

Physicians groups merge

The University of North Texas Physicians Group and the North Texas Affiliated Medical Group, the two largest physicians groups in Tarrant County, will merge to form a new not-for-profit organization. Both groups are currently not-for-profits.

The merger will result in the largest physicians group in Tarrant County.

"This merger of two major physicians groups should act as an economic stimulus for increased medical research, education and enhanced patient care, adding jobs and improving the quality of life for Tarrant County residents," said Bill Thornton, president of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

The health science center's 110-member physicians group provides services to more than 200,000 Fort Worth-area patients yearly, and its physicians are faculty members at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"We believe that this merger will improve both the quality of and access to patient-centered care for all Tarrant County residents," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean and chair of the UNT Physicians Group. "In addition, the enhanced clinical faculty will offer benefits to our medical school and physician assistant programs on the health science center campus."

The North Texas Affiliated Medical Group is a 174-member physicians group that provides service to nearly 500,000 Tarrant County residents yearly. The group's physicians have

made up the majority of the medical staff at John Peter Smith Hospital and its neighborhood health centers for almost 10 years. Currently, these doctors also provide most of the training for residency programs at JPS.

"Around the country, large multi-specialty groups and medical schools are at the forefront in innovation and quality improvements in medical care," said Charles Webber, MD, chair of the North Texas Affiliated Medical Group. "The size of the combined groups, as well as the affiliation with our local medical school, will put us in a position to be that sort of catalyst in Fort Worth."

State representative Charlie Geren also sees the merger as a step in the right direction for healthcare in Tarrant County.

"The merger of these two groups creates a synergy that should positively impact the provision of healthcare in Tarrant County and the educational opportunities for our doctors of tomorrow," Rep. Geren said. "I fully expect the newly formed group will continue good-faith negotiations with the Tarrant County Hospital District to ensure that a complete range of services are provided at JPS."

Some of the doctors in the new group will continue to work out of the clinics on the health science center campus. Others will maintain offices at satellite locations around Tarrant County. The new group will span all

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HSC to purchase OMCT property

The health science center has signed an agreement to purchase the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas property.

The property was purchased by Robert Patton Feb. 1 at a foreclosure auction.

The health science center could not purchase the property at auction because the foreclosure process does not meet various state requirements for property purchase.

The state requires that a property purchased by a state entity include a title policy, survey and other similar items as a safeguard to protect taxpayer money. At a foreclosure sale, properties are purchased as is.

Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, began negotiations with Patton shortly after the purchase.

The agreement reached stipulates that the health science center will close on the property prior to or on April 1.

"We're very happy to work with Mr. Patton, whose appreciation of the health science center allowed us to purchase the former OMCT property for less than other offers he had received," Dr. Blanck said.

Dr. Blanck was given authorization to negotiate for the purchase of the former OMCT property by the

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Campus Briefs

Students, faculty and staff can now enter events into the **online campus calendar** on the health science center Web site. Just follow these simple instructions to share your happenings with the campus community:

1. Go to the campus calendar at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/calendar> and click the "Add an Event to the Calendar" link on the right side of the page.
2. Enter your Novell User ID and current password, and then click Enter. This will take you to the data entry page.
3. Enter the appropriate information about your event in the designated spaces, and then click submit.

Your calendar event will be submitted to marketing and communications for approval. Marketing and communications will post approved events within two days. Weekly reminders of what's in store for the next week will continue to be e-

mailed, so remember to submit your events to the News Office by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the event.

If you have any questions about this new feature, please contact marketing and communications at ext. 5152.

The health science center's **American Medical Student Association** chapter has received funding from the national AMSA office to create an **AIDS quilt** to raise awareness of how AIDS affects us. Organizers intend to include panels from all health science center departments, TCOM and PA classes, the School of Public Health, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, employees, research labs, and any individuals whose lives have been touched in some way by the global AIDS crisis.

The quilt will be displayed in a public area on campus. An unveiling reception is planned for the week of March 29-April 2, in conjunction with the health science center's Global AIDS Awareness Week.

Physicians groups merge

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specialties of medical practice and most subspecialties. For patients, that means improved access to quality healthcare, Dr. Hahn said.

With the merger, the two physicians groups plan to tie all of the practices into a network of physicians that can enhance patient care by sharing medical records, care planning and patient education.

The new group will also provide the health science center with more clinical faculty members and researchers, promoting the institution's goal to achieve excellence in education and research. For students at the medical school, that means an

opportunity to learn from a wider variety of specialists.

"This is an exciting opportunity for both groups," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, "and this is an exciting opportunity for our students."

Both groups shared a commitment to education, research and patient care prior to their merger, and the new group will continue that focus and deepen its community focus in an effort to provide better medical care for all Tarrant County residents, Dr. Hahn said.

Business details of the merger should be finalized during the next six to eight months. ★

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 Tommy Hawkes, Carla Lee, Jennifer Martin, Tony Martinez, Diane Wynn and Janet Zipperlen. Without their involvement, this publication would not be possible.

Anyone interested in participating in the design or production of the quilt should contact Linda Sullivan, TCOM 2007, AMSA chapter co-president, via GroupWise by Feb. 18.

Next Month: Learn more about the health science center's Healthcare Heroes: Ronald Blanck, DO; Russell Gamber, DO; Laurie Hill, PA-C; Melva Jones, LVN; James Simpkins, PhD; and Albert Yurvati, DO. Healthcare Heroes are selected by the *Fort Worth Business Press*. ★

Purchase

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UNT System Board of Regents Jan. 21 during a telephone meeting.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board then authorized Dr. Blanck to enter into negotiations for the property at its regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 27.

Before any plans for the property are made, the health science center will commission a master plan.

Other properties purchased by the health science center in the agreement include a clinic on University Drive, which currently houses the health science center's pediatrics clinic, and two properties near the main OMCT campus. ★

HSC faculty, staff and students open hearts for tsunami relief effort

Faculty, staff and students at the health science center have donated more than \$10,000 to aid agencies that support tsunami relief efforts. The fundraising drive ran from Jan. 18 to Feb. 14.

“The tsunami that hit Southeast Asia affected several people associated with the health science center, which is one of the reasons that our faculty, staff and students have been so supportive of our internal relief efforts,” said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center.

“I’m encouraged by continual efforts to help rebuild lives and homes in that area, and I’m proud of the effort that everyone has put forth in this relief effort,” he said.

In addition to direct donations from employees and students, fundraisers were held on campus as part of the health science center’s tsunami relief effort, called Open Your Hearts — Help Save and Rebuild Lives.

Proceeds went to the four charities designated by the health science center: the American Red Cross, AmeriCares, International Relief Teams and Save the Children. Employees were also given the option to direct their donations to other organizations that are involved in the relief effort.

The International Student Association, the Medical Student Government Association and Student Affairs hosted two pizza sale events with Dominoes Feb. 2. Dominoes brought its gazebo to the health science center for the events, which raised more than \$1,100.

Dr. Blanck hosted a wine and food sampling in the Atrium Feb. 4 that raised almost \$1,000.



Tsunami relief T-shirts were also available for \$10, and \$6 from every T-shirt sale went to the relief effort.

The final event of the campaign, a group photo, will be held Feb. 18 at 12:45 p.m. in the Atrium.

Everyone who participated in the fundraising efforts is invited to attend, and participants are encouraged to wear their tsunami relief T-shirts. ★



Students and employees enjoyed a food and wine tasting Feb. 4. The event, which was one of the activities in the health science center’s tsunami relief fundraising drive, raised almost \$1,000.

NIH biochemist to keynote 13th RAD

The health science center will host the 13th annual Research Appreciation Day Friday, April 8.

This year's keynote speaker will be Shan Wong, PhD, a program officer for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Wong oversees a research portfolio in cardiovascular, lung and blood diseases; asthma; allergy; immunology; and small business innovation. His expertise is in the area of clinical chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics.

Prior to joining NCCAM, Dr. Wong worked at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Loma Linda University in California, Herman Hospital in Houston, the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

Dr. Wong received a PhD in biochemistry from Ohio State University and completed postdoctoral training at Temple University School of Medicine. He has conducted research in enzymology, protein chemistry and biophysics and has developed diagnostic tests for cardiovascular, liver, lung, kidney and bone diseases. His interest in complementary and alternative medicine is in the modality of energy healing.



Students, faculty and staff will share their research efforts with the campus community and the public during the 13th annual Research Appreciation Day April 8.

This year, Research Appreciation Day will be in conjunction with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's Annual Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference April 7-8. The event will bring together osteopathic physicians from around the nation to discuss how to develop a culture of clinical research in the osteopathic profession and how to develop a group of researchers able to secure significant funding for all types of clinical research.

Research Appreciation Day is an institutional tradition encompassing medicine, public health and basic sci-

ence. The program provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to share their research efforts with the campus community and the public.

"The program encourages the development of joint research projects and increases the community's

awareness of the outstanding quality and range of research conducted at UNT Health Science Center," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Poster and oral presentation competitions for students are a featured event of the day's program, as well as a poster competition for postdoctoral fellows and residents. A panel of judges will select the top presentations in each category, and prizes will be awarded to winners at an awards ceremony.

For more information, visit the Research Appreciation Day Web site at www.hsc.unt.edu/rad. ★

Kudos to...

Jim Roch, PA-C, assistant professor in physician assistant studies, and his wife, Donita, on the arrival of their eighth grandchild, Dylan Robert Jeffords, born Dec. 1.

Jennifer Carr, PA, PA 2001, on her marriage to Jay Johnson Oct. 16.

Roseanne Nolan, PA 2005, on the birth of her son, Christian Taylor Nolan, Jan. 6.

Thomas Fairchild, PhD, on his appointment as associate vice president for institutional planning and performance improvement. Dr. Fairchild will also continue to serve as director of Special Projects on Aging.

Thomas Yorio, PhD, on being named vice president for research. Dr. Yorio will continue to serve as dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

James Hall, PhD, associate professor, on being named chair of the Department of Psychology. Dr. Hall had been acting chair of the department since 2003. ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the one about dietitian and Army reservist Joice Carter (November 2004). 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.

The Changing Face of the Health Science Center: Clinics renovate, relocate

In an ongoing effort to better meet the needs of current and potential patients, the health science center has been improving the appearance and functionality of its clinics.

The largest clinic is the Patient Care Center, a six-story building on the health science center campus that houses exam rooms, business and faculty offices, and a lab administered by Quest Diagnostics.

Since it opened in 2000, the building has continued to evolve to improve efficiency and appearance. The most recent improvements to the Patient Care Center included renovating lab and patient registration space and creating space for hyperbaric medicine. Plans for the future include laying new carpet in the first-floor waiting area and in the building's main hallways.

"The Patient Care Center sees more than 100,000 patients each year," said Randy Jones, vice president of practice operations and chief administrative officer of the practice plan. "We perform ongoing maintenance and do special projects to increase our efficiency and make the center more patient-friendly."

Renovation of the laboratory was completed in September 2004. The renovation increased the lab area from 300 square feet to 800 square feet, and the new space includes a larger waiting area, improved handicap access and more private patient areas. The renovation was paid for by Quest Diagnostics, which administers the lab.

Renovations to the patient registration area to meet new federal guidelines in patient confidentiality were completed in 2002. The renovations captured the old retail pharmacy space, which occupied the southwest corner on the first floor of the Patient Care Center, to create an area for clinical services representatives to greet new patients. Walls were erected between

each station to ensure privacy for each patient visiting the clinics.

The Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine Clinic was installed in the surgery department on the fifth floor of the Patient Care Center in November following the closure of the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas.

The new clinic includes a number of exam rooms, office space and room for the hyperbaric chamber, which exposes patients to 100 percent oxygen to encourage wound healing. The clinic offers the only hyperbaric chamber in Tarrant County.

The replacement of the carpet in the first-floor waiting area and in the Patient Care Center's main hallways is expected to begin later this year.

The health science center's off-campus clinics have also gone through changes, including moves to new locations, renovations and new construction.

The Eagle Ranch Family Medicine Center opened in November 2004 to serve the growing areas of Eagle Mountain, Lake Worth and Saginaw. The new 5,300-square-foot building has eight exam rooms, three minor procedure rooms, staff physician offices, a student study area and a large waiting room.

In August 2004, the Azle Surgical and Medical Clinic moved to a new location near Harris Methodist Hospital Northwest, which allows members of the health science center's surgery department to provide on-call surgery service to the hospital's emergency room. The clinic occupies 1,868 square feet of space leased from Texas Health Resources. It includes three exam rooms, staff physician offices and a large patient waiting area.

The Lake Worth Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic is undergoing renovations that will increase the clinic's

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In the News

Ronald Blanck, DO, president; **Russell Gamber, DO, MPH**, associate professor of manipulative medicine; **Laurie Hill, PA-C**, assistant professor of family medicine and physician assistant studies; **Melva Jones, LVN**, senior LVN in surgery; **James Simpkins, PhD**, chair of pharmacology and neuroscience and director of the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research; and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor of surgery and director of surgical research, have been named Healthcare Heroes for 2005 by the *Fort Worth Business Press*.

Scott Stoll, DO, PhD, director of the Osteopathic Research Center and associate professor of manipulative medicine, was quoted in a story about a new relaxation center in Arlington in the Jan. 25 *Star-Telegram*. He spoke about the limits of machine massage, but said it might be a cost-effective way to work out body kinks.

Dennis Shingleton, MS, MBA, TCOM chief of staff and director of clinical trials, spoke about the safeguards the health science center has to prevent conflicts of interest in clinical trials sponsored by drug companies in the Jan. 16 *Star-Telegram*.

The *Dallas Business Journal* ranked the **UNT Physicians Group** as the 11th largest medical group in the Metroplex. The listing was presented in the Jan. 14-20 edition.

The *Star-Telegram* ran a feature story on **Joice Carter, MS, RD**, coordinator of diabetes education, in the Jan. 10 issue. The article described Carter's military service in Germany in 2003 and 2004.

Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, talked about the need for a pharmacy school in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in an article in the Jan. 7-13 *Dallas Business Journal*.

Daniel Rader, DO, adjunct associate professor, was honored by Laura Miller, mayor of Dallas, and Valetta Lill, Dallas City Councilwoman, for his years of service to the community. The honor was highlighted in the Dec. 9 *Oak Cliff Tribune*. ★

HSC, UTA fund collaborative research projects

The health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington have awarded more than \$68,000 in grant money to help fund their first joint research program.

The program was created to provide seed money for researchers, said Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate vice president of research and biotechnology.

"This seed money should enhance more collaborative research projects that could lead to major federal funding and provide innovative approaches for treating major diseases," Dr. Dillon said.

The idea for the program came from Robert Gracy, PhD, associate vice president of research alliance development, and Ron Elsenbaumer, vice president of research at the University of Texas at Arlington. The goal was to encourage collaboration across institutions and to help researchers prepare applications for federal grants.

"Funding for the program was originally set at \$50,000, but because of the originality and quality of the applications, additional funds were committed to the joint program," Dr. Dillon said.

Fifteen proposals were reviewed by a joint review panel composed of faculty members from both institutions who were not involved in any of the submitted proposals. The panel mem-

bers from UTA were appointed by Elsenbaumer, and Dr. Dillon appointed the members from the health science center.

Proposals were scored based on a set of predetermined values. Five proposals were funded.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, associate dean of the Graduate School of Bio-

"This seed money should enhance more collaborative research projects that could lead to major federal funding and provide innovative approaches for treating major diseases."

– Glenn Dillon, PhD

medical Sciences and professor of molecular biology and immunology, and Liping Tang, PhD, associate professor of biomedical engineering at UTA, received funding for "Prostate Cancer Therapy with Annexin II Nanoparticles."

Shaoyou Chu, MD, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, and Jean Gao, PhD, assistant professor of computer science and engineering at UTA, received funding for "Computational Modeling of Mesangial Cells and their Roles in Regulation of Glomerular Structure and Function."

John Schetz, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, and Robert McMahon, PhD,

dean of the honors college and professor of biology at UTA, received funding for "Structure-antifouling Relationships of Compounds with a Lipophilic-Amide-Spacer-ElectroNegative (LASEN) Motif."

Robert Gracy, PhD, associate vice president of research alliance development and professor of molecular biol-

ogy and immunology, and Frank Lewis, PhD, PE, associate director of research and professor of electrical engineering at UTA, received funding for "Wireless Biochemical Toxin Sensor Network

Based on ThinFilm Protein Arrays."

Michael Gatch, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience; Yuan Bo Peng, MD, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at UTA; and Perry Fuchs, PhD, associate professor of psychology at UTA, received funding for "Neural Mechanisms of Alcohol-Withdrawal Induced Hyperalgesia."

The award period for the grants is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2005. During the grant period, if a joint federal grant proposal is submitted relating to the funded project or as an outcome of the project, a bonus will be provided to the grant recipients. ★

CBH home to small business incubator labs

The Center for BioHealth is home to three labs designated for use by small start-up companies working with Tech Fort Worth. The labs are approximately 400 square feet each and have fume hoods, wet areas, autoclaves and office space.

The labs are designated for use by companies doing research in healthcare and biotechnology that complement the main research focuses of the health science center, including aging and

Alzheimer's disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, cognitive disorders, diabetes, glaucoma, and osteopathic manipulative medicine.

"When you have a technology that has broad implications in cancer or cardiovascular disease, for instance, you may want to start a company around it," said Clyde Higgs, Tech Fort Worth executive director. "We are here to help increase the likelihood of success by providing a wide range of

business services to those companies in their infancy."

Tech Fort Worth offers extensive resources for its small business clients, such as support in developing business and technology plans and opportunities to exhibit at conferences and venture capital showcases. Each company can also tap into a network of business resources: affordable laboratory and office space, legal assistance,

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HSC honors employees at Service Awards

This year, 147 health science center employees who have given five, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of service to the institution and the UNT System were recognized Jan. 25 at the Service Award Ceremony and reception. Twenty-eight employees have given 20 or more years of service:

30 Years

Jagannatha Rao, PhD, research assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology

25 Years

Michael Clearfield, DO, professor of internal medicine and associate dean for clinical research

Rita Frost, director of accounting

Barry Laughlin, paint foreman, facilities management

Alan Levine, DO, associate professor of pediatrics

Herminia Magallanez, clinic supervisor, Northside Clinic

Jerry McGill, PhD, associate professor of manipulative medicine

20 Years

Robert Adams, DO, senior associate dean for clinical affairs and chief medical officer

Jerry Alexander, PhD, associate professor of education and director of academic information services

Carolyn Bannon, Willed Body Program coordinator, cell biology and genetics

Michele Bourdage, manager of practice support

Deborah Ceron, human subjects coordinator, Institutional Review Board

Linda Colwell, custodian, facilities management

Fred Downey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology

Bill Dunavant, auto mechanic, facilities management

Michael Forster, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience

Stephen Gammon, Missing Persons DNA Database administrator

Daniel Jensen, vice president for governmental affairs

Gopal Kulkarni, PhD, research assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology

Howard Lillagore, sergeant, Campus Police

Kenneth McCallister, lab animal technologist

Bernard Rubin, DO, professor and chief of rheumatology

Melodee Salicos, accounts receivable coordinator, practice plan

Stephen Weis, DO, professor of internal medicine

Arthur Williams, technical/administrative director, integrative physiology

June Woodall, accounts receivable coordinator, practice plan

Eugene Zachary, DO, clinical education coordinator and former dean of TCOM

Janet Zipperlen, director of development communications, institutional advancement

Clinic renovations

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size by adding exam rooms. It will be complete in the next few months.

The University OB-GYN Clinic and the SMART Clinic were closed last year.

“We asked ourselves, ‘Are we using every exam room five days a week, eight hours a day?’” Jones said. “We found we weren’t being efficient by keeping the University clinic open. We consolidated staff and space, which we hope will increase traffic to our OB-GYN clinic at the Patient Care Center.”

The SMART Clinic shut its doors following the closure of the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in October 2004. The clinic’s services were transferred to the Manipulative Medicine Clinic at the Patient Care Center.

Next Month: Our series looks at renovations planned for the administration and research buildings. ★

Incubator labs

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venture capital introductions, scientific consultation, equipment use, grant funding, and marketing and e-marketing resources.

Some scientists at the health science center are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by Tech Fort Worth. Computer-based Anatomy Products Inc. (CAPs) is a company started by faculty members in cell biology and genetics. The company creates computer products for instruction in the anatomical sciences at multiple levels—from high school to graduate level institutions.

“We know what we have with our product and where we want to go, and Tech Fort Worth is providing ways for us to get there,” said Harold Sheedlo, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics and one of CAPs’ founders. “They have bent over back-

wards to help us succeed by providing us office space and furniture at a reasonable price and putting us in contact with venture capitalists and business plan consultants.”

Tech Fort Worth began in February 1998 in response to the devastating effects of national defense downsizing on the local economy. It invests time and expertise in emerging companies and entrepreneurs that demonstrate the potential for economic and commercial success with the goal that the companies will one day have a positive economic impact in the community. Its partners include Alcon, Healthpoint, Medtronic, RadioShack, Texas Instruments, the health science center and the City of Fort Worth.

For more information on Tech Fort Worth, visit www.techfortworth.org or call 817-339-8968. ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Knott receives student research award

Marty Knott, TCOM/GSBS 2007, received the 2004 Burnett Osteopathic Student Award at the American Osteopathic Association Research Conference in November.

The award is given to a student at an AOA-accredited osteopathic college who develops the most outstanding concept paper pertaining to an osteopathic-oriented research proposal.

The award, named in honor of John Burnett, DO, and Mary Burnett, DO, for their contributions to the osteopathic profession, pays expenses for participation in AOA's Research Convention, which took place in San Francisco in November, plus \$100.

"We are extremely proud of Marty's accomplishments," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science

center. "He is a talented student whose research will help shape the osteopathic profession in the future."

Knott's paper discussed the positive effects of lymphatic pump treatments, commonly used to reduce swelling and treat infection. The paper will be published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* later this year.

Knott is a dual degree student in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, where he is a doctoral student in integrative physiology. He will graduate in 2007.

Knott is originally from The Woodlands, Texas, and earned his bachelor of arts degree in biology from Texas A&M University. ★

TCOM students lobby legislature

More than 75 students from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine travelled to Austin Jan. 27 to participate in Dome Day, sponsored by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dome Day brings together osteopathic physicians, medical residents and medical students to talk to members of the Texas State Legislature about issues concerning the development of Texas public health policies.

The agenda for TOMA Dome Day included workshops and informa-



Left to right: Hardeep Hayhre, TCOM 2006; Prateek Chaudhary, TCOM 2006; Leslie Reddell Houston, TCOM 2006; and Troy Phillips, TCOM 2006, participated in TOMA Dome Day Jan. 27.

tion about how to communicate effectively with representatives and talking points on current health care issues, lunch in the Capitol, and visits with state senators and representatives. ★

Clearfield receives mentoring award

Michael Clearfield, DO, associate dean for clinical research and professor of internal medicine, received the 2004 Darryl A. Beehler, DO, Mentor of the Year Award at the American Osteopathic Association Research Conference in November.

The award is given for significant contributions in mentoring for the development of future researchers in osteopathic medicine. It was named for AOA president Darryl Beehler, DO, who dubbed 2003-2004 the Year of the Mentor. This was the first year the award has been given.

"The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is proud of Dr. Clearfield for his selection as mentor of the year," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Through his work as associate dean and as a professor, he is helping to shape the future of Texas' doctors and researchers."

Dr. Clearfield received his doctor of osteopathy degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is also a graduate of Albright College, where he earned a bachelor of science.

Dr. Clearfield's research focuses on preventive heart disease, cholesterol management and metabolism, and he is board certified in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists. ★

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Farias receives national role model award

Martin Farias, PhD, GSBS 2002, began doing experiments as a young boy. His natural curiosity seemed to grow out of a need to know why things circulated the way they did.

In his youth, it was the circulation of fish in a pond that fascinated Dr. Farias. “When I’d go fishing, I’d make a mark with the hook on the fish to see if I could catch it again. I always wondered where it would be the next day,” he said. “Actually, one time, I did catch the same fish about a month later.”

That affinity toward circulation grew as he matured, and Dr. Farias himself circulated. Born in Brownsville, he moved to San Antonio for his undergraduate education, earning a bachelor of arts degree in biology from Our Lady of the Lake University.

“I went there because it was a small campus,” he said. “You get one-on-one contact with the professors.”

From San Antonio, Dr. Farias made his way back to the University of Texas at Brownsville to participate in a cooperative training program between the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

It was during his years at the health science center that Dr. Farias’s abiding interest in circulation became a passion. Now what fascinates him is circulation of a different type—coronary circulation.

His research at the health science center resulted in publications in the *American Journal of Physiology* and his PhD in physiology. Dr. Farias also earned a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington’s Department of Physiology, where his continued research on coronary circulation has resulted in several publications.

In addition to his natural curiosity, what has driven Dr. Farias is his dedication to educational access and opportunities for minority students. For these



Dr. Farias spoke at commencement in 2003 as the representative of his graduating class.

efforts, he was chosen as a Minority Access National Alumnus Role Model Award winner at the Role Models Award Banquet in Washington, D.C.

“Dr. Farias symbolizes Minority Access’ ideal alumnus role model—one who has made significant contributions to biomedical research and can be viewed as a role model to minority students,” said Andrea Mickle, president and chief executive officer of Minority Access Inc.

Minority Access Inc. is a non-profit educational organization that supports individuals; institutions; federal, state and local governmental agencies; and various corporations to diversify campuses and work sites by improving the recruitment, retention and enhancement of minorities.

The Role Models’ Conference was created from a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ National Institutes of Health and Minority Access Inc. to focus national attention on people who have excelled in producing and supporting minority

researchers, particularly in the biomedical sciences and health-related fields.

“I’m really honored to receive this award,” Dr. Farias said. “My goal is to become a professor and perform cardiovascular research, and I also think it is important to create more opportunities of access for minorities.”

Robert Kaman, JD, PhD, director of outreach and associate dean for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, praised Dr. Farias’ dedication to giving back to minority students. Dr. Kaman was instrumental in recruiting Dr. Farias into the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Bridges to the Doctorate Degree program.

“Martin Farias continues to be a fine example of the American dream in education — where hard work and dedication allow young men and women from all backgrounds to achieve the highest level of scholarship that our society has to offer,” Dr. Kaman said. “But Martin has gone further than just achieving his own lofty goals; from the beginning of our association he has continued to reach back, encourage and assist the students who are following him. He has raised the bar for those students in both science and society, and his success in each inspires them, as well as those faculty who have been fortunate enough to know him.”

Dr. Farias, his wife, Valerie, and their children currently live in Washington, but they will be circulating to Louisiana State University Health Science Center this summer for Dr. Farias’s second post-doctoral fellowship.

The two met at the Founders’ Activity Center on the health science center campus. Valerie Farias’s parents live in Saginaw, so a return to the area might be in the future for the Fariases, and a position at the health science center is not out of the question.

“That would be nice, to come back,” Dr. Farias said. ★

Institutional Advancement

Department Spotlight: The Office of Institutional Advancement

The seven professionals from diverse backgrounds who work in EAD-802, many of whom came to the health science center less than a year ago, invite you to get to know them and learn more about the health science center's ambitious plans for "fundraising and friend-raising."

"Institutional Advancement is very much an institutional team effort," said Cheryl Kimberling, PhD, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the UNTHSC Foundation. "The president sets annual fundraising priorities, and we work closely with the deans, faculty members, staff members and students to meet those goals, as well as special needs as they emerge."

"Every member of the health science center family is also a potential fundraiser, advocate and donor," Dr. Kimberling said. "This was dramatically illustrated in 2004 when 52 percent of our employees, plus students, retirees and the UNTHSC Foundation Board of Directors, rallied together to raise almost \$350,000 to help finish out the new Center for BioHealth. This level of in-house participation is helping us get the attention of community leaders and funding organizations."

Greg Upp, vice president for institutional coordination and former chair of the Foundation, agrees. "We must all share the goal to place our institution strategically in the minds and hearts of our constituents — alumni, patients, peers, community leaders, legislators, potential donors, the media and the general public, to name just a few of the groups important to our success," he said. "Such positioning is critical to acquiring the resources, both public and private, to fuel our future."

Dr. Kimberling said that advancement's priorities have been critically evaluated and "stretched significantly" since her arrival in October 2002.

"We are focusing on building awareness in the community, nurturing existing relationships with advocates and donors and asking them to introduce others to our cause, increasing unrestricted gifts, raising dollars to finish out the Center for BioHealth, and growing four distinctively different alumni organizations," she said.

The first smiling face to greet visitors to the advancement office belongs to Ashley Kidd, an administrative specialist whose responsibilities include assisting callers and processing donations. Kidd, who graduated in 2003 from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in communication studies, has just started the School of Public Health's master's program. Her fiancé, John McClanahan, is a first-year medical student.

Need to schedule a meeting with Dr. Kimberling or get approval for an expenditure on your UNTHSC Foundation account? Sue Haskins-Bulgin,



Cheryl Kimberling, PhD



Ashley Kidd



Sue Haskins-Bulgin



Marilyn Pipes, CPA

senior executive assistant, will help you. In addition to overseeing all general office operations and recordkeeping, Haskins-Bulgin coordinates Dr. Kimberling's correspondence and activities with fellow HSC employees, members of the UNTHSC Foundation's board of directors, donors, and community and business leaders. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from City University in Bellevue, Wash.

Marilyn Pipes, CPA, is accounting manager for advancement and for the 150 accounts managed by the UNTHSC Foundation, which is a

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Institutional Advancement

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separate, nonprofit organization that collects, invests and disburses most gifts to the health science center.

Since her arrival in August, Pipes has been working to critically evaluate and improve all of the accounting policies, procedures, recordkeeping and reporting methods for both the advancement office and the Foundation.

“Our goal is not just to exceed IRS and auditing standards, but also to exceed the expectations of our donors, our alumni and their organizations, and our faculty and staff, who want to know how their gifts are being utilized, how their dollars are being invested and how their funds are being managed to achieve their goals,” Pipes said.

Pipes holds a bachelor’s degree in finance and accounting and an MBA from Tarleton State University.

As assistant director of development, Lindsay Kennedy coordinates fundraising efforts for the President’s Progress Fund (gifts for unrestricted use), scholarships and special needs and researches potential donors.

Kennedy, who earned her bachelor’s degree in speech communication from TCU, was previously senior project coordinator for the Educational Cancer Center at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Kennedy’s husband, Jason, is a first-year orthopedic surgery resident at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Karen Wegienek, assistant director of alumni and donor relations, is advancement’s point person when it comes to building relationships with and gaining support from the 3,500-plus graduates of the health science center.

“I love this job. It lets me use all the different skills I’ve developed over the course of my career — customer service, nonprofit administration, fundraising and public relations,” Wegienek said.

In addition to coordinating reunions and alumni activities at conventions, Wegienek oversees volunteer leadership development and membership campaigns for the four alumni organizations. She also manages advancement’s alumni and donor database and works with student organizations and the staff of student affairs to improve communications and create programs that will strengthen the student-to-graduate continuum.

Wegienek holds a bachelor’s degree in French from Michigan State University and a diploma in commercial photography from the Ohio Institute of Photography. Her husband is Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for medical education.

Janet Zipperlen, who has worked in various areas of institutional advancement since 1984, is director of development communications. Zipperlen’s responsibilities include donor and alumni correspondence and publications; presentations, donor reports, scripts, proposal research and writing; and the development of agendas, programs, invitations and exhibits for special events.



Lindsay Kennedy



Karen Wegienek



Janet Zipperlen

Zipperlen said her most significant tasks include “updating our woefully outdated web presence and making our site interactive and useful for our alumni and donors; fine-tuning our new electronic newsletter, *Alumni Advance*; and just keeping up with a schedule of donor stewardship activities and alumni events that I believe are the most ambitious and exciting in the history of this institution.”

Zipperlen holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of North Texas and is active in District IV of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Before joining the health science center, Dr. Kimberling was the director of development at The University of Texas at Arlington, where she managed major gifts and planned giving. While there, she also created the University Development Board and organized the annual donor appreciation gala.

Dr. Kimberling completed her doctoral studies at the University of North Texas. She also holds master of education and bachelor degrees from the University of Memphis. ★

Faculty Advances

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, presented “The Protein Chemistry and Enzymology of Nucleotide Polymerization in Human Cells” at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at South Dakota State University in January.

James Caffrey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, presented “Cardiac Opiates and Preconditioning: Status and New Findings” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8.

Shaoyou Chu, MD, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, is co-investigator of a grant awarded by the health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington for “Computational Modeling of Mesangial Cells and their Roles in Regulation of Glomerular Structure and Function.” Jean Gao, PhD, assistant professor of computer science and engineering at UTA, is principal investigator.

Michael Gatch, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is co-investigator of a grant awarded by the health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington for “Neural Mechanisms of Alcohol-Withdrawal Induced Hyperalgesia.” Yuan Bo Peng, MD, PhD, assistant professor of psychology at UTA, is principal investigator, and Perry Fuchs, PhD, associate professor of psychology at UTA, is co-principal investigator.

Robert Gracy, PhD, associate vice president of research alliance development and professor of molecular biology and immunology, is co-investigator of a grant awarded by the health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington for “Wireless Biochemical Toxin Sensor Network Based on Thin-film Protein Arrays.” Frank Lewis, PhD, PE, associate director of research and professor of electrical engineering at UTA, is principal investigator.

Marianna Jung, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author of the paper “Estrogen Neuroprotection Against the Neurotoxic Effects of Ethanol Withdrawal: Potential Mechanisms,” published in the January issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*.

Michael Gatch, PhD, research assistant professor, and **James Simpkins, PhD**, professor and chair, both of pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors.

Marty Knott, DO/PhD student in surgery and integrative physiology, received the award for best research paper by a graduate student for “Substrate Enhanced Cardioplegia Reduces Myocardial Oxidative Stress During Cardioplegic Arrest” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8. Knott’s major professors are **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor of surgery.

Peter Koulen, PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author of the paper “Differentially Distributed IP3 Receptors and Ca²⁺ Signaling in Rod Bipolar Cells,” published in the January issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. **Jiao Wei, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate; **Christian Madry, PharmD**, postdoctoral research associate; **Jiyuan Liu, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate; and **Everett Nixon, MS**, graduate student, all of pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors. **Dr. Koulen** is also first author of the paper “Interaction Between mGluR8 and Calcium Channels in Photoreceptors is Sensitive to Pertussis Toxin and Occurs Via G Protein $\beta\gamma$ Subunit Signaling,” published in the same issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. **Dr. Liu, Nixon, and Dr. Madry** are co-authors. In addition, **Dr. Koulen** received a grant from the Alzheimer’s Association for his research project “Modulation of calcium signaling by presenilin-2.”

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, received the award for best basic science/research paper for “Cardioprotective Mechanisms of Intermittent Hypoxia” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8.

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, is senior author of a paper, “Targeted Disruption of the 2B4 Gene in Mice Reveals an *in vivo* Role of 2B4 (CD244) in the Rejection of B16 Melanoma Cells,” published in the Jan. 15 issue of the *Journal of Immunology*. **Swapnil Vaidya**, graduate student in molecular biology and immunology, is first author. Susan Stepp, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Megan McNerney, MD/PhD student, University of Chicago Medical School; **Jae-Kyung Lee**, graduate student in biomedical sciences; Michael Bennett, MD, A.J.

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Faculty Advances

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Hill professor of pathology, UT Southwestern Medical Center; Kyung-Mi Lee, PhD, assistant professor, Korea University College of Medicine; Colin Stewart, DPhil, chief of the Cancer and Developmental Biology Laboratory, National Cancer Institute; and Vinay Kumar, MD, professor and chair of pathology, University of Chicago Medical School, are co-authors.

Patti Pagels, MPAS, PA-C, assistant professor of physician assistant studies; **Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, public health practice coordinator and instructor of social and behavioral sciences; **Douglas Mains, DrPH**, assistant professor of health management and policy; **Clifton Cage, DO**, assistant professor of family medicine and director of clinical trials; **Susan Franks, PhD**, associate professor of family medicine; and Stephen Baum, MPH, former health promotion manager, received a \$5,000 award for the PATCH smoking cessation program from the Physician Assistant Foundation: Innovations in Health Care. The award will allow the group of researchers to continue their work on workplace smoking cessation programs and to help to health science center faculty, staff and students who want to stop smoking.

Peter Raven, PhD, adjunct professor of integrative physiology, presented “Interaction of Baroreflex Control of Blood Pressure and Dynamic Cerebral autoregulation During Dynamic Exercise” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8.

John Schetz, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is principal investigator of a grant awarded by the health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington for “Structure-antifouling Relationships of Compounds with a Lipophilic-Amide-Spacer-ElectroNegative (LASEN) Motif.” Robert McMahon, PhD, dean of the honors college and professor of biology at UTA, is co-principal

investigator. In addition, **Dr. Schetz** and Frank Tarazi, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass., are editors of the new medical textbook *Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders: from Bench to Bedside*, Humana Press Inc. **Dr. Schetz** is also author of a chapter in the book, “Pharmacotherapeutic Principles of Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders.”

Karan Singh, PhD, chair and professor of biostatistics, served on the International Advisory Committee for the International Conference on Simulation and Modeling held in Bangkok, Thailand, Jan. 17-19. **Dr. Singh** and **Fernando Treviño, MPH, PhD**, dean and professor, School of Public Health, presented “Therapeutic Equivalence in Survival Data” at the conference. **Sejong Bae, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics; Alfred Bartolucci, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Ken Peschell, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham; and Ram Shanmugam, PhD, Texas State University, are co-authors.

Michael Smith, PhD, professor and acting chair of integrative physiology, presented “Dysrhythmias Associated with Hypoxia” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, associate dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and professor of molecular biology and immunology, is principal investigator of a grant awarded by the health science center and the University of Texas at Arlington for “Prostate Cancer Therapy with Annexin II Nanoparticles.” Liping Tang, PhD, associate professor of biomedical engineering at UTA, is co-investigator.

Abert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor of surgery, received the award for best clinical paper for “Potential Protective Benefits of Post Bypass Leukocyte Filtration” at the Frontiers in Cardiology conference in Winter Park, Colo., Jan. 5-8. ★