



CAMPUS Connection

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UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

Thousands attend Hispanic health fair

The seventh annual Hispanic Wellness Fair brought thousands of people to the Amon Carter Exhibits Hall, Will Rogers Memorial Complex Saturday, Aug. 6. People waited for hours outside of the building as volunteers inside set up booths and prepared for the six-hour, non-stop rush. About 15,000 people are estimated to have attended this year's fair.

The wellness fair is sponsored by the health science center, the School of Public Health, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pacificare, Secure Horizons, Telemundo, Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Cook Children's Health Plan, Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Pfizer Inc., Coca Cola Bottling Co., Cuidado Casero, JPS Health Network, Tarrant County Medical Society Alliance Foundation, Bank of America, Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., BNSF Railway Co., EECU, Fort Worth Public Health Department, Hispanic Healthcare Professionals Association (HISPA), Tarrant County Public Health Department, UTA School of Nursing, Univision Radio, Spring Creek Barbeque, Pancho's Mexican Buffet, *Diario La Estrella*, *El Hispano News*, and *Panorama Newspaper*.

"We are quite focused on the unique health concerns of the Hispanic population, including conditions such as diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure, in our programs at the health science center, and as Fort Worth's medical school, the Texas Col-



lege of Osteopathic Medicine is proud to once again be one of the sponsors of the Hispanic Wellness Fair," said Marc Hahn, DO, dean. "In addition, our departments of internal medicine, family medicine, and manipulative medicine were active participants, providing both assessments and educational information."

Screenings and services provided during the fair included vision exams, prostate cancer screenings, HIV/AIDS tests, respiratory screenings, dental



exams, mammograms, glucose tests, immunizations for children, diabetes screenings, nutrition screenings and osteopathic manipulative treatment.

"This is the only time of year when many of the attendees of the fair get medical treatment," said Robert Galvan, DrPH, assistant professor of health management and policy.

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Campus Briefs

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2008 will host this year's **DO Dash** October 29. The 5K charity fun run, benefiting Cook Children's Medical Center, will also serve as a fundraiser for the TCOM Class of 2008. Participants may run or walk the race route through the Monticello/Arlington Heights area of Fort Worth. There will also be a children's 1K race.

A family health fair will be held on the Alumni Plaza, on top of the west parking garage at the health science center. The fair will feature wellness checks, preventative education, manipulative and massage treatments, arts and crafts, games, music and food.

To become a sponsor or for more information about the event, contact Jose Meza, DO Dash chair, at 817-727-0632 or Kelly Sprawls, Sponsorship Committee chair, at 817-689-6180.

The health science center faculty formally welcomes the 2005-2006 entering students at its **Convocation and White Coat Ceremony** Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. at Will Rogers Auditorium. This year's guest speaker is David Richards, DO, former president of the health science center.

In addition to the White Coat Ceremony, a presentation of the Founders' Medal and Special Faculty Awards will be made by Ronald Blanck, DO, president. A reception on the health science center campus will follow the White Coat Ceremony.

The **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine** will celebrate 35 years of excellence in medical education with a **Birthday Gala**. The event will be held from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, September 24, at the Renaissance Worthington

Hotel in Fort Worth. All guests at the "denim 'n' diamonds" event are encouraged to dress up in western attire. The gala will feature a gourmet dinner, an auction and live entertainment.

All proceeds will go to the TCOM Dean's Discretionary Fund, which supports various medical school academic and research endeavors, and the health science center's President's Progress Fund, which supports the institutional areas of greatest need. To sponsor a table, purchase individual tickets or get more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 817-735-2445.

The **Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine** Office of the Dean has established two new awards to honor TCOM alumni.

The **Dean's Award for Distinguished Service** recognizes TCOM graduates in active medical practice who are distinguishing themselves through outstanding personal and professional achievements. Nominees must exhibit the following characteristics:

- Commitment to the osteopathic profession exemplified by the practice, teaching or research of osteopathic principles and techniques.
- Exemplary positive achievements, in both personal and professional life.
- Demonstrated service to community, the profession and TCOM.
- Recognition as a personal and/or professional role model for others.

The **Rising Star Award** recognizes TCOM graduates who are members of the 10-year reunion class who are distinguishing themselves through outstanding personal and professional

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achievements. Nominees must exhibit the following characteristics:

- For the 2005 award, a nominee must be an alumnus/alumna of the TCOM Class of 1995.
- Commitment to the osteopathic profession exemplified by the practice, teaching or research of osteopathic principles and techniques.
- Exemplary positive achievements, in both personal and professional life.
- Demonstrated service to community, the profession and TCOM.
- Recognition as a personal and/or professional role model for others.

The awards will be given annually. This year's awards will be presented at the TCOM Birthday Gala Sept. 24. The deadline for nominations is Aug. 19. For more information, please call the Office of Advancement at ext. 2445 or email alumni@hsc.unt.edu. ★

Hispanic Wellness Fair 2005

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Last year, over 20,000 services were provided. Figures from this year's Hispanic Wellness Fair had not been finalized as of press time. School supplies and bicycle helmets were also distributed at the fair, and children's activities were available throughout the day.

"It was an outstanding opportunity for people to gain access to health screening and health maintenance and a wonderful display of the Fort Worth health care community's spirit of volunteerism," said Daniel Perugini, DO

executive vice president of the health science center.

The fair has continued to grow in its seven-year history, having started with about 2,000 participants in 1999. Attendance at last year's Hispanic Wellness Fair exceeded 15,000, with people lining the sidewalks of the Will Rogers Convention Center beginning at 6 a.m. to wait for the doors to open.

To see more pictures of this year's Hispanic Wellness Fair log on to www.hsc.unt.edu/annual/HWF. ★



Circular drive landscape gets facelift

According to a recent article in *College Planning and Management* magazine, potential students tend to form an opinion about a college campus within the first 15 minutes of being there. That decision is largely based on campus landscaping.

That is why a team of landscapers recently made over the grounds along the circular drive that runs between the Education and Administration Building, Lewis Library and Patient Care Center.

The team included contractors Albert Craig and Rafael Puentes from Lone Star Grounds and facilities management staff Zack Snyder, Charlie Miner and John West.

Jason Hartley, construction project coordinator, said the work was done in addition to the staff's regular responsibilities. "They all had a part in the landscape project, and they continue to improve the appearance of the campus," he said. "They should be recognized for their hard work."

Begonias, caladiums and Japanese maples now brighten the area. Gravel was replaced with mulch, and old sig-



The team of (left to right) Rafael Puentes, Albert Craig, Zack Snyder, Charlie Miner and John West recently finished the new landscaping of the circular drive area.

nage was removed. A new sign for EAD will be installed soon, he said.

Patti Lloyd, executive manager, president's office, said she appreciates the improvements.

"I walked by there the other day and thought, 'This really looks nice. I hope everyone has noticed it,'" Lloyd said.

"That area used to be a real hub of activity when it was the entrance to our central clinic, and it was always busy with patients and students," Lloyd said. "For a while after the clinics moved, it seemed it was just sort of ignored. Now it brings the center of campus back into focus and looks cool, serene and just plain pretty." ★

Kudos to...

Jana Davis, PA 2007, and her husband, Nick, on the birth of their baby girl, Grace, April 15.

Steve Sheppard, LAN analyst II, and his wife, Amy, on the birth of their son, Nash Edward, July 7.

Stephen Mathew, PhD, research assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology, and Annie Mathew, senior administrative assistant in the *Hablenos de Su Salud* program, on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Sneha, June 9.

Jose Saenz, web administrator/programmer, and his wife, Dawn, on the birth of their son, Joshua Tyler, July 19

Gheath Al-Atrash, DO, PhD, TCOM/GSBS 2002, on the birth of his son, Gabriel Daniel, July 6.

Patrick Moonan, DrPH, SPH 2005, on his new position at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Moonan will work as an epidemiologist with the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Outbreak Investigations Branch of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination.

Joseph Warren, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and anatomy and assistant director of the DNA lab, on being named chair of the Association for Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators.

Thomas Fairchild, PhD, associate vice president for institutional planning, on being named one of 42 delegates who will represent Texas at the 2005 White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C. ★

Tell us about yourselves!

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones about OMM specialist Russell Gamber (June 2005), 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.

HSC researchers edit hormone therapy book

A book edited by two health science center researchers tackles the controversial topic of hormone therapy.

Meharvan Singh, PhD, assistant professor, and James Simpkins, PhD, professor and chair, both of pharmacology and neuroscience, are editors of *The Future of Hormone Therapy: What Basic Science and Clinical Studies Teach Us*, available from the New York Academy of Sciences. The duo also wrote two chapters in the book.

Drs. Singh and Simpkins used papers and deliberations from a two-day conference that took place Nov. 5-7, 2004, in Fort Worth as the basis for the book.

"We wanted this book to be a critical but fair assessment of hormone therapy clinical trials thus far," Dr. Singh said.

The conference, which was part of the Consortium for the Assessment of Research on Progestins and Estrogens, brought together some of the top researchers in the field of estrogen and hormone therapy.

"The chapters in the text underscore the need to do additional research and suggest that we should by no means rule out the possibility of future forms of hormone therapy," Dr. Singh said.

Some of the questions explored in the book include:

- What is the therapeutic window for hormone therapy and/or estrogen therapy?
- What are the appropriate formulations of hormone therapy and estrogen therapy?
- What should be considered the most appropriate design for clinical trials that address the efficacy of hormone therapy and estrogen therapy?
- What are appropriate surrogate markers of neurological decline or impairment?

Chapters by Drs. Singh and Simpkins also address the ability of hormones to protect the brain from cognitive decline.

The chapter in the book written by Dr. Singh addresses how progesterone protects the brain to keep it healthy during the aging process.

The chapter in the book written by Dr. Simpkins addresses alternatives to existing estrogens and how those alternatives can be used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Another researcher from the health science center, Anna Ratka, PhD, PharmD, RPh, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, also contributed a chapter about cognitive decline to the book.

Dr. Ratka's chapter discusses the possible role of hot flashes in the cognitive decline of women as they age and looks at the use of estrogen to help reduce that cognitive decline.

"This book is the definitive thesis that addresses the controversy as to whether hormones are good or bad for women," Dr. Singh said.

The controversy involving hormone therapy for menopause started with a report issued by the Women's Health Initiative three years ago. The report indicated that combination menopausal hormone therapy resulted in unexpectedly greater health risks than benefits, while failing to improve quality of life for postmenopausal women.

"Regrettably, that's not the whole story," Dr. Singh said.

Studies done by Drs. Singh and Simpkins as well as others have looked at the results of the WHI and put them into a broader perspective.

"This book argues that hormone therapy at the time of menopause is most likely good and of very low risk," Dr. Simpkins said. ★

In the News

The June edition of *The DO* mentioned the health science center in several articles. A photograph of AOA President George Thomas, DO, at the **Sixth Annual Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference** held at the health science center ran with the President's Voice column, and Dr. Thomas also outlined his speech at the conference in the column. **Scott Stoll, DO, PhD**, chair of manipulative medicine, was quoted in an extensive story and sidebar about the conference. **John Licciardone, DO**, director of clinical research at the Osteopathic Research Center, was also quoted, as was **Samuel "Tim" Coleridge, DO**, professor of family medicine. Photographs of the conference ran with the story. In addition, the DOings section of the issue mentioned that **Daniel Perugini, DO**, executive vice president, spoke on behalf of the AOA at a bioterrorism preparedness focus group hosted by the Area Health Education Center of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Division of State, Community and Public Health.

Patti Pagels, PA-C, assistant professor of physician assistant studies, and **Walter Nettles**, safety coordinator for facility management, were quoted in a story about the PATCH smoking cessation program in the June issue of Pulse magazine. **Pagels** and **Nettles** were also featured in a photograph, along with **Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES**, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, that ran with the story.

The *Northwest Tarrant County Times Record* published a monthly article by **John Fling, MD**, associate professor of pediatrics and acting chair of the pediatrics allergy/immunology clinic, in its June 2 edition. **Dr. Fling's** article focused on the possibility that the ability to prevent childhood infections, may contribute to the development of allergy and asthma. ★

Research Update: DREAMS Initiative

The health science center's multi-school diabetes prevention initiative for Research, Education, and Metabolic Studies (DREAMS) is about halfway through the enrollment and baseline evaluation process for Project 1, "The Primary Prevention Program for Hispanic Families at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Metabolic Syndrome and Cardiovascular Disease."

The aim of Project 1 is to help reduce the risk for diabetes, heart disease, and related metabolic disorders among high risk, underserved Hispanic families in Tarrant County by helping families to identify unhealthy lifestyle behaviors and to understand the relationship between those behaviors, being overweight and the risk for developing diabetes and associated metabolic disorders.

Recruitment of Hispanic families at risk for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease started in December 2004, and the enrollment phase started Feb. 1, 2005. By mid-July, the study population had grown to 122 Hispanic families for a total of 450 individuals, of whom 47 percent (211) are children, according to principal investigator Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences.

Participants underwent baseline evaluation at either the internal medicine clinic at the Patient Care Center or the Northside Family Medicine Clinic. Seventy-four percent (90) of the families have had at least one session with the nurse or physician to receive and discuss their test results, Dr. Rojas said. Families have also been referred to a source of care as needed.

Recruitment activity is currently ongoing at clinics, partner community health and social services organizations, including Cook Children Physician's Network, Boys and Girls Clubs, the local school districts, and churches. One hundred and twenty additional Hispanic families will be recruited and

enrolled within the next six months to attain the desired target of working with 240 Hispanic families.

In addition to Dr. Rojas, Mary Luna Hollen, PhD, research assistant professor of



Some of the participants in the study undergo baseline evaluation at the Northside Family Medicine Clinic.

social and behavioral sciences, and Walter McConathy, PhD, associate professor of internal medicine, are co-principal investigators for Project 1.

Craig Spellman, PhD, DO, associate professor and chief of endocrinology and director of the Diabetes Center; Sejong Bae, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics; Paul García, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine; Andras Lacko, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology; and John Menchaca MD, Cook Children's Physician Network, are co-investigators.

The research team also includes María Jiménez, MD, MPH, research coordinator for the DREAMS project;

and research assistants Martha Montiel, MS; Khiya Marshall, MPH; and Matt Stahl, all graduate students in social and behavioral sciences, and Alma Cruz, graduate student in the School of Arts and Sciences at UNT Denton, and Isabel Vecino, MD, clinical research coordinator III in internal medicine.

In addition, Gladys Santiago, RN, and Halima Castillo, medical assistant, both of the Cuidado Casero organization, perform physical exams for the project. Joice Carter, RD, LD, coordinator for diabetes education in internal medicine, is also involved in the project.

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PA on mission to help medically underserved

Every year, Patti Pagels, PA-C, packs her bags and takes a mission trip with the Monos Cariñosas organization to set up medical clinics in medically underserved countries.

“For most of these people, this is the only time that they get even some type of medical treatment,” she said.

This year, Pagels, along with physician assistant student Sapril Nguyen; her sister, Kim Nguyen, who is applying to TCOM next year as a medical student; and medical student Maro Ohanian, braved the jungles of Jinotega, Nicaragua, to treat at least 125 people a day.

Located in the north central mountains of Nicaragua, Jinotega is situated in a valley surrounded by high mountains.

The mission group also set up a small pharmacy to give the patients medicine after they were diagnosed.

Pagels said she treated a wide variety of people, from infants to the elderly.

“Most of the stuff we saw wasn’t very serious, but once in a while we found tumors,” she said. “We saw everything from the common cold to diabetes.”

One of the members of the group was a dentist who pulled as many as 23 teeth from the mouth of one person.

Some people had extremely high blood pressure or rheumatoid arthritis.

“Sometimes it was really sad because some of the people were just beyond medical treatment, and there really wasn’t anything that you could do for them,” Pagels said.



The mission group set up temporary pharmacies to provide medication for the villagers they treated.

The missionaries began seeing people at the clinic in the morning and did not stop until evening. By the end of the day, Pagels said she was usually tired from seeing so many patients, but she did enjoy going horse-back riding in the mountains when she had the opportunity.

Pagels said one of the main reasons she does this work is because it gives her the chance to work without any diagnostics.

“I get to be better at my job,” she said. “I have to take a history and really listen to what they are saying. Here, if you have any doubts, you can just go and look it up. But you can’t do that over there. It makes it more real.”

Pagels said the people they treated were extremely grateful for their care.

“The people are really appreciative,” she said. “Not to say that patients over here aren’t too, but it’s a different kind of appreciative. Most of these people don’t have the income to pay for medicine.”

Pagels plans to continue taking trips to various countries every year to administer medical aid.

“It helps me to better appreciate people and their different circumstances,” she said. ★

Research update

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Project 1 builds upon the investigators’ previous work, which documented the high prevalence of obesity and associated risk factors for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease in minority, school-aged children in Fort Worth.

This study aims to establish a family-based, primary prevention program for underserved Hispanic children in Tarrant County between the ages of 7 to 17, who are identified as being at high risk for type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome.

Recruitment sites for at risk children include the Fort Worth Independent School District, health fairs, the Fort Worth Boys and Girls Clubs, and children seen in local pediatric practices or at primary care clinics, and their parents and siblings and other children living in the same household.

Participants in this study receive an in-depth baseline assessment that includes a medical examination, laboratory tests, counseling and referral to a preventive intervention with *promotores de salud* (lay health educators/community health workers). This counseling and education is intended to impact the risk factors related to lifestyle, specifically low levels of physical activity and diet.

Participant families will be put into one of two groups. The intervention group will participate in a six-session prevention program, with a four-month follow-up, led by *promotores de salud*, and the control group will receive written health education materials on healthy eating and physical activity.

Following completion of the baseline assessment and the prevention component, both control and intervention participants will be re-evaluated six to eight months after the initial assessment.

Project 1 is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ★

EBAC holds 4th of July celebration

The Employee Benefits and Action Committee hosted an Independence Day party on the Alumni Plaza July 4. More than 200 people turned out to join in the festivities, which included old-fashioned games in addition to the fireworks displays visible from campus.

Thomas Moorman, EdD, associate vice president for student affairs and EBAC chair, kicked off the evening by leading the kiddie parade around the plaza. Children dressed in their patriotic finest and bearing tiny flags competed for the title of "Most Patriotic." Robert Mallet, son of Robert Mallet, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, won the title.

Nick Fenn, son of Lynda Fenn, senior LVN in surgery, took top honors in both the watermelon eating contest and the watermelon seed spitting contest. Later in the evening, he also

won the wheelbarrow race with Dr. Moorman's daughter, Emma.

Angelica Benavides, niece of Celena Guzman, credentials coordinator in quality management, proved to be the fastest hopper in a neck-and-neck sack race. The three-legged race was won by Taylor and Jenee Rousseau, daughters of Tony Rousseau, senior accountant. The adult wheelbarrow race was won by Shirley Grissom, certified coder in family medicine's Pilot Program, and her husband, David. Tony Martinez, senior classroom educational technician, provided music throughout the evening. The EBAC gratefully acknowledges additional volunteers who assisted with the event, including Guzman; Jim Banks, computer user support specialist; and Jack-



lyn Crisp, administrative assistant in molecular biology and immunology. ★

Everett Hall renovations complete

The construction in Everett Hall, located on the first floor of the Research and Education Building, was finished July 31.

"The room was renovated to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to add electrical connectors and data ports for the students," said Stephen Barrett, director of facilities management.

The terraced levels of the two aisles in the classroom were removed and made into slopes. Instead of the previous moveable chairs, the newly added fixed seating will help students get a better view of the instructor. The fixed seating also created an additional 40 seats, increasing the total number of seats to 173.



The electrical connectors and data ports added to each seat will allow students to use their lap top computers in the classroom.

The lap top computers will enable students to access MDConsult, a portal that includes 40 textbooks and 16 medical journals, said Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, associate dean for academic affairs.

"We are the only school in the country that requires our students to have MDConsult," Dr. Dubin said. "Some of the textbooks that professors require for the course are found there."

The data ports will also provide instructors the opportunity to assign quizzes that require the students to gather the latest medical information from online sources while in class, Dr. Dubin said.

In addition to new carpeting, the classroom has a redesigned sound control room located in the back.

Barrett said the construction cost \$260,000, which came from HEAF money. "The whole classroom just needed a facelift, and now it looks really good," he said. ★

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Borejdo receives grant for new computer microscope

Julian Borejdo, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, has received a grant for \$100,000 to create a prototype of and test a new computer microscope he invented. The grant is from the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program through the National Institutes of Health.

The new microscope is highly sensitive, allowing scientists to use it in low-light settings.

“Traditionally, cells seen under a computer microscope must be illuminated using lights in order to see detail,” Dr. Borejdo said. “The light can kill the cells, rendering them useless for further research. This new microscope is more sensitive, allowing cells to be seen with little light.”

The new microscope converts images differently, going from photons to pulses of electricity rather than photons to voltage, Dr. Borejdo said. “This conversion method is more efficient and brings the cost of the microscope down.”

Dr. Borejdo’s business partners include Optical Finesse, a computer programming company in Boulder, Colo., and LSM Technology, a manufacturing company in Pennsylvania.

STTR is a highly competitive program that reserves federal research and development funding for small business and nonprofit research institution partners. Its role is to foster innovation to meet the nation’s scientific and technological needs in the 21st century.

STTR is a three-phase program that takes an idea from planning to fruition. Phase I awards of up to \$100,000 are given for one year to explore the scientific, technical and commercial feasibility of an idea. Phase II awards of up to \$750,000 are given for as long as two years of continued research and development, focusing on the commercial potential of the idea.

Only Phase I award winners are considered for Phase II awards. Phase III, which includes no funding, moves the innovation from the lab into the marketplace where the company can seek private or other government funding. Dr. Borejdo’s grant is a Phase I award. ★

Physiologist shares advice for success

Robert Carter, PhD, MPH, GSBS/SPH 2001, recently gave a crowd of SMART and McNair students some tips on how to increase their chances of success in life.

“You have to have a vision,” said Dr. Carter, a captain in the Medical Service Corps and research physiologist at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. “With this vision, you must have some basic strategy or some plan to get there.”

Dr. Carter’s presentation in July, “A Road Less Traveled ... Where is it Taking Me?”, detailed his journey to the health science center.

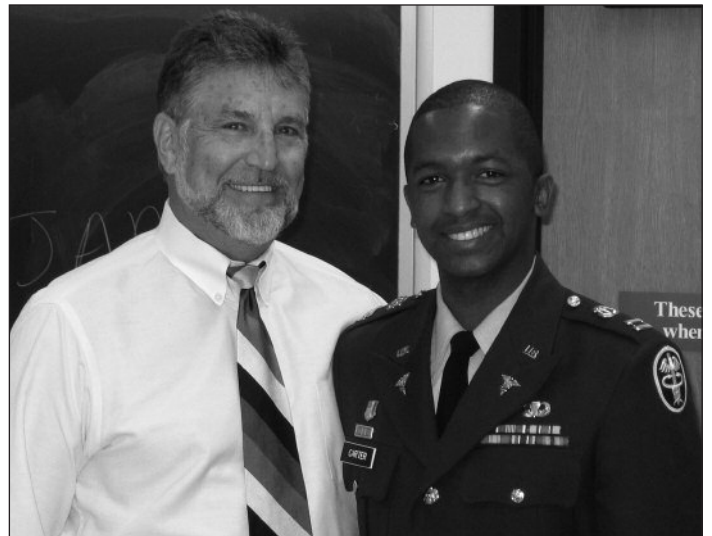
While still a high school student, Dr. Carter applied to a summer program at Louisiana State University, the only summer program that he attended while in high school.

After enrolling at Louisiana Southern University, Dr. Carter met Robert Kaman, PhD, JD, assistant dean for outreach at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, during a recruiting

trip. Dr. Kaman convinced Dr. Carter to participate in the Bridges to the Doctoral program at the health science center.

Dr. Carter hitched a ride with his friend Harlan Jones, PhD, currently an assistant professor of molecular biology and immunology at the health science center, and the two headed to Fort Worth.

When Dr. Carter arrived in 1996, he listened to the guidance of his mentors, Dr. Kaman, Michael Smith, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, and Antonio René, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology, who told him to be persistent.



Mentor Robert Kaman, PhD, JD, encouraged Robert Carter, PhD, MPH, GSBS/SPH 2001, to persistently pursue his goals.

Dr. Carter’s persistence and hard work at the health science center resulted in a publication in 1997 in the *Journal of Applied Physiology* while he was still a master’s student. He published three additional articles as a doc-

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School of Public Health

SPH honors achievement at annual banquet

The School of Public Health recognized its top students at its annual awards banquet in May.

Ella Nkhoma, MPH, won the Kenneth H. Cooper Award for Outstanding Research.

The award is given to the School of Public Health student who demonstrates excellence and quality in the application of research methods and includes a plaque to be displayed on campus and a \$250 monetary award.

While at the School of Public Health, Nkhoma worked on the *Salud Para Su Corazon* initiative as well as several important research projects involving geographic information systems. She won first place at last year's Research Appreciation Day for her poster, "Assessment of Public Health Students' Attitudes Toward Tobacco Control." Her master's thesis is "Epidemiology of Cholera in Malawi," her home country.

Nkhoma, a native of Blantyre, Malawi, currently resides in Chapel Hill, N.C., where she is working on her PhD in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and doing research about malaria among pregnant women in Africa as a University Fellow. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from Austin College and a master of public health from the health science center.

The next top graduate award, the Leon Brachman Community Service Award, was presented by Brachman, a SPH Steering Committee member to Zeida Rojas, MPH.

The award is given to the School of Public Health student who best exemplifies the ideals of academic excellence, leadership and community service. The honor is accompanied by a \$250 monetary award as well as a plaque to be displayed on the health science center campus.

Rojas is a native of Fort Worth and currently resides in Fort Worth.



Zeida Rojas, MPH, pictured above with Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health, won this year's Leon Brachman Community Service Award.

She is a graduate of University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in Hispanic studies. She earned a master of public health degree from the health science center.

Rojas began her association with the health science center as a volunteer at the Northside Family Practice Clinic. While a pre-med student at the University of Texas at Austin, she spent the summer at the health science center as a McNair Scholar.

She also completed an epidemiology internship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and an internship with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities last summer. Rojas was also selected as a Minority K through 12 Initiative for Teachers and Students fellow by the health science center's Office of Outreach.

In addition to completing her thesis on HIV/AIDS and the role of faith-based organizations, she has volunteered at the James L. West Alzheimer's

Facility, Girls Start, John Peter Smith Hospital, Helping Hand, Fort Worth AIDS Outreach Center and the Go-Force mentoring organization and has participated in medical mission trips throughout Latin America.

The Bob Crow Outstanding MPH Graduate Award went to Zeenat Hasan, MPH.

The award is given to the public health student who best exemplifies the caliber of graduate for which the

School of Public Health would like to be known. The factors used to select the student include academic performance, research and community service.

Hasan is a native of Dallas and currently resides in Tempe, Ariz. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master of public health degree from the health science center.

Her research has explored the spread of HIV in Africa and its correlation to globalization, armed conflict and relative poverty. She also worked in service-learning and community-campus partnerships for health as well as the Do It For Me, Mom, Cervical and Breast Cancer Education Program. She was not able to attend the banquet because of her recent move to Arizona.

Elizabeth Treviño, DrPH, a former recipient of the Leon Brachman Community Service Award, was chosen for the Outstanding DrPH Graduate Award.

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SPH honors achievement

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Dr. Treviño is a native of Reynosa, Mexico, and currently resides in Fort Worth. She is a graduate of Texas A&M at Kingsville, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry. Dr. Treviño earned a master of health management and policy degree from the health science center prior to receiving her doctor of public health degree this spring.

Dr. Treviño began working at the health science center as the coordinator of the Texas Public Health Training Center while still a master's student. In that position, she has planned and implemented educational programs for the state's public health force. She has also served as coordinator and principal investigator of Research!America, a grant program aimed at promoting dialogue between prevention researchers and the media.

While a doctoral student, Dr. Treviño was awarded and completed a Fulbright Summer Course on "Globalization and Health Care Challenges in Latin America" with the National Institute of Public Health in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She has also been one of the driving forces behind the success of the annual Hispanic Wellness Fair, which has served over 30,000 people lacking health insurance and access to health-care. She has also been appointed to the Fort Worth City Council as Commissioner of Human Relations.

Departments in the School of Public Health also selected top MPH and DrPH students, who were announced at the banquet.

Carolina Alvarez-Garriga, DrPH, MD, was named the outstanding public health doctoral student in epidemiology.

Dr. Alvarez-Garriga is a native of Caracas, Venezuela, and currently resides in Fort Worth. She is a graduate of Unidad Educativa Juan XXIII, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. She earned a medical degree from the University Central of Venezuela and a specialty certificate

program in the epidemiology of communicable and vector-borne diseases from the University of Carabobo. She graduated with a doctorate of public health from the health science center.

Dr. Alvarez-Garriga plans to pursue a career in academia, doing research and teaching epidemiology.

Julie Stallcup, MPH, was named the outstanding master of public health student in epidemiology.

Stallcup is a native of Frisco and currently resides in Prosper. She earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of North Texas and a master of public health degree from the health science center.

She is currently employed by the City of Frisco as a registered sanitarian and supervisor of the Health and Food Safety Division.

Neda Moayad, DrPH, was named the outstanding public health doctoral student in social and behavioral sciences.

Moayad is a native of Iran and currently resides in Colleyville. She earned bachelor of arts and a master of arts degrees in sociology from the University of Texas at Arlington and a doctorate of public health from the health science center.

She plans to work at non-profit organizations or in research at area universities.

Suzette Seng, MPH, was named the outstanding master of public health student in social and behavioral sciences.

Seng is a native of Houston and currently resides in Dallas. She is a



Elizabeth Treviño, DrPH, pictured above with Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health, was chosen for the Outstanding DrPH Graduate Award.

graduate of Texas A&M University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in genetics. Seng earned a master of public health degree from the health science center this spring and plans to pursue a career in health policy. She is currently a health insurance specialist at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Vanessa Miller, DrPH, RN, was named the outstanding public health doctoral student of health management and policy.

Miller is a native of Tyler and currently resides in Lewisville. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from the University of North Texas and bachelor of science and master of science degrees in nursing from Texas Woman's University. She earned a doctorate of public health from the health science center and is also an advanced practice registered nurse.

Miller plans to continue research in the areas of alcohol and substance abuse policy as well as health disparities.

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Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

TCOM holds first pre-clinician ceremony

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine began a new tradition with its first Pre-Clinician Ceremony June 30 at the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth.

The ceremony was designed to provide guidance, information and support to medical students beginning their clerkships.

Third-year students plan and coordinate the ceremony for the second-year class to celebrate the beginning of their clerkships.

“As the students go into the clinics, the outgoing third-year students want to remind them of the human aspect of treating the patients,” said Thomas Moorman, EdD, associate vice president for student affairs.

Six residents were chosen by members of the third-year class to receive the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award at the ceremony. The residents were chosen for their strong teaching skills and for being role models for compassionate, relationship-centered care.

This year’s winners include: Ali Alavi, DO, internal medicine, Plaza Medical Center; Jonathan Matthews, DO, internal medicine, Plaza Medical Center; Kevin Cunningham, DO, family medicine, John Peter Smith Hospital; Donald Langley, DO, internal medicine, Methodist Dallas Medical Center; Alicia Smilowicz, DO, manipulative medicine, health science



Students recite the Osteopathic Oath at the Pre-Clinician Ceremony June 30.

center; and Jamie Wagner, DO, general surgery, Plaza Medical Center.

Other awards presented during the ceremony included the Outstanding Basic Science Faculty Award, given to James Caffrey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, and the M.L. Coleman Pre-Clinical Faculty Member of the Year Award, given to David Orr, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine.

The third-year students also received a \$2,000 grant from the American Osteopathic Association to pay for the keynote speaker, William Anderson, DO, director of medical education at St. John Detroit

Riverview Hospital and associate dean of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Michigan. He is a former president of the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Moorman said the ceremony will continue to be a student planned event. “I see it as a growing thing and something they will carry on for years to come,” he said.

The ceremony was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which promotes humanism in medicine to foster compassionate relationships between patients and caregivers. ★

Pim wins emerging leader award from AOA foundation

Kendi Hensel Pim, DO, assistant professor of manipulative medicine, received the Wyeth Emerging Leader Award from the American Osteopathic Foundation.

The Wyeth Emerging Leader Award was established to recognize and honor osteopathic physicians who exhibit the exemplary characteristics of emerging leaders within the profession. Only two people are chosen

each year for the award. To qualify, nominees must be a member of the American Osteopathic Association and exhibit commitment to osteopathic philosophy and the profession, strong leadership skills and demonstrated use of these skills, and demonstrated contributions to osteopathic organizations, such as teaching, committee work and national association membership.

In addition to a monetary prize of \$3,000, winners receive a travel grant to attend the American Osteopathic Foundation’s Honors Ceremony, which is held during the Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar of the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Pim is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Clinical Research and Education doctoral program. ★

CALLING ALL COOKS!

The Employee Benefits and Action Committee is currently seeking recipe submissions for the UNT Health Science Center Cookbook, Short Protocols in Kitchen Science. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to submit their favorite recipes. International and health recipes are of particular interest.

More than 80 recipes have been submitted so far, including Salt Lick Cold Slaw, Sweet Sunday Chicken, Sinfully Rich Banana Pudding and Dog Bones. Appetizers & Beverages and Main Dishes currently have the most entries. Breads & Rolls and This & That have the fewest entries.

Each contributor may submit as many as 20 recipes. All recipes must be entered by Sept. 1, 2005, and the cookbooks should be available for purchase in November. To submit a recipe, go to <http://www.typensave.com> and click on Login. Type your name in the Contributor Name field, EBAC in the Group Login field and 73586 in the Password field. Prompts will guide you through the process, but additional instructions can be found at <http://intranet.hsc.unt.edu/ebac/projects.cfm>. Please refer any questions to ebac@hsc.unt.edu.

Physiologist shares advice

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toral student. The work Dr. Carter did then was the basis for his current work with the Army on how to sustain human performance.

Currently, Dr. Carter serves as principal investigator and lead agent on a Department of Defense study on heat injury prevention. The research has direct implications for soldiers currently in combat locations.

"Our goal is to determine how we can help our soldiers survive in heat stress situations," Dr. Carter said. "The opportunity to serve in the military as a scientist has helped me."

Dr. Carter has served in the military for a total of more than eight years, including a little more than four years of active duty. He will end his full-time military duties this fall, and he will be starting another phase of his career as he begins a two-year fellowship with Harvard University's School of Public Health.

He will also serve as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and he will continue to have an adjunct appointment at Louisiana Southern University, where he hopes to help other minority students take advantage of the opportunities that programs like SMART and McNair offer.

Dr. Carter said that the secret to success is believing in yourself and minimizing FUD: Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt.

In an effort to face one of his fears head-on, Dr. Carter took the opportunity to go to Airborne School.

"I was actually hoping it would fall through," he said.

But it didn't, and Dr. Carter suddenly had an opportunity to face his fear of heights.

Dr. Carter showed the audience a brief video of himself in Airborne training jumping out of an aircraft carrier with a string of other soldiers.

"You have to face your fears," he said. "That's the only way to conquer them."

Dr. Carter also talked about the importance of mentors and cultivating good contacts. "It's important to stay in contact with [mentors]," he said. "You can't be afraid of them."

Dr. Carter also said that taking advantage of opportunities has helped him. He and Dr. Jones will soon be listed as co-authors of a book chapter.

But Dr. Carter's ability to take advantage of opportunities may result in bigger things in the future.

"Maybe one day, I'll just run for president," he said with a chuckle. ★

SPH awards

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Rami Hamarna, MPH, was named the outstanding master of public health student in health management and policy.

Hamarna is a native of Gaza, Palestine, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmaceutical sciences from Al-Azhar University. Hamarna earned a master of public health degree from the health science center.

Anita Kurian, MPH, MBBS, was named the outstanding doctoral public health student in biostatistics.

Kurian is a native of Trivandrum, Kerala, India, and currently resides in Plano. She is a graduate of Karnataka Medical College in India, and she earned a master of public health degree from Emory University.

After graduating from the health science center in 2006 with a doctorate in public health, Kurian plans to pursue a career in academia.

Benjamin Willis, MD, was named the outstanding master of public health student in biostatistics.

Dr. Willis is a native of Denison and currently resides in Cedar Hill. He graduated from Austin College with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry. He earned an MD from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

After graduating in 2006 with a master of public health degree, Dr. Willis plans to pursue a career in clinical research.

Isabel Espinosa, MPH, was named the outstanding master of public health student in environmental and occupational health.

Espinosa is a native of Houston and currently resides in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in microbiology and earned a master of public health degree from the health science center.

Espinosa is an environmental health officer in the U.S. Public Health Service where she is currently working with the Indian Health Service. ★

Faculty Advances

Jerry Alexander, PhD, associate professor and director of academic information services; **Bruce Dubin, DO, JD**, associate dean for academic affairs and medical education; **Rebel Jones**, manager of testing and evaluation for academic information services; William Cairney, PhD, director of medical education for the Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation; and Thomas Levitan, PhD, vice president for research at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, presented “Promoting Evidence-Based Decisions Through the Collection and Sharing of OME Data” at the Innovations in Osteopathic Medical Education Conference June 23-25 in Bethesda, Md.

Héctor Balcázar, PhD, professor of behavioral sciences and assistant dean at the University of Texas School of Public Health in El Paso and former professor and chair of social and behavioral sciences at the health science center, is first author of the paper “The North Texas *Salud Para Su Corazón* Promotor/a Outreach Program: An Enhanced Dissemination Initiative,” published in the 2005 *Special Issue on Minority Health* in the Health Education Monograph Series published by Eta Sigma Gamma National Professional Health Education Honorary. **Mary Luna Hollen, PhD**, research assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences and director of the Promotora Network Alliance; **Amanda Medina, MA, MPH, SPH 2003**, of the Salvation Army Greater Dallas Youth Program Services; Verónica Pedregón, graduate student at the UT El Paso; and Matilde Alvarado, RN, MSN, and Robinson Fulwood, MSPH, both of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, are co-authors. **Dr. Balcázar** is also first author of the paper “Evaluation of *Salud Para Su Corazón* (Health for Your Heart) — National Council of *La Raza Promotora* Outreach Program,” published in the July issue of *Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy*. Yanira Gonzalez-Cruz, MPH, of the National Hispanic Council on Aging; **Alvarado**; **Dr. Hollen**; and Pedregón are co-authors.

Alakananda Basu, PhD, professor of molecular biology and immunology, is senior author of the poster “Protein Kinase C (PKC)-epsilon regulates p70S6K phosphorylation in MCF-7 cells” presented at the Gordon Research Conference on Molecular Therapeutics of Cancer July 17- 22 at Colby-Sawyer College, New London, N.H. **Usha Sivaprasad, PhD**, postdoctoral research associate in molecular biology and immunology, is first author, and **Rohini Dhar**, graduate student in molecular biology and immunology, is co-author.

Susan Franks, PhD, associate professor of family medicine and psychology; **Peter Raven, PhD**, research professor, and **Xiangrong Shi, PhD**, associate professor, both of integrative physiology; and **Jerry McGill, DO**, associate professor of psychology, are co-authors of “The influence of hostility and family history of cardiovascular disease on autonomic activation in response to controllable versus noncontrollable stress, anger imagery induction, and relaxation imagery,” published in the July issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. Charles Nelson, PhD, UNT 2004, psychologist, is first author. Andrea Brose, graduate student at UNT Denton, and **Jon Williamson, PhD, GSBS 1992**, associate professor of physical therapy at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, are co-authors. **Dr. Franks** also presented the “Clinical Application of the Millon Behavioral Medicine Diagnostic: Bariatrics as part of the Effective and Responsible Use of the MBMD Test in the Assessment of Bariatric Surgery Candidates” workshop at the American Society of Bariatric Surgeons Annual Conference June 15 in Orlando, Fla.

Claudia Coggin, PhD, CHES, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, presented “PATCH: A Worksite Smoking Cessation Program Using Four Modalities” at the sixth International Union for Health Promotion and Education European Conference, the Effectiveness and Quality of Health Promotion: Evidence for Practice, held June 1-4, in Stockholm, Sweden. **Douglas Mains, DrPH**, assistant professor of health management and policy; **Clifford Cage, DO**, assistant professor of family medicine; **Patti Pagels, PA-C**, assistant professor of physician assistant studies and instructor of pediatrics; **Susan Franks, PhD**, associate professor of family medicine and psychology; and **Stephen Baum, MPH**, former health promotion manager, are co-authors.

Fred Downey, PhD, regents professor of integrative physiology, recently lectured and consulted with cardiovascular scientists in Moscow, Russia, at Moscow State University Medical School, the Institute of General Pathology and Pathophysiology, and the Hypoxia Medical Academy. Dr. Downey was awarded the A.D. Speransky Medal by the Institute of General Pathology and Pathophysiology for his research on cardioprotection.

Steve Fogoros, manager of academic systems and programming for academic information services, presented “Advances

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Faculty Advances

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in Online Testing” at the Innovations in Osteopathic Medical Education Conference June 23-25 in Bethesda, Md.

Michael Gatch, PhD, research assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author of the paper “GABAergic modulation of the discriminative stimulus effects of methamphetamine,” published in the July issue of *Behavioural Pharmacology*. **Michael Forster, PhD**, professor, and **Meghan Selvig**, research assistant, both of pharmacology and neuroscience, are co-authors.

Mary Luna Hollen, PhD, research assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, presented the keynote address, “Improving Community Health through Prevention,” at the Chronic Disease Prevention for Women Train the Trainer Program April 29 in Dallas. The two-day workshop was sponsored by the FDA Office of Women’s Health, Parkland Health and Hospital System, The Dallas Concilio of Hispanic Service Organizations, the American Cancer Society, and the City of Irving.

Rebel Jones, manager of testing and evaluation for academic information services; **Steve Buchanan, DO**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Jerry Alexander, PhD**, associate professor and director of academic information services; and Paul Krueger, DO, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, presented “V-Prof: A Successful Recruiting Tool for Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education” at the Innovations in Osteopathic Medical Education Conference June 23-25 in Bethesda, Md.

John Licciardone, DO, MBA, professor of manipulative medicine and director of clinical research at the Osteopathic Research Center, has been named scientific program chair for the American Osteopathic Association’s Research Conference October 16-18, 2006, to be held in conjunction with AOA’s Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar in Las Vegas, Nev.

Michael Linkins, MBA, CPC, associate director of revenue cycle management and analysis, is author of “Reflections on the Revenue Cycle in the Physician Practice,” published in the July/August issue of *Coding and Billing Expert*.

Kristine Lykens, PhD, assistant professor of health management and policy, presented the paper “Evaluating Tuberculosis Surveillance and Action in an Urban and Rural Setting” at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting June 27 in Boston, Mass. **Anita Kurian**, public health student; **Patrick Moonan, DrPH, SPH 2005**; and **Stephen Weis, DO**, professor of internal medicine, are co-authors.

Kendi Hensel Pim, DO, assistant professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine and family medicine, received the Wyeth Emerging Leader Award from the American Osteopathic Foundation. The award is given to honor osteopathic physicians who exhibit the exemplary characteristics of emerging leaders within the profession. In addition to a monetary prize of \$3,000, winners also receive a travel grant to attend the awards ceremony held during the American Osteopathic Association’s annual convention.

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair, and **Sejong Bae, PhD**, associate professor, both of biostatistics, are co-authors of “Treating radiculopathy with an indwelling epidural catheter and infusion pump,” published in the July issue of *Pain Physician*.

Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, is first author of the paper “Overweight and Risk for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Cardiovascular Disease in Hispanic Children,” published in the 2005 *Special Issue on Minority Health* in the Health Education Monograph Series published by Eta Sigma Gamma National Professional Health Education Honorary. **Walter McConathy, PhD**, associate professor of internal medicine; John Menchaca, MD, pediatrician and medical director for Kids Fit 4Life Weight Management Program, Cook Children’s Physician Network; **Craig Spellman, PhD, DO**, associate professor and chief of endocrinology and director of the Diabetes Center; **Bhalchandra Kudchodkar, PhD**, research associate professor, and **Andras Lacko, PhD**, professor, both of molecular biology and immunology; and **Sejong Bae, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics, are co-authors. **Dr. Rojas** also presented “Condition Critical: A Prescription for Covering Obesity in the Latino Community” in a panel presentation at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists 23rd Annual Conference June 16 in Fort Worth. ★