

# DEAN'S CORNER E-NEWSLETTER

*Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*April 30, 2007*

This has been an emotional month for your Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Health Science Center. It saddens me to report the death of two of our "HSC family". On April 9th, Sheila Zummo, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement, died in a tragic single automobile accident. Previously, she spent 24 years at the American Heart Association office in Fort Worth, where she started out as the chief fundraiser in 1982 and later became the executive director from 1990 to 2002. Throughout her career, Zummo was repeatedly recognized for her work as she received several awards including: American Heart Association's Jenny Glass Tribute Award for Career Service in 2004, Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International in 1998 and the American Heart Association Rome Betts Award of Excellence for Management of Metro Divisions in 1998. Ms. Zummo was returning home after running the Health Science Center's successful 2nd annual President's Invitational Golf Tournament.

On April 15th, Irvine "Bud" Prather, DO died in a motorcycle accident. He worked at the Health Science Center for 15 years, also serving as program director of the family practice residency program, 1992-2002; associate professor of sports medicine and rehabilitation, 1992-1993; vice chairman for postdoctoral studies in the department of family medicine, 1998-2002; and family medicine coordinator of the geriatric medical/dental fellowship at UNTHSC, 1996-2001. He had been the Director of the Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine Division since 2000.

We will miss them both!

A number of our clinical faculty were recognized as Top Doctors by Fort Worth Magazine in their April edition. Those physicians were: Ralph Anderson, MD; Barbara Atkinson, DO; Sam Buchanan, DO; Robert Cardarelli, DO, MPH; Brian Carpenter, DPM; Kathleen Crowley, MD; Jerry Dickey, DO; John Fling, MD; Russell Gamber, DO, MPH; Paul Garcia, DO; Alan Garrett, DPM; Bruce Gilfillan, DO; Jennifer Heffernan, MD; Long Hoang, DO; Janice Knebl, DO, MBA; Alan Levine, DO; Marianne Levine, DO; David Lichtman, MD; Salvatore LoCoco, MD; Sealy Massingill, MD; Alvin Mathe, DO; William McIntosh, DO; Travis Motley, DPM; Arvind Nana, MD; Carol Nati, MD; David Orr, DO; Rahul Patel, MD; Raymond Pertusi, DO; Alan Podawiltz, DO; John Podgore, DO; Mayme Richie-Gillespie, MD; Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH; Phillip Saperstein, DO; Frederick Schaller, DO; Craig Spellman, PhD; Scott Stoll, DO, PhD; Monte Troutman, DO; Russell Wagner; Steve Weis, DO; Martin Weiss, DO; Stuart Williams, DO; Scott Winter, DO and Albert Yurvati, DO. Congratulations to each of the award winners!

In addition, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Appreciation Day was held on April 6. I am going to add to the suspense by having you go to the Clinical Research and PA Studies section to see the winners' names! But I will tell you that I am proud of the ever increasing quality of the scientific projects presented at our annual event. In fact, many of the abstracts are of a quality to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. This year there was a total of 185 projects, with 36 coming from students or residents from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

I am finishing up this newsletter on the plane returning from Washington, DC for the American Osteopathic Association's annual DO Day on the Hill. Once again the event was a great success for the profession, with more than 605 participants to include physicians, faculty, residents and students. Please go the AOA's web site to review the critical legislative agenda for this year (<http://www.aoa-net.org/index.cfm>). The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine was represented by Drs. Hollis King, Russell Gamber, Steve Buchanan, 'Rick' Schaller, 12 students and myself. We enjoyed breakfast on Thursday in the Member's Dining Room of the US Capitol with Representative Granger. We had a good discussion on health policy. In addition members of the HSC met with Representatives Sessions and Burgess and staff members from our senators' and other representatives' offices. On Friday afternoon a small group of TCOM students and faculty joined me in a private meeting with US Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu...who incidentally holds an honorary degree from UNTHSC! All in all, we had a successful 2 days in DC advancing issues that are important for Texas and the nation.

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 monthly Newsletter.

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#### **Student Affairs:**

Thomas Moorman, Ed.D.

*Associate Vice President for Student Affairs*

#### **Residency Programs Participate in Campus Event**

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 23, 2007.

Over 105 registered representatives (many recent alumni) represented 36 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.

Third year students also participated in an overview of the residency process otherwise known as Residency 101.

Following the IR Fair, all students were invited to a residency panel put together by 4th year Student Doctor Daniel Clearfield. Different specialties were highlighted and ACGME, Osteopathic, and Military residencies were all represented.

### **Immunization Requirements**

All students at the UNT Health Science Center are required to have immunizations. The current listing of requirements are posted on-line:

<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/departments/studentaffairs/documents/Med-PAimmform07.pdf>

The Student Health Clinic and the Division of Student Affairs have developed a program to minimize the cost of these immunizations to students. The immunization form can be printed from the site above or picked up in the Student Health Clinic. The immunizations and all required titers are provided at cost. However, for this program to be successful, students must pay for their immunization requirements by check or cash. These payments are typically made through the cashier on the second floor of the EAD building. If the cashier’s office is closed, payment can also be accepted by the Student Affairs front desk staff (EAD 246) or in the Student Development Offices located on the first floor of the EAD building. There have been some concerns regarding students having to go to the clinic, to the cashier, and then back to the clinic for their immunizations. As this program was developed, this issue was reviewed. It was determined that the time and effort associated with this program was minimal in relation to the additional costs that would result for each student if the service were not provided. If anyone would like additional information on this program or has feedback they are willing to share, please contact Dr. Thomas Moorman, Associate VP for Student Affairs at (817) 735-2503 or [tmoorman@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:tmoorman@hsc.unt.edu).

### **Scholarships could go unclaimed**

The office of financial aid has worked hard to provide an updated listing of all scholarship opportunities for TCOM students. Many of these deadlines come and go with no applications submitted from our students. The Office of Financial Aid recommends that you write a generic cover letter and collect two generic letters of recommendation for scholarships. Once you have these documents, you can utilize them to submit a variety of funding opportunities. The Office of Financial Aid is more than happy to assist you in this effort.

**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*

*[No Article this month]*

**Academic Affairs:**

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

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*[No Article this month]*

**Clinical Research:**

John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA

*Acting Associate Dean for Clinical Research*

Congratulations to all TCOM faculty, fellows, residents, students, and staff that submitted posters and participated in the annual Research Appreciation Day (RAD) on April 6, 2007. Particular acknowledgments go to **Angela Brimhall** (TCOM 2007) who won first place in the TCOM poster competition and to **Elisha Hatfield** (PA Studies 2008) who was awarded second place in the poster competition.

Congratulations to **Arthur Eisenberg Ph.D.** on his award for \$819,081 from the National Institute of Justice entitled "Developing Improved Capacity for the University of North Texas Health Science Center's DNA Identity Laboratory, Fiscal Year 2006 DNA Capacity Enhancement Program." The grant offers an opportunity for states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to improve laboratory infrastructure and analysis capacity so that DNA samples can be processed efficiently and cost-effectively.

Congratulations to **Lisa Hodge, Ph.D.**, on being named the first Osteopathic Heritage Basic Science Research Chair at the Osteopathic Research Center. Dr. Hodge's research interests include mucosal immunology, respiratory disease, vaccine strategies, and osteopathic manipulation and the immune system. Her work with the Osteopathic Research Center involves the effects of lymphatic pump manipulation on the immune system in animal models.

The Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference (OCCTIC VIII), Research Opportunities in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine: Training Our Residents and Undergraduates Now!!! (ROOM TO RUN) in Colorado Springs, CO on March 19 and 20, 2007 was a tremendous success. The OCCTIC conferences are now being managed by the **Osteopathic Research Center**.

The American Osteopathic Association's Council on Research is now accepting abstracts for poster presentations at its 51<sup>st</sup> Annual **AOA Research Conference** in San Diego, California, in conjunction with its Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar. Currently the conference's poster session is scheduled for Sunday, September 30 from 1-5 pm in the Exhibit Hall of the convention center in San Diego. Online submission information is available at: <https://www.do-online.org/index.cfm?PageID=absubmitinstruct>. The deadline date for receipt of abstracts is April 30, 2007.

### **Admissions:**

Russell Gamber, D.O., MPH

*Assistant Dean of TCOM Admissions & Outreach*

### **Update on TCOM Entering Class of 2007**

We continue to finalize the acceptances of the Entering Class of 2007 and anticipate seating a very competitive group of freshmen students, based on the current number of acceptance letters returned to us. Admissions staff is working with Student Affairs as we prepare to turn over the entering students' records to the Registrar.

### **TCOM Admissions and Outreach Staff Retreat**

On March 7, 2007, Dr. Russell Gamber, Assistant Dean of TCOM Admissions and Outreach, chaired a retreat for the TCOM Admissions staff at the Fort Worth Club to discuss the current year's TMDSAS Match results and to strategize for the next application year. Issues discussed were the department's progress on "going paperless", made possible because of the department's document imaging capacity, development of new recruiting and marketing materials (pamphlets, videotapes, CD-ROMs), strategies to recruit underserved minorities into the PA and TCOM classes, and other topics that will impact our upcoming application season.

### **File Reviews**

TCOM Admissions counselors are currently conducting file reviews for applicants who did not match in medical school this year. The advisors read each file to determine strengths and weaknesses and make written suggestions for specific actions that would strengthen the applicants' next attempt to enter medical school. Each spring dozens of files are reviewed as a service to our applicants.

## **JAMP Update**

Leila Torres, Senior Admissions Counselor and TCOM JAMP Coordinator recently announced the names of the 17 JAMP students (rising college juniors - 5 men, 12 women) who will be on our campus from May 20 until June 28, 2007. These students attend universities across the state including UT-Brownsville, San Houston State University, Texas A&M International University, UNT, Texas A&M University, Baylor, and several others. The students will take Cardiovascular Physiology, Ethics, and MCAT prep courses, and they will shadow UNTHSC physicians.

## **Outreach Update:**

- **College Campus Visits:** The office has been vigorously recruiting around the state, visiting colleges and universities to increase TCOM's presence and attract talented students to both our D.O. and P.A. programs. To date, we have participated in over 50 events throughout the nation. We also hosted the premedical honor society (Alpha Epsilon Delta) chapter from UNT this month and will host another pre-health group from the University of Houston in early April.
- **High School Visits:** TCOM Admissions sponsors TCOM campus visits from area high school pre-health professions groups, most recently hosting students from the Advanced Placement Biology class from Cooper High School in Abilene, Texas. The highlight of these visits is the students' tour of the gross anatomy laboratory, during which Dr. Harold Sheedlo introduces the students to the computer-assisted gross anatomy course, and the simulation lab where Dr. Jerry Friedman demonstrates the use of the simulation mannequins as an adjunct in teaching key medical skills.

## **PA Studies:**

Hank Lemke, P.A.-C

*Vice Chair for PA Studies*

## **New Computers**

Physician Assistant Studies will be converting to the same laptop computer requirement as is seen in the DO program over the last 2 years. In the past, the PA program has been requiring its students to have a laptop computer throughout their enrollment, but this fall will be advancing to specific hardware and software requirements for the new entering class. New features will include the tablet top and other software similar to that be used in the DO program and standardize student capabilities. The computers will also help propel the PA curriculum into the next decade with student access to the web and information such as Epocrates and MDConsult to assist them in their studies.

## **Accreditation News**

On April 19-20, 2007, the Physician Assistant program will be visited by 2 on-site reviewers from the Accreditation Review Commission for PA Education (ARC-PA). According to the ARC-PA, the site reviewers are here to verify, validate, and clarify the information provided by the program in its accreditation application. The Commission cautions that on-site reviewers do not have authority to speak on behalf of the ARC-PA or give indications regarding the expected outcome of any decisions by the ARC-PA.

### **Program Gets New Medical Director**

On February 1, 2007, Gerald (Jerry) Friedman, D.O. was appointed as Medical Director for Physician Assistant Studies in TCOM. As medical director, Dr. Friedman provides guidance on didactic and clinically related components of the curriculum and promotes the PA Studies program within the medical school and the community at large. Dr. Friedman graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in DeMoines, Iowa in 1970 and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Otorhinolaryngology and the Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology. He has served in the past as Chairman of the Department Otorhinolaryngology and Oro-Facial Plastic Surgery at Detroit Osteopathic/Bicounty Hospitals in Michigan and as Chief of Surgery at Mesquite Community Hospital in Texas, and he is a past consulting editor for the Michigan Osteopathic Journal. Please join in supporting Dr. Friedman as PA Studies Medical Director.

### **RAD Activities**

Eight PA students presented posters at the UNTHSCs 15th annual Research Appreciation Day exhibition last April 6th. PA Student Elisha Hatfield took TCOMs second place award for her poster, A New Silent Epidemic: Are Primary Care Clinicians Doing Enough To Detect The Early Onset Of Chronic Kidney Disease In High Risk Patients? Congratulations to Elisha and her faculty advisors, Dr. Michael Clark and Dr. Olive Chen, and well as a hearty thanks to the other PA students who shared their achievement by showing posters at the meeting.

### **TCOM PA Students Win 1st place in Texas PA Student Challenge Bowl!**

Congratulations to six UNTHSC PA Students who teamed up their quick reflexes and able minds to WIN 1st and 3rd place in the Texas statewide PA Student Challenge Bowl competition held at the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants annual conference in Dallas last February. The Challenge bowl is a Jeopardy-style competition, where teams of students compete against each other to answer medical questions in the fastest time. The first place team is vying to compete at the National PA Student Challenge Bowl at the PA conference in Philadelphia in May!

## **Science and Health News:**

### **Former President Clinton Calls U.S. Health Care System 'Uneconomical'**

[Apr 16, 2007]

Health care is one of the top problems facing the U.S. and is threatening the country's well-being, former President Bill Clinton said Saturday, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. Speaking at a daylong symposium for KCBS Health Etc. in San Francisco, Clinton called the U.S. health care system "immoral because it doesn't provide health care to everybody" and "uneconomical" because "[w]e pay more than everybody else in the world for less." While the U.S. spends 16% of its national income on health care -- compared with 11% in Canada and Switzerland, the nations with the next-highest spending -- the U.S. ranks 37th in health care quality, insures fewer residents and pays more for prescription drugs, Clinton said. He added that one-third of health care spending goes toward administrative costs, a higher rate than any other country. "We're letting the health insurance financing tail wag the health care dog," he said. Clinton also criticized the pharmaceutical industry's opposition to drug importation from Canada. He said drug makers want people to believe that "if you take it when it crosses the border, you will immediately drop dead. It's the same medicine. (Canadians) don't drop dead." Clinton did not offer specific solutions to fix the health care system but said there are several options. Clinton cited the need to bolster preventive care, saying, "We are great about treating sickness, but we are lousy at keeping people well." He also said that the U.S. health care system "is sowing the seeds of its own destruction" (DeFao, San Francisco Chronicle, 4/15).

## **Health Policy News:**

### **Senate Passes Stem Cell Legislation**

The Senate April 12 passed the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007" (S. 5), which would allow federal funding for research on new human embryonic stem cell lines, overturning President Bush's 2001 ban. AAMC President Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., April 9 sent a letter to Senators in support of S. 5. The Senate April 12 also passed an alternative measure (S. 30), that would fund human embryonic stem cell research that does not involve "the destruction or discarding of, or risk of injury to, a human embryo or embryos other than those that are naturally dead."

### **HHS Advisory Committee Releases Key Reports on Genomic Research**

The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society has released two reports to help guide genomic research and its application to public health: "Policy Issues Associated with Undertaking a New Large U.S. Population Cohort Study of Genes, Environment, and Disease" and "Realizing the Promise of Pharmacogenomics: Opportunities and Challenges."



## **House Committee Requests Study of Resident Work Hours**

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair John Dingell (D-Mich.), Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-Texas), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) and Ranking Member Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) sent a March 29 letter to the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) requesting "the continued study of medical errors associated with physician and resident work schedules." The request, which was addressed to AHRQ's Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Acting Director William Munier, M.D., is part of a committee investigation into preventable medical errors.

## **Grassley Requests GAO Study of Community Benefit Reporting by Nonprofit Hospitals**

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) April 5 sent a letter to Comptroller General David Walker requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) "conduct additional work on uncompensated care and other community benefits provided by nonprofit hospitals." According to an April 5 press release from Sen. Grassley, the request is part of a "wide-ranging view of nonprofit practices to ensure that tax-exempt status results in public benefits."

## **NGA Adopts SCHIP Policy Position**

The National Governors Association (NGA) April 9 adopted a policy position on the reauthorization of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that includes "adequate, predictable funding" and "enhanced flexibilities for states." The NGA calls upon Congress to "act quickly to fill the fiscal 2007 shortfalls...prior to reauthorization." and to increase federal funding levels "to account for increased medical costs and population growth." Authorization of SCHIP is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30.

## **CMS Issues Proposed Revisions to Medicare National Clinical Trial Policy**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) April 10 proposed revisions to the Medicare National Clinical Trial Policy, to be renamed the "Clinical Research Policy" (CRP). Since the September 2000 issuance of a National Coverage Decision (NCD), Medicare has paid for the routine costs of beneficiaries enrolled in qualifying clinical trials. The revised policy would pay for investigational treatments and services if they are covered by Medicare outside the clinical trial or are required in order to manage the patient's health within the study.

## **Research and Funding Opportunities:**

### **Notices**

Notice of Intent to Publish Program Announcements with Review to Support Behavioral and Social Science Research on Understanding and Reducing Health Disparities  
(NOT-OD-07-063)

National Institutes of Health

Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-063.html>

PA-07-354, Bioengineering and Obesity (R01) Contact Information Correction  
(NOT-HL-07-112)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-07-112.html>

Notice of Intent to Announce a Competition for Funding NCMHD Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Initiative in Reducing and Eliminating Health Disparities: Intervention Research Phase (R24)

(NOT-MD-07-001)

National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-07-001.html>

Addendum to PAR-07-342, Developing and Improving Institutional Animal Resources (G20)  
(NOT-RR-07-011)

National Center for Research Resources

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-RR-07-011.html>

Requests for Applications

George M. O'Brien Kidney Research Core Centers (P30)

(RFA-DK-07-002)

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Application Receipt Date(s): November 15, 2007

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-07-002.html>

Collaborative Studies on Systems Biology of Complex Phenotypes (R01)

(RFA-GM-08-001)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Application Receipt Date(s): October 23, 2007

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-08-001.html>

Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research (U01)

(RFA-HD-07-016)

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Application Receipt Date(s): July 27, 2007

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-07-016.html>

Program Announcements

Exploratory Cancer Prevention Studies Involving Molecular Targets for Bioactive Food Components (R21)

(PA-07-362)

National Cancer Institute

National Institute on Aging

Office of Dietary Supplements

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

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-362.html>

Medications Development for the Treatment of Cannabis-Related Disorders (R01)

(PA-07-365)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

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

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-365.html>

Medications Development for the Treatment of Cannabis-Related Disorders (R21)

(PA-07-366)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

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

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-366.html>

Grants for Basic Research in Glomerular Diseases (R01)

(PA-07-367)

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

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

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-367.html>

NIBIB Research Revisions to Promote Clinical Resident Research Experiences (Revisions to Currently Active NIBIB R01 and R37 Grants)

(PAR-07-363)

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering

Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): June 13, 2007; October 17, 2007; February 13, 2008; June 13, 2008; October 15, 2008; February 13, 2009; June 15, 2009

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-363.html>

NIBIB Research Supplements to Promote Clinical Resident Research Experiences (Supplements to Currently Active NIBIB P01, P41, P50, U01, U54 Grants)

(PAR-07-364)

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering

Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): June 13, 2007; October 17, 2007; February 13, 2008; June 13, 2008; October 15, 2008; February 13, 2009; June 15, 2009

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-364.html>

**Quotes:**

No one can confidently say that he will still be living tomorrow.

Euripides

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.

Mark Twain

While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.

Leonardo da Vinci

Marc

**Marc B. Hahn, DO**

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

University of North Texas-Health Science Center

3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard

Fort Worth, Texas 76107-2699

817-735-2416 or 2244

facsimile 817-735-2486