

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER *at Fort Worth*

HSC receives grant to reach K-12 students

The Office of Outreach in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences received a five-year, \$1.35 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to further the institution's efforts to interest underrepresented minorities in the biomedical sciences and public health through the Minority K-12 Initiative for Teachers and Students (MKITS).

MKITS is designed to attract minority students to science at an early age and introduce them to different career paths in the health professions. The health science center will also work with teachers to help keep them informed of new scientific information. The program will focus on students in Manuel Jara Elementary School, J.P. Elder Middle School and North Side High School.

"We're concentrating on these schools because we know the students are underrepresented in the sciences and public health," said Robert Kaman, JD, PhD, director of the Office of Outreach. "Over 90 percent of these students are Hispanic."

MKITS will allow students to take advantage of a variety of activities throughout their academic careers, he said. Fourth, sixth and ninth graders will participate in summer science boot camps. In the summer following fourth grade, students will go to "Science Sleuths," a program at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, where they will learn about how technology helps scientists understand evolution, Dr. Kaman said.

Sixth graders will attend a virtual reality anatomy program led by Rusty Reeves, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics and a former high school science teacher. After ninth grade, students will participate in a modification of the School of Public Health's *Salud Para su Corazón*, or Health for Your Heart, program.

Dr. Kaman said it will introduce them to the relationship between physical activity, good nutrition and a healthy heart.

Several other activities are planned, including recreating Project SCORE, which teams graduate students with teachers to create activities that get students excited about science, and expanding Adopt-A-School activities already in place, Dr. Kaman said. While MKITS focuses on underrepresented minorities, all students in the three target schools who are interested in the program may participate.

In addition, the health science center will work with the North Side Partners Council to host bilingual presentations for parents at local community centers to emphasize the connection between parental involvement and the



GSBS student and Project SCORE Fellow John Fuller worked with Fort Worth high school students during a field trip to campus Sept. 16.

success of the students participating in MKITS. "We will discuss the career opportunities available in the health professions, explain what the educational requirements are to enter these fields and review financial aid opportunities," Dr. Kaman said. "Often parents and students don't realize there are so many different careers in the health professions that students can explore."

The MKITS program is a collaborative effort between the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Public Health and several community partners. "The involvement of other community organizations enriches the program by providing additional resources and activities," Dr. Kaman said.

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Campus Briefs

The **Outstanding Graduate Faculty Seminar Series** will be held Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. in Luibel Auditorium. Robert Wordinger, PhD, associate professor and chair of cell biology and genetics and the 2002-03 Outstanding Graduate Faculty member, will discuss "The Role of Growth Factors and Growth Factor Receptors in the Pathophysiology of Glaucoma."

A reception will follow in the Atrium. Each year, the biomedical sciences graduate student body selects an outstanding faculty member who is invited to present the history of his or her research program. The seminar series is sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Graduate Student Association.

The holiday season is upon us, and with that comes EBAC's annual **Craft Fair**. Health science center faculty, staff, retirees and students will be showcasing their homemade crafts Dec. 4 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Stairway Café and the Library Atrium. For more information, e-mail Connie Spears via Group-Wise or call her at ext. 0173.

MKITS

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In addition to enriching students' experiences with science and public health, MKITS will allow the health science center to offer new competitive graduate assistantships for master's and doctoral students in GSBS and SPH, Dr. Kaman said. "This is the first time public health students will have internal scholarship support available to them," he explained. The first three assistantships will be awarded in April, and a total of nine will be awarded by the end of the program's fifth year.

In addition to Drs. Kaman and Reeves, the MKITS leadership team includes Hector Balcazar, PhD, profes-

More than 60 golfers played in the third annual **SOMA Osteopathic Scramble** Oct. 4 at Whitestone Golf Club. The scramble made about \$4,000, which will be donated to the Ray and Edna Stokes Scholarship Fund and Panthers Boys and Girls Club. "The tournament was a great way for us to promote Fort Worth businesses and osteopathic associations that supported us this year," said Mitra Campell, TCOM 2006, SOMA president. "I expect our organization will maintain the same level of success throughout the school year."

The Texas Osteopathic Medical Association has established a new **Student Doctor of the Year Award**. This award will be presented annually to a fourth-year osteopathic medical student for outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academic achievement, leadership, and service to the community and the osteopathic profession.

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students and Texas residents studying at any of the other osteopathic medical schools in the United States are eligible. Nominations for

sor and chair; Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, RN, assistant professor; Francisco Soto Mas, MD, MPH, assistant professor; and Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES, assistant professor, all of social and behavioral sciences. Liz Davis, MEd, associate director of outreach for the graduate school, will coordinate the integration of the Adopt-a-School program with MKITS.

Monica Campos, MPH, has been hired as the MKITS project coordinator. Campos first came to campus in 1998 to participate in the SMART summer program when she was a student at Emory University. ★

this award may come from faculty members, fellow students and members of TOMA. The first Student Doctor of the Year Award will be presented during the TOMA Annual Conference June 9-13. Call the Office of Student Affairs at ext. 2505 for a copy of the nomination form.

The Office of Student Development is launching the **Thanksgiving match-up program** to give international students the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving day with a local American family. The program is designed to help international students form new friendships and experience American culture beyond their academic lives, but any student who will not be going home for the holidays may also apply to be matched up with a host family.

Applications for students and host families are available in the Student Development Office (EAD-116). Be sure to include everyone who will be attending on the application. The deadline to sign up is Nov. 14. For more information, contact Rynn Sloan at ext. 5006. ★

CAMPUS Connection

Campus Connection is produced 10 times a year by the Office of Marketing & Communications, UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., EAD-332, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, (817) 735-5023.

Please address all inquiries or complaints to April Eubanks, editor.

Thanks to departments and student groups around campus for their continued commitment to contributing to Campus Connection. Special thanks to Jenny Cureton, Hayley Jackson, Carla Lee, Jennifer Martin, and Janet Zipperlen. Without their involvement this publication would not be possible.

Department Spotlight: Cell Biology & Genetics

The Department of Cell Biology and Genetics, led by Robert Wordinger, PhD, associate professor and chair, brings in approximately \$2 million in annual research funding in addition to the pivotal role it plays in teaching the health science center's graduate, physician assistant and medical students.

The department has a staff of 26, over half of which are full time faculty members who instruct Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students in the anatomical sciences, such as gross anatomy, embryology, histology or microscopic anatomy, and parts of neuroanatomy.

Department faculty are also actively involved in the teaching and administration of multiple programs in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. In addition to offering master's and doctoral degrees in cell biology and genetics, department faculty teach structural anatomy to post-baccalaureate students and handle the administrative aspects of the forensic genetics program. Rusty Reeves, PhD, assistant professor, serves as the program director of the master's degree in science education.

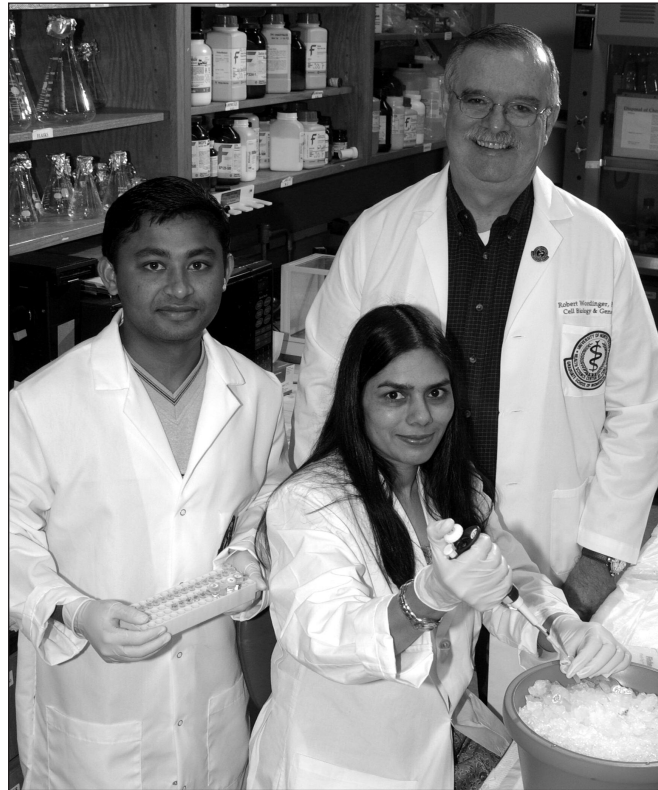
"Historically, this department has always taken a lead in teaching," Dr. Wordinger said. "That's part of our history and a fundamental part of our identity as a department.

"In the next decade, the nation is facing an increasing shortage of anatomists as faculty who currently teach anatomy at medical schools retire; we try to encourage our students to get a good foundation in the anatomical sciences," Dr. Wordinger explained. "Their experience in this area could be the edge that gets them a job in the future."

The Department of Cell Biology and Genetics further expanded its contributions to the study of human anatomy when it launched the Anatomical Sciences Computer Facility in the Mary L. Schunder Gross Anatomy Laboratory two years ago. The lab provides computer-based gross anatomy instruc-

tion with dissection software written by department faculty.

"The computerized system allows students to work at their own pace," said assistant professor Harold Sheedlo, PhD, who helped design the software. "They are also more relaxed because



Robert Wordinger, PhD, chair, works with research associate Rajnee Agarwal and doctoral student Gulab Zode to investigate glaucoma, one of the many research projects led by the faculty and staff of cell biology and genetics.

they have several excellent resources to refer to during their dissections."

The department also developed the Biomedical Skills Research and Education Laboratory, which allows outside groups of medical personnel to attend training sessions incorporating surgical skill development and refinement, emergency procedures, and others.

Department members Robin Belcher, director of anatomical services, and Carolyn Bannon, coordinator, run the health science center's Willed Body Program. They work with the families of people who donated their bodies to science to

assist in research and education. "The Willed Body Program is vital to our medical education programs," Belcher said. "Without the generosity of those who participate in the program, we couldn't teach our medical, graduate and physician assistant students or

provide support to the Biomedical Skills Research and Education Laboratory."

In addition to teaching and managing the gross anatomy and bioskills labs, faculty members and research assistants conduct research in several areas, from ocular research investigating glaucoma, cataracts and other retinal diseases, to cancer and cell cycle regulation and renal physiology.

"I am very proud that department research funding has increased over the past two years," Dr. Wordinger said. "Our projects are supported by the National Institutes of Health, the

National Science Foundation and a variety of private foundations.

"We're very proud of our researchers and what they're achieving, especially in addition to their heavy teaching loads," he said. "Research is a significant part of what we do. We're active in both traditional bench research and educational research like Dr. Reeves' work as the principle investigator for Project SCORE.

"In fact, it's unusual for a basic science department to be involved in educational research projects," he said. "I believe it's an indication of our depth and breadth as a department." ★

TCOM celebrates NOM Week

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine students and faculty joined the osteopathic community in celebrating National Osteopathic Medicine Week September 20-27.

Students from TCOM's classes of 2006 and 2007 organized NOM Week events, including seminars, the DO Dash and a health fair.

Christine Estrada, DO, spoke on behalf of interns and residents from the American Osteopathic Association Council at a lunch seminar Sept. 22. She discussed her experiences as an osteopathic physician. The Texas Osteopathic Medical Association also hosted a lunch with speaker Don Saylak, DO, Sept. 24. Dr. Saylak talked about his personal joys and concerns as

a physician. More than 100 people attended the two seminars.

The second annual DO Dash held Sept. 27, benefiting TCOM 2006 and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, was well attended with more than 100 runners. A health fair was held on top of the faculty parking garage during the 5K run. Local band Supercell played throughout the festivities. "I think NOM Week went very well and has provided MSGA with even more ideas for next year," said Leslie Reddell, TCOM 2006, one of the NOM Week organizers. ★



TCOM students provide health assessments to DO Dash participants during NOM Week.



Above: Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, and Theresa Poth, TCOM 2006, Janice Thomas, TCOM 2005, Leslie Reddell-Houston, TCOM 2006, and Betsy Pearch, TCOM 2006, pose with a proclamation from the City of Fort Worth commemorating Sept. 20-27 as National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

Right: Volunteers point the way to the finish line while manning a rest stop during the DO Dash.



Kudos to...

Barbara Atkinson, DO, internal medicine, for being honored by The Legacy Founders Cottage and Counseling Center in September for her commitment and dedication to HIV/AIDS patients in the community.

Thomas Moorman, EdD, student affairs, for being named the 2003 Outstanding Mid-Level Student Affairs Professional by the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators. He was recognized for his accomplishments as assistant dean and director of admissions for the School of Public Health.

Stan Kotara, PA 2001, and his wife, Mary Catherine, on the birth of their daughter, Kellen Marie, Oct. 13.

Mindy Meeker, PA 2003, and her husband Alan, on the birth of their son, Aiden, Aug. 22.

Natalya Slobodkin, PA 2006, and her husband, Boris, on the birth of their son, Jeffrey, Aug. 28. ★

EIS system brings successes, challenges

The new Enterprise Information System has experienced both successes and challenges since the first purchasing module became operational in July.

“The admissions portion of the student administration module went live in September without any major glitches,” said Diane Wynn, MEd, director of admissions and student services in the School of Public Health and the admissions module lead. “We tested all the major parts of the module so we could address any problems before it went live.

“The technical and functional experts at UNT were also invaluable resources,” she said. “All of the admissions offices in the UNT System worked hard to find solutions that would work for all three campuses.”

Students applying in the summer of 2004 will be the first to be entered into EIS. The admissions module was the first aspect of the student administration portion of EIS to be implemented. Student records, financial aid and student finance will go live in April, said Martin Hernandez, associate director of financial aid and head of the student administration EIS team.

However, the implementation of the new system has not been without problems, including a backlog in purchasing and difficulties printing checks, said Stephen Oeffner, MSCIS, CPA, executive vice president for finance and head of the finance and purchasing implementation team.

Oeffner said purchasing recently added two new staff members, which should help clear up the backlog.

Accounts payable and payroll will both be receiving new check printers, which should be more compatible with the new system and eliminate that issue as a potential problem, he said. In addition, Oeffner said the UNT

System is planning to hire experts in PeopleSoft to help the EIS team determine the root cause of the problems.

Oeffner suggests that departments allow additional time for processing checks and purchase orders until the process is running more smoothly.

In addition, he said that any departments with new vendors should contact accounting with the complete vendor name; order and remittance addresses; phone and fax numbers; web-site address; contact person's name, title and e-mail address; federal taxpayer or social security number; and type of business. This will allow accounting to set up the new vendor in the system and expedite the purchasing and accounts payable processes.

“Until you start doing things full scale, it's hard to know exactly how the system will behave,” Oeffner said. “We'll need to continue to be patient and work together to find solutions to any problems we encounter.”

The EIS team has strived to increase communication with those affected by the transition. “We've learned that you can't communicate too much,” Oeffner said. A website with FAQs and information on implementation has been established at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/eis>. The finance office also launched *The Inside Track*, an e-mail newsletter updating users on the status of the EIS project. To subscribe or share questions, comments or concerns you would like addressed, e-mail Charlene Ghaedi via GroupWise or call her at ext. 2543.

Despite the “hiccups,” the system promises to streamline operations and make information more accessible and timely once everyone becomes more familiar with the new processes, Oeffner said. He encourages users not to lose sight of the benefits of the EIS

In the News

The *Dallas Business Journal* published the news about **Bruce Dubin, DO, JD**, being named associate dean for medical education Sept. 5.

CBS 11 aired a story about the Texas Missing Persons DNA Database identifying its first missing person Sept. 3. **Stephen Gammon**, database administrator, appeared in the story to explain the process involved in solving the case.

Adela Gonzalez, PhD, vice president of institutional affairs and acting chair of health management and policy, discussed health issues faced by Hispanics in the workforce for an article in the *Star-Telegram* Sept. 23.

Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, participated in a news conference Sept. 8 to announce a new web-based pain medicine curriculum for medical students. His comments from the news conference appeared in an Associated Press article published by several newspapers.

The news that **William Jordan, DO**, of Texas Cancer Care, was named director of the health science center's Institute for Cancer Research was published in the *Business Press* and the *Star-Telegram*.

The news that former fiscal officer **L. L. LaRue** and **Brig. General Daniel Perugini, DO**, had received Founders' Medals from the health science center was published in the September issue of *Tarrant County Physician* and the Sept. 5 issue of the *Business Press*.

The *Star-Telegram* published a feature article about new treatments for rheumatoid arthritis in the Life & Arts section Sept. 8. **Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH**, chief of rheumatology and professor of internal medicine, was quoted as an expert on the new treatments.

Pharmacology and neuroscience's \$8.6 million program project grant on brain aging was announced in the Sept. 7 *Star-Telegram*, the Sept. 26 *Business Press* and the Sept. 26 *Dallas Business Journal*. **James Simpkins, PhD**, chair of pharmacology/neuroscience and director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, was quoted in the articles. ★

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Research Update:

Dimitrijevič receives patent for discovery

Dan Dimitrijevič, PhD, research associate professor of integrative physiology, has been working in the field of tissue engineering for many years.

Dr. Dimitrijevič and his research team have developed an anti-adhesion patch derived from engineered tissue, and he recently received patent approval for the “Pericardial anti-adhesion patch” (US patent no. 6599526).

Adhesions are scar tissues that form after surgery during the healing process and glue together tissues or structures that are not supposed to be connected.

“We’re not meant to be wide open, subject to probing, gloved hands, instruments and gauze,” Dr. Dimitrijevič said. The injury to the exposed surfaces creates a “glue” that becomes “a surgeon’s nightmare if he has to go back into the body cavity.”

An anti-adhesion material used in the chest cavity and other surgery sites will be a boon to surgeons and their patients, he said.

“We know that the anti-adhesion patches have resolved adhesions in four to six months,” he said. “We know the protected areas are free of adhesions, and the unprotected areas form adhesions.” ★

Family medicine consolidates community clinic locations

The Department of Family Medicine recently changed operations at several of its community clinics.

The Northside clinic has moved from its location in the Northside Multi-purpose Center to the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center at 2106 N. Main.

Resources from the Southside clinic have been consolidated with those of other clinics. A patient information meeting was held Sept. 23 for Southside patients to inform them of the different locations available and help them through the transition.

Patients are no longer seen at either multi-purpose center location.

Increasing costs coupled with state budget cuts led to the decision to shift resources from single-provider clinics, such as Southside, to other family medicine clinics with multiple providers, said Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO, chair of family medicine.

“All of our clinics now have at least two physicians on staff, not including PAs, residents and medical

students,” said Dr. Palmarozzi.

Dempsey Gordon, DO, Southside medical director, now sees patients at the Northside location with Samuel “Tim” Coleridge, DO.

The health science center has been planning to move its Northside clinic for the past two years, Dr. Palmarozzi said. The clinic is now part of a community health center operated by a non-profit organization in collaboration with the health science center and JPS Health Network.

“The Northside Community Health Center will eventually provide a range of health and social services needed in the Northside neighborhood,” Dr. Palmarozzi said.

The health center’s board has requested funding from federal and state agencies and private foundations to help pay for operations and expand the services available for the area, said Adela Gonzalez, PhD, vice president of institutional and strategic affairs and acting chair of health policy and management. ★

EIS

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system. The current problems are temporary and are not an indication of how the system will function when it is fully implemented, he said.

Soña Campbell, administrative assistant in the School of Public Health, went through a similar experience when she worked at Radio Shack. “I’ll admit the transition to the PeopleSoft system was a headache that required a lot of long hours and dedication, but in the long run it was a much better system,” she said. “It was much more user friendly. Plus, it allowed us to look at historical data and view who made changes to the information.”

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the one about Bradley Youngblood, a runner whose idea of a good time is jogging across the Gobi desert, on page 7.

Let us know about other interesting campus personalities so we can share their stories with the campus community. Send an e-mail to the News Office via GroupWise.

Campus Personality: Bradley Youngblood

Bradley Youngblood enjoys running. Not the daily jog around the neighborhood or the 5K or 10K recreational races, mind you. Not even the occasional marathon. He enjoys serious trail races, running 50, 100 or more miles over rough terrain.

Youngblood spends his days as a senior research assistant in pharmacology and neuroscience working in the lab of professor Michael Forster, PhD. But he spends his evenings, weekends and vacations running outdoors listening only to the wind. He runs nearly every day and averages 37 miles a week.

In September, Youngblood participated in his first multi-day trail race, the Gobi March, a six-stage, 250-kilometer (155 miles) footrace across China's Gobi Desert. All competitors carried their own food, gear and clothing while navigating through about 30 checkpoints. "You have to be very focused," he said. "It's very easy to get off course."

Youngblood didn't rely on the stereotypical protein bars to sustain his energy. "You crave food that tastes good after running all day. I quickly went through all my Payday candy bars, chips and Ramen noodles. By the end, I was dreaming of Fritos."

Race officials said that while setting the course for the Gobi March, the locals renamed the event "The Race of No Return," believing that no competitor could finish such a demanding course across rivers, high plains, mountains, valleys, rocky terrain and sand dunes.

Youngblood had a different perspective. "It was simply beautiful, with breathtaking views and lots of wildlife, including the largest jack-rabbits I've ever seen," he said.

After six days of racing, Youngblood finished 14th of the 42 participants from around the world. "It's all about finishing, not about winning. You compete against yourself and the



Youngblood makes his way through the Gobi Desert in China as part of a 250k trail race in September.

course," he said. In addition to his race T-shirt, he received a medallion for finishing the race.

His coworkers do not seem quite sure what to think of his running, Youngblood said. "When I asked Dr. Forster to sign my vacation leave form for 13 days so that I could go run in China, he seemed a bit leery," Youngblood said.

Dr. Forster does not disagree. "We all thought he was nuts and prayed for him to return, which he did, unscathed."

Youngblood didn't wait long to recover from the Gobi March or the 13 pounds he lost during the race. In mid-October, he traveled to the Texas Panhandle to participate in a 50-mile trail race through Palo Duro Canyon. Although he was among the many



One-third of the way through the Gobi March, Youngblood is feted by locals as he finishes stage two of the six-stage race they called "The Race of No Return."

runners who did not finish because of the unseasonable heat, he did complete three of the 12.5-mile loops around the canyon. With his penchant for understatement, Youngblood described it as "overall, a very challenging, scenic day."

He is already training for his second stage race; this one will take him 155 miles through the Atacama Desert in Chile next summer. ★

School of Public Health

SPH tackles language barriers to health care

Patients who speak little or no English often have trouble communicating with doctors about their health concerns. Frustration with this situation may cause reluctance to return to health care providers they cannot understand. One in five will not seek care at all. Others travel great distances to a provider who does speak their language.

The School of Public Health is implementing several new initiatives to improve the situation. The initiatives are part of a new program called *Háblenos de su Salud*, or Let's Talk About Your Health.

"Spanish-speaking patients often feel that nobody's really listening to what they say," said Holly Jacobson, PhD, principal investigator for the grant. "The program we've developed will try to improve the way we communicate with Spanish-speaking patients. Hopefully, it will have a beneficial effect on the quality of the health care they receive as well."

The health science center is one of nine health organizations in the country selected to address the growing issue of language barriers in health care by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as part of its national program, *Hablamos Juntos: Improving Patient-Provider Communication for Latinos*.

"People with a limited ability to communicate in English face significant barriers to quality health care in the United States," said Pamela Dickson, senior program officer at RWJF. "The nation is becoming more diverse, and we need to take steps toward solving this problem now. Our hope is that the projects developed through the *Hablamos Juntos* program will ultimately serve as models for other language groups."

Last year, SPH and other grantees received a one-year planning grant to design innovative and affordable approaches to improve patient-

provider communication, including language interpretation services, printed materials and signage. SPH will now receive an additional \$850,000 over the next two years to implement the initiatives it proposed.

The health science center will develop practical approaches that will increase the availability and quality of interpreters at collaborating health care provider sites, improve Spanish-language capacity, develop Spanish materials, and create easy-to-understand ways for non-English speaking patients to navigate health care facilities. This will include testing a newly developed system of symbols for health signage that may be more effective at guiding patients than existing written signage.

Through the RWJF grant, the health science center has been working with a diverse group of community partners, including Planned Parenthood of North Texas, Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County and the American Cancer Society. Other partners include the family medicine clinics operated by the health science center's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and by the Osteopathic Health Systems of Texas. *Alianza Comunitaria* of Tarrant County and *Salud para su Corazón* of North Texas, programs that focus on educating the Latino community about cardiovascular disease, are also involved.

Trained interpreters with the program will be placed in six sites around Tarrant County, including the emergency room at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas, JPS Health Center – Diamond Hill, and Planned Parenthood's Arlington clinic. The new Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center, the MHMR Tarrant Youth Recovery program, and the American Cancer Society's Hispanic outreach programs are also intervention sites for the program.

The School of Public Health is also developing advanced training and education for interpreters that will lead to a Master of Public Health degree in health applied linguistics. The faculty is currently recruiting experienced interpreters to enroll in the new linguistics program. Classes are set to begin in January, and scholarships are available.

The program will also develop materials for patients in Spanish, instead of translating English-language materials. In addition to educational brochures and posters, the team is working on developing a new process to demonstrate patients' informed consent to treatment.

"Patients are often not informed about what they're signing, and it's truly not an informed consent," Dr. Jacobson said. "At a minimum, the form needs to be in Spanish, but it's the whole process that needs improving."

Workshops on interpretation will be offered to help clinic staff improve their ability to work with interpreters. In addition, bilingual clinical staff will participate in language proficiency testing. "Just because you speak two languages doesn't mean you're qualified to be an interpreter," Dr. Jacobson said.

Workshops and seminars about the role of language services in the hospital or clinic will also be offered to administrators and managers. "They need to know how quality language services can improve their bottom line, minimize their legal responsibilities and influence health care policy," Dr. Jacobson said.

"We recognize that better communication between patients and their health care providers can enhance health care," said Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, SPH dean. "We want to develop ways to improve patient-provider communication today and lay the groundwork so that the situation in the future is even better." ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

TCOM, JPS expand cardiology

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is working with JPS Health Network and the North Texas Affiliated Medical Group to significantly expand cardiology services to Tarrant County residents.

The enhanced cardiology services offered through JPS include hiring additional cardiologists, expanding outpatient services and opening a cardiac catheterization lab.

As part of the tri-party agreement signed in June, TCOM is taking the lead in the partnership.

“This is really the continuation of a closer relationship with JPS Health Network,” said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean. “This partnership brings together the efforts and resources of JPS, the physicians from NTAMG and TCOM’s physician faculty for an enhanced, state-of-the-art cardiology program.”

Prior to the agreement, only ambulatory cardiology services, or clinic-based consultations, were available at JPS. Other cardiology-related services, including catheterizations and angioplasty, were provided at other institutions.

“This allows our cardiologists to establish interventional cardiology services at JPS,” said Robert Adams, DO, senior associate dean for clinical affairs. “This is a great opportunity for the medical school to expand our partnerships in the community and tighten our affiliation with JPS.”

“During our strategic planning process, the community encouraged us to work with other community providers to expand our services,” said David Cecero, JPS president and chief executive officer. “I am especially pleased that our cardiac program expansion is being done in partnership with both our medical group and our local medical school.”

“We asked the community what services we should expand and what

new services we should offer,” Cecero said. “Patients, community leaders and physicians overwhelmingly encouraged us to expand our cardiology program. Based on that input, one of our top priorities became expanding our service capabilities in the area of cardiology.”

Martin Weiss, DO, cardiologist and assistant professor of internal medicine, has been named interim director of the program. He is now working closely with physicians and staff at JPS to develop the expanded services.

Beginning this fall, outpatient cardiology appointments are available five days a week, an increase from one and a half days a week. In addition, cardiac outpatient services, as well as related diagnostic services such as electrocardiograms, echocardiograms and nuclear medicine assessments, are now centralized to one area of John Peter Smith Hospital to make the process more convenient for patients. The cardiac catheterization lab is projected to open in February 2004.

“This cardiology service expansion will make care much more convenient for patients because they will be able to stay at our facility for diagnostic and interventional catheterizations,” said Harold Samuels, JPS board chair. “We will continue to use other community providers for patients who require cardiac surgery.”

Longer-range plans include the development of cardiac rehabilitation services.

The partnership also lays the groundwork for more training opportunities for medical students and residents and the possible development of new training programs, such as a cardiology fellowship, he said.

“It makes perfect sense because parts of our missions overlap with one another,” Dr. Adams said. “This is a step toward future partnerships.” ★

HSC celebrates National PA Day

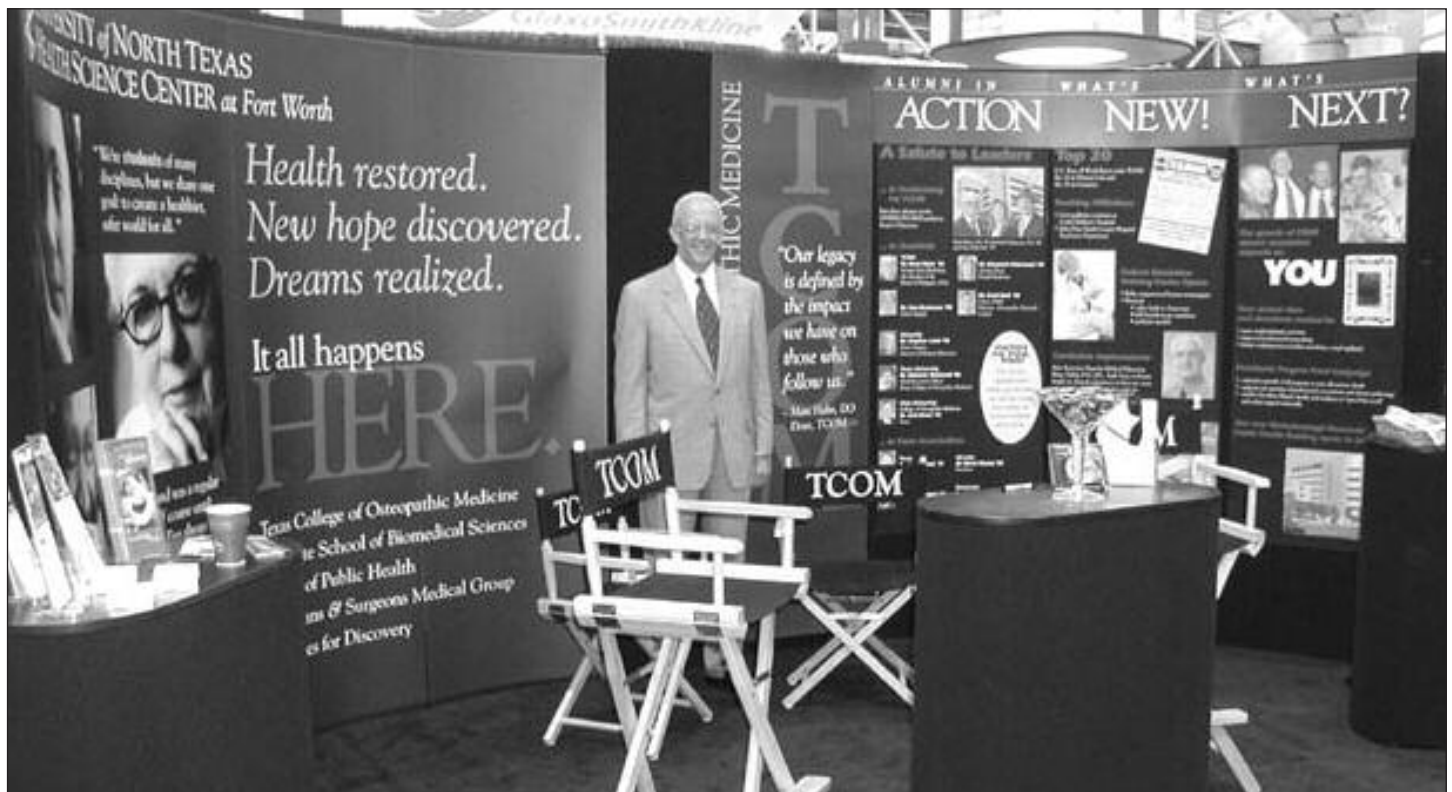
The health science center began its celebration of National PA Day, Oct. 6, by putting Payday candy bars in campus mailboxes. The candy bars were altered to say “PA Day” and had facts about physician assistants attached to them.

Continuing the celebration, 140 people attended a lunch with speaker Karen Kindler, PA-C, internal medicine, vice president of the PA Alumni Association. Kindler spoke about the role of a PA, her experiences in the profession and how PAs benefit doctors. A cake reception following lunch allowed PA faculty and students to mingle and ask questions.

PA students gave back to the community during the week of PA Day with free blood pressure screenings at two local Kroger grocery stores.

“I feel PA Day was a success because we were able to get the word out about the profession to a lot of people,” said Carrie Peder-son, PA 2005, who helped organize the events. ★

Institutional Advancement



Ronald Blanck, DO, president, was ready to greet visitors at the UNTHSC/TCOM exhibit.

TCOM 'rocks' at AOA convention

TCOM graduates from the classes of 1974 to 2003 were among the hundreds of osteopathic physicians who gathered in New Orleans Oct. 12-16 for the American Osteopathic Association's 108th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar.

About 100 alumni and their family members visited with Ronald Blanck, DO, president, and other health science center administrators at the institution's 20-foot exhibit; reunited with former classmates at a luncheon; and, in the Mardi Gras tradition, *laissez les bon temps rouler* (let the good times roll) at a reception featuring classic rock and roll from the TCOM Boogie Band. The conventioners also raised more than \$3,000 for Alumni Association and student activities by buying Boogie Band CDs and outbidding their colleagues for UNTHSC Gift Shoppe souvenir bas-

kets, "osteopathic" branding irons and vacation getaways at a lively auction conducted by Dr. Blanck.

Dan Saylak, DO, class of 1983, an emergency medicine director in Bryan-College Station, assumed the presidency of the TCOM Alumni Association at the annual election of officers and board members during the convention and announced his theme for the year: "TCOM Rocks!" Dr. Saylak, Steve Bander, DO, class of 1982, and Ken Nowotny, DO, class of 1982, who founded the TCOM Boogie Band when

they were medical students, began their alumni fund-raiser, "20-Year Reunion and World Tour 2003," at the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association annual convention in August. ★



Dan Saylak, DO, class of 1983, of Bryan, began his TCOM Alumni Association presidency by recognizing his predecessor, Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO, class of 1984, acting chair of family medicine.

Institutional Advancement

AOA 2003 Scrapbook

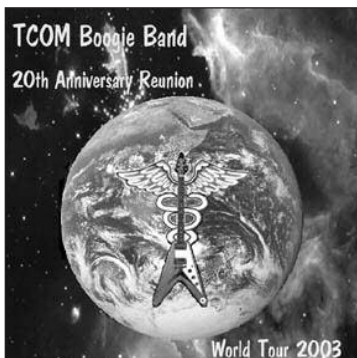
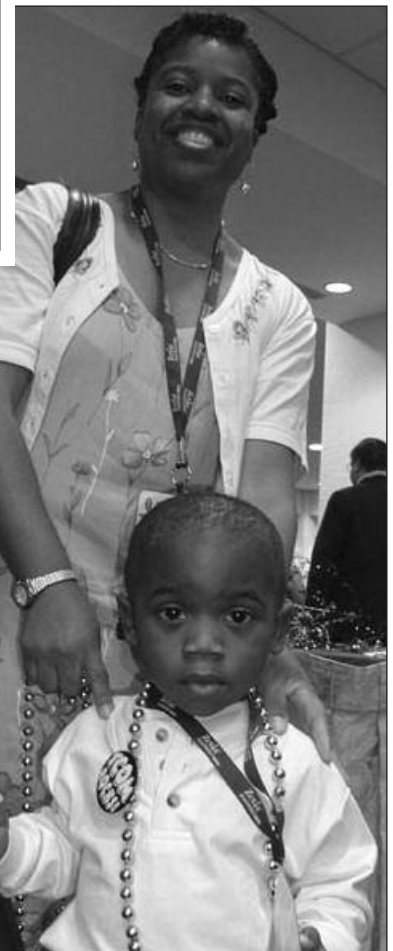
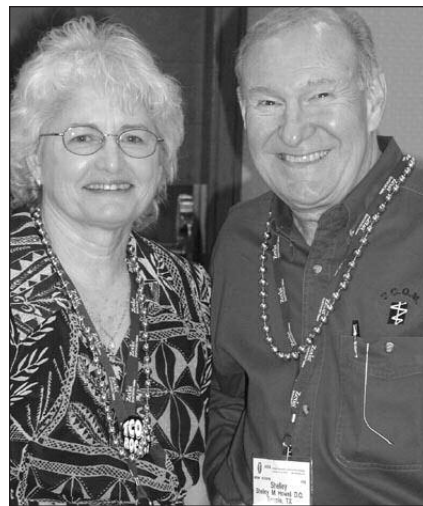
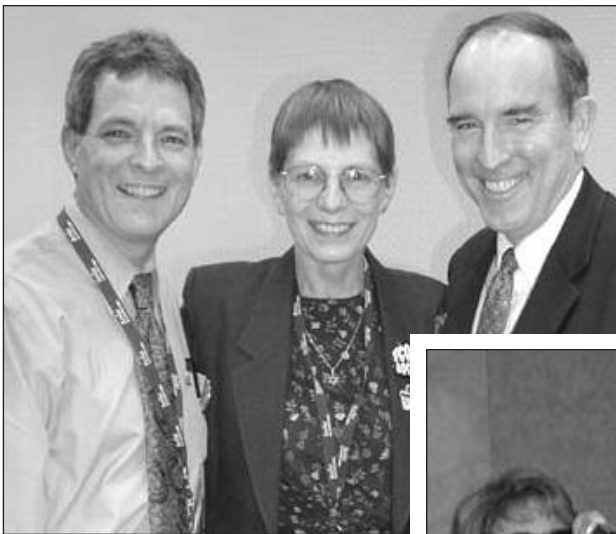


"TCOM Rocks!" buttons were distributed at the conference.



Top left: They looked and sounded a lot like The Blues Brothers, but they're really TCOM alumni Steve Bander, DO, left, and Dan Saylak, DO, who founded the TCOM Boogie Band when they were medical students in the 1980s. **Middle left:** These members of the class of 1983 enjoyed a "mini-reunion" at AOA: from left, Pat Hanford, DO, of Lubbock; Ava Stanczak, DO, of Blacksburg, Va.; and Hollis King, DO, of LaJolla, Calif. **Middle center:** Nelda Cunniff-Isenberg, DO, of

Burleson, and Shelley Howell, DO, of Temple, two of TCOM's first 18 graduates in 1974, reunited at the TCOM luncheon. **Below:** Dolores Bailey, DO, class of 1992, of Harlingen, brought her nephew to the AOA luncheon to meet the TCOM "alumni family."



Above left: TCOM Boogie Band CD cover. **Above right:** Shirley Bayles, new president of the AOA auxiliary, and Darryl Beebler, DO, new AOA president, donned official "TCOM Rocks" sunglasses to accompany the TCOM Boogie Band during what all agreed was the liveliest, and loudest, alumni reception at the convention.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS celebrates 10th anniversary

About 250 partygoers stepped “Through the Looking Glass” to help the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences celebrate its 10th anniversary. The black-tie gala was held Oct. 18 at the City Club in downtown Fort Worth.

Proceeds from the fundraising event benefit the Graduate School Scholarship and Dean’s Progress funds.

“Over the last 10 years, we have grown from a little over 30 graduate students to more than 200 now, and health science center research has grown from a little more than \$5 million a year to close to \$20 million a year,” said Thomas Yorrio, PhD, GSBS dean. “Our anniversary is a great time to recognize these achievements, but we are not done yet. We anticipate that the next 10 years will be even better.”

Music from the rhythm and blues band Undecided enticed many people onto the dance floor throughout the evening. Mitchell Forman, DO, associate vice president for student affairs, and his wife, Pearl, were among those who impressed the crowd with their dancing moves.

Partygoers also enjoyed a three-act musical rendition of scenes from *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by On Stage Dance and Performing Arts Studio. In addition to performing, the characters talked and danced with the guests throughout the evening.

The gala’s live and silent auctions brought in more than \$14,000 during the course of the evening. Ronald Blanck, DO, president, outbid several



(From left) Sharon Yurvati; Geri Aschenbrenner; John Aschenbrenner, PhD, associate professor of cell biology and genetics; and Albert Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery, celebrate the graduate school’s 10th anniversary.

others for the cruise to Alaska. Susan Franks, PhD, assistant professor of internal medicine, set her eyes on the fishing trip in the Amazon, and the Formans won the bid for the two round-trip airline tickets to South America. Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for medical education for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, was the successful bidder for a seven-week-old mixed breed puppy.

“The event grossed close to \$110,000 and we should net more than \$90,000 to go toward scholarships and the progress fund,” Dr. Yorrio said. “We exceeded our own expectations and couldn’t be more pleased about the support we received for such a worthy cause.”

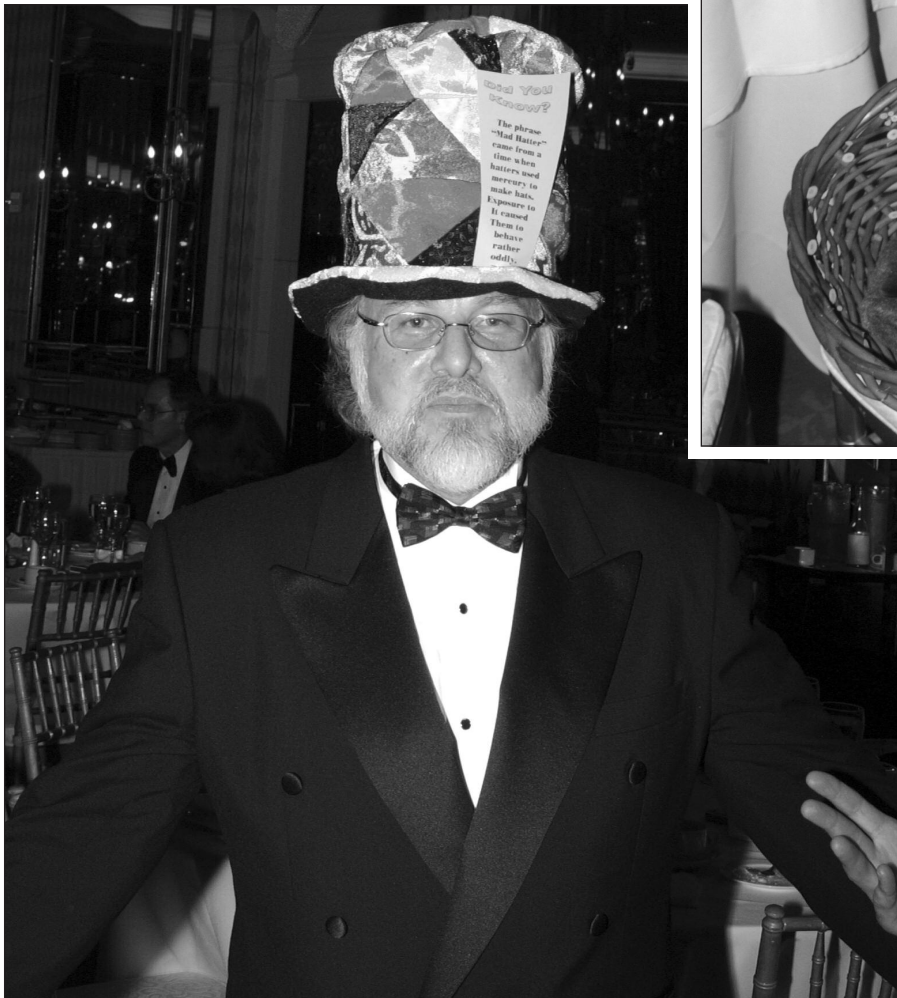
Three distinguished alumni served as honorary chairs for the event: Gerald Cagle, PhD, vice president of research and development at Alcon

Research Ltd.; Ray Page, DO, PhD, research director for Texas Cancer Care; and James Pawleczeck, PhD, an associate professor at Pennsylvania State University and a payload specialist on the space shuttle Columbia.

Elena Yorrio, CTC, MA, CEO of Travel Service Everywhere, and Annita Verstappen Bens, PhD, graduate school alumni association president, served as co-chairs.

The planning committee also included Amy Chambers, administrative coordinator in pharmacology and neuroscience; Julie Crider, PhD, GSBS ’94; Jami Kern, PhD, GSBS ’02; Carla Lee, director of GSBS admissions and services; Leslie Napier, PhD, GSBS ’97; James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience; and Shea Patterson Young, special events planner for the president’s office. ★

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



Graduate students (top left photo) Pam Gill (left), Nathalie McClung and Rachel Dauphin pose for the camera, while (top right photo) Bruce Dubin, DO, associate dean of medical education, meets his newest family member, and (left photo) Dean Thomas Yorio, PhD, does his best Mad Hatter impression.

Faculty Advances

Daniel Burgard, MSLIS, AHIP, instructional services librarian, and **Catherine Rhodes, MLIS**, instructional services librarian, both of the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library, won third place in the contributed papers section of the 2003 Research Award Competition at the annual meeting of the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association Oct. 6. Their paper, "You Call That Teaching? Effectiveness of a Problem-Based Learning Scenario in Improving the Information-Seeking Skills of Third-Year Medical Students," was based on a study they performed in conjunction with their course presentation of the informatics component of the clinical skills clerkship directed by **Francis Blais, DO**, professor of internal medicine, in June.

Fred Downey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, was an invited speaker at the Fifth International Conference on Hypoxia in Medicine, held in Innsbruck, Austria, Sept. 25-27. **Dr. Downey** presented the research report "Intermittent Systemic Hypoxia Protects Canine Myocardium from Infarction and Fibrillation." Collaborators were **Pu Zong, MD, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate; **Srinath Setty, PhD**, postdoctoral research assistant; **Randy Martinez**, graduate student; **Wei Sun, MD**, senior research assistant; and **Johnathan Tune, PhD**, assistant professor, all of integrative physiology, and Igor Ehrenburg, MD, and Elena Tkatchouk, MD, both of Hypoxia Medical Academy, Moscow, Russia.

Michael Forster, PhD, professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, organized the 19th Annual Symposium on the Neural Basis of Behavior Nov. 7 in New Orleans, La. The symposium, sponsored by the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, was part of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. **Nathalie Sumien, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate in pharmacology/neuroscience, presented "Reduced Caloric Intake, Antioxidant Supplementation Affect Brain Aging and Behavior" at the symposium.

Robert Gracy, PhD, professor, of molecular biology/immunology, presented "Identification of the Oxidized Protein Isoforms of Alzheimer's Disease" at the XII International Congress — Genes, Gene Families and Isozymes in Berlin, Germany, July 19-24. **Dr. Gracy** is first author. Jounghil Choi of Emory University; **Christina Malakowsky**, research assistant in molecular biology/immunology; **John Talent**, senior research associate in molecular biology/immunology; and Susan Weintraub of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, were co-authors.

Peter Hilsenrath, PhD, professor of health management/policy; **Fernando Treviño, MPH, PhD**, professor and dean of the School of Public Health; and **Karan Singh, PhD**, professor and chair of biostatistics, are authors of "An institutional retrospective on South African and American health sectors," published in the Volume II, Number 2 *Journal of Academy of Business and Economics*. **Drs. Hilsenrath, Treviño** and **Singh** presented the paper at the International Academy of Business and Economics annual conference Oct. 21 in Las Vegas, Nev. **Dr. Hilsenrath** also presented "Ranking Health Systems of the World: The World Health Report 2000" at the Judge Institute at the University of Cambridge Nov. 5.

Chiehwen Ed Hsu, PhD, assistant professor of health management/policy, is principal investigator of two bioterrorism preparedness projects funded by the Texas Department of Health for \$96,000. One project will develop a database inventory of physicians and other health providers for public health preparedness and response to bioterrorism. **Francisco Soto Mas, MD, PhD**, and **Holly Jacobson, PhD**, both assistant professors of social/behavioral sciences, are co-investigators. The other project will conduct biodefense informatics and health surveillance data management training for TDH regional officials and public health workers. **Terrance Gratton, DrPH**, assistant professor of environmental sciences, and **Sejong Bae, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics, are co-investigators.

Peter Koulen, PhD, assistant professor of molecular biology/immunology, has been awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute for his project, "Lacrimal gland function-regulation by calcium signaling."

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology/immunology, is senior author of a paper, "Protein kinase C is involved in 2B4 (CD244)-mediated cytotoxicity and AP-1 activation in natural killer cells," published in the August issue of *Immunology*. **Jaekyung Lee**, graduate student, and Samuel Chuang, PhD, of Cytochroma Inc., Toronto, Canada, are co-authors.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics, is senior author of a paper, "Mixed-Effects Linear Models Based on Elliptically Contoured Distribution Assumptions," published in the July issue of *Advances and Applications in Statistics*. ★