

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

GSBS students honor Wordinger

Robert Wordinger, PhD, associate professor and chair of cell biology and genetics and the 2002-03 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member, discussed the history of his glaucoma research Nov. 18 during the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Seminar Series.

“Graduate students are absolutely critical to any research project,” Dr. Wordinger said. “I really enjoy working with them because they challenge me. I hope to have a positive impact on my students, just like my mentors from high school through graduate school shaped my development as a scientist.”

John Fuller, one of Dr. Wordinger’s doctoral students in cell biology and genetics, introduced his mentor. “He cares about the personal development of his students,” Fuller said. “He is supportive, understanding and always has a great sense of humor.”

Dr. Wordinger began investigating glaucoma after a family history of it sparked an interest in the physiology of the disease. Glaucoma is caused by an increase in interocular pressure, which damages the optic nerve, causing vision loss.

He is investigating how growth factors, which serve as a local communication system between cells, may help protect the optic nerve from glaucoma-related damage. Dr. Wordinger and his team have been examining how growth factors in the eye normally function so they can establish a baseline for comparison to abnormalities.

Dr. Wordinger was chosen by students in the Graduate School of Bio-

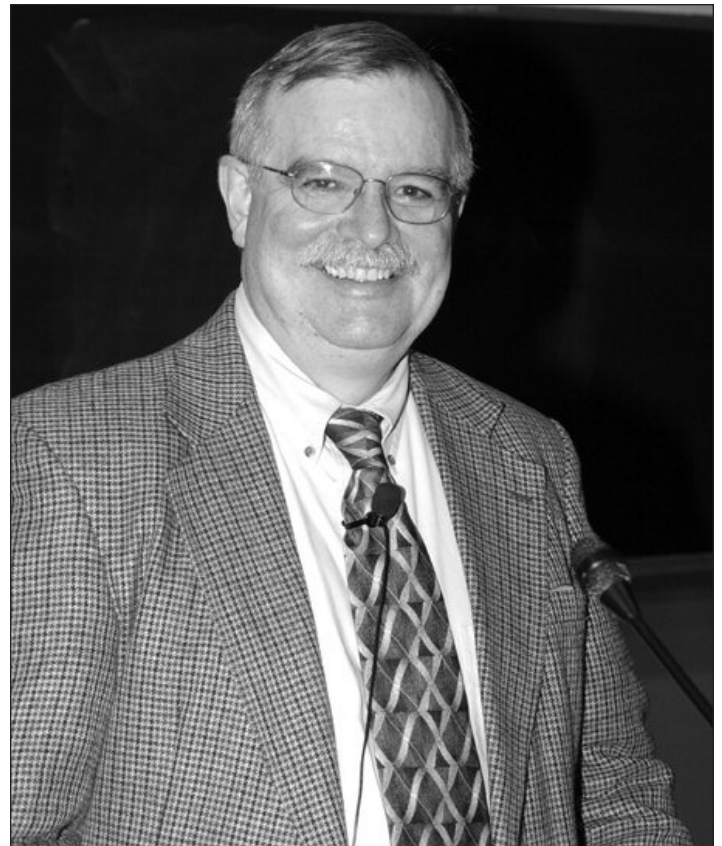
medical Sciences in recognition of his impact on them and on the scientific community as a whole.

“Any time you receive an award, especially from students, it’s a great honor,” Dr. Wordinger said. “The health science center has so many wonderful professors in the basic sciences, it was a complete surprise when they announced I had been chosen.”

Dr. Wordinger joined the health science center in 1978 after serving on the faculty at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in the department of pathology.

He holds several U.S. patents and has one in review. Dr. Wordinger’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Alcon Research Ltd. and numerous private foundations.

Dr. Wordinger received his bachelor’s degree in animal physiology from Pennsylvania State University and his master’s and doctoral degrees in reproductive physiology from Clemson University in South Carolina. His postdoc-



Robert Wordinger, PhD, Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member

toral fellowship was completed at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia.

Faculty members are selected for this honor based on their commitment to the ideals of higher education, involvement in graduate education and dedication to the student body, said Carla Lee, director of biomedical sciences admissions and services. The Outstanding Graduate Faculty Seminar Series is sponsored by the graduate school and the Graduate Student Association. ★

Campus Briefs

The cashier's office on the second floor of the Education and Administration Building will be open Jan. 2 so that employees who do not have direct deposit can **pick up their paychecks**. The payroll office will also be available to address any problems that may arise. Checks can be picked up between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please enter through the doors behind the flagpoles in Lot A.

The **State Employee Charitable Campaign** raised \$37,815 from 239 employees during the 2003 fund-raising period. "Our employees are so kind and generous, they made my job a pleasurable one," said campaign chair Judy Sager.

The Texas DPS **Driver's License Express RV** will be on campus Jan. 14

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The RV will park behind the library beside the grassy area on top of the west parking garage. You will be able to renew your driver's license or Texas ID card, apply for duplicate driver's licenses or ID cards, sign up for a first-time ID card, or transfer an out-of-state license to a Texas driver's license. Only cash and checks will be accepted. For more information, contact Susanne Ramos in Human Resource Services at ext. 2230.

The **Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show** opens Jan. 17 and continues through Feb. 8. Every year, the health science center allows stock show visitors to use the campus parking garage on Saturdays and Sundays. During the week it may be difficult to find free parking close to campus. ★

CAMPUS Connection

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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.

Project PATHS focuses on Dallas Hispanic students

Hispanic students in the Dallas Independent School District will have new opportunities to explore careers in the health sciences, thanks to a partnership between DISD, the health science center and the University of North Texas.

Project PATHS, or Participation and Training in Health Science, was funded for three years with \$965,175 from the National Institutes of Health. UNT and the health science center will work with students at North Dallas High School. Molina High School will serve as the comparison group.

Project PATHS is designed to increase the representation of Hispanics in the health and science professions, increase the number of Hispanic students taking college entrance exams, and promote health-related lifestyle changes, said co-principal investigator Hector Balcazar, PhD, chair and professor of social and behavioral sciences.

During the first year of the program, eight or nine classes of ninth grade students will participate in a nine-lesson classroom version of *Salud para su Corazón* (Health for Your Heart). In addition to encouraging healthy lifestyles, the researchers hope the *Salud para su Corazón* take-home activities will encourage family participation, Dr. Balcazar said. This aspect of the program will also feature a component designed for parents, said co-investigator Francisco Soto Mas, PhD, MD, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences.

Health science center students in the Society for the Advancement of Latino Scholars in Academia will serve as mentors and participate in panel discussions with the high school students. "Our SALSA students are the perfect role models for the high school students because they are closer to their age," said co-investigator Robert

Kaman, JD, PhD, associate professor of health management and policy and director of outreach for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Students will also be able to join a health professions club, go on field trips to academic institutions like the health science center and UT Southwestern, and participate in presentations and other activities. Tenth and 11th grade students in their second and third years in Project PATHS will also serve as mentors to the new ninth graders.

"College Nights," a health professions job fair and other community activities are also being planned.

The project team also includes principal investigator Allen Jackson, EdD, UNT Regents professor of kinesiology, health promotion and recreation. "This partnership allows us to combine our expertise in Latino health and outreach programs with UNT's experience in health promotion," Dr. Balcazar said. ★

Department Spotlight: PACE

The Office of Professional and Continuing Education is in the midst of an evolution, one that started years ago and has changed the way the health science center provides lifelong learning opportunities.

Last fall, PACE expanded its mission and changed its name from the Office of Continuing Medical Education. “The name change represents the health science center’s multidisciplinary focus,” said Pam McFadden, PACE associate vice president. “We provide continuing education to a host of health professionals – all with the ultimate goal of improving patient care and the health of the community.”

Now, PACE has moved to the forefront of the continuing education industry, developing new programs that deliver information to health care professionals “on demand” and conducting research to continually upgrade its efforts.

PACE serves as the one-stop shop for all continuing education programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the health science center. It is the only office on campus that handles continuing education planning, registration, implementation, evaluation and record maintenance. Over the years, the office has become completely self-supporting and no longer uses state funds to operate.

With a staff of nine professionals aided by volunteers, PACE conducts more than 500 educational programs a year, reaching over 10,000 health care professionals. These programs include conferences, grand rounds and other type of seminars. They are also increasingly using printed articles, online teleconferences and recorded programs.

PACE is only one of seven CME providers in the country approved to award education credits to both DOs and MDs. PACE can also provide continuing education to physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, social

workers, health educators and other health professionals.

PACE staff often work with faculty to brainstorm about new opportunities. “We’d like people to think outside the box when they think of continuing education opportunities,” McFadden said. “They may have activities they’re already doing that can be packaged into a program and shared with others.”

“There is a wealth of expertise and knowledge on this campus that can be used for continuing education,” said Andy Crim, PACE executive director.

For example, continuing education programs that disseminate research results can be included in grant submissions, adding value for external funding agencies, McFadden said. PACE can help identify underwriting for educational activities and develop programs that pay for themselves through registration fees.

“By collaborating on opportunities, we can help others succeed and accomplish our mission and that of the institution,” McFadden said. “We believe that every activity should be a win-win situation. The key is to involve us at the very beginning of the planning process so we can maximize the possibilities.”

A new partnership with facilities management has opened an additional market for PACE. They are working



PACE staff members (from left) Jerra Tillman, customer service specialist; Martha Horsman, executive assistant; and Cissy Childs, program logistics administrator, discuss upcoming continuing education programs.

with Walter Nettles, senior operator of life safety, to develop a refresher course on hazardous waste operations and emergency response that meets federal training requirements. The first eight-hour course is being planned for March.

PACE has also been awarded grants from pharmaceutical companies to produce multi-disciplinary CD-ROMs or DVDs on specific health issues. Currently, they are working on an asthma education CD that will be distributed free to nurses in north Texas and a DVD on diabetes care guidelines. “The diabetes DVD will offer a complete package of information to different members of the health care team,” Crim said. “Providers at all levels need to know the latest information.”

As it continues its evolution to a more comprehensive education provider, PACE is also exploring ways to evaluate its long-term effectiveness and the

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SPH, Harris Methodist take care of the caregiver

Missed workdays, family-related phone calls and loss of work productivity are a few of the problems faced by employees who are responsible for caring for aging parents. These growing challenges led the School of Public Health to join forces with Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital to develop a program for HMFWS employees who serve as caregivers for older adults.

SPH, internal medicine's Gerontology Assessment and Planning (GAP) Program, and Special Projects on Aging have combined their experience and expertise with that of HMFWS to develop and implement the Comprehensive Caregiver Choices (C³) Program. This program will use existing health science center and HMFWS resources in addition to almost \$89,000 in funding from the United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County's Senior Way Impact Council.

Douglas Mains, DrPH, assistant professor of health management and policy and C³ program director, said these three health science center programs have worked well together on projects in the past.

C³'s primary goal is to provide educational programs, advising and counseling to employee caregivers to help improve their work lives as well as the lives of those they care for.

Through the program's full-time social worker, Sherizanne Edwards,

MS, and other professionals, HMFWS employees can access educational materials and care coordination services at work.

Edwards advises HMFWS employees on living facilities and care services for their aging parents and relatives. After assessing each situation, she directs employees to the appropriate service providers.

Edwards said a major focus of her job is bringing awareness to HMFWS employees; many people come to her office not knowing what, if any, options are available.

"The social service coordinator provides advice and direction to caregivers so they don't have to go through the caregiver maze unassisted," Dr. Mains said.

The C³ program also offers seminars presented by experts on issues and topics that affect the caregivers. The seminars started in July with caregiver basics. Other seminars have covered dementia and Alzheimer's, healthy aging, health care needs for the elderly, and making the transition to long-term care.

Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, chief of geriatrics and GAP program medical director, and Thomas Fairchild, PhD, director, and Barbara Harty, RN, clinical research coordinator, both of Special Projects on Aging, have spoken at the seminars.

Dr. Knebl will also work with Cathy Torres, MHSM, a social worker in the GAP program, to assist with the program's care coordinating services.

Dr. Fairchild administers and evaluates the program with Dr. Mains, with the help of graduate students. Evaluating and measuring the C³ Program will give HMFWS feedback about whether it is improving the work lives of the employee caregivers and the lives of the older adults.

Another important component of the project is its advisory board, which consists of representatives from local senior centers and home health care services who have hands-on experience working with the elderly.

"These community members have experience in all different areas of elderly care giving," Dr. Mains said. "We have used them as a resource to give us guidance on the effectiveness of the program's design, and other issues as well."

"The goal of this program is to improve the life of the employee caregivers, which ultimately increases their productivity at work," Dr. Mains said.

The program would also like to be a model that other Tarrant County employers can replicate and use for their employees.

"We hope this program gives us some insight as to whether a model like this works," Dr. Mains said. ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the one on page 7 about John Podgore, DO, who provides medical care to refugees in the U.S. and abroad.

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.

Kudos to...

Barry Laughlin and **Don Snyder**, both of facilities management, for going above and beyond the call of duty when the health science center had a sprinkler system leak last month.

Monté Troutman, DO, for being named chair of internal medicine.

Kim Goodman, biomedical communications, for winning the World Wide Web Awards' Gold Award from the American Association of Webmasters. She was recognized for the creative design of her department's web page.

Dennis Shingleton, MS, MBA, pathology/anatomy, for being awarded the Legion of Merit in November in recognition of his years of service in the U.S. Army Reserve. ★

Gov. Perry names new regent, reappoints Strange, Nickell

Gov. Rick Perry named Fort Worth's Rice Tilley Jr., JD, as the UNT System's newest regent and reappointed Gayle Strange of Denton and Robert Nickell, MBA, of Irving, both UNT alumni, to new terms on the board. All three will serve until May 2009.

Tilley is a senior attorney and head of the taxation and estate planning section at the law firm of Law, Snakard & Gambill in Fort Worth. He replaces George Pepper of Fort Worth, who left the board when his term expired.

In recent years, Tilley has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the field of estate planning, and he is currently listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the World*.

Tilley has long been a leader in Fort Worth, serving on a number of boards, including the Van Cliburn Foundation and the Fort Worth Symphony Association. He has been president of the Exchange Club of Fort Worth, the Lena Pope Home, and the Fort Worth Opera Association. In addition, he has served as a former chair of the boards of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Fort Worth.

Tilley earned his bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, his law degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law and a Master of Laws degree in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

Strange was appointed to the board in 1997 by Gov. George W. Bush. She is president of Axiom Commercial Company Ltd. of Denton, a small commercial construction company. In addition, she is a rancher, land developer, writer and researcher.

Her association with the university also includes membership on the Presi-



New Board of Regents member Rice Tilley, Jr.

dent's Council. Her civic affiliations include the Denton Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Denton Arts Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from UNT and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas Woman's University.

Nickell, an independent investor with a background as a commercial airline pilot and a history of outstanding entrepreneurial success in wholesale distribution, has been chair of the board of trustees of the Professional Development Institute at UNT.

In addition, he has served on UNT's President's Council and the College of Business Administration Advisory Board. He earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business administration from UNT.

The Texas Senate must confirm the appointments.

Charles "Chuck" Beatty of Waxahachie, Marjorie Craft of DeSoto, Tom Lazo of Dallas, Burle Pettit of Lubbock, John Robert "Bobby" Ray of Plano and C. Dan Smith of Plano also serve on the Board of Regents. ★

In the News

The *Temple Daily Telegram* quoted **Ronald Blanck, DO**, president, in an Oct. 3 article about a local bioterrorism conference, where he served as the keynote speaker.

The *Star-Telegram* published a special section for seniors Nov. 10. **Samuel "Tim" Coleridge, DO**, professor of family medicine, gave advice about how people can stay healthy as they grow older in a feature article.

NBC5 interviewed **Michael Forster, PhD**, professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, for a story on nutrition and aging Oct. 28.

Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, was quoted about the partnership between TCOM and JPS Health Network that expands cardiology services for Tarrant County residents in a *Fort Worth Business Press* article Oct. 31.

The ribbon-cutting event celebrating the opening of the **Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center** was featured in a WFAA story Nov. 4, a *Star-Telegram* article Nov. 5 and a Univision story Nov. 5.

The news about **Janice Knebl, DO, MBA**, being named the first Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. distinguished chair of clinical geriatrics, was published in the *Star-Telegram* Nov. 14, the *Dallas Business Journal* Nov. 21 and *Tarrant Business* Nov. 24.

James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology/neuroscience and director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, and **Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD**, associate professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, were featured in the Nov. 14 issue of *Science*, in which they commented on the impact of changing hormone replacement therapy guidelines on their estrogen research.

Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, was featured in the " Dossier " column in the *Business Press* Oct. 10. ★

RESEARCH UPDATE:

Pharmacology nets ATP grant

The Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience will be able to further develop its work with novel estrogens to protect the brain from stroke, thanks to a \$200,000 Advanced Technology Program grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience, will lead the research project. "Currently, no effective neuroprotective drugs are available to treat or prevent the neurological consequences of stroke and heart attacks," he said.

His research team means to change that. It has discovered and synthesized more than 60 novel estrogen-like compounds that are 10 to 100 times more potent than current therapies but do not have the side effects associated with estrogens. The researchers have also shown that a single dose of any of these compounds potently protects nerve cells from stroke-related damage and can keep nerve cells alive long after a stroke begins.

"This funding will help us move one or more of our patented neuroprotective compounds to clinical trials so that we can evaluate their efficacy in protecting the brain after a stroke," Dr. Simpkins said.

This is the only health science center project funded by the THECB this year; in the past, the health science center has had THECB grants totaling more than \$1.2 million. State budget cuts last fiscal year required cuts in funding for ATP and Advanced Research Program grants. This year, ATP grants suffered from substantial cuts, and the ARP grants were not funded at all. ★

GSBS doctoral students present research at national meeting

Two promising health science center doctoral candidates, Rebecca Deaton and Joel Ellis, MS, GSBS 2002, were invited to deliver oral presentations at the annual American Heart Association Scientific Sessions meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The meeting is designed to disseminate new and emerging scientific knowledge and stimulate discussion of implications for future research and the application of knowledge. More than 3,500 abstracts were submitted overall.

Both Ellis and Deaton major in biomedical sciences and are under the mentorship of Stephen Grant, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology.

Ellis received a master's degree in biotechnology in 2002 and chose to pursue a doctoral degree in the same lab. He presented "Mechanisms of CaM Kinase II Delta C Silencing of MEF2-Dependent Gene Transcription," part of his dissertation research.

"The whole experience was overwhelming — just being able to interact with some of the top people in the field — but I felt like I had something to contribute. I was quite honored to be selected." Ellis plans to graduate in 2005.

Deaton delivered her presentation "TGF beta 1 Stimulates PKN-mediated Induction of Smooth Muscle-



Rebecca Deaton and Joel Ellis

Marker Gene Expression: A Role for p38 MAPK Signaling" to an audience that included two of the most respected researchers in her field of vascular biology. "It was very stressful," she admitted, "but it made all of the long hours in the lab worthwhile."

Deaton, who served as a Graduate Student Association officer for three years, was admitted to Sigma Xi, the international research society, last year in recognition of her leadership and potential as a future research scientist. She plans to graduate in 2004 and is currently interviewing for postdoctoral research fellowships in some of the most prestigious laboratories in the country. ★

PACE

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impact of its programs on patient care.

The office is developing ways to measure the outcomes of its educational programs. "We need to know if our participants are taking their new knowledge and using it with their patients," Crim said. "It's not enough to know there's a new test if you don't actually use that test to help your patients."

PACE's future relies on the quality of relationships it builds, McFadden said. "We've grown because of the quality of work that we do and the ongoing referrals we get from existing customers.

"We are only as good as the last program we delivered," McFadden said. "We have stay ahead of the curve to be relevant to our customers." ★

Campus Personality: John Podgore, DO, MPH

Being a stranger in a strange land several years ago had a life-altering impact on John Podgore, DO, MPH, professor of pediatrics.

Dr. Podgore and his family lived in Egypt for eight years in the 1980s and early 1990s while he was an infectious disease specialist with the U.S. Army. "I couldn't speak the language or even read the street signs," he said. "The locals reached out to us and helped us navigate their world. I noticed that it was part of their culture to help foreign refugees and guests in their country."

When he returned to the States, he realized that Americans often hesitate to reach out to strangers, especially those who look and act differently. "A warm smile goes a long way to helping someone feel welcome," Dr. Podgore said. "Knowing that someone is willing to help you find your way is very comforting when you feel frightened and alone."

When he finished his tour with the Army, Dr. Podgore knew that he wanted to teach at a medical school and continue his work in pediatrics and infectious diseases. An opening at the health science center brought him to Fort Worth in 1992.

Dr. Podgore and his family joined St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Worth and soon became involved in its mission and refugee outreach efforts.

"Our first group of refugees came from the former Yugoslavia," he said. The church sponsored 32 families in about three years and helped them settle in Tarrant County.

"We acted as mentors to these families, helping them through the potential pitfalls of living in a strange country," he said. The church volunteers helped the refugees access health care, buy cars, find long-term housing and jobs, obtain scholarships to college, and watch out for those who might take advantage of them.

Dr. Podgore wrote the thesis for his master of public health degree based on the findings of a health needs assess-

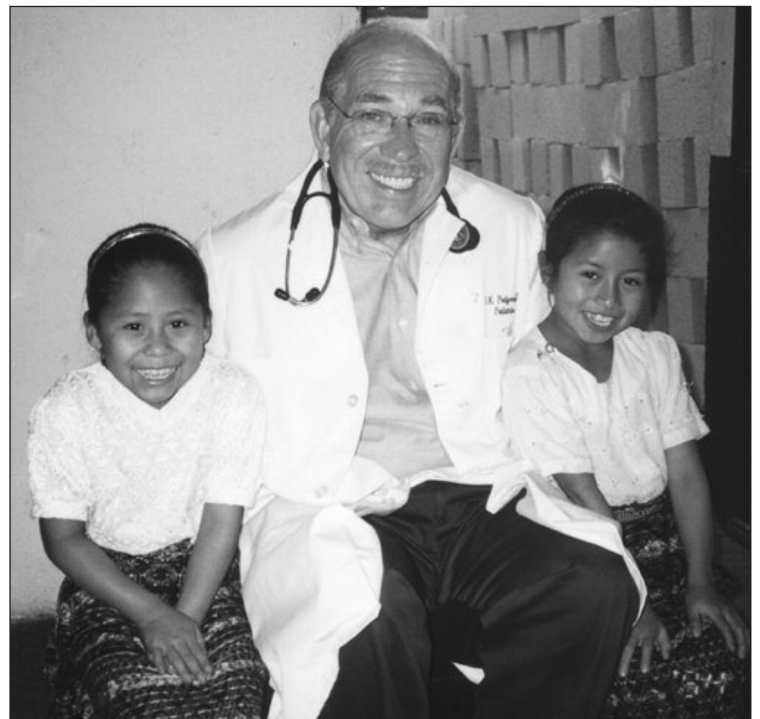
ment he conducted with the Yugoslavian refugees. The paper was published in *Texas Medicine* in June.

More recently, Dr. Podgore has been working with a new group of refugees, the "Lost Boys" of Sudan. These tribespeople, mostly young men, were driven from their homes and farmland by the ruling faction because of religious and cultural differences. Now, he is getting ready to work with the Bantu refugees from Somalia.

Dr. Podgore not only works with refugees who are coming to the United States, he also travels to impoverished countries on mission trips.

As a board member with International Child Care, he travels to Haiti several times each year to work with the pediatrics tuberculosis hospital operated by the non-profit organization. Through his church, he also participates with other American medical and dental professionals in an annual mission trip to Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Dr. Podgore said working with the refugees has made him appreciate the little things in life more. "I once thought the shallow surface trappings were so important and looked for things that would make me feel more



Dr. Podgore frequently travels to countries like Haiti, Guatemala and Nicaragua to provide medical care to refugees.

comfortable," he said. "I've matured spiritually. Now, I get more satisfaction from helping others in need than from focusing on my own comfort."

Dr. Podgore has simple goals for the results of the outreach efforts and mission trips. "I want them to feel that they've left their troubles behind," he said. "I want them to know that there are people here who care for them."

And what does he want in return? "I like to see them smile." ★

School of Public Health

SPH attends APHA meeting

Several School of Public Health faculty, staff and students joined more than 13,000 other attendees at the 131st American Public Health Association annual meeting Nov. 15-19 in San Francisco, CA.

Professionals from around the world enjoyed the hundreds of scientific sessions, which focused on the meeting's theme, "Behavior, Lifestyle and Social Determinants of Health."

Public health research and programs play an integral role in understanding and promoting positive public health behaviors. SPH doctoral students Marco Marruffo and Patrick Moonan contributed to the available public health research with presentations at the meeting.

Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, SPH dean; Bob Galvan, MPH, SPH associate dean; Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPH, acting chair of health management and policy and vice president for

strategic and institutional affairs; Diane Wynn, MEd, director of admissions and student services; and Liz Treviño, MPH, training center coordinator, attended functions presented by the Association of Schools of Public Health and others.

In addition to attending ASPH functions, Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences and public health practice coordinator, contributed to activities of the Society for Public Health Education and the International Union for Health Promotion and Education.

Douglas Mains, DrPh, assistant professor of health management and policy, was involved with the Public Health Leadership Institute.

Hector Balcazar, PhD, professor and chair of social and behavioral sciences, presented information about the

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Alumni society holds inaugural reception at APHA meeting

The School of Public Health Alumni Society was officially inaugurated on Nov. 17 at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in San Francisco.

Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, SPH dean, spoke about the history of the school, recent developments and the excitement about future plans.

Echoing Dr. Treviño's sentiments about ongoing success, Kathryn Herron Cardarelli, alumni president, presented a toast to the well-rounded group of reception attendees, including several alumni, faculty, staff and current students from the School of Public Health, as well as a few honored guests.

Cardarelli also discussed the objec-

tives of the society, which include stimulating continued interest in the school among society members, identifying and developing resources to assist alumni with their careers, supporting alumni involvement in SPH's student service functions, providing expertise and opportunities to current and prospective students, fostering and sustaining a sense of collegiality among society members, to strengthen the long-term financial health of SPH through fund raising efforts.

Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPH, acting chair of health management and policy and vice president for strategic and institutional affairs, took the

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SPH hosts career fair

The School of Public Health and the Public Health Student Association sponsored a Fall Career Fair Nov. 5 that gave public health organizations a chance to share information with students at the health science center.

SPH students learned about currently available jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities. Some students presented their resumes, but most simply took the opportunity to meet one-on-one with active public health professionals to find out about their jobs and the options available.

Many SPH alumni were also involved this year. A handful of new graduates toured the booths in search of new opportunities in the areas of social and behavioral science, health management, and others. Several of the vendors were former students who said they were pleased to return to campus to share their professional experiences with the current student body.

Participating vendors included national organizations, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control, and many local government offices were also present, including the City of Grand Prairie, the City of Fort Worth, the City of Richardson and the City of Fort Worth Public Health Department.

Participating nonprofit organizations included the American Cancer Society; Camp John Marc; Catholic Charities; Do it for me, Mom; The Bridge; and the Mental Health Association.

The Texas Air National Guard and the Founders' Activity Center also participated. ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/Physician Assistant Studies

PCC volunteers greet patients with a smile

You may have noticed a few familiar faces at the Patient Care Center's first floor reception desk this year. Patients needing directions during their first visit to campus or looking for the lab can turn to health science center retirees Ed Elko, PhD; Lee Walker, DO; and patient Howard Pickop for help.

The three founding members of the medical group's corps of volunteers are always ready to lend a hand greeting patients and directing them to their appointments, answering questions, assembling charts, and assisting patients with wheelchairs.

Pickop, a longtime patient, said that he wanted to give something back to the clinic that has been so helpful to him. "They have given me excellent care over the years."

"We want to let our volunteers know how much we appreciate them," said Randy Jones, MPA, FACHE, vice president of practice operations and



Health science center retiree Lee Walker, DO, greets patients as part of the medical group's corp of volunteers.

chief administrative officer for the medical group. "Their help has been invaluable."

"Ed Elko has been spearheading the volunteer program. His enthusiasm

and drive to help the program succeed have been critical," said Robert Adams, DO, senior associate dean for clinical affairs. "The volunteers have allowed us to get feedback from patients about their needs and concerns that we may not have gotten without their help."

The volunteers are the first thing patients see when they enter the Patient Care Center, and the group has been widely used. "The volunteers have been able to offer several suggestions to improve patients' experiences while visiting our clinic," Dr. Adams said. "They let us know what questions patients are consistently asking, such as the location of the lab. Because of this feedback, we added a sign to help direct patients to the lab."

The volunteers can be reached at ext. 0103. For more information about the volunteer program, call Michele Bourdage at ext. 2607 or e-mail her via GroupWise. ★

PSMG recognizes exemplary clinic employees

Mary Helen Pena, from the Seminary Family Practice Clinic, and Cindy Hines, from the Central Family Practice Clinic, were named Employees of the Month for September. Lana Lish, from the Saginaw Family Practice Clinic, was selected as the clinical support Employee of the Month for October.

Pena, a medical assistant, was selected in the clinical support category. She has been with the health science center for more than 10 years. "Mary is a dedicated and loyal employee, and her bilingual skills are very helpful. She is definitely an asset to our 'Seminary Family,'" said Penny Renfro, RN, nursing services supervisor at Semi-



Mary Helen Pena



Cindy Hines



Lana Lish

nary. "I am very proud to have Mary as part of my team."

Hines, a clinic services representative II at Central, was honored in the business support category. Hines has worked for the Central Clinic

since 1997 and currently works in the file room.

"Cindy is always willing to assist with whatever task is necessary to ensure that the clinic operates efficiently," said

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Institutional Advancement

Employees lead Campus Pride Campaign

Eighteen employees from across the health science center have stepped forward as team captains of the health science center's first-ever fund-raising campaign to be focused solely on the growth of campus facilities.

They met with the staff of institutional advancement for the first time Dec. 5 to talk about how internal support fosters external support, to plan events and donor recognition methods, and to unveil their campaign slogan: "We're BUILDING a great future together!"

Lee Tayon, an administrative associate in student affairs who has worked at the health science center for 12 years, said that her involvement in the building campaign is a matter of pride.

"I've watched this campus grow and become part of the Fort Worth skyline over the past 20 years," she said.

"Where we are today, and the reputation we enjoy today, is a big source of pride for me. I can't wait to see the new building all finished out, and I can say 'I had a hand in that ... a piece of me is there, forever.'"

Joining Tayon as team captains for



Team captains for the Campus Pride Campaign will help institutional advancement staff with the health science center's first fund-raising campaign to be targeted solely at improving campus facilities.

the Campus Pride Campaign are: Janice Bagby, senior administrative assistant, facilities management; Stephen Barrett, director of facilities management; Stephen Baum, health promotion manager; Debbie Ceron, human subject

compliance coordinator, research and biotechnology; Cissy Childs, program logistics administrator, PACE; Craig Elam, MLS, associate director of technical services, Lewis Library; Bob Galvan,

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Institutional Advancement

Campaign

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MPH, associate dean for administration and community health, SPH; Guadalupe Gonzalez, custodian, custodial services; Twila Moon, assistant to the chair, molecular biology and immunology; Tom Newell, director of telecommunications; Patti Pagels, PA-C, assistant professor of PA studies; Ray Pertusi, DO, associate professor of internal medicine; Lupe Sanchez, senior administrative assistant, SPH; Linda Shook, assistant to the director, biomedical communications; Jim Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair of pharmacology and neuroscience; Cheryl Wells, EEO director, human resources; and Aline Wyrlik, RN, nurse manager, internal medicine.

Institutional advancement will coordinate the campus campaign and a targeted external community campaign. Advancement will also submit grant proposals to selected private foundations. All donors will be given the opportunity to pay out their gifts over three years, and employees will be able to sign up for payroll deductions. The goal for private donations is \$7.5 million.

Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president for institutional advancement, said that the effectiveness of both the community campaign and the grant proposals will be greatly enhanced by a successful employee campaign.

“Regardless of the project, one of the first questions a potential donor asks us is always, ‘What is the level of support for this project inside your institution?’ The closer we get to 100 percent internal participation for this campaign, the greater the positive impact on potential external donors.”

Dr. Kimberling and the Campus Pride Campaign team captains are planning to kick off the fund-raising drive in mid-January, and it will run through the end of February. ★

Dear UNTHSC Family Member,

After the first of the new year, I will ask each of you to join me in an unprecedented demonstration of pride in ourselves as we conduct the very first capital campaign in the 34-year history of this institution.

Our focus will be on finishing out the newest structure on our beautiful campus. This building, which we tend to talk about in terms of research, but which in the long run will influence the success of every program we offer, was started with state allocations. Floor by floor, it must be finished with federal grant money, investments by private foundations and the gifts of individual donors — meaning you, me and the people of Fort Worth.

Perhaps not since the 1970s when TCOM students, faculty and staff all donned hard hats to hang sheetrock, mount shelves and arrange second-hand furniture in a bowling alley-turned-respectable medical school has there been such a campus-wide effort to join together to improve our physical presence and publicly demonstrate our steadfast belief in ourselves, what we do and where we’re going.

Today, 30 years later, it is more important than ever — and necessary, thanks to diminishing state funding — that we remember, and revitalize, that same collegial, “we can do it together” ambition. No, we can’t ask folks to grab a hammer or a paintbrush this time, but we will ask every employee and student to support this campaign in whatever way they feel comfortable.

We’re off to a great start: 100 percent of the members of our UNTHSC Foundation board and almost 100 percent of my executive staff have already pledged donations to the campaign.

Please remember: Every employee who donates to the Campus Pride Campaign will have his or her name publicly and permanently recognized on the site of our new building. We’ve got lots of room over there, and I’d be very happy to decorate it with lots of names!

This is YOUR health science center, and you should be very proud of it.

Thank you. We’re BUILDING a great future together!



Ronald R. Blanck, DO
President

Alumni

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opportunity to become the first member of the society, and jokingly challenged everyone to join in.

As hors d'oeuvres and desserts were served, more than \$900 in membership dues was raised as new graduates and regular and affiliate members offered to support the new group. In addition to joining as an affiliate member, Bob Galvan, MPH, SPH associate dean, gave the first donation to the society.

SPH Alumni Society board members Nora Santana, MPH, and Sherwin Daryani, MPH, could not be present, but sent messages of congratulations.

The School of Public Health would especially like to thank Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president for institutional advancement, and the entire staff of the Office of Institutional Advancement for their tremendous support in the process of planning the reception and starting the new society.

Those interested in joining or learning more about the SPH Alumni Society can contact Jenny Cureton at ext. 5191 or via GroupWise. ★

PSMG

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Sandy Booker, Central clinic supervisor. "She is an extremely loyal, capable and dependable employee."

Lish serves primarily as the medical assistant for Yung Seiu Chen, DO, assistant professor of family medicine. This is the second time Lish has been named Employee of the Month; she was also honored in May.

"I enjoy working with co-workers who really care about the patients and who will go the extra mile to help, no matter how long it takes or what has to be done," Lish said. "I am very fortunate to be here at this clinic and to work with the doctors who are here. We all help each other out the best we can, and it works well!" ★



Northside Community Health Center open for business

Representatives from the health science center, JPS Health Network and the community gathered Nov. 4 to celebrate the opening of the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center. Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Javier Aldape; David Cecero; Judge Manuel Valdez; Ronald Blanck, DO; and Father Stephen Jasso. Nearly 200 people attended the event. The new clinic replaces the health science center's family medicine clinic that was located at the Northside Multipurpose Center.

APHA

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Salud para Su Corazón project, and Sue Lurie, PhD, coordinated a tuberculosis focus group.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics and acting chair of epidemiology; Peter Hilsenrath, PhD, professor of health management and policy; and Sejong Bae, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics, also participated in the annual meeting.

The School of Public Health Office of Admissions and Student Services displayed information on the school's academic programs at the APHA Public Health Expo. Over 600 booths exhibited information, products and services related to public health careers, computer and pharmaceutical companies, government agencies, and research institutions.

Public Health Student Association officers Eve Lane, Rami Hamarna, Kim McGee, Neda Moayad, and Kyla Hagan, MPH students Sara Hossman and Amanda Medina, and doctoral student Marco Marruffo staffed the SPH booth and also took the opportunity to attend scientific and continuing education sessions and caucuses and to browse through the CareerMart.

At the meeting several important reports were released from organizations such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition to these releases, information on new policies and other APHA developments is available at www.apha.org. ★

Faculty Advances

Susan Franks, PhD, assistant professor of family medicine and psychology; **James Hall, PhD**, associate professor of internal medicine and psychology; and **Douglas Mains, DrPh**, assistant professor of health management and policy, were co-authors of a paper, "Hooper Visual Organization Test (VOT) as a Predictor of Driving Status of Individuals with Dementia," presented at the Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology in Dallas in October. **Margaret Budd**, graduate student in public health and clinical health psychology, was the primary author.

Terrance Gratton, DrPh, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, presented the paper "Health Effects of Lead in Adults from Children Exposed to Smelter Emissions in the Dallas Area" at the New Mexico Environmental Health Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 22.

Peter Hilsenrath, PhD, professor of health management/policy, gave a seminar, "Ranking Health Systems of the World: The World Health Report 2000," at the Judge Institute of Management at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom in November. **Dr. Hilsenrath** was also first author of a paper, "An Institutional Retrospective on South African and American Health Sectors," published in the *Journal of the Academy of Business and Economics* (2 [2] 2003). **Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH**, professor and dean, School of Public Health; **Karan Singh, PhD**, professor and chair of biostatistics; and **Samuel Levey, PhD**, health management and policy, University of Iowa, were co-authors. **Dr. Hilsenrath** was also senior author of a paper, "A Growing Market," published in *Marketing Health Services*, Winter 2003. A former graduate student in public health, **Aravind Nemarkommula, MPH**, was first author, and **Dr. Singh** and **Kristine Lykens, PhD**, assistant professor of health management and policy, were co-authors.

Ren-Qi Huang, MD, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is senior author of the paper "Molecular determinants of proton modulation of glycine receptors," published in the January issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. **Zheng-Lan Chen, PhD**, postdoctoral research assistant, is first author, and **Glenn Dillon, PhD**, associate professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, is co-author.

Raghu Krishnamoorthy, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, published the paper "Regulation of Na,K-ATPase expression by endothelin-1 in transfected human ciliary non-pigmented epithelial (HNPE)

cells" in the October issue of the *Journal of Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. **Ganesh Prasanna, PhD**, research assistant professor; **Rachel Dauphin**, graduate teaching fellow; and **Christina Hulet**, senior research associate, all of pharmacology/neuroscience, and **Neeraj Agarwal, PhD**, associate professor of cell biology/genetics, and **Thomas Yorio, PhD**, professor and dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, were co-authors.

John Licciardone, DO, professor of family medicine and director of grants/funding and travel medicine; **Scott Stoll, DO, PhD**, professor and chair of manipulative medicine; **Kimberly Fulda, MPH**, research associate and instructor of family medicine; **David Russo, DO, MPH**, teaching fellow in manipulative medicine; **Jeff Siu**, multi-disciplinary graduate student; **William Winn, DO**, teaching fellow in manipulative medicine; and **Jon Swift, DO**, research teaching fellow in manipulative medicine, co-authored the article "Osteopathic manipulative treatment for chronic low back pain: a randomized controlled trial" published in the July issue of *Spine*.

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, was first author of a review article, "Antioxidant properties of myocardial fuels," published in the November issue of *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*. The article was co-authored by **Jie Sun**, research associate in integrative physiology. **Dr. Mallet** also presented the research report "Pyruvate restores electrocardiographic function and myocardial redox state following cardiac arrest and resuscitation" at the American Heart Association scientific sessions in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 9-12. The report was co-authored by **Sun** and **Jian Bi, MD**, postdoctoral research associate in integrative physiology.

Ganesh Prasanna, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience, presented a seminar, "Glaucoma, Endothelins, and Optic Nerve: Over Pressured and Out of Oxygen," at the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington Oct. 28. **Dr. Prasanna** was also first author of an invited review paper, "Eyeing Endothelins: A Cellular Perspective," published in the November issue of *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*. **Santosh Narayan, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate in pharmacology/neuroscience; **Raghu Krishnamoorthy, PhD**, research assistant professor of pharmacology/neuroscience; and **Thomas Yorio, PhD**, professor and dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, were senior authors.

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Faculty Advances

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Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPh, assistant professor of social/behavioral sciences, presented the paper “Gender-Related Risk Factors for Obesity in School Children” at the 77th Annual American School Health Association Conference in El Paso, Texas, Oct. 15-18. **Manuel Bayona, MD, PhD**, associate professor of epidemiology; **Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences and public health practice coordinator; and John Menchaca, MD, are co-authors.

Wolfram Siede, PhD, associate professor of cell biology/genetics, was senior author of an article, “Analysis of the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell cycle by morphological criteria and flow cytometry,” published in the book “Cell Cycle Checkpoint Protocols” (Humana Press, Totowa, NJ) in November. Hong Zhang, technician, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., is co-author.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics, co-authored a paper, “On inflated generalized Poisson regression models,” published in the July issue of *Advances and Applications in Statistics*.

Adam Smith, DO, associate professor of surgery, spoke at the “Healthy Women, Healthy Lives” symposium in Fort Worth Nov. 15. **Dr. Smith** discussed the symptoms, treatments and underlying causes of Gastroesophageal Reflux

Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome at a breakout session. **Scott Stoll, DO, PhD**, associate professor and chair of manipulative medicine and executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center, and **Michael Smith, PhD**, professor and acting chair of integrative physiology, ORC research director and director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute’s Center for Sleep, co-chaired the 2003 AOA Research Conference in New Orleans, La., Oct. 13-17.

Thomas Yorio, PhD, professor and dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, was an invited symposium speaker at the European Association for Vision and Eye Research meeting in Alicante, Spain. The presentation, “Crosstalk Role of Endothelin,” was co-authored by **Xinyu Zhang, PhD**, post-doctoral research associate in pharmacology/neuroscience. **Dr. Yorio** also served on the NIH Visual Sciences Special Emphasis Panel for SBIR/STTR grants and as an ad hoc grant reviewer for South Carolina to review Research Centers of Excellence in Vision Research.

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery and adjunct faculty in integrative physiology, received the prestigious American Heart Association honor of membership in the Paul Dudley White Society. **Dr. Olivencia-Yurvati** also co-authored an article, “Pyruvate-enhanced cardioprotection during cardiopulmonary bypass surgery,” published in the December issue of the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia*. **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology and adjunct faculty in surgery, was co-author. ★