

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

Record number of posters presented at 13th RAD

A record number of participants from the health science center displayed their posters on the second floor of the Center for BioHealth at the 13th annual Research Appreciation Day April 8. Combined with the second day of the national Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference, RAD brought in hundreds of visitors as well as presenters.

More than 191 abstracts were submitted to the RAD website this year, including participants from OCCTIC.

Shan Wong, PhD, program officer for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine with the National Institutes of Health, explained the background and history of NCCAM, including funding priorities for the center, in his keynote address.

Dr. Wong also discussed the problems that people who practice alternative medicine have in being accepted by mainstream medicine and science.

"The future is that NCCAM is setting priorities for different areas of research based on the demand of the public and if there are people to do the research," Dr. Wong said.

The challenge for NCCAM has been the limited number of qualified



Keynote speaker Shan Wong, PhD, answers questions from the audience during his lecture.

complementary and alternative medicine researchers, Dr. Wong said. This also means that no mentors are available to teach younger researchers.

"That is a problem," he said. "The advocates of this type of research are so disparate that it's hard to get them together to advocate for more research."

In its short history, NCCAM has funded over 800 projects that have produced 700 scientific publications. Not only does the agency fund research, it funds fellowships and career development awards.

Dr. Wong said that manipulative medicine is part of the complementary and alternative medicine genre, with the main domains being biologically-

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HSC closes on former OMCT property

On April 14, the health science center took possession of the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas property.

Before any plans for the property can be made, the health science center will commission a master plan. The master planning process is expected to take at least three months.

"The purchase of this property gives the health science center the ability to plan for its long-term growth," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center. "This is a very exciting time for us, and we look forward to working with the Fort Worth community as we move forward in our master planning process."

The property was purchased from Robert Patton who bought it at a foreclosure auction Feb. 1. Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, began negotiations with Patton shortly after the purchase.

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

Dr. Blanck was given authorization to negotiate for the purchase of the property by the UNT System Board of Regents Jan. 21. ★

Campus Briefs

The Institute for Cancer Research is recruiting members for its **Relay for Life** team. The American Cancer Society's Fort Worth Relay for Life will be held at Country Day School from 6 p.m. May 6 to 6 a.m. May 7. The event will begin with the cancer survivors lap, and survivors are encouraged to participate to help demonstrate the progress being made in the battle against cancer.

Team members, cancer survivors and volunteers can camp out on the Country Day School campus during the 12-hour event. After dark, hundreds of luminarias will be lit in honor of those lost to cancer, those currently fighting the disease and those who have survived cancer. For information about the relay team, survivor participation forms, donations and luminaria order forms, contact Suzanne Domrowski in RES 402B or at ext. 2113.

All faculty and staff are invited to an informal reception to welcome **Daniel Perugini, DO**, as the new executive vice president of the health science center.

RAD

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based practices such as herbal remedies, energy medicine such as reiki, mind-body medicine such as meditation, and manipulative and body-based practices such as osteopathic manipulative medicine.

Currently, NCCAM devotes less than 10 percent of its research budget to manipulative and body-based practices.

Dr. Wong said that the agency wants to move to a more political agenda and agitate the public and policy makers to support more complementary and alternative practices in medicine.

"Many of the CAM practices are preventative measures, and whether they work or not is an area of study," he said.

The reception will be held May 5 from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Light refreshments will be served.

Everyone on campus is invited to the health science center's **annual wellness fair** — "Because You're Worth It" — Wednesday, April 27, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Atrium. The fair will offer employees and students up-to-date literature, technology, products and services associated with disease prevention and improving overall health and fitness.

Door prize drawings for giveaways and prizes from companies such as Brookstone, Smoothie King and Aveda, as well as valuable screenings from Prevent Blindness, Hearing Care Centers, and the SMART Institute, will be held every 15 minutes in the Atrium.

A variety of groups, including manipulative medicine, Alcoholics Anonymous, Big Feet, SHAPE, Juice Plus, Fort Worth Running Co., CVS Pharmacy, Employee Life Care Source, Ozarka and Monticello Day Spa, will host booths. In addition, the American

CAMPUS Connection

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

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Heart Association, Smoothie King, Tarrant County Mental Health Association Diabetes Education, Stroke Prevention Plus, Weight Watchers at Work and the PATCH Program will present 25 minute informational seminars in EAD 291 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. ★

But Dr. Wong does see the study of complementary and alternative medicines as a challenge for researchers who use normal research techniques.

"If we confine ourselves in the box, we'll never be able to study something outside of the box," he said, referring to the study of energy medicine in particular.

Dr. Wong sees the future of medicine as being more comprehensive, with complementary and alternative therapies becoming more integrated into regular practices, and he encouraged the crowd of OCCTIC attendees, faculty, staff and students to make friends with the program officers at the NIH and keep applying for funding.

Research Appreciation Day 2005 Award Winners

OCCTIC VI Presentation Awards First Place Kimberly Fulda

Attitudes Towards Treatments Commonly Used in OMM Clinical Research Trials (\$250)

Second Place Jeffrey Siu

Determinants of Pain-Mediated Sympathoexcitation (\$100)

Professional and Continuing Education Awards

First Place Jeremy Russell

Predictability of Marathon Runners Utilizing Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment and Chiropractic Treatment (\$100)

Continued on page 3

RAD Winners

continued from page 2

Second Place Rachel Boyer

Potentials and Barriers of Physician Assistants Working in Hospice (\$100)

Tech Fort Worth Innovation Award

First Place Kissaou Tchedre

Neuroprotective Sigma Ligands Protect RGC-5 Cells From Glutamate-Induced Neurotoxicity (\$250)

TCOM Poster Presentation Awards

First Place Matthew Thompson

Mutation and Loss of Heterozygosity of pp32r1 and the Pathogenesis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (\$500)

Second Place Eric Sims

The Influence of Prior Education, Mentor and Employment Experience as Practice Setting Determinants of Physician Assistants in Texas (\$400)

Public Health Student Association Poster Presentation Awards

First Place Godavari Patil

Influence of Prompt Versus Delayed Treatment on Survival in Patients With Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (\$500)

Second Place Larry Segars

Geographic Variation in the Prescription of Stimulants for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder by U.S. Physicians (\$400)

Public Health Student Association Oral Presentation Awards

First Place Nykiconia Precacly

Project Sponsorship Mission Avoid Reliance on Tobacco Money: Orgins, Evolution and Outcomes (\$500)

Second Place Thaddeus Miller

How Can the United States Prioritize the Targeted Testing of Tuberculosis? (\$400)

Graduate Student Association

Poster Presentation Awards – Morning

First Place Joel Ellis

14-3-3 Dimerization is a Novel Regulatory Point for the Progression of Cardiac Hypertrophy (\$500)

Second Place Dongmei Lu

Protein Kinase C Epsilon Acts Upstream of Akt/Protein Kinase B to Influence Tumor Necrosis Factor Induced Cell Death in Breast Cancer Cells (\$400)



Research Appreciation Day 2005 award winners with Ronald Blanck, DO, president, after the awards presentation April 8. See more RAD photos on page 6.

Third Place Ritu Pabla

UV-Inducibility of the Polymerase eta Transcript of Saccharomyces Cerevisiae: A Meaningful Regulation? (\$300)

Graduate Student Association

Poster Presentation Awards – Afternoon

First Place Eric Gonzales

Analysis of the TM2 7' Position in Homomeric Glycine Alpha 1 Receptor Gating (\$500)

Second Place Marty Knott

Pyruvate Cardioplegia Suppresses Oxidative Stress and Bolsters the Phosphorylation Potential of Cardioplegically Arrested Myocardium (\$400)

Third Place Jeffrey Siu

Determinants of Pain-Mediated Sympathoexcitation (\$300)

Alcon Research Achievement Oral Presentation Awards

First Place John Fuller

Expression of p75NTR and Nerve Growth Factor in Human Optic Nerve Head and Retina (\$500 and Airline Ticket)

Second Place Arti Sharma

Antioxidant Pretreatment Protects Myocardial Enzymes During Cardiac Arrest (\$400)

Alcon Research Achievement Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation Award

First Place Nathalie Sumien

Lifelong Coenzyme Q10 Intake Failed to Alter Longevity and had Minimal Effect on Behavioral Biomarkers of Aging in Mice (\$700) ★

Northside Community Health Center makes list of federally funded clinics

The third time was the charm for the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center, which has made the list of 105 new federal health centers recently awarded grants.

After applying for the grant twice previously, the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center finally made the cut with its third application. On April 11, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced planned awards of more than \$63 million for 17 grants to be awarded in May and 88 additional grants to be awarded in December. The Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center was included in the December list with an award of \$650,000.

"We are certainly excited about the announcement of this planned award," said Eddy Herrera, CEO of the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center. "This is the first step in allowing us to truly address the health needs of the Northside community."

The Northside Community Clinic was originally an extension of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's Northside clinic facility.

"By partnering with the community and with the JPS Health Network, we have more effectively reached out to an underserved population in the near Northside area," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of TCOM. "We believe that this collaborative effort was instrumental in helping the community obtain the first federally qualified health center in Fort Worth."

Funding for the December grants will be awarded Dec. 1 as fiscal year 2006 funds become available; therefore, funding is contingent on the 2006 national budget.

"This is exciting news for people in Fort Worth, especially people in the Northside community," said Manuel Valdez, president of the board of directors of the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center and justice of the peace for precinct five. "This deci-

sion was a long time coming, and it took the efforts of many people. We are very confident that the federal funding for this health center will work out for our community. The results certainly can be beneficial to the needy that may not be receiving the services they should be receiving in these hard economic times. Centers such as this will at least allow people who cannot afford health care to have some preventive care. That is our intent as a board — that the federal funding will allow us to expand our capacity to serve the citizens of this community."

The grants from HHS will allow the Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center to offer comprehensive primary health care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay. According to HHS, almost 40 percent of patients treated at federal health centers have no insurance coverage, and others have inadequate coverage, so charges for health care services are set according to income.

The grants announced by HHS Secretary Leavitt are part of President George Bush's five-year initiative to help communities across the country create or expand access to comprehensive primary health care services. The initiative was launched in 2002. Since then, HHS has funded more than 700 new or expanded health centers.

The grant awarded to Fort Worth Northside Community Health Center was one of nine awarded to Texas communities as part of the December funding.

According to a fact sheet from the National Association of Community Health Centers, total funds for community health centers come from a mix of federal grants (26%), patient-related revenue (55.6%), non-federal grants (13%) and other sources (19%). ★

Kudos to...

Steve Woodall, director of records management, on recently completing the requirements to become a Certified Professional in Health Information Technology (CPHIT) and a Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records (CPEHR). Woodall is also a Certified Records Manager.

Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH, on being included in the Best Doctors® in America 2005 list. Best Doctors® conducts the largest independent survey of the medical profession to identify doctors that other doctors consider to be the best in their specialties. ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones about cardiothoracic surgeon Albert Yurvati (March 2005) and 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.

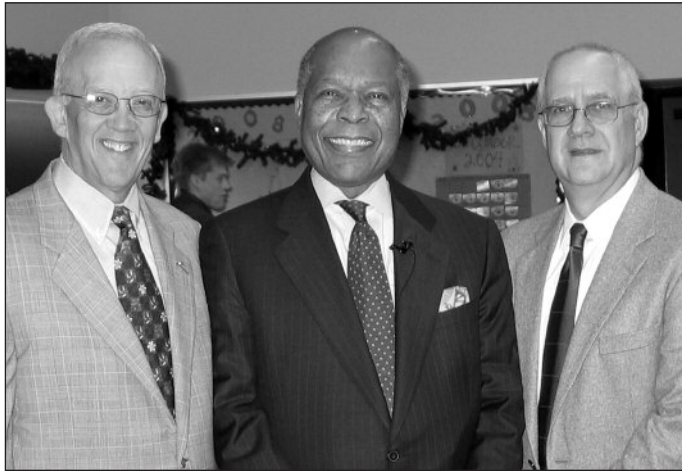
Former Secretary of Health and Human Services to speak at HSC commencement

Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, MD, will present the keynote address at the health science center's commencement ceremony May 21 at 2 p.m. at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena.

Dr. Sullivan, will also receive an honorary degree, a doctor of public service, from the health science center. Dr. Sullivan served as the Secretary of Health and Human Services during the first Bush administration from 1989 to 1993. He was only the second doctor to serve in that position.

While Dr. Sullivan may be best known for his tenure at Health and Human Services, he served as president of Morehouse School of Medicine for more than two decades. He played a crucial role in creating Morehouse School of Medicine, serving as the founding dean and director of the Medical Education Program at Morehouse College.

As a pioneer in the study of medical education for minority students, Dr. Sullivan continues to speak about health disparities in the United States today. Dr. Sullivan is currently working to develop a center at the Morehouse School of Medicine that will focus on the AIDS epidemic in Africa and study African-American health issues.



Louis Sullivan, MD, pictured above (center) with Ronald Blanck (left), DO, and Bruce Dubin, DO, will give the keynote address at this year's commencement ceremony. Dr. Sullivan visited the health science center campus Dec. 13, 2004, to present a lecture about health disparities among minority populations.

Dr. Sullivan was the founding president of the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools. He is also the former host of the public television series "Frontiers of Medicine."

Immediately following the commencement ceremony, Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, and military personnel will officiate at a commissioning ceremony for students who will be joining the military.

Tickets are not required for admission to the commencement ceremony, and there is no limit to the number of people a student may invite.

For more information about the commencement ceremony, visit the website at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/departments/registrar/default.htm> or contact the registrar's office at 817-735-2201. The Fort Worth Convention Center Arena is located at 1201 Houston Street in downtown Fort Worth. ★

In the News

WFAA-Channel 8 reported that the health science center's **DNA Identity Lab** is working to identify missing persons throughout the state. **John Planz** and **Steve Gammon** were quoted in the story that aired March 18.

The *Athens Daily Review* profiled the Athens ISD Trustee race Feb. 23, and **Jennie Mahmoud**, a former faculty member in Physician Assistant Studies, is running for re-election.

India Abroad reported March 11 that **Prateek Chaudhary**, TCOM/SPH 2007, received the American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award.

A series about the aging of America that began in the *Star-Telegram* appeared in the *Bradenton Herald* and the *Detroit News* in March. The series heavily quoted **Janice Knebl, DO**, associate professor and chief of geriatrics.

A story about end-of-life decisions that first appeared in the *Star-Telegram* also appeared in the *Bradenton Herald*, the *Monterey County Herald* and the *Center Daily Times* in March. **Roy Martin, DMin**, assistant professor of ethics, was quoted.

The *Fort Worth Business Press* reported in March that the **Office of Professional and Continuing Education** received a perfect score during its reaccreditation. **Pam McFadden**, associate vice president of PACE, was quoted in the story.

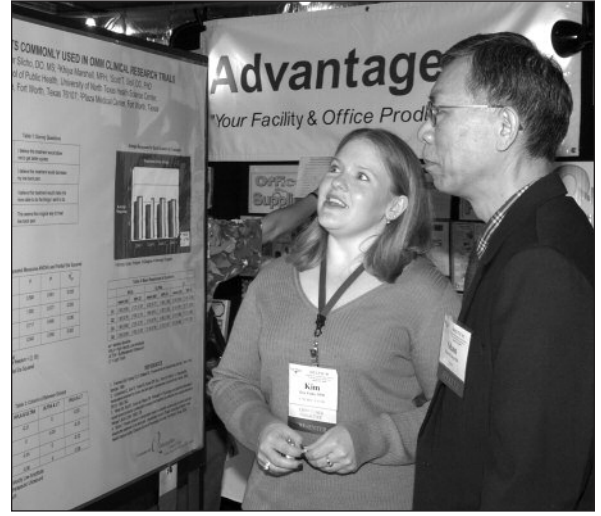
The *Star-Telegram* reported that **Daniel Perugini, DO**, joined the Health Science Center as executive vice president in the business section March 23.

The *Northwest Tarrant County Times Record* reported that the American Medical Student Association at the health science center received funding to create an AIDS quilt. **Linda Sullivan**, chapter co-president, was quoted in the article that ran March 31.

KUVN-Channel 23 reported that the **Fort Worth Northside Community Center** will receive a federal grant beginning Dec. 1 that will make the clinic a federally qualified clinic. The Spanish-language channel is a Univision station. The story aired April 15. ★

Research Appreciation Day 2005

Top right: Kimberly Fulda, first place winner in the OCCTIC VI Presentation Award category, talks about her research with Shan Wong, PhD, this year's keynote speaker. **Middle:** Presenters arrange their posters in preparation for RAD. **Bottom left:** Graduate student Shekhar Deo describes his research findings. **Bottom right:** This year, the health science center hosted the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference VI, "Hot Topics in OMM Research," April 7-8 in conjunction with RAD. This national conference, funded in part by the National Institutes of Health, brings together osteopathic physicians, residents and medical students to discuss clinical research in osteopathic disciplines.



Treviño remembers beginnings of Public Health Week

In 1995, President Bill Clinton signed a document proclaiming the first week of April National Public Health Week. Fernando Treviño, PhD, executive director of the American Public Health Association from 1993 to 1996, was at the signing ceremony that day, enjoying in one moment what took him an entire year to accomplish.

This year, the 10th anniversary of National Public Health Week, Dr. Treviño remembered his involvement with the proclamation.

Dr. Treviño, dean of the School of Public Health, has one of the original five proclamations signed by Bill Clinton on his office wall.

Dr. Treviño said that the impetus for the proclamation came from Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH, who was the president of APHA at the time. Dr. Evans was the director of the Los Angeles Public Health Department and had started Public Health Week in Los Angeles. The initiative went statewide, and so when Dr. Evans became president of APHA, he requested Dr. Treviño's help in making Public Health Week a national event.

"He approached me and said the one thing that he wanted to get done as part of his term was to get a National Public Health Week," Dr. Treviño said. "So we went to work on that. I got my government relations people to start talking to Donna Sha-



Fernando Treviño, PhD

lala, and we worked it for a year. We got her support, and then we went up to the president. Both of them agreed that it would be a good way to bring attention to public health."

Later during his tenure as executive director of the APHA, Dr. Treviño was also elected president of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, where he worked to build bridges and increase the visibility of public health worldwide.

"I started telling other countries what we were doing to increase the visibility of public health," Dr. Treviño said. "What I found was that it doesn't matter if it's Czechoslovakia, Nigeria or China, the public really doesn't under-

stand public health, so the other countries were really trying to emulate the American approach."

In looking back on his time as executive director of the APHA, Dr. Treviño points to the increased awareness of public health and increased funding of public health as successes.

"Back then, public health was really unknown by most people," Dr. Treviño said. "I think that maybe one percent of the population could correctly identify what public health is. One of the things that was really positive that I remember was the *American Medical News* [the newspaper of the American Medical Association] reported right at the end, after the Clinton administration was unable to reform healthcare, that the one winner out of all of the debate had been public health, because, in fact, the public knew much more about public health and how important it was, and so did healthcare workers."

When Dr. Treviño left the APHA in 1996, he went back to university life and helped start the health science center's School of Public Health.

Since that day 10 years ago, Dr. Treviño has left the planning of National Public Health Week to officials at APHA at the national level and students at the local level, but it was his hard work 10 years ago that has spawned a national tradition that was celebrated this year April 3-9. ★

Best Practices luncheon

Custodial services, winner of the Best Practices award, was honored with a luncheon and a dinner March 24. Custodial services received the award for its use of planning and evaluation to enhance quality, operate more cost effectively and increase personnel productivity. "We're recognizing the research-based process that you have developed to save money, minimize the time spent on repetitive tasks, eliminate waste, and improve the tidiness and sanitation of our campus," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president.





12-County Student Art Competition

Left: Black and white drawing by Cameron Kirkpatrick, an 11th grader at Granbury High School. Bottom: Visitors to the Atrium Gallery admire the artwork of 11th and 12th grade students from Brown, Comanche, Cooke, Denton, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties. The artwork has been on display since April 2, and judging took place on April 3. Winners will be announced Sunday, April 24. The 12-county high school art competition began in 1985 and now includes more than 1,500 entries each year from more than 120 school districts.



Board of Regents approves tuition, fee change

The University of North Texas Board of Regents approved an increase in tuition for Physician Assistant Studies students at the March 23 board meeting.

"This increase places our Physician Assistant Studies program's tuition at the average among all programs in Texas," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. "The additional funds will enable us to reach our full potential."

For fiscal year 2006, board designated tuition for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine's PA program will increase from \$15 per semester credit hour to \$37 per semester credit hour for in-state students and from \$61 per semester credit hour to \$68 per semester credit hour for out-of-state students.

The increase will take effect in the fall 2005 semester and will put tuition for the program into the average range for all physician assistant programs in the state of Texas.

Regents also approved an increase

in the Student Service Fee. The increase changes the flat student service fee of \$100 per semester to \$15 per semester credit hour with a maximum charge of \$118 per semester for School of Public Health and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences students. Medical and physician assistant students will be charged an annual fee of \$354.

The fee increase will go toward offsetting the costs of off-campus student counseling services, a part-time writing instructor and tutorial services. The fee increase will also be implemented in the fall 2005 semester.

"The expansion of these services will help the division of student affairs meet the growing needs of our diverse student population," said Warren Anderson, EdD, acting senior vice president for academic affairs.

An increase for identification badges was also approved by the Board of Regents. The higher production costs of the new microchip ID badges

warranted the increase from \$10 to \$25, Dr. Anderson said.

The increased fee will apply to new students and for the replacement of lost or stolen ID badges. The fee increase will be implemented in the fall 2005 semester.

The regents also approved awarding an honorary doctorate to Louis Sullivan, MD. Dr. Sullivan, secretary of health and human services from 1989 to 1993, will serve as the commencement speaker at this year's ceremony May 21.

The board of regents also approved the developmental leave of John Podgore, DO, MPH, who will take a one-year leave of absence from the Pediatric Clinic starting May 1 to work in Africa on HIV and AIDS treatment programs for children. Dr. Podgore will be participating in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Department of Health and Human Services Global AIDS Program in Malawi, Africa. ★

Spring Activities on HSC Campus

Top right: Students and employees competed in the Saturday morning three-on-three basketball tournament, which was part of the annual Spring Fling, held April 16th at the Founders' Activity Center and Alumni Plaza. Other events included a bounce house and a bungee run.



Middle right: The EBAC community garage sale, held in the west parking garage April 16, raised \$470 by selling 47 booth spaces to health science center employees, students and their families and friends. The funds generated will help support the employee assistance fund and other programs offered by EBAC.



Below: The Medical Student Government Association hosted the annual Cultural Celebration Week April 11-16. The week's activities included a display of traditional clothing and other items from several cultures in the Kiva, informative lunch meetings and the popular cultural celebration talent show, organized by the International Students Association. The show featured traditional dances and performances of popular, traditional and original songs by health science center students and employees.



Left: The health science center's American Medical Student Association chapter sponsored the creation of an AIDS quilt as part of its Global AIDS Awareness Week activities. The quilt, which hangs in the Kiva, was created by students and employees to raise awareness about AIDS and to commemorate those lost to the disease.

School of Public Health

SPH class studies border health issues

Claudia Coggin, PhD, assistant professor of social and behavioral health, and Terry Gratton, DrPh, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, recently took their annual class trip to south Texas to study Texas/Mexico border health issues as part of the combined environmental and community health course, Texas/Mexico Border Health Issues.

The course is designed to explore international health issues in the border areas between the United States and Mexico, such as wastewater treatment, air and water pollution, and infectious and chronic disease control.

Every year the School of Public Health partners with the South Texas Environmental Education and Research Center program of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. STEER works to connect medicine and public health. This year STEER was restricted from some travel in Mexico due to the State Department's alert about recent drug-related shootings in the border region in and around Laredo, but that did not stop the border health class from investigating the issues facing this unique community.

The group spent most of the week hearing from seasoned public health officials and practitioners about public health issues specific to the area around Laredo. For example, ethnobotanist and herbalist Tony Ramirez provided his expertise on native medicinal plants, and Sister Rosemary of the Convent of Sisters of Mercy shared her challenges, opportunities and experience with managing the Mercy Ministries of Laredo.

Although recent water release from the Rio Grande's Amistad Reservoir had produced a high river level and swift current made mid stream sampling too difficult to risk, biologist Tom Vaughan, PhD, associate professor of biology at Texas A&M International University, helped students gather data on turbidity

and water flow and water samples to determine coliform levels.

Students also met with border patrol and immigration officials who discussed immigration procedures and showed vivid pictures of the drug and human smuggling activities that create problems along the border.

Public health masters students Mehreen Hooda, Bavana Rangan, Leticia Davila and Amber Salter and doctoral student Mary Katherine Sanchez participated in this year's trip.

"Traveling to the border gave me a new perspective on health issues, those issues that we take for granted living in the United States," Hooda said. "By providing a hands-on approach to learning, this class helped me understand the health concerns on the Texas-Mexico border. I believe the experiences I have acquired from this trip will one day enable me to become a more qualified public health professional."



Top: Carol Stehly, MS, Med, AHEC coordinator in family medicine; Bavana Rangan, biostatistics student; and Tom Vaughan, PhD, of Texas A&M International University, use a flow meter in the Rio Grande River. **Bottom:** A homeland security officer shows pests found in produce recently confiscated at border checkpoints.

This year Carol Stehly MS, Med, AHEC coordinator in family medicine, accompanied the class to understand how the new MPH/Family Medicine Residency Program could incorporate this experience. "I was excited to have the opportunity to experience this class and see the benefits it will add the public health component of the new program," she said. ★

School of Public Health

SPH students get advice from expert panel

SPH students recently got an earful about what to do to make their career dreams come true. A panel of public health professionals, many of them alumni from the health science center, shared tips on networking, internships, mentoring, résumé/CV writing, and more at a career forum on campus March 3.

The panel included Marcus Martin, PhD, MPH, SPH 2003, director of research at the Foundation for Community Empowerment; Jaime Gonzalez, MSSW, MSHA, LMSW, regional manager of Latino Health Solutions for PacifiCare of Texas and PacifiCare of Oklahoma; Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH, SPH 2001, assistant professor of family medicine; Susie Ramisetty-Mikler, PhD, MPH, SPH 2003, faculty associate in epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health, Dallas Campus; and Lou Brewer, RN, MPH, director of the Tarrant County Public Health Department.

Networking quickly became the central focus of the discussion, as the panel shared their experiences with “getting in the door” for internships and jobs.

“You’ve got to get yourself out there. Learn to work the room wherever you go,” Gonzalez suggested. Researching the keywords of public health concentrations to learn to “talk the talk” when conversing with public health professionals is a significant skill, the panelists said.

The panel also mentioned joining professional organizations as a key resource for meeting and greeting. The panelists said that in addition to the Texas and American public health associations, there are several local and national organizations targeted to specific public health areas, such as the

National Environmental Health Association and Hispanic Healthcare Professionals Association, that offer official conferences and more informal get-togethers.

Other opportunities are even closer to home. While enrolled as a DO/MPH student at the health science center, Dr. Cardarelli served as president of the Public Health Student Association and founded the student chapter of the Medicine/Public Health Initiative, and both are still active on campus. Dr. Mikler is currently vice president of the SPH Alumni Society.

In a career- and life-changing internship in Washington D.C., Gonzalez said he gained not only valuable networking practice, he also found his mentor, another important aspect of career development. A mentor can be a family friend, former boss, practicum director, religious leader or faculty advisor.

Dr. Mikler said faculty are valuable resources and suggested that students approach their faculty with questions they have about the field of public health. The relationships built with instructors can also continue throughout a professional’s career. As an SPH alum, Dr. Mikler said she continues to maintain contact with faculty through requests for collaboration on research.

Collaboration can also benefit career development, and it is a constant goal for Dr. Cardarelli, who brings his practice of osteopathic medicine, knowledge of public health, and passion for research and academia together in his work.

Dr. Cardarelli cited the formation of the first North Texas Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network as one example. Housed within the family medicine department, it is a network of family medicine, general inter-

nal medicine, geriatric, pediatric, and Ob/Gyn physicians who perform patient-oriented evidence-based research in collaboration with external partners such as the Tarrant County Health Department.

Brewer suggested students take advantage of the workshops and other resources at the health department. Resource data for students is made available on their website under Disease Control and Prevention and Health Data and Information.

Dr. Martin, formerly with the county health department, also advised students to take advantage of local health departments, as well as the myriad of other organizations that offer public health services.

Dr. Martin said the partners and clients of the Foundation of Community Empowerment, such as the YMCA, and other non-profit organizations specific to public health, such as the American Cancer Society, are great places to get some very valuable practical experience to add to your résumé.

“Volunteer,” Dr. Martin suggested. “Who can turn away someone offering to work for free? And besides, the worse they can say is ‘No.’ Then you just move on and keep asking.”

Students said they found the career forum to be a helpful opportunity for them to see professionals working in five distinct areas of public health.

Community health student Melissa Oden said, “It was interesting to talk about how integrated the field of public health is with other fields — most of us have been in public health for years and just never really saw it as public health. I think the students got some great ideas of how our interests and talents can be put into practice in the field.” ★

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Magazine names 17 HSC faculty as Top Docs

Seventeen faculty members from the health science center were named Top Docs for 2005 in the April issue of *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of our entire faculty," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, "but to have such a large number of our faculty recognized as 'Top Docs' demonstrates the world-class status of Fort Worth's medical school's faculty."

For the survey, *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine polls area doctors, who then vote on who they think are the top doctors in the area. The poll this year was based on the membership of the Tarrant County Medical Association.

The Department of Internal Medicine had 10 doctors named as Top Docs: **Barbara Atkinson, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and

chief of infectious disease; **Michael Clearfield, DO**, professor of internal medicine and associate dean for clinical research; **Paul Garcia, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine; **Janice Knebl, DO, MBA**, professor of internal medicine and chief of geriatrics; **William McIntosh, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of neurology; **David Orr, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine, neurology division; **Craig Spellman, PhD, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of endocrinology; **Monte Troutman, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and chair of gastroenterology; **Stephen Weis, DO**, professor of internal medicine, endocrinology division; and **Martin Weiss, DO**, assistant professor of internal medicine, cardiology division.

The Department of Surgery had three of its doctors on the list, including **Sam Buchanan, DO**, associate professor and chair of surgery; **Arnold Fikkert, DO**, assistant professor of surgery; and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, associate professor and vice chair of surgery.

The Department of Family Medicine had two doctors listed: **Jill Gramer, DO**, assistant professor of family medicine and medical director of the Eagle Ranch Family Medical Center, and **Phillip Saperstein, DO**, professor of family medicine and program director of the family practice residency program at Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth.

Scott Stoll, PhD, DO, associate professor and chair of osteopathic manipulative medicine; and **Alan Podawiltz, DO**, associate professor of psychiatry, were also selected this year. ★

TCOM ranked in top 50 medical schools

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine was ranked among the top 50 medical schools in primary care this year, according to recently released rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*.

This is the fourth year in a row that TCOM has been ranked in the top 50 medical schools for primary care.

"In the last four years, we have garnered national recognition in medical education with some leading-edge efforts in curriculum reform, the use of medical simulation for training and a unique rural track program to train physicians for rural Texas," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The ranking for 2005 was lower than last year's 26th place ranking for primary care. Dr. Hahn said that this year's drop in ranking may have been affected by the confusion brought about by closing of the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas and the loss of several of TCOM's affiliated residency training programs.

Each year, *U.S. News* ranks professional-school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. The rankings are based on expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of the school's faculty, research and students.

To gather the opinion data, *U.S. News & World Report* surveyed deans, program directors and senior faculty to judge the academic quality of programs in their field on a scale of 1, which was marginal, to 5, which was outstanding. Professionals who hire new graduates were also surveyed for the rankings.

This year in the medical school category, the total dollar amount of research grants awarded per full-time science and clinical faculty member from the National Institutes of Health was added to the methodology, although the greatest weight for the rankings was still given to peer ratings. ★

Faculty Advances

Rafael Alvarez-Gonzalez, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, presented the poster “Enzymatic and domain-specific interactions of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 with DNA polymerase b” at the annual Experimental Biology and American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Meeting in San Diego, Calif., April 2-6. **Nils Confer, PhD, GSBS 2004**, and **Sunitha Kumari, PhD**, former post-doctoral fellow in molecular biology and immunology, are co-authors.

Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH, assistant professor of family medicine, is first author of the paper “Ambulatory Teaching and Evidence-Based Medicine: Applying Classroom Knowledge to Clinical Practice,” published in the February issue of *Family Medicine*. **Mark Sanders, DO, JD**, assistant professor of family medicine, is co-author.

Joan Carroll, PhD, assistant professor of integrative physiology, presented “Isolated heart responsiveness to isoproterenol after hydralazine treatment in obesity” at the Experimental Biology 2005 conference in San Diego, Calif., March 31-April 6. **Dr. Carroll** also presented “Endothelium dependent vascular reactivity in diet-induced obese exercise-trained rabbits” at the conference. **Woineshet Zenebe, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow in integrative physiology, is first author, and **Jeremy Thaden**, formerly of integrative physiology, is co-author. **Dr. Carroll** is first author of the paper “A comparison of two exercise training programs on cardiac responsiveness to beta-stimulation in obesity,” published in the March issue of *Experimental Biology and Medicine*. **Thaden** and **Allison Wright**, graduate student in cell biology and genetics, are co-authors. In addition, **Dr. Carroll** reviewed grants for the American Heart Association Western Consortium, in Phoenix, Ariz., April 14-15.

Daisha Cipher, PhD, assistant professor of biostatistics, is second author of the article “Depression: an obstacle in treating older patients,” published in the April issue of the *American Medical News*, the newsletter of the American Medical Association. Andrew Clifford, PhD, private practice clinical psychologist and director of clinical development at Mind Body Wellness and Senior Connections of Dallas, is first author. **Alan Podawiltz, DO**, assistant professor of psychiatry, and Richard Brown, MD, medical director of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at the Medical Center of Plano and director of the rehabilitation program at Plano Specialty Hospital, are co-authors.

Samuel “Tim” Coleridge, DO, professor of family medicine, is first author of the paper “Family Medicine Education in the Czech Republic,” published in the January issue of *Tarrant County Physician*. **Peggy Smith-Barbaro, PhD**, director of research and collaborative ventures, professional and continuing education, and **Tracy Haas, DO**, former resident in family medicine, are co-authors.

Suzanne Davis, residency program administrator in family medicine, presented “How To Look Good On Paper” at the Association of Family Practice Administrators’ Pre-RAP Professional Development Conference in Kansas City, Mo., April 2. Penilee Saulnier, editor of the AFPA newsletter *Connections*, co-presented the proofreading program. The conference is held in conjunction with the annual Residency Assistance Program sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Christopher de Fiebre, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, presented “What Do We Know About the Neurobiology of Co-Morbidity of Tobacco, Alcohol and Mental Health Disorders?” as part of the Co-morbidity of Tobacco Addiction Panel of the second East-West Conference on Tobacco and Alcohol: Culture, Environment and Genes held in Pasadena, Calif., April 5 and 6.

Craig Elam, MLS, assistant professor of education and associate director of technical services, and **Kathy Broyles, MLS**, public services librarian, both of the Gibson D. Lewis Health Sciences Library, presented the poster “The Development of a Controlled Vocabulary for Osteopathic Medicine” at OCCITIC VI, the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference held on the health science center campus April 7-8.

Marty Knott, medical student and doctoral student in integrative physiology, presented “Pyruvate cardioplegia suppresses oxidative stress and preserves phosphorylation potential of arrested myocardium” at the International Congress of Physiological Sciences /Experimental Biology symposium in San Diego, Calif., April 2-6. **Myoung-Gwi Ryou, MS**, graduate teaching assistant; **Jie Sun**, research associate; **Abraham Heymann**, research associate; **Arti Sharma**, doctoral candidate; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, professor, all of integrative

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Faculty Advances

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physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor of surgery; **Rodolfo Martinez, MS, GSBS 2003**; and Yu Lei, of the Department of Biology, University of Texas at Arlington, are co-authors.

Sue Lurie, PhD, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, is first author of the paper "Ethical Choices in Public Health Research and Intervention," which she presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 5-10. Dr. Lurie also presented "Social Justice and the Constellation of Ethical Domains in Hong Kong" at the conference. Gordon Lurie, doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Toronto, is first author of the paper.

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, presented "Beta-adrenergic receptor blockade during intermittent hypoxia abrogates hypoxia-induced cardioprotection" at the International Congress of Physiological Sciences/Experimental Biology symposium in San Diego, Calif., April 2-6. **Pu Zong, MD, PhD**, post doctoral research associate; **Wei Sun, MD**, post doctoral research assistant; **Myoung-Gwi Ryou, MS**, graduate teaching assistant; **Linda Howard**, research associate; **Arthur Williams**, technical/administrative director; and **Fred Downey, PhD**, professor, all of integrative physiology, are co-authors.

John Podgore, DO, MPH, professor of pediatrics, has been selected for a Global AIDS Program fellowship sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of Schools of Public Health. The program is part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief announced in January 2003. **Dr. Podgore** will be assigned to the CDC office in the Central African country of Malawi for a 12-month period while on developmental leave from the health science center.

Anna Ratka, PhD, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, presented the poster "Role of age in sex and genotype differences in sensitivity to thermal nociceptive stimulus in PS1 and APP-PS1 transgenic mice," at the 24th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society in Boston, Mass., March 30-April 3. **Atulkumar Raut, MD**, graduate teaching assistant in

pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author, and **Cheryl Kyser, PhD**, research associate in pharmacology and neuroscience, is co-author.

John Schetz, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, presented the poster "Haloperidol is neuroprotective against oxidative-stress related damage in vitro and in vivo" at the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics 2005 Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, Calif., April 3-7. **Dr. Schetz** is first author. **Evelyn Perez, PhD**, post-doctoral research associate; **Shaohua Yang, PhD**, research associate professor; and **James Simpkins, PhD**, professor and chair, all of pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors.

Damon Schranz, DO, assistant professor, and **Suzanne Davis**, residency program administrator, both of family medicine, presented "Project Med," which details a collaborative pediatric curriculum between the health science center's Family Practice Residency Program and Texas Parent to Parent, at the 23rd Annual Texas Family Medicine Leadership Conference Feb. 16-18, in Austin, Texas.

Arti Sharma, doctoral candidate in integrative physiology, presented "Antioxidant pretreatment protects myocardial enzymes during cardiac arrest" at the International Congress of Physiological Sciences/Experimental Biology symposium in San Diego, Calif., April 2-6. **Jie Sun**, research associate; **Marty Knott**, graduate student; and **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor, all of integrative physiology, and **Rodolfo Martinez, MS, GSBS 2003**, are co-authors.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, professor and associate dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, was selected to participate in an Indo-US Professorship by the American Society for Microbiology. **Dr. Vishwanatha** taught a course on Genomics and Proteomics in Biomedical Research at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India, in January as part of the program, which allows microbiologists in India and the United States to exchange visits to teach a short, interactive course on a topic in any of the microbiological disciplines. **Neeraj Agarwal, PhD**, associate professor of cell biology and genetics, and **Abhijit Banarjee, PhD**, assistant professor of oral biology at the University of Manitoba, also participated in the program. ★