy protected and interchangeable," Leavitt said in an interview.

Doctors and hospitals have been slow to embrace digital technology, although advocates say using it to replace paper files could lower costs substantially and reduce medical errors.

The new panel, announced by Leavitt at a health IT meeting in New York, will have 17 government and private sector members, plus Leavitt as chairman. The group will give recommendations on how to make health records compatible among varying computer systems while keeping patient information secure. The panel will exist for at least two years and possibly as long as five years.

In addition, the government is asking for industry proposals for software standards and certification for an Internet-based system to exchange health information.

Government health programs such as Medicare will adopt the standards, helping to push private health-care providers and others to use the same systems, Leavitt said.

"Federal government agencies will be a full partner in developing these standards, and when they are developed we will adopt them and we will later ask those who do business with us to adopt them," Leavitt said.

President George W. Bush has set a goal for most Americans to have electronic health records by 2014.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said Leavitt's ideas were a good start but legislation was needed to "give real momentum to the movement to modernize American health care."

"Bolder action is needed to relieve Americans from crushing health costs," Kennedy said.

Several lawmakers are developing legislation to provide incentives for adopting electronic medical records to the doctors and hospitals that will bear the costs of upgrading their systems.

Leavitt said the technology also would be a boost to the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to monitor drug side effects because reports from throughout the country could be gathered quickly for analysis.

### **[Health Policy News:](#)**

#### **Senate, House Differ on VA Medical Care Funding Solution**

Following an announcement from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that the agency was \$1 billion short of funding for veterans health care in FY 2005, both the Senate and the House June 29 moved to add more funding but disagreed on the amount. The Senate added \$1.5 billion for the VA to its version the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill. The Senate proposal is intended to address the funding gap in FY 2005 and provide some additional resources to partially close an anticipated shortfall in FY 2006. The House, meanwhile, agreed to an Administration request calling for a \$975 million supplemental appropriation to address only FY 2005, a proposal the Senate promptly rejected as too low.

### **CMS Letter Reviews Its Value-Based Purchasing Activities**

A June 24 letter from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D. to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.) and Health Subcommittee Chair Nancy Johnson (R-Conn.) summarizes a range of activities in which CMS has participated to move Medicare more towards "value-based purchasing." The letter discusses CMS' involvement in the development of quality indicators and systems for reporting and analyzing quality indicators, as well as its experience with a number of CMS programs that tie quality measures to Medicare payment. The letter is in response to a June 16 letter from Reps. Thomas and Johnson requesting that CMS document their experience.

### **Senators, Members of Congress Circulate Post-Acute Transfer Letter**

Senators Craig Thomas (R-Wyo.) and Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Reps. Jim Nussle (R-Iowa) and Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) are circulating for signatures a "Dear Colleague" letter urging Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., "not to implement and further broaden the post-acute transfer provision."

### **Senate Panel Votes to Expand Uses of Cord Blood Stem Cells**

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee June 29 approved a bill to expand the use of cord blood stem cells in transplants and for research. The "Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005" (S. 1317), which the committee passed by voice vote, incorporates an earlier cord blood bill (S. 681) with language from a broader House-passed bill (H.R. 2520) that would help improve recruitment and collection procedures in the bone marrow program.

### **NRC Assessment of NIH Minority Research Programs**

Do the NIH minority research training programs work? In an NIH-sponsored report, "Assessment of NIH Minority Training Programs: Phase 3," a panel of the National Academies' National Research Council set out address this question by analyzing NIH minority trainee educational and career outcomes. Part of a three phase study, this report highlights the benefits

the programs offer to trainees and the national interest, while emphasizing the need for an ongoing and rigorous evaluation process to facilitate program improvement. John Bailer, III, M.D., Ph.D., professor emeritus of Health Studies at the University of Chicago, and Willie Pearson, Jr., Ph.D., professor and chair of the School of History, Technology and Society at the Georgia Institute of Technology, co-chaired the study.

### **Research and Funding Opportunities:**

NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts - Week Of July 1, 2005

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/WeeklyIndex.cfm?WeekEnding=07-01-05>

### **Notices**

Change in Status of Program Announcement PAR-03-138

(NOT-AI-05-046)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

National Institute of Mental Health

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-05-046.html>

Amendment to RFA-AI-05-027 "Asthma and Allergic Diseases Cooperative Research Centers" (NOT-AI-05-047)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-05-047.html>

HIV Vaccine Design and Development Teams (HVDDT): NIH-NIAID-DAIDS-BAA-06-19 (NOT-AI-05-048)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-05-048.html>

Change in NIEHS Policy Regarding Support of Scientific Meetings

(NOT-ES-05-007)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-ES-05-007.html>

Clarification of Submission Requirements, PA-04-028, "Competing Continuation Awards of SBIR Phase II Grants for Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Disorders"

(NOT-HL-05-124)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-05-124.html>

Notice of Limited Competition for Competitive Continuation of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)

(NOT-RR-05-007)



National Center for Research Resources

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-RR-05-007.html>

### **Requests for Applications**

Hyperaccelerated Award/Mechanisms in Immunomodulation Trials  
(RFA-AI-05-028)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-05-028.html>

Development And Validation of Technologies for Saliva-Based Diagnostics  
(RFA-DE-06-003)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Application Receipt Date(s): November 14, 2005

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DE-06-003.html>

Research on Research Integrity

(RFA-NR-06-001)

National Institute of Nursing Research

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

National Cancer Institute

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Office of Research Integrity

Application Receipt Date(s): September 16, 2005

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-06-001.html>

### **Program Announcements**

Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity

(PAR-05-132)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Application Receipt Date(s): February 1, 2006, 2007, and 2008

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-05-132.html>

Short-Term Courses In Human Embryonic Stem Cell Culture Techniques  
(PAR-05-133)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

Food and Drug Administration  
National Cancer Institute  
National Center for Research Resources  
National Eye Institute  
National Institute on Aging  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
National Institute on Drug Abuse  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders  
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences  
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
Application Receipt Date(s): September 08, 2005  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-05-133.html>

Applications of Imaging and Sensor Technologies for Clinical Aging Research  
(SBIR/STTR)  
(PAS-05-131)  
National Institute on Aging  
Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAS-05-131.html>

### **Quotes:**

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother.  
**Kahlil Gibran**

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.  
**Henry Ward Beecher**

Marc

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