CAMPUS Connection

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UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

HSC research funding tops $20 million for second year

For the second year in a row, the health science center's research funding topped $20 million.

"Although our funding was down a bit from the previous year, we do have some big projects that will push us even further for this year," said Glenn Dillon, PhD, associate vice president for research and biotechnology. "We still think we're in pretty good shape."

For fiscal year 2005, the health science center had almost $20,010,000 in research funding, while the fiscal year 2004 numbers were a little more than $22 million.

Some areas posted gains for fiscal year 2005. The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine as a whole went from more than $5 million in research funding for fiscal year 2004 to $6.5 million in fiscal year 2005.

"Our drive to improve our research funding has led to this significant increase," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean.

"The efforts of Dr. Michael Clearfield, associate dean for clinical research, and our dedicated faculty members have really begun to pay off," he said. "We're looking forward to increased funding opportunities again this year and the ultimate impact they will have on patient care and public policy."

The Department of Internal Medicine had the largest increase within TCOM, going from almost $2.2 million in research funding in fiscal year 2004 to almost $3.9 million in research funding in 2005.

Pathology and the DNA Laboratory also had healthy gains in research funding, with funds increasing from $229,000 in fiscal year 2004 to just under $2 million for fiscal year 2005.

In the School of Public Health, the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences also saw significant gains in research funding for fiscal year 2005, increasing from less than $1,000 in fiscal year 2004 to more than $550,000 in fiscal year 2005.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences experienced a drop in funding this past year, due to decreases in individual research grant funding at the National Institutes of Health, according to Thomas Yorio, PhD, vice president for research and GSBS dean.

Total GSBS research funding was about $12.6 million in fiscal year 2005, compared to $15 million in 2004.

Despite the tight NIH budget, the Department of Molecular Biology and Immunology saw a slight increase from about $2.9 million in fiscal year 2004 to just over $3 million in research funding in fiscal year 2005.

The Department of Outreach also had an increase from $285,000 in fiscal year 2004 to $490,000 in fiscal year 2005.

The Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience again posted the

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Advisory committee begins search for new HSC president

Lee Jackson, UNT System chancellor, has formed a presidential search advisory committee to assist in the search for a new health science center president.

The committee includes three regents, all four health science center deans, three health science center staff members, one student and seven community leaders.

Jackson said the committee's role is to carefully define the health science center's needs and aspirations for its next president and to recruit, screen and interview possible candidates.

The committee will recommend finalists to Jackson, who will then recommend one or more candidates to the UNT System Board of Regents. The Board of Regents will make the final decision.

The committee co-chairs are regents Marjorie Craft and Burle Petit. The other members of the committee include Warren Anderson, EdD, dean, School of Health Professions; Mark Baker, DO, TCOM 1976, community leader; Dionne Bagsby, community leader; Jerry Cagle, senior vice president for research and development, Alcon Laboratories; Erin Donovan, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences doctoral student; Robert Fernandez, president, Fernandez & Co.; Marc Hahn, DO,

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Research funding

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highest total of research funding dollars for an individual department, with a little over $6 million in funding for fiscal year 2005.

"This has been a difficult year for extramural research funding at all institutions," Dr. Yorio said. "I'm pleased with how our institution fared in the past fiscal year. We submitted more grant proposals than in the previous year, and we've brought in several additional people with state-of-the-art technology that should help strengthen our growing research capabilities."

Dr. Dillon also pointed to increased opportunities for the health science center to work with the State of Texas' Emerging Technology Fund. "We're also working to partner with other institutions and collaborate as much as possible, which should increase all of our chances to stay competitive in a tightening research market," he said. ★

Search committee

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dean, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine; James Hall, PhD, associate professor and chair of psychology; Mary Palko, chair, UNTHSC Foundation; George Pepper, community leader and former regent; Steve Russell, senior vice president for finance and administration; Bill Thornton, president, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce; Rice Tilley, regent; Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean, School of Public Health; Greg Upp, vice president for institutional coordination; and Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research.

The search advisory committee held its first meeting Jan. 25 and set a work schedule for the spring.

"Although the committee will decide on the best and most realistic schedule, and these processes are subject to change, I expect the search advisory committee will be in a position to begin reviewing and interviewing applicants in March, with a goal of announcing a new president by May, if at all possible," Jackson said. ★

CAMPUS Connection

Campus Connection *is produced 10 times a year by the Office of Marketing & Communications, UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., EAD-802, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, (817) 735-5452.*

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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES

We would like to include more stories in *Campus Connection* like the ones about cardiothoracic surgeon and bodybuilder Albert Yurvati, and dietitian and Army reservist Joice Carter. 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.

Is that a longhorn in our lot?

The health science center played host Jan. 21 to a pre-rodeo Western Heritage Trail Drive Celebration in partnership with Score a Goal in the Classroom, a community group promoting education and teachers as heroes. The free family event included chuck wagons, stage coaches, blacksmiths, Native American dancing, roping and singing.

New instrument will allow researchers to make advancements in proteomics

The health science center officially became a major player in the field of proteomics research with the installation of a new, state-of-the-art mass spectrometer on the fourth floor of the Research and Education Building.

The instrument's arrival was also timed to coincide with the arrival of new Robert A. Welch Professor Laszlo Prokai, PhD, who is in charge of it. Dr. Prokai uses mass spectrometry in his research, which focuses on aging, neurodegenerative diseases and biodefense.

Mass spectrometry is used to identify unknown compounds, to quantify compounds, and to discover the structure and chemical properties of molecules. The use of mass spectrometry has been around for quite some time, with the beginnings of its use starting in 1899, but recently the technique has become integral in the field of proteomics.

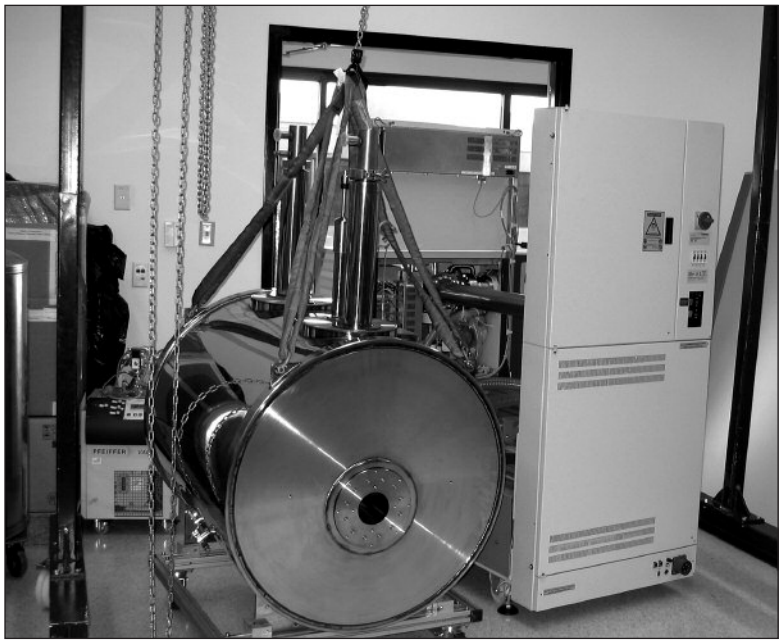
Proteomics is the large-scale study of the proteins that are produced by genes.

"Proteomics is the next step in understanding diseases, for one, but because the field is so new, we are discovering a myriad of applications," Dr. Prokai said. "Mass spectrometry is an essential tool for use in the field."

The new instrument is the most powerful mass spectrometer in the Metroplex. The magnetic field within the instrument is one million times stronger than the earth's own magnetic field, Dr. Prokai said.

"When I saw the specifications for this instrument, I was just blown away," Dr. Prokai said. "This mass spectrometer's capabilities will support biomedical research and drug discovery in and outside of UNT Health Science Center. We are very excited to have it available here."

To accommodate the $1 million instrument, certain alterations had to be made to the laboratory where it is housed. The sheer weight of the instrument was too much for the building, so personnel in facilities management at the health science center installed a metal plate on the floor in the laboratory to diffuse the weight across the entire floor.



The new mass spectrometer is lifted into place. A metal plate was installed to diffuse the weight across the entire floor of the laboratory.

Another challenge was the constant temperature that has to be maintained to keep the mass spectrometer functioning properly. An additional air conditioning system had to be installed to allow for this requirement.

Finally, the instrument itself requires large amounts of liquid nitrogen and liquid helium upon start-up and constant maintenance levels of these two cryogenic liquids.

Personnel associated with the new proteomics core had to be trained on the maintenance and use of the new mass spectrometer for almost a month, even though Dr. Prokai has been using mass spectrometry as an analytical tool for most of his career, and many of his lab members have been using mass spectrometry for many years as well.

"To a trained mass spectrometrist, this instrument is going to be very user friendly," Dr. Prokai said. "We are confident that we will be able to operate the instrument so that we will be able to utilize all of its wonderful capabilities."

Mass spectrometry is currently used in a variety of ways, including to identify the use of steroids in athletes, monitor the breath of patients by anesthesiologists during surgery, determine the composition of molecular species found in space, determine whether honey is adulterated with corn syrup, locate oil deposits by measuring petroleum precursors in rock, monitor fermentation processes for the biotechnology industry, detect dioxins in contaminated fish, determine gene damage from environmental causes and establish the elemental composition of semiconductor materials. As the field of proteomics continues to grow, the uses for mass spectrometry will also expand, Dr. Prokai said.

The mass spectrometer at the health science center is currently being leased, with the hope that grant monies will be obtained to eventually buy the instrument. ★

GSA hosts annual science fair

The Graduate Student Association's third annual invitational science fair, originally scheduled for Feb. 18, will be postponed due to predicted inclement weather. GSA will announce a new date soon.

This year, the science fair is open to both middle school and high school students. Schools that have been invited to participate are Eastern Hills, Paschal, Dunbar, Northside, South Hills and Carter-Riverside high schools, and J.P. Elder Middle School. One division will be for middle school grades six through eight, and the other division will be for high school grades nine through 12.

"The purpose of the science fair is to show local students that science is important, and it's fun," said fair organizer Erin Donovan, graduate student in cell biology and genetics and secretary of the Graduate Student Association.

Awards will be given for one winner and two runners-up in the middle school and high school categories. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences students will judge the competition.

There is no cost to participate in the event, and all participants will receive a prize. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to student participants.

Other activities during the day will include a tour of the anatomy lab and forensic demonstrations provided by the Forensic, Investigation, Research and Education student organization.

For more information, contact Donovan at edonovan@hsc.unt.edu. ★

Police update appeals process

Employees and students who receive a citation on campus can appeal it to the citation appeal board, which includes two health science center employees and one student.

The board meets once a month to review all appeals. Appeal forms are available on the campus police Web site or at the police department in the General Services Building, room 102.

Once the citation appeal board makes it ruling, the employee or student will be notified of the outcome. If the appeal has been denied, the citation must be paid.

Campus police have developed the following guidelines to facilitate the citation payment and appeals process.

1. After a citation is issued, it must be paid or appealed within 10 days. After the initial 10-day period, the citation cannot be appealed without the approval of the parking office.
2. If an appeal is denied, payment is due within 10 days.
3. If the citation has not been paid at the end of the 10-day period, a reminder letter will be sent.
4. If the issue is not resolved, another letter will be sent to the violator along with a letter to the supervisor or student affairs informing them of the employee's or student's failure to pay the citation.
5. If this letter does not generate a response, then a letter will be sent to the employee or student warning that his or her vehicle is subject to being booted if it is on campus.
6. Once the vehicle has been located on campus and booted, it will be necessary for the employee or student to pay the citation and an additional fee for the removal of the boot.

Citations are $25 per infraction, except for parking in a disabled space, which is $100. Citations can be paid at the campus police department from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Friday.

The campus police Web site includes a complete list of parking rules, fees and lot maps. ★

Kudos to...

Don Selby, graduate student in biomedical sciences, and Stephanie Selby, research assistant in integrative physiology, on the birth of their first child, Raeven Lillie, Jan. 20.

Karen Wegienek, assistant director of alumni and donor relations in institutional advancement, on being elected to the Special Projects Committee of the Advocates of the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA). Wegienek has also been elected to the board of directors of the Associated Businesses of the Cultural District in Fort Worth.

Lindsay Kennedy, assistant director of development in institutional advancement, and her husband Jason Kennedy, MD, on the birth of their first child, Reese Owen Kennedy, Jan. 12.

Robert DeLuca, DO, TCOM 1984, president-elect of the TCOM Alumni Association, on being selected as the program chair for the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' 43rd Annual Convention and Exhibition, "Renew & Discover," March 22-26 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine.

Matthew Crawford, DO, PhD, GSBS/TCOM 2000, and his wife, Julie, on the birth of Jack Robert Crawford Feb. 9. ★

HSC joins consortium to provide bioterrorism training to health professionals

The health science center has joined a consortium of seven colleges to create the Texas Bioterrorism Continued Education Consortium, which will provide bioterrorism preparedness training for the next three years.

The federal Health Resources and Services Administration is funding the consortium with $4.5 million over the three-year period. The health science center will receive a little more than $416,000 over the three years.

The seven-school consortium will include the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine; the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's School of Public Health, Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, and School of Nursing; Texas A&M University's School of Rural Public Health; the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; and the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler.

The Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness at UTHSC Houston will serve as the lead organization, with Scott Lillibridge, MD, serving as project director.

Peggy Smith-Barbaro, PhD, assistant professor and director of the division of health-related programs in TCOM, will serve as the principal investigator for the health science center. In this capacity, she will coordinate preparedness training for various divisions at the health science center, including TCOM and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education.

"This is a great opportunity for us to develop the knowledge and skills of the healthcare workforce throughout Texas to address the consequences of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies," Dr. Smith-Barbaro said.

After completing training, participants should be able to recognize a terrorist event or other public health emergency; meet the acute care needs of patients, including children and other vulnerable populations; rapidly and effectively alert the public health system of an emergency event; and participate in a coordinated, multidisciplinary emergency response.

Peggy Smith-Barbaro, PhD

"We're excited to be participating in this important training grant," said Marc Hahn, TCOM dean. "Currently, our medical students are trained in ways to deal with terrorism and mass casualties through the core disaster life support and basic disaster life support courses, so we understand the importance of training healthcare professionals to identify and work through emergency situations.

"This grant will provide our school with the opportunity to expand this training to healthcare professionals outside of our university system who are already in the field," he said.

Currently, the health science center also offers bioterrorism training through the Texas Public Health Training Center's Public Health Law program. ★

In the News

Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH, chair of rheumatology, was quoted in an article in the December issue of *Remedy Magazine* about easing arthritis pain with simple precautions.

A brief about **David Lichtman, MD,** chair of orthopedics, being elected as president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand appeared in the December edition of the national trade journal *Orthopedics Today.*

Pam McFadden, associate vice president, and **Andrew Crim,** executive director, both of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, are heavily quoted in an article about continuing medical education and disaster preparedness in the December print and online (www.meetingsnet.com) editions of *Medical Meetings.*

Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, wrote a column about avian flu that cautioned against undue alarm for the Dec. 5-11 print and online editions of the *Fort Worth Business Press.*

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, professor and acting chair of surgery, was featured in the Dossier column in the Dec. 12-18 edition of the *Fort Worth Business Press.* A photo of Dr. Yurvati appeared on the front page and in the Dossier section along with a brief profile. This section also appeared on the *Fort Worth Business Press'* Web site.

The **School of Public Health** was featured in the Dec. 19 Innovations and Programs section of *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*. **Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH,** SPH dean, is quoted heavily in the article.

The **UNT Physicians Group** announced the addition of clinical faculty members from the North Texas Affiliated Medical Group in the Medical Records column of the *Fort Worth Business Press'* Dec. 26-Jan. 1 edition. **Marc Hahn, DO,** TCOM dean, was quoted in the story, which also outlined the UNT Physicians Group's partnership with JPS Hospital. ★

DOD awards grant to support recruitment of minority scientists in prostate cancer research

The health science center will receive almost $200,000 from the Department of Defense over the next three years to work with historically black colleges and universities to increase the number of minorities doing prostate cancer research.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, associate dean in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and professor of molecular biology and immunology, is principal investigator for the grant.

The grant period began in February and will continue through January 2009, and the funds will provide an opportunity for five undergraduate students to participate in a summer training program at the health science center.

The grant, "Increasing Minority Biomedical Researchers in Prostate Cancer Research Through Academic Affiliations Between UNTHSC and HBCUs," will be administered through the Institute for Cancer Research at the health science center.

The project will include other faculty members from the health science center and faculty advisors from Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University and Tuskegee University.

Students selected for the program will be provided with a list of available prostate cancer research projects currently underway at the health science center, and they will indicate their preference of projects.

After receiving a project assignment, students will participate in a 10-week research experience in a mentor's assigned laboratory. During the research period, students will work at least 40 hours per week in the laboratory under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor.

The mentor will meet with the student daily and assist him or her in setting goals, planning experiments, and analyzing data obtained. The entire experience will culminate in a final week presentation of research results.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, GSBS associate dean, is principal investigator for a grant that will allow the health science center to work more closely with historically black colleges and universities.

One of Dr. Vishwanatha's areas of research is prostate cancer cell proliferation and angiogenesis, so he will be part of the project in the laboratory and will serve as a mentor.

"This is a great step forward for the Institute for Cancer Research," Dr. Vishwanatha said. "Many of our faculty members have been excited about participating in this grant, and I'm excited about our increasing relationship with underrepresented minority institutions."

Dr. Vishwanatha has long been a proponent of providing opportunities for underrepresented minorities in biomedical research. For more than 15 years, he has worked with minority-serving institutions to provide summer research experiences for undergraduate students.

"Fortunately, my commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities is shared by the health science center," Dr. Vishwanatha said.

Currently, the health science center has an office of outreach that participates in several programs to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the biomedical sciences. Programs range from mentoring at elementary schools to providing graduate school assistantships at the health science center.

"Our commitment to increasing the educational opportunities available for underrepresented minorities has been a longstanding one," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research.

"Since 1980, we have supported a variety of programs to increase the number of underrepresented and disadvantaged students entering careers in the biomedical and health sciences," he said. "This program will help continue our commitment into the future."

Students will begin their 10-week research experience in June of this year. Students who are selected for the program will receive a stipend for their work during the 10-week program.

"It is our hope that eventually, these students will find their way back to the health science center and pursue master's degrees and doctorates here," Dr. Vishwanatha said. "But ultimately, we hope that this program will be one way to increase the numbers of minority researchers in the fight to eliminate health disparities." ★

HSC dominates list of Healthcare Heroes; Medical school receives Legacy Award

Once again, the health science center dominated the *Fort Worth Business Press*' Healthcare Heroes list.

In total, the health science center had seven individuals and one group who were selected as Healthcare Heroes for 2006. The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine was also named the Legacy Award Winner for 2006. The award will be announced Feb. 28 at the *Fort Worth Business Press*' banquet honoring the award recipients.

One of the individuals received a special award after her nomination letters for others struck a chord with the voting panel.

Suzanne Davis, residency program administrator for family medicine, nominated the healthcare providers who were instrumental in her cancer treatment. The letters she wrote about them moved the *Business Press*' voting panel to give her a special award.

This year, one group nominee from the health science center was named an Education Healthcare Hero.

Project SCORE, Schools' Cooperative Opportunities for Resources and Education, is a joint project between the health science center, Texas Wesleyan University and the Fort Worth Independent School District funded by the National Science Foundation.

Project SCORE provides some laboratory equipment for the participating FWISD schools and gives graduate students the opportunity to teach high school science students.

Rusty Reeves, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, serves as the principal investigator of the federally funded program.

In addition to Davis, Healthcare Heroes from the health science center include Sam Buchanan, DO, and Greg Friess, DO, Patient's Heroes; Phillip Saperstein, DO, Above and Beyond Hero; Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, and Stephen Weis, DO, Education Heroes; and Linda Davis, PA-C, Hurricane Hero.

"We are excited to have so many people from the health science center selected as Healthcare Heroes this year," said Ronald Blanck, DO, president. "All of our employees and students are truly heroes in their own right, working to make healthcare better today and for the future."

Dr. Buchanan, associate professor of surgery, is board certified in general surgery and has been named a Top Doc by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine, and was recently named a Super Doctor by *Texas Monthly*. He was nominated by Davis.

Dr. Saperstein, professor of family medicine, is director of the family practice residency program at Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth. He also works at the Seminary Family Medicine Clinic. He was nominated for his work with patients at Plaza Medical Center.

Dr. Friess is a graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and currently serves as a clinical assistant professor. He is director of education and analytics at the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Dr. Friess was an assistant professor at TCOM prior to joining the cancer center. He was nominated for his work in cancer care at the center.

Dr. Urrutia-Rojas, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, has been the principal investigator in several studies of childhood obesity and diabetes, particularly in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Her work in childhood obesity and diabetes is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Weis, professor in the endocrinology division of internal medicine, is currently the principal investigator on a $5.3 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study tuberculosis. Dr. Weis works closely with the Tarrant County Public Health Department on clinical trials associated with tuberculosis.

Linda Davis, instructor in the rheumatology division of internal medicine, was chosen as a Hurricane Hero for her work at shelters in the Tarrant County area, where she volunteered her time and provided medical care and support for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine received the 2006 Legacy Award in celebration of its 35th anniversary. TCOM was also instrumental in coordinating volunteer work at the Tarrant County shelter for hurricane survivors this year.

This is the second year in a row that the Healthcare Heroes Legacy Award winner has come from the health science center.

Last year, Dr. Blanck was named the 2005 Legacy Award winner by the *Fort Worth Business Press* at its annual Healthcare Heroes banquet.

Other Healthcare Heroes from the health science center last year were Russell Gamber, DO, MPH; Laurie Hill, PA-C, MHS; Melva Jones, LVN; Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO; and James Simpkins, PhD.

The banquet to honor this year's Healthcare Heroes will take place at the Fort Worth Club Feb. 28. ★

School of Public Health

SPH researcher, students present model for empowering Hispanic community

Mary Luna Hollen, PhD, RD, LD, research assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, and Leticia Davila and Elizabeth Castillo, both public health master's students, presented "Achieving Social Justice through Spiritual Empowerment in the Hispanic Community" at the Third Annual Latina Student Leadership Conference, part of Texas Woman's University's Cultural Connections Conference Series, Oct. 7 at TWU in Denton.

In their presentation, they discussed several key issues involving the Hispanic community and the health disparities they experience and presented a model for addressing those issues using spiritual empowerment and social justice.

According to the researchers, an increasing Hispanic population and limited access to health care for Hispanics in Fort Worth and at the state and national levels has contributed to an increase in heart disease in that population.

The outreach model they presented, the *Salud Para Su Corazón* of North Texas *Promotora* program, provided an example of how a network of community organizations and community healthcare workers contributed to the spiritual empowerment and social justice of a community by offering knowledge about health concerns and personal motivation to decrease the health disparity in the Hispanic community.

In their presentation proposal, Dr. Hollen, Davila and Castillo said that the *Salud Para Su Corazón* of North Texas *Promotora* Outreach Model is an example of how community health workers empower themselves and contribute to the spiritual empowerment of their community by offering information about health concerns and personal motivation.

Through the *Salud Para Su Corazón* program, the *promotoras* and the community have worked together to successfully overcome barriers and make healthier decisions, the presenters said. The *promotoras* used spiritual empowerment as an avenue to achieve social justice and, consequently, to reduce health disparities in the Hispanic community.

Dr. Hollen, Davila and Castillo also presented a poster, "Enhancing Outreach and Service Delivery Through the *Promotores de Salud*," at the Fourth Annual Latino Health Conference: Social Justice and Latino Health, held Oct. 28-29 at New York University. ★

SPH represents health science center at APHA meeting

Representatives from the School of Public Health and more then 11,000 other health professionals attended the American Public Health Association's 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition Dec. 10-14 in Philadelphia, Pa.

The event was originally scheduled to take place in New Orleans in November, but was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina. Interest and concern about public health was high at the meeting after the events related to that hurricane and others.

The meeting included educational programming and scientific sessions and an exposition, where attendees had the opportunity to view exhibits that provided information about public health issues, services and products.

The health science center's booth at the exhibition had the opportunity to reach a daily average traffic count of about 7,000 visitors.

APHA will hold its next annual meeting in Boston, Mass. in November 2006. ★

Mehreen Hooda, SPH master's student, shares information about the health science center with a visitor at the institution's booth at the APHA exposition in Philadelphia.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Master of science replaces post-baccalaureate certificate

The Graduate Council recently approved changing the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in Premedical Science to a master of medical science program. The program, designed to help applicants to medical school improve their qualifications for admission, originally began in the fall of 2000 as a master of science degree program.

In the fall of 2002, the program was changed to a certificate program, and students had the option to enter a master's program after completing the certificate requirements. The new program requires additional coursework but does not include a thesis or practicum requirement.

Students will begin the program in the summer and complete all requirements in the spring semester, earning a total of 35 semester credit hours. The master's in medical science will be a terminal degree.

Admission criteria include competitive GPA and MCAT scores and prerequisite courses such as organic chemistry and physics. Students currently in thesis- or practicum-based programs will not be allowed to transfer into the master of medical science program.

"Earning a degree rather than a certificate will make the program all the more attractive to prospective students," said Carla Lee, director of admissions and services for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, GSBS associate dean, recommended the changes to the Graduate Council. "Making this a master's program will improve our attrition rates," he said. "We were accepting between 25 and 35 students [into the certificate program] and only awarding degrees to about 5 percent of them. In addition, we are accepting more students than TCOM is able to absorb into its class. We need to help these students be more attractive to other Texas medical schools, and we think the master's degree will definitely do that."

GSBS has seen an increase in the number of highly qualified applicants each year since the program began. "It isn't just an increased number of applications," Lee said. "The profile of the applicants is improving as well. Acceptance into this program is more competitive each year."

GSBS plans to increase the number of seats in the program and to accept up to 50 students for summer 2006. ★

Annita Bens, PhD

Patricia Gwirtz, PhD

New roles for Bens and Gwirtz

Patricia Gwirtz, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, has been named director of operations for the Clinical Research Management Master of Science Program.

Dr. Gwirtz will work with the CRM students during the internship practicum experience, coordinating the requirements of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences with the needs of the practicum site.

She assumes the position formerly held by Annita Bens, PhD, GSBS 1992. As director of clinical research management alliances and development, Dr. Bens will concentrate on identifying and developing new practicum sites for the program. ★

Congratulations to these fall GSBS graduates!

Christina Lee Capt, MS

Jingwei Fu, MS

Leon Grant, MS

Nausheen Habib, MS

Mi Jung Kang, MS

Chang Su, PhD

Faculty Advances

James Caffrey, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, presented "Opioid Mechanisms of Peripheral Blood Flow Regulation" at the 22nd Annual Frontiers in Cardiology Symposium Jan. 4-7 in Winter Park, Colo. Dr. Caffrey also moderated a session on metabolic syndrome and gave the introductory seminar, "Metabolic Syndrome: Pieces of the Puzzle," for the session.

Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology, is co-author of the book *Reinventing Public Health Policies and Practices for a Healthy Nation,* Jossey Bass Publishers, 2005. Dr. Cardarelli's chapters include "Fundamental Determinants of Population Health" and "Human Development."

Joan Carrol, PhD, assistant professor of integrative physiology, presented "Hormones and Obesity: Link to Metabolic Syndrome" at the 22nd Annual Frontiers in Cardiology Symposium Jan. 4-7 in Winter Park, Colo. Dr. Carrol's seminar was chosen as the best basic science presentation.

Michael Clearfield, DO, professor of internal medicine and associate dean for clinical research, is first author of the paper "Implications from the Air Force/Texas Coronary Atherosclerosis Prevention Study for the Adult Treatment Panel III Guidelines" published in the Dec. 15 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology.* **Walter McConathy, PhD,** associate professor of internal medicine; John Downs, MD, of South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio; Michael Lee, PhD, and Alex Langendorfer, MS, of Merck Research Laboratories in Rahway, N.J.; and Antonio Gotto, MD, DPhil, of Cornell University in New York, are co-authors.

Susan Franks, PhD, associate professor of family medicine and clinical psychologist, presented "Behavioral Disorders and Obesity" at the 22nd Annual Frontiers in Cardiology Symposium Jan. 4-7 in Winter Park, Colo.

Aewha Ha, PhD, visiting scholar in social and behavioral sciences, is first author of the paper "Eating and physical activity practices in overweight and obese children: Compliance with USDA food guide pyramid and with NASPE physical activity guidelines for children," published in the November issue of *Nutrition Research.* **Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH,** assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences; **Sejong Bae, PhD,** associate professor of biostatistics; and **Karan Singh, PhD,** professor and chair of biostatistics, are co-authors.

David Lichtman, MD, chair, and **Arvind Nana, MD,** staff physician, both of the orthopaedic surgery, are co-authors of "Plating of the Distal Radius," published in the June issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.* Atul Joshi, MD, resident at JPS Hospital, is also a co-author.

Yu-Sheng Lin, ScD, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, is first author of the paper "Variability of albumin adducts of 1,4-benzoquinone in volunteer subjects" published in the January/February issue of *Biomarkers*. Stephen Rappaport, PhD, professor, and Suramya Waidyanatha, PhD, senior research scientist, both of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., are co-authors. Wendy McKelvey, PhD, epidemiologist, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Environmental Disease Prevention, New York City, is also a co-author.

Robert Mallet, PhD, associate professor of integrative physiology, presented a seminar, "Pyruvate: Metabolic Therapy for Stunned Myocardium" Jan. 17 at Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Ill.

Porunelloor Mathew, PhD, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, is author of the paper "Cutting Edge: Lectin-like transcript-1 is a ligand for the inhibitory human NKR-P1A receptor," published in the Cutting Edge section of the Dec. 15 issue of *The Journal of Immunology.* David Rosen, graduate student, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., is first author. Jayaram Bettadapura, PhD, postdoctoral research fellow; Mohammed Alsharifi, scientist; Hilary Warren, PhD, professor, all from the Division of Immunology and Genetics, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University, Canberra City, Australia, and Lewis Lanier, PhD, American Cancer Society Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., are co-authors.

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Faculty Advances

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Travis Motley, DPM, MS, staff podiatrist, and **Brian Carpenter, DPM,** head of podiatric medicine, both of orthopaedic surgery, are co-authors of "Bone Matrix Therapy for Aneurysmal Bone Cysts" published in the August issue of the *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association.*

Anna Ratka, PhD, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, is first author of the paper "Menopausal Vasomotor Symptoms (MVS) Survey for the Assessment of Hot Flashes" published in the January issue of the *Journal of Women's Health.* **Vanessa Miller, MS, APRN, DrPH, SPH 2005,** senior research nurse; **Kimberly Brown, RN,** clinical research coordinator; **Atul Raut,** graduate student; and **James Simpkins, PhD,** professor and director, all of pharmacology and neuroscience and the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research, and **Daisha Cipher, PhD,** assistant professor of biostatistics; and Blazej Meczekalski, MD, PhD, Department of Gynecological Endocrinology, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland, are co-authors.

Peter Raven, PhD, professor of integrative physiology, presented "Central Blood Volume and Cerebral Blood Flow Regulation: Rest and Exercise" at the 22nd Annual Frontiers in Cardiology Symposium Jan. 4-7 in Winter Park, Colo. Dr. Raven was also selected to give the prestigious Earl Beard Lecture at the closing banquet, where he presented "Pressure Regulation With and Without a Brain."

Karan Singh, PhD, professor and chair of biostatistics, authored the paper "Zero-inflated generalized Poisson regression model," published in the January issue of the *Journal of Data Science.* Felix Famoye, PhD, a professor at Central Michigan University, is first author.

Michael Smith, PhD, professor and chair of integrative physiology, presented "Sleep Disordered Breathing: Role in the Metabolic Syndrome" and "Understanding Heart Failure: A Physiological Approach" at the 22nd Annual Frontiers in Cardiology Symposium Jan. 4-7 in Winter Park, Colo. Dr. Smith also moderated a session on general cardiology.

Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, professor and dean of the School of Public Health, and **Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH,** assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, are co-authors of the paper "Race and Ethnic Disparities in Screening for Cervical Cancer in a Safety-Net System" published online Sept. 14 in the *Maternal and Child Health Journal.* **Gertrude Owusu, PhD,** a graduate of the Department of Sociology at UNT Denton, is first author. **Susan Eve, PhD,** professor and associate dean of the Honors College at UNT Denton; **Cynthia Cready, PhD,** associate professor of sociology at UNT Denton; **Kenneth Koelln, PhD,** professor of economics at UNT Denton; and Joane Baumer, MD, of JPS Health Network, are co-authors.

Ximena Urrutia-Rojas, DrPH, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences, is first author of the paper "Disparities in Access to Health Care between Documented and Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in North Texas," published in the Spring 2006 issue of *Hispanic Health Care International.* **Elizabeth Treviño, DrPH,** public health training coordinator; **Guadalupe Munguia-Bayona, MD, MPH,** instructor in internal medicine; **Sue Lurie, PhD,** assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences; and **Khiya Marshall, MPH,** doctoral student in social and behavioral sciences, are co-authors.

Phillip Williamson, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and anatomy and director of the Tick-borne Disease Research Laboratory, completed the Laboratory Biosafety Level 3 Training Program, essential for individuals who work with highly contagious or toxic agents, Oct. 6 at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research. ★