

DEAN'S CORNER E-NEWSLETTER

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

October 1, 2008

Well this has indeed been a busy Fall thus far. On September 12, 2008, we had a great time ushering in our newest students during our White Coat ceremony. The "White Coat Ceremony" is an auspicious experience as students enter health related programs and medical school. In the presence of family, guests, and faculty members, students are welcomed into the medical community by leaders of the medical center and ceremonially "cloaked" with their white coat.

By establishing this meaningful ritual at the beginning of medical school, we hope students will become aware of their responsibilities from the first day of training. It encourages them to enter into a psychological contract in which they accept the obligations inherent in the practice of medicine: to be excellent in science, to be compassionate, and to lead lives of "uprightness and honor." The message transmitted is that doctors and other professionals should "care" as well as "cure."

Enthusiasm for the White Coat Ceremony continues to grow. In 1994, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation sponsored the first of these ceremonies. Now the number is more than 100 schools. The Foundation's goal is that medical schools will make the White Coat Ceremony the highlight of their student orientation programs.

We have continued another tradition at TCOM that of celebrating alumni reunion weekend every September. We had 51 alumni return for the event, the alumni dinner on Friday night September 26, a reunion CME program Saturday, and a Murder Mystery reunion celebration Saturday night. Congratulations to Patrick Hanford, DO '83 for receiving the Dean's Award for Distinguished Service and to M. McKim Davis, DO '78 for receiving the Dean's Award for Philanthropy.

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Student Affairs

Thomas Moorman, EdD
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

DO Dash 2008

On Saturday, October 25th, 2008, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2011 will host the 7th annual D.O. Dash. This race consists of a 5K “Fun Run” and children’s 1K and is held each fall to raise money for a charity chosen by the medical school’s second year class. Money raised this year will benefit lung cancer research at the UNT Health Science Center. The class elected to support this cause since it is a leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Funds will also provide residents throughout Fort Worth with related clinical services and lung health education.

The 5K run/walk will course through the beautiful and historic Monticello area of Fort Worth. Following the race, there will be a family health and wellness fair and Halloween carnival, which will feature free wellness checks, prevention education, osteopathic manipulative and soft tissue treatments, Halloween fun, and much more! Families and pets are welcome!

In addition, the evening prior to the event, the Health Science Center will host a pasta dinner and a silent auction. Many great items will be available for bidding! Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration for the race is \$18 per person in advance or \$20 on race day; this price includes a race t-shirt. The pasta dinner is \$5. Groups of 5 or more can get a discount of \$15 per person. Children under 7 are free!

For more information please contact: dodash@hsc.unt.edu.

Health Affairs/Faculty Practice

Robert Adams, DO
Senior Associate Dean for Health Affairs/Chief Medical Officer

No article

Educational Programs

Don Peska, DO
Associate Dean for Educational Programs

As we begin the new academic year, The Office of Educational Programs is moving full steam ahead. Our Careers in Medicine lunches with the Associate Dean have been a big hit with the second year students. These informal lunches serve as an opportunity for the students to get to know themselves and their

classmates a little better, as well as ask questions of an expert. We have received very positive feedback from the students. Additionally, we are holding our initial Texas OPTI Resident Council Meeting. The council is comprised of individuals who were selected by their program directors. They will serve as the “voice” of the Texas OPTI residents. Members will meet on a regular basis to formally discuss curriculum issues, graduate medical education resources, research opportunities and related topics. At our preliminary meeting, a member will be nominated to attend the *Congress of Interns and Residents* meeting at the AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Eryn Loney, M.L.A.
Director of Program Development &
Careers in Medicine Leader

Academic Affairs

Bruce Dubin, DO, JD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

No article

PA Studies

Hank Lemke, PA
Chair of PA Studies

PA Program Faculty Search

The Department of PA Studies continues its recruiting efforts for more PA faculty. PA faculty must hold NCCPA certification and Texas PA licensure. We are interested in partnering with clinical departments to create positions that allow PA faculty to provide clinical services for much of the week and provide teaching support during other times.

PA Faculty News

Best wishes are extended to PA Patti Pagels, who has left the PA program to join UT Southwestern. PA Pagels was with the program for 12 years and she will be missed by her fellow faculty and students alike. PA Tina Moore, who joined the PA Studies program in June, will assume many of the clinical year responsibilities in her role as Clinical Coordinator.

Clinical Research

John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA
Associate Dean for Clinical Research

TCOM Intramural Grant Awards 2008-2009

I am pleased to announce the following TCOM intramural grant awards in the amount of \$25,000 each for the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Arvind Nana, MD
Growth and Differentiation of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in 3-D Matrices

- TCOM Department of Orthopedic Surgery (in collaboration with GSBS)
- Rita Patterson, Ph.D.
Effect of Osteopathic Manipulation on Postural Stability in the Elderly
Osteopathic Research Center (in collaboration with TCOM)
 - John Planz, Ph.D.
Genetic and Psychosocial Predictors of Response to OMT in Low Back Pain
Center for Human Identification (in collaboration with TCOM and SPH)

Best wishes to the awardees and many thanks to all the TCOM faculty and collaborators from the other schools within UNTHSC who participated in the application process.

I especially wish to thank Dr. Glenn Dillon, UNTHSC Vice President for Research, and his office for their efforts in convening and coordinating the grant application review process.

American Osteopathic Association Research Grant Awards 2008-2009

I am pleased to announce the following awards to TCOM faculty for the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Rita M. Patterson, PhD
Functional Hand Kinematics
2008-2009: \$49,990 (total award)
- Shrawan Kumar, PhD, DSc, FRSC,
Reliability and Validity of Therapeutic Spinal Mobilizer and Measurement of Spinal Segmental Stiffness/Compliance in Healthy People and Toward the Development of a Three Segment Model
2008-2009: \$50,000 (total award \$100,000 over two years)
- Lisa M. Hodge, PhD
The Effects of Lymphatic Pump Manipulation on Tumor Development and Metastasis
2008-2009: \$49,653 (total award \$99,307 over two years)

International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research

John C. Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A., delivered the Keynote Address entitled "Osteopathic Research: Integrating Science, Practice, and Evidence to Inform Health Policy" at this international conference. Additionally, H. Fred Downey, Ph.D. and Lisa Hodge, Ph.D. presented at the conference. Dr. Hodge also received the Best Established Investigator Award at the conference.

American Osteopathic Association Research Conference

The 52nd Annual AOA Research Conference will be held October 26-28, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Osteopathic Research Center will host a series of eight presentations on the first day of the research conference. Additional program details are available at https://www.do-online.org/pdf/conv_schedresconf.pdf.

Monthly TCOM Research Meeting to be Implemented this Fall

A regular monthly meeting of all TCOM department chairs will be implemented this Fall semester. The monthly meeting will be chaired by the Associate Dean for Clinical Research, and will be focused on strategic planning to achieve the annual TCOM research metric objectives. Department-specific objectives and research opportunities will be discussed during these meetings. I look forward to your participation and contributions over the next academic year.

Admissions

Russell Gamber, DO, MPH
Assistant Dean of TCOM Admissions & Outreach

Update on PA and Medical School Applications: The number of PA program applications this year, 278 at present, is slightly less than the number of applications received last year at this time. TCOM has received 1,602 applications from the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) as of September 10, 2008, compared to 1,347 at the same time last year. We expect the total number of applications to exceed 2,000 this year, compared to 1,983 last year.

Update on Medical School Interviews: This year, TCOM interviews were initiated during the last week in July. The total number of applicants interviewed at the present time is 234, compared to 216 on the same date in 2007. It is imperative to complete as many interviews as possible by November 1 in order to prepare for the “early match” period beginning in mid-November. This year there will be both an “early match” period starting on November 15th, and a second match on February 1st. During the early match period Texas resident applicants can receive offers of acceptance from one or multiple Texas medical schools. Applicants holding multiple acceptances on December 31st must choose the school they wish to attend and decline other TMDSAS offers by January 15th. The JAMP (Joint Admissions Medical Program) students who have met all programmatic requirements will interview at all eight Texas medical schools and will receive their Match results this year on December 15.

Dr. Russell Gamber, Joel Daboub, and the entire TCOM Admissions staff wish to thank the department chairs, faculty interviewers, and departmental interview coordinators for their key roles in facilitating the interview process. At this point, we have completed over a third of the roughly 650 TCOM interviews we plan to schedule this year. We realize that our job would be impossible without the continued cooperation of each interviewing department.

Other News

Science and Health News

Bottled water and bacteria
The Lancet Infectious Diseases - Volume 8, Issue 10 (October 2008) -

Bottled water and bacteria

Buyers of bottled water, mistakenly believing it “greener” and safer than the tap variety, have had a terrible shock recently. Suddenly, the packaging and long-distance transportation of mineral water in plastic or glass has been recognised as environmentally barmy. Journalists reporting the volte-face have also been pointing out that the product is nothing like as pristine as its purveyors claim. It contains large numbers of bacteria.

It's now two decades since the first detailed demonstration of high bacterial counts in bottled water. One study of 58 different samples revealed not only levels exceeding the European advisory level in water for human consumption but also the presence of specific organisms such as *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, indicating contamination by human skin scales (Hunter PR, Burge SH, *Epidemiol Infect* 1987; 99: 439).

The environmental case against bottled water is unanswerable-but how concerned should we be about the microbial load? Speaking at a recent Society for Applied Microbiology conference in Belfast (July 7-10), Gilbert Lamothe of the Nestle Quality Assurance Centre at Vittel in France provided enlightening perspective. He pointed out that, within the European Union, natural mineral water cannot be disinfected and comes from underground sources not vulnerable to microbial contamination.

Enforcement of appropriate standards ensures that bottled mineral water is distinct from other categories of water “which can be of various origins and may undergo extensive treatments for potabilisation”, Lamothe said. “The absence of bactericidal measures and the extended shelf-life of bottled water containers largely explain the high level of heterotrophic plate counts commonly found in bottled waters.”

Lamothe cited evidence that the high counts did not pose any health problem for the general population. He then made a stronger statement. He said that there had been no known case, let alone outbreak, of infection attributable to the consumption of bottled mineral water.

This was an interesting claim. One reason it was interesting was because, laid out next-door to the conference room, in a display of journals and laboratory equipment, was a pile of reprints of a paper published this year entitled “An outbreak of hospital-acquired *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection caused by contaminated bottled water in intensive care units”. The authors of the report (*Clin Microbiol Infect* 2008; 14: 454) were Tim Eckmanns and colleagues at the Robert Koch Institute (Berlin, Germany) and other centres in Berlin.

The outbreak occurred in six different intensive care units in Berlin, the organism being identified by amplified fragment-length polymorphism and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. Clinical specimens from 15 infected and four colonised patients yielded the same *Paeruginosa* strain. Over 100 environmental samples showed

the organism, but only the isolate from an unopened bottle of still water was genetically identical with that from the patients.

Discussing the implications of their findings, the investigators recommended that "all untested bottled still water be removed from intensive care units". It should be replaced by sterile bottled water or filtered tap water.

Eckmanns and his collaborators are concerned that guidelines regarding sterile water in intensive care units are being flouted. Such guidelines state, for example, that transplant patients should use sterile water for drinking and oral hygiene. In practice, however, patients often drink bottled still water, which is also used to prepare medications given via nasogastric tubes.

Once they were aware of their results, the investigators removed all commercially available bottled still water from all six intensive care units. The numbers of infections and colonisations then began to decline, and had done so significantly by 2 weeks after they were first noted. The types of infections and colonisations in the lungs that constituted the outbreak were probably caused by transmission of *P aeruginosa* through aspiration and/or microaspiration from the oropharynx, though the organism can also be transmitted from stomach to lungs when drugs are prepared and given with the contaminated bottled still water via nasogastric tubes.

These are disquieting findings, are they not?

Health Policy News

Emergency GME Regulations Finalized in Inpatient Final Rule

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Aug. 19 included previously "interim final" regulations issued in 2006 and 2007 in the FY 2009 Medicare inpatient final rule. These regulations address continuation of direct Graduate Medical Education (GME) and Indirect Medical Education (IME) payments when hospitals located in emergency or disaster areas must temporarily suspend operations.

CMS Posts Evidentiary Priorities for the Elderly Population

CMS Aug. 8 posted on its website "Evidentiary Priorities for the Elderly Population" identifying the top priorities for the research community in the domain of eldercare. This is the first time that such a list has been provided to the public on the CMS Coverage website. CMS grouped the Medicare Evidentiary Priorities into three categories: Diagnostics and Screening, Interventions, and Policy Issues.

CMS Publishes ICD-10 Proposed; Electronic Transaction Rules

CMS Aug. 22 published a proposed rule that would replace the current ICD-9 codes set, used to report health care diagnoses and procedures on health care transaction claims, with a new version, known as ICD-10. If finalized, hospitals, physicians and other entities would be required to use the new code set effective

Oct. 1, 2011. Also on Aug. 22, CMS published a separate proposed rule that would require adoption of new electronic transaction standards for health care and pharmacy claims. If finalized, this requirement would be effective April 2010.

Patient Safety Common Formats Released

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Aug. 29 published in the Federal Register the Common Formats, Version 0.1 Beta for implementation of the "Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005" (P.L. 109-41). Requested by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Common Formats provides a set of common definitions and reporting requirements for standardized and uniform collection of patient safety data that would allow for national aggregation.

AHRQ Seeks Comments on New Innovations Portfolio

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Aug. 15 published in the Federal Register a notice seeking recommendations for priority topics and activities to include as part of a new "Innovations" research portfolio. According to the notice, the new portfolio will support "high impact" research projects "substantially different from those already being pursued by AHRQ," with an aim of "problem solving" in health care organization, delivery, and management.

NSF Reports "Unprecedented" Decline in Federal Support for Research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Aug. 27 issued a report indicating that federal funding for scientific research and development (R&D) at academic institutions has declined for the second consecutive year, adjusting for inflation. According to the report, this is the only instance in which federal support of academic R&D has failed to keep pace with inflation for two years running since the data series began in 1972.

Senate Approves ADA

The Senate Sept. 12 approved by voice vote its version of the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008" (S. 3406), a bill that clarifies and broadens the definition of disability and expands eligibility for protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The House reportedly will consider the Senate bill on Sept. 17.

House Panel Explores Implementation of NIH Reauthorization Legislation

The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Sept. 9 held a hearing on the impact of the NIH Reform Act of 2006 [P.L. 109-482] on the operations of the National Institutes of Health. NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, M.D., noted the agency is using new authorities to enable and expedite trans-NIH research, funded through the Common Fund, an appropriations line item authorized by the NIH Reform Act. NIH recently issued a new Biennial Report, required by the Act, which explains NIH programs to Congress in one consolidated and transparent

publication. He also described the progress being made on "an open and electronic disease funding report" also required by the legislation.

NIH Announces Scientific Management Review Board Members

The NIH Sept. 9 announced the nomination of 21 individuals to serve on the newly chartered Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB). The NIH Reform Act of 2006 [P.L. 109-482] mandated the creation of the board, which will conduct periodic organizational reviews, issue reports on organizational issues, and advise the NIH on the use of its management authorities. Several members of the SMRB are leaders from academic medicine.

HHS Publishes "Provider Conscience Regulation" Proposed Rule

The Department of Health and Human Services Aug. 26 issued a proposed rule that would withhold federal funding to health care entities that fail to accommodate employees that object to participation in any medical service or procedure that conflicts with their personal, moral or religious convictions. Comments must be submitted by Sept. 25. The AAMC will be submitting comments.

Grassley, Welch Hold Roundtable on University Endowments

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) Sept. 8 held a roundtable on "Maximizing the Use of Endowment Funds and Making Higher Education More Affordable." The roundtable was divided into three panel topic areas: 1) college costs and rising tuition; 2) charitable contributions and university endowments; and 3) a proposed mandatory annual endowment payout for student financial aid. Panelists included representatives from the Congressional Research Service (CRS), higher education associations, academic institutions, finance industry and other groups.

Research and Funding Opportunities

[New NIH Policy on Resubmission \(Amended\) Applications](#)

(NOT-OD-09-003)

National Institutes of Health

[SCAW Winter Conference on December 8-9, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas](#)

(NOT-OD-09-008)

National Institutes of Health

Requests for Applications

[NINR Program Projects in Symptom Management Research and Program Projects in Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Research \(P01\)](#)

(RFA-NR-09-003)

National Institute of Nursing Research

Application Receipt Date(s): April 16, 2009

Program Announcements

[Health Services Research on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Abuse \(R01\)](#)

(PA-08-263)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

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

[Health Services Research on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Abuse \(R21\)](#)

(PA-08-264)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

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

[Health Services Research on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug and Alcohol Abuse \(R03\)](#)

(PA-08-265)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

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

[Short Courses on Mathematical, Statistical, and Computational Tools for Studying Biological Systems \(R25\)](#)

(PA-09-002)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

National Institute on Aging

National Institute of Mental Health

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

[Understanding the Effects of Emerging Cellular, Molecular, and Genomic Technologies on Cancer Health Care Delivery \(R01\)](#)

(PA-09-004)

National Cancer Institute

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

[Understanding the Effects of Emerging Cellular, Molecular, and Genomic Technologies on Cancer Health Care Delivery \(R21\)](#)

(PA-09-005)

National Cancer Institute

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

[Innovative Toxicity Assays of Pollutants, Therapeutics, and Drugs \(SBIR \[R43/R44\]\)](#)

(PA-09-006)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

National Center for Research Resources

National Eye Institute
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Nursing Research
Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

[Innovative Toxicity Assays of Pollutants, Therapeutics, and Drugs \(STTR \[R41/R42\]\)](#)

(PA-09-007)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Center for Research Resources
National Eye Institute
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Nursing Research
Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

[Neurodevelopment and Neuroendocrine Signaling in Adolescence: Relevance to Mental Health \(R01\)](#)

(PA-09-008)

National Institute of Mental Health
Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

[Neurodevelopment and Neuroendocrine Signaling in Adolescence: Relevance to Mental Health \(R21\)](#)

(PA-09-009)

National Institute of Mental Health
Application Receipt Date(s): Multiple dates, see announcement.

[Small Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control \(R03\)](#)

(PAR-09-003)

National Cancer Institute
National Institute of Nursing Research
Application Receipt Date(s): April 20, 2009; August 20, 2009; December 21, 2009; April 20, 2010; August 20, 2010; December 20, 2010; April 20, 2011; August 22, 2011; December 20, 2011

Quotes

I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.

E. B. White

I think I've discovered the secret of life - you just hang around until you get used to it.

Charles M. Schulz

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.

Buddha

Marc B. Hahn, DO

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs & Dean

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

University of North Texas Health Science Center