

Dean's Corner e-Newsletter
April 16, 2003

I have just returned from a week in Austin, serving as an oral board examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology, a yearly activity I have participated in for the past 10 years. This year, we examined over 800 candidates who have both successfully completed their residencies, and passed their written board examination.

I have great news for everyone on this campus. As you recall, last year, the medical school was ranked, for the first time, by US News and World Report as the 39th best medical school in the country for Primary Care. This year we have advanced to number 20 in the country of all medical schools (DO and MD)! In addition, the PA program was ranked at 33rd in the country, and our Geriatrics program 15th! This recognition comes from the hard work of our faculty and staff, and the track record of successes that our students have achieved. I am proud of the efforts of the entire TCOM family; the world is now recognizing the myriad of accomplishments from our campus!

Last week I joined our student representatives in participating with the Student DO Day on the Hill program in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). We visited Senators Cornyn and Hutchison's offices. Along with various members of the House, to include Rep. Kay Granger.



Texas group with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

The following students made the trip to DC:

David Brabham, 2004; Elizabeth Pearch, 2006; Bob Casimir, 2006; Melinda Wenner, 2005; Eric Lincoln, 2006; Nikoletta Leontaritis, 2005; Natacha Torres, 2006; Diana Kharbat, 2005; Lawrence Lee, 2006; Theresa Poth, 2006; Janice Thomas, 2005; Shailendra Das, 2005; LaPonna Irvine Moore, 2006; Matthew Stine, 2006; Leslie Reddell, 2006; Kristel Leubner, 2005; Samera Kasim, 2006; LeeAnn Lam, 2005; Cheng (James) Feng, 2006; Vinoop Dagglibati, 2006; Yamileth Cazorla-Lancaster, 2005; Reagann Richards, 2005; Tam Vu, 2006; Amanda Cofer, 2004; Cedric Pratt, 2006; Trinh Nguyen, 2005; Frances

Spiller, 2003 ; Angela Pirooz, 2005 ; Vanesa Violante, 2005 ; Carley Holman, 2005; Scott Young, 2003; Kai-Yan (Kenny) Cheng, 2006; Jennifer Thigpen, 2006; Sue Bacsik, 2004

In addition, last week was the 11th Annual Research Appreciation Day at UNTHSC. The event was once again well attended. We had numerous submissions from TCOM, as well as from our dual degree students.

Winning submissions from TCOM:

Lindsay McBride	Class 2005	Physician Practice Patterns, Patient Factors, and Standard Of Care In Type Ii Diabetes <i>AUTHORS:</i> Lindsay M. McBride, M.S., Susan F. Franks, Ph.D., Peggy Smith-Barbaro, Ph.D., James R. Hall, Ph.D., A. Clifton Cage, DO, Nicole Bereolos, Catherine Andrews, Sarah Brasher, Samuel T. Coleridge, DO
E. Ryann McClennen	Class 2006	The Association Between Socioeconomic Status, Health Insurance Coverage, Social Support, and Quality Of Life In Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients <i>AUTHORS:</i> E.R. McClennen, MS, J. Prejean, RM, BSN, OCN, R. Page, DO, PhD.
Jenny Wiggins	Class 2006	The Effectiveness Of Outpatient Antiemetic Therapy For Patients On Platinum, Captosar, and Anthracycline-Based Chemotherapy <i>AUTHORS:</i> Jenny Wiggins, MS, Julie Prejean, RN, BSN, OCN, Ray Page, DO, PhD.
Yamileth Cazorla-Lancaster	TCOM Class 2005/School of Public Health	Within Group Differences In Depression Among Older Hispanics <i>AUTHORS:</i> -Y. Cazorla-Lancaster, R.N. Jones, Sc.D.

Winning submissions from the School of Public Health:

Rong Ye, MPH	Biostatistics School of Public Health	Behavior Risk Factors Associated With Suicide Attempt in Adolescents <i>Authors:</i> Rong Ye, MD, Sejoin Bae, PhD, Shande Chen, PhD, Karan Singh, PhD, Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, Francisco Soto Mas
Kyla Hagan, MPH	Epidemiology School of Public Health	Using GIS to Assess Public Health Preparedness in North Texas
Charolette Lippolis, DO, MPH	TCOM 2004/ and School of Public Health	Bioterrorism Preparedness Training: Two Medical Education Interventions Assessed <i>Authors:</i> Charolette Lippolis, Muriel Marshall, DO, DrPH, Ronald Blanck, DO, Daisha Cipher, PhD, Antonio Rene, MPH, PhD

Winning submissions from Basic Sciences:

Dongmei Lu	Molecular Biology & Immunology	Involvement of Protein Kinase B in Anti-Apoptotic Signaling of Protein Kinase C <i>AUTHORS:</i> Shalini Persaud, Alakananda Basu
Jordan Senne	Molecular Biology & Immunology	Dendritic Cell Activation & Maturation in Response to Mycoplasma <i>in vitro</i> <i>AUTHORS:</i> Jordan Senne, Xiangle Sun PhD, Matthew Wollard, Drew Ivey, Jerry Simecka PhD.
Samrat Das	Cell Biology &	The effect of BMP-4 on the expression of BMP

	Genetics	and TGF beta growth factors & their receptors in cells isolated from the human optic nerve head <i>AUTHORS:</i> Samrat Das, W. Lambert, R. Agrawal, T. Tovar, X Liu, AF Clark, RJ Wordinger, Phd
Eric Gonzalez	Pharmacology & Neuroscience	Multiple Phenylalanine Mutations at TM2 6' Position Alters Desensitization in GABA type A Receptor <i>AUTHORS:</i> EB Gonzales, CL Bell-Horner, GH Dillon
Paromita Das	Molecular Biology & Immunology	Sorting out the molecular determinants important in convulsant drug action in the 5-hydroxytryptamine type 3-receptors <i>AUTHORS:</i> Paramita Das, Cathy Bell-Horner, Tina Machu, Glenn Dillon
Christina Malakowsky	Molecular Biology & Immunology	Identification of oxidized plasma proteins for diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease <i>AUTHORS:</i> Christina A. Malakowsky, John M. Talent, Joungil Choi, Cragi C. Conrad and Robert W. Gracy PhD.
Peter Gargalovic, Ph.D.	Molecular Biology & Immunology	Caveolin-1 as an early and specific marker of macrophage apoptotic phenotype <i>AUTHORS:</i> Peter Gargalovic, Ladislav Dory
Dixie Peters-Hybki	Cell Biology & Genetics (FGEN)	Validation of Applied Biosystem's TAQMAN Human Quantitation Assay <i>AUTHORS:</i> Dixie Peters Jybki, Joun Planz, PhD, Robert L. Green
Ahmad Tawil	Biomedical Sciences (BIOT)	Comparison of Subcellular Distribution of PKC Delta in Cisplatin Sensitive & Resistant HeLa Cells <i>AUTHORS:</i> Ahmad Tawil, Jie Huang, Alakananda Basu
Marty Knott	Integrative Physiology	Lymphatic Pump Treatments Increase Thoracic Duct Flow <i>AUTHORS:</i> Marty Knott, BA Johnathan, D Tune, PhD., Scott Stoll, DO, PhD, H. Fred Downey, Ph.D
Rebecca Ann Deaton	Biomedical Sciences	PKN-Mediated Activation of Smooth Muscle-specific genes... <i>AUTHORS:</i> Rebecca Deaton, Chang Su, Stephen Grant
Xinyu Zhang	Pharmacology & Neuroscience	Differential Expression of Glucocorticoid Receptor... <i>AUTHORS:</i> X. Zhang, Abbot F. Clark, T. Yorio, Ph.D
Vinay Parameswara	Molecular Biology & Immunology	PP-2A is Associated with Synapsin-1 in INS-1 Cells & Regulates Insulin Secretion <i>AUTHORS:</i> Vinay Parameswara, Nopporn Thangthaeng, Richard Easom

Please supply any pertinent information to my office (deantcom@hsc.unt.edu) by Thursday, for inclusion in this Newsletter.

Student Affairs: (Dr. Forman and Ms. Graham)

No news reported for Student Affairs.

Clinical Affairs / Faculty Practice: (Dr. Adams)

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs/Chief Medical Officer

There have been several questions following Dr. Hahn's presentation at the faculty meeting on March 26th. His comments relative to the clinical performance year-to-date and the mid year adjustments seem to have stimulated some interest. Let me clarify some of the points in answer to the common questions I've received. The deficit year to date represents our true cash position, but includes some expenses associated with the recruiting of 5 new physicians this year. Many of the costs associated with these new faculty members will be adjudicated in July, which will help our financial position. We don't know how much that helps, but we do have money set aside to cover these costs. The mid year adjustments that were recommended were based on an actual accounting of revenues and expenses by provider, division, department, and division. The increases that occurred were funded from our incentive fund that was part of this year's budget. There will be an additional fund set aside for the last six months of the year. When it was identified where reductions needed to occur, decreasing salary was the last option considered. Where possible, salary expenses were shifted to other sources of funding, such as grants and GME funds. Only when other sources could not be identified to offset the expense was a reduction recommended. Fortunately, we were able to identify a large amount of dollars and the actual number of salary reductions was minimal. Quite simply, we need to generate more revenues than expenses and in many instances this has not occurred. As stated during the meeting, the actual reduction of monthly expenses needed was estimated to be \$105,000. These changes will begin to show on our financial reports during the months of March and April. There are no current plans to make further adjustments, but the financial position will be monitored and action taken as it is deemed appropriate. I appreciate all the effort being made by so many people to increase productivity and decrease expenses across the group practice. We're going through a transition that is extremely difficult, and painful for a few. From what I read and hear, this is common across the healthcare industry. For the remainder of this year we have to manage our budget to end where we want to be, profitable. As we begin the budget process for next year, we will work to better define the financials of the clinical practice and appropriate methods for funding. The emphasis for the medical school is education and primary care, so the development of our practice should support these areas.

Academic Affairs/Graduate Medical Education: (Dr. Blackwell)

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

The Office of Academic Affairs has just completed a successful focused AOA site visit with preliminary results demonstrating that TCOM has met all standards for an increase in class size and received two commendations. My thanks to each of you who represented the institution in your interviews with Dr. Ken Veit. As the Dean of PCOM, he was very impressed with our faculty, our dedication to education, and the positive attitude of our students.

In coordination with Student Affairs, the Office of Academic Affairs has finalized the 8th Semester schedule for the Class of 2003. This schedule will be abbreviated from the past and will implement new educational forums for our graduating seniors to prepare them for post-graduate training.

The Class of 2003 has almost completed their selections for GME training. The unofficial results show the following specialty selections: FM-31, IM-26, Traditional Internship- 12, OB-7, Pediatrics-8, EM-6, Surgery-5, PMR-4, Psych-3, Anesthesiology, Path, Radiology-2 each, IM-Peds and Derm-1 each. Approximately 25% of our students matched with osteopathic programs.

Medical Education: (Michael Martin, Ph.D.)

Acting Associate Dean for Medical Education

No input from Medical Education for this edition.

Department of Education: (Drs. Alexander and Anderson)

The Department of Education is exploring, with staff at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), the possible creation of a national website for Faculty Development educational materials for use by faculty. AACOM staff has agreed to spearhead this project and to attempt to involve faculty from each of the colleges of osteopathic medicine. The resources proposed for the website would include a broad collection of best practices in education.

Dr. Alexander and his Academic Information Services staff have developed an online Faculty Development Survey that was used recently by AACOM to sample the interest in a faculty development of a select group of 22 individuals from the colleges of osteopathic medicine. Following a strongly positive initial response from each institution, AACOM has asked each school to assess the level of interest among its entire faculty.

Please take a few short minutes to complete the Faculty Development Survey located at the following website: <http://survey.hsc.unt.edu/aacom>

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and is an opportunity for you to express your level of interest in supporting efforts to develop a national Faculty Development website for our entire faculty.

Contact Dr. Jerry Alexander (jalex@hsc.unt.edu or 817-735-2161) if you encounter any difficulty in accessing or completing the online survey.

Thank you very much. This is a valuable national effort that promises to serve as a very useful resource to faculty who are looking for current information and best practices in education.

Clinical Research: (Dr. Clearfield)

Associate Dean for Clinical Research

With Research Appreciation Day approaching on 4/4 I hope you will make the time to support your colleague's effort in this important mission of the institution.

The Fourth Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference (OCCTIC) was on 3/23-4. Our institution was well represented and the ORC under the direction of Dr. Stoll was recognized as the key to our success in collaborative research within our profession. I would like to congratulate Dr.'s Stoll, Crusier, and Smith et al for all their hard work in the continued evolution of the ORC in developing a research culture for the osteopathic profession.

Another area to be recognized is that certificate of recognition by the American Diabetes Association for the Diabetes Center. I would like to congratulate Dr. Spellman and his group on a job well done. As a certified center, our institution is taking a leadership role for the management of the diabetic patient in our community.

Lastly, at mid year TCOM is up ~350% in research funding compared to the same time period a year ago. Way to go, to all of you who have continued your research efforts. I believe this exemplifies our ability to move forward even in these difficult times. I applaud all of you for your dedication and commitment.

There will be two sessions for training on the new METI patient simulators in April. The dates for the 2 hour training sessions are 4/14 and 4/22 from 5-7 pm. A limit of 10 faculty per session with a first come, first serve priority. These sessions will allow you to have a basic understanding of how these new patient simulators work. They are models that breathe, have actual simulation of heart sounds, murmurs, rales, wheezes etc. Will give real time ecg, pressure readings to include CVP, swan ganz readings, O2 saturations, cardiac outputs etc that will fluctuate will clinical scenarios, ie shock states, vasopressors etc. These simulators will be effective teaching tools in cardiovascular and pulmonary physiology, pharmacology and pathology. They also simulate a multitude of ACLS scenerios. Other applications could include most other areas of medicine. If you are interested please email me at mclearfi@hsc.unt.edu, and I will notify you. Please specify the date you would prefer.

PA Studies: (from PA Lemke)

COMPUTERIZED TEST BANKING – GUEST FACULTY

On March 20, 2003, the PA program hosted to visiting faculty member, Claire O’Connell, MPH, PA-C. Ms O’Connell is an assistant professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey, where she teaches in their PA program and coordinates testing activities for the program. Ms. O’Connell presented consultation and guidance for the PA program on using the computerized test banking and test preparation software package, known as LXR. Ms O’Connell first became familiar with the LXR system for preparing, banking and delivering tests over six years when they started using at her home program.

CULTURAL AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY - GUEST FACULTY

Elizabeth de la Portilla, PhD spoke to PA students last week in their Special Populations in Practice course. Dr de la Portilla received her BA in Anthropology from UT San Antonio in 1995 and her MA in Anthropology from the University of Michigan in 1998. In 2002, she completed her PhD in Anthropology from University of Michigan. She is currently Assistant Professor of Mexican American Studies at UT San Antonio. Her research interest includes the "Use of Curanderismo in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and other medical conditions". Dr de la Portilla is also completing a manuscript for the University of Arizona entitled "Spirituality and Healing in the Borderlands". While here, Dr de la Portilla introduced PA students to the concept of curanderismo (healer) and its importance in the Hispanic community. She displayed numerous plants used by these healers for a hands-on interactive session. Thanks to Dr de la Portilla, these PA Students are now better prepared to understand the physical, spiritual, and mental aspects of patients who use curanderismo as a part of their approach to disease and wellness.

YET ANOTHER GUEST FACULTY

On 19 March the PA program welcomed Ms. Patricia Guerra, MPAS, PA-C to our campus as a guest lecturer. Ms. Guerra is assistant professor and clinical coordinator at the UT Southwestern PA Program. Ms. Guerra delivered a lecture to the PA students entitled "ICD-9/CPT Coding for the Physician Assistant". This lecture is part of the office management curriculum included in the "Professional Issues in Medical Practice", a 2nd year PA course.

DO AND PA STUDENTS JOIN FORCES AND "HEAD TO THE BORDER"

Three DO and six PA students traveled together for several hours to the El Paso border region for the annual "Border Health Trip." Students were accompanied by faculty members Patti Pagels, Assistant Professor, and Barbara Adams, Instructor, from the Department of Family Medicine. The participating students gained a unique opportunity to see border life and the state of healthcare delivery in the Colonias,

Herberias, and local health clinics for indigent patients. Throughout the week-long visit over Spring Break, students had opportunities to discuss cultural health perspectives with Promotores, community outreach workers in communities along the US-Mexico border, with patients and their family members, with faculty, and perhaps most importantly, with each other.

MSGA and Student Development News:

Through a joint effort of the Student Development Office and SOMA (Student Osteopathic Medical Association) the annual Internship and Residency Fair was held on March 28, 2003. Over 105 registered representatives (many recent alumnae) represented 43 different programs from across the country.

The fair was held for the benefit of the third year medical students, but could not have happened without the help of the 1st and 2nd year student volunteers. Student volunteers contributed to the success of the program by acting as “hosts” for the program reps and helped with each aspect of the program. It was beneficial to the students to meet and get to ask questions of the representatives prior to the program.

Samuel Maroney, SOMA Internship and Residency Fair Chairperson did a great job of organizing and planning a very successful event.

Preview Weekend and Spring Fling - The Office of Student Development, in conjunction with TCOM 2006 and PA 2005, welcomed over 75 of next year's 1st year students (TCOM 2007 and PA2006) and hosted an informative and fun weekend in their honor.

Preview weekend kicked off Friday night with a dinner and panel discussion which addressed important topics such as: how to balance a personal life with the rigors of med/pa school; managing family while in school; what to do over the summer to better prepare themselves for school; housing options; and the relationship between PA's and med students. After the panel discussion, the new students were led by current 1st years in tours of the campus and small group discussions. The evening concluded with a social at a local apartment complex clubhouse.

Saturday's Spring Fling was challenging in the cold; however, we had a great time. There was a basketball tournament sponsored by MSGA that had 13 teams participate. There was a bounce house for kids and “sumo wrestling” suits for the big kids. Risky's Bar-be-que catered a great lunch and everyone had a great time.

At the conclusion of Spring Fling, new students here for preview weekend got on the school vans and were given a tour of the neighborhood and possible housing options.

Thanks to everyone who helped, particularly TCOM 2006'ers Kyle Hendrix, Matt Stine, Dustin Tauferner, Tina Phillips, and Jennifer Elmore. Also, special thanks to Carrie Perderson, PA 2005 for coordinating the PA portion of the program.

Science and Health News:

AACOM's 2003 (Inaugural) Annual Meeting: "The Future of Medical Education" - June 26-28, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Bethesda, Maryland (Washington DC Area) Highlights:

** Thursday, June 26: Constituent Group Meetings/ Reception at the Smithsonian Joint meeting of the AACOM / AOA Boards

** Friday, June 27: Educational sessions, keynote, and presentations Keynote: Changes in the Health Care System: Implications for Medical Education Plated Lunch Discussions: Tables with a variety of educational topics (see website)

**** Saturday, June 28: Educational sessions, presentations and Board of Deans' Meeting Keynote: Implications for Medical Education from the Human Genome Project**

AACOM will introduce new virtual community software which will enable communication and collaboration among constituents using the internet. The meeting will feature a tech room which will provide an opportunity for hands-on experience and training using the new software.

In Washington DC, springtime weather can be quite nice. If you want to enjoy the most the area has to offer, bring your family, and explore the many wondrous museums and monuments in your capitol city.

The meeting coincides with the Healer Within exhibit being on display at the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building. The Healer Within is a traveling science center exhibit focusing on wellness from the perspective of osteopathic medicine.

Go to the site below to register for the meeting, book your hotel, and find out more. See you there!
<<http://www.aacom.org/calendar/events/annualmtg>> <http://www.aacom.org/calendar/events/annualmtg>

Please pass this on to others that might be interested.

Health Policy News:

House Members Express Concern Over Potential Medicaid Cuts - Expressing their opposition to the inclusion of Medicaid cuts in the final FY 2004 budget resolution, a group of Republicans and Democrats sent letters April 4 and April 7, respectively, to the budget conferees. The spending reductions have not been included in the final version. Both letters explain the importance of Medicaid as a safety net that ensures access to critical health and long term care. The letters also refer to the current fiscal challenges faced by states.

Republicans Try to Break Budget Deadlock - Republican leaders appear to have resolved the impasse over the size of the tax cut in the FY 2004 budget plan by sidestepping the question for now, allowing a compromise budget plan to move forward. The House April 10 adopted by a vote of 216 to 211 a conference report on the FY 2004 budget resolution that includes an unprecedented budget reconciliation procedure where the House and Senate will consider different tax bills and work out the differences later. The Senate was expected to approve the measure on April 11 before adjourning for the two-week congressional recess.

House Appropriators Address Bioterrorism Funding - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies discussed the funding for bioterrorism preparedness activities included in the Administration's FY 2004 budget proposal at an April 9 House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee hearing. Led by Jerome Hauer, acting assistant secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness, the panel, including National Institutes of Health Director Elias Zerhouni, M.D., Centers for Disease Control Director Julie Gerberding, M.D., Health Resources and Services Administration head Elizabeth James Duke, Ph.D., and National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, M.D., outlined the \$3.6 billion in the HHS budget designated for bioterrorism research and preparedness activities.

Supplemental Spending Package Stalls - House and Senate negotiators on the FY 2003 emergency supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 1559) remain deadlocked over several key issues, including the size of the overall package, how much flexibility to accord the Administration in the allocation of defense funds, and how much money to provide to the airline industry. Senate conferees also are angry at the House's refusal to accept a number of special interest items the Senate inserted into its version of the bill. Senate conferees did not attend a conference committee meeting scheduled for April 9.

Research and Funding Opportunities:

See Dr. Clearfield's section.

Quotes

Our legacy is defined by the impact we have on those who follow us.

-Anonymous

Marc

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