

NORTH TEXAS HEALTH & SCIENCE

Winter/Spring 2008

The Quarterly Magazine of UNT Health Science Center

Collaborating to Conquer

Research



Clinical Trials



Treatment

Prevention



MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



Welcome to this special anniversary issue of North Texas Health & Science! Just one year ago, we published our first issue and set forth our goal: to highlight the latest news from the programs and people at UNTHSC. We've certainly covered a lot of ground since then, with lead stories on our Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's, our nationally recognized DNA lab, our work on meeting the needs of special populations, and so much more.

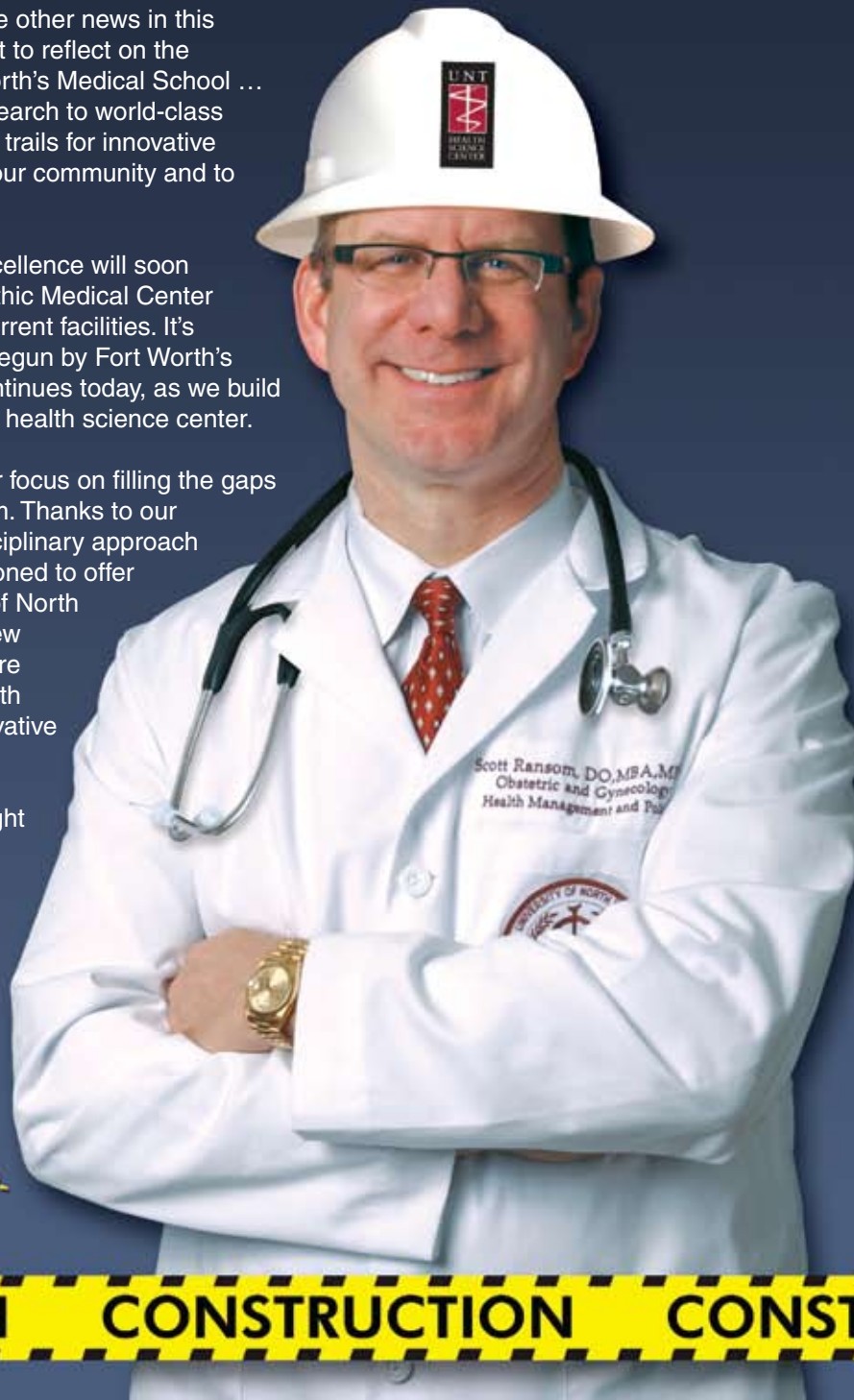
And as you'll see in this issue, the well is a long way from running dry. For example, our latest partnership, the Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders, offers a uniquely creative approach to caring for cancer patients while conducting active research on potential cures. You'll also read about how our new Physical Medicine Institute is seeking answers to questions about the role of orthopedic and osteopathic manipulative medicine in biomechanics and human performance.

As you read these articles and enjoy all the other news in this publication, I hope you'll stop for a moment to reflect on the momentum we're building here at "Fort Worth's Medical School ... and More!" From cutting-edge medical research to world-class training to care delivery, we're blazing new trails for innovative practices and programs to better care for our community and to attain top-ten status among our peers.

A great example of this commitment to excellence will soon begin rising on the site of the old Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas, just across the street from our current facilities. It's appropriate that the legacy of innovation begun by Fort Worth's medical pioneers at OMCT and TCOM continues today, as we build new, world-class facilities for a world-class health science center.

Another example of our commitment is our focus on filling the gaps in our nation's fractured health care system. Thanks to our expertise in public health and our multidisciplinary approach to total health care, we are uniquely positioned to offer cost-effective ways to improve the health of North Texans. Best of all, we're helping train a new generation of medical professionals who are passionate about their desire to solve health care issues in their communities with innovative approaches that deliver real results.

Ours is an exciting story and the time is right to get the word out about what we're doing "up on the hill." So I hope you enjoy this anniversary issue of North Texas Health & Science, and pass it on to others. As always, please feel free to email me with your comments and suggestions at sransom@hsc.unt.edu. I always enjoy hearing from our readers!



Scott Ransom, DO

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CAMPUS FACILITY UPDATE



In a ceremony rich with legacy and new beginnings, the Health Science Center bid farewell to the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas (OMCT) building on February 27. In its place, a new state-of-the-art medical training facility is expected to open in August 2009 which will include auditoriums, lecture halls, patient-simulation labs and an innovative osteopathic manipulative training center.

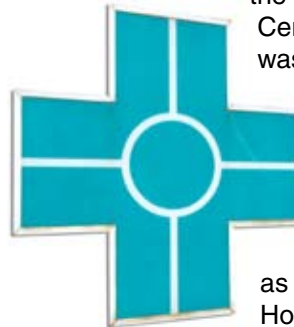
In his role as host for the event, President Ransom noted that the new building is the first step in a master plan that will add “an additional one million square feet of classroom, lab and office space to our growing school over the next 15 years.”

More than 300 guests attended the ceremony, including State Representative Charlie Geren, who spoke about how the new campus development will benefit citizens of the Lone Star State. “Texas has seen a drop in the number of primary care physicians, as has the rest of

the country. But here at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, more than 65 percent of new doctors go into primary care practice – more than any other medical school in the state,” Geren said. “And for that, the people of Texas are grateful. With the new building that will soon be completed on this spot, even more primary care doctors will be trained every year. That means more doctors here in Fort Worth and across our state.”

A Brief OMCT history

Founded in an old mansion on Summit Avenue, the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas (OMCT) was first called Fisher Hospital, after Dr. Roy Fisher, whose family lived on the second floor. The two-bed hospital soon grew to 12 beds. Incorporated as Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital (FWOH) in 1946,



the facility was staffed by 13 physicians, including Drs. George Luibel, Carl Everett and D.D. “Danny” Beyer. These same three physicians also later found the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) in 1966 during off-hours from their professional practices. The hospital moved to the 3600 block of Camp Bowie Boulevard in 1951, then to its current location in 1956. In 1970, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) rented classroom space in the building and began a partnership that lasted until the OMCT closed its doors in October 2004. The property was then acquired by UNTHSC in February 2005.



Photo upper right: (from left) UNT Chancellor Lee Jackson; Dr. David Beyer; State Representative Charlie Geren; UNTHSC President Scott Ransom, UNTHSC Foundation Board President George Pepper; and Fort Worth Chamber President and CEO Bill Thornton were on hand to welcome the growth of the Health Science Center. Below: Dr. Carl Everett, co-founder of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine was recognized for his service to the university at the OMCT Farewell event.



Collaborating to Conquer Cancer

Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders: A Unique Academic -- Community Collaboration



First, the good news: cancer deaths in America have dropped more than 18 percent for men and 10 percent for women, continuing a trend begun in the early 1990s. That means more than half a million fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who might have succumbed in years past are leading happy, active lives.

Clearly, the valiant education, research and treatment work of millions of scientists and physicians all across the country is paying off. Early detection, prompt diagnosis and new disease management tools are signaling that progress is being made against one of mankind's most malevolent scourges.

Now the bad news: nearly a million and a half Americans will still hear the dreaded words, "You have cancer." Nearly 100,000 will be Texans. So while major battles are being won all across the board, the war itself grinds on. Reducing barriers to cancer research and care is critical in the fight to eliminate suffering and death.

And reducing barriers is why the Health Science Center has partnered with North Texas-based Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders to create a new, integrated research, education and care organization. Designed specifically to speed the flow of information between researcher and clinical care provider, the goal for the new Institute for Cancer and Blood Disorders (ICBD) is crystal clear: "Eliminate cancer through excellence in research, prevention, patient care, education and service to cancer patients and families in both urban and rural Texas."

With more than 50 researchers and clinicians, the ICBD creates a unique academic-community collaboration for cancer care that integrates seven DFW-area treatment centers serving more than 25,000 patients a year with advanced laboratory research, nationally recognized physician training and public health education.

According to ICBD Executive Director Bill Jordan, DO, the combination of The Center's front-line knowledge with the Health Science Center's state-of-the-art research capabilities creates a one-two punch that can accelerate cancer prevention and perhaps even deliver a cure one day.

"Our two organizations already have a long history of working together to train medical students, so we have a wonderful working relationship in place," says Jordan. "Leveraging the expertise of Fort Worth's two medical leaders and combining our research focus gives us an immense opportunity to translate research into patient care faster than we ever thought possible."

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Photo: Glen Ellimon

Shadan Mansoor, MD, medical oncologist, and Travis Thompson, MD, radiation oncologist, physicians at The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders - Huguley Medical Center, prepare a patient for radiation therapy.



Photo: Glen Ellimon

Ray Page, DO, PhD (TCOM '91), TCOM associate dean for clinical research and director of clinical research with the new Insititue, talking with Rhonda Whitby, a patient who participated in a clinical trial at The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

How Is the ICBD Different?

Jordan points out that the ICBD offers a uniquely collaborative model that other medical schools can emulate in the future. "Throughout history," he says, "academic centers established their own departments and faculties and did all their work internally. But in this model, we're using the combined resources of a true health science center, complete with graduate-level programs and a designated state public health program, with one of the largest and most progressive community programs in the country. Overnight, we've built a formidable model that gives us a real chance to extend our knowledge quickly throughout the state, with patients as beneficiaries."

"The primary focus is on providing the patient with whatever discoveries we have on hand today," adds ICBD's Director of Clinical Research Ray Page, DO, PhD (TCOM'91). "How can we best use what we learned yesterday to care for a patient today? All of us come to work thinking about that. It's an exciting concept for researchers to be able to interrelate with patients and to share how their discoveries, be they large or small or even potential, can be used at the clinical level."


Initiatives Focus on the Future

The ICBD also offers a competitive advantage in obtaining grant opportunities for cancer research. "The American Cancer Society gives institutional research grants in order to test new ideas, pilot projects and move the research results into larger projects," says Jamboor Vishwanatha, PhD, Director for Cancer & Blood Disorders and Basic Science Research. "Likewise, the National Institutes of Health provides funding for research training and very large program project grants. Competing successfully for these resources requires teams of scientists that are both clinicians and researchers. The ICBD gives us this mix and therefore allows us an edge in the competition."

Dr. Page echoes Dr. Vishwanatha, adding, "The Health Science Center has great scientists doing great research. But in the past, they've been somewhat limited in some opportunities because they didn't have the clinical side of things to integrate their work. With the ICBD, now they do. That means having a bigger canvas on which to work, which opens more doors to obtain more

grant money. That translates into more research dollars and ultimately develops into better treatment options for our patients."

In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry created The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, which will dedicate \$300 million to fund research into curing cancer. In addition, voters passed a \$3 billion cancer research trust fund in November 2007 to help bring Texas to the national forefront of cancer research. Thanks to the unique partnership of clinicians and researchers, the ICBD is well-poised to qualify for funding from these important state initiatives.

"There is tremendous potential for where this can go in the future," says UNTHSC President Scott Ransom. "Combining the strong assets from The Center with our own critical research programs is good for us as partners, and even better for patients throughout Texas." 



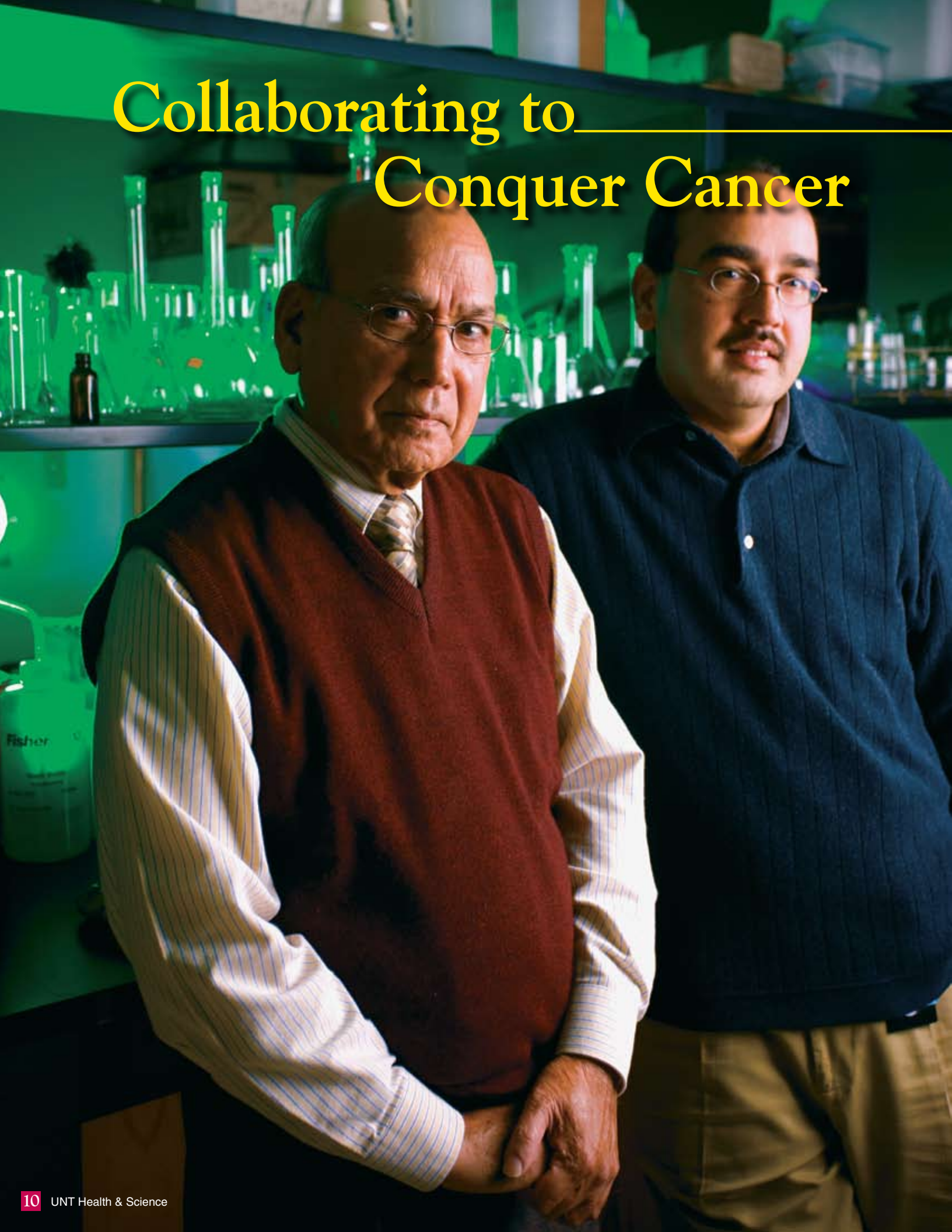
George Pepper, Dr. Bill Jordan, Dr. J.K. Vishwanatha and Dr. Scott Ransom at a recent reception celebrating the collaboration.

Did You Know ...

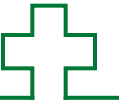
- In an average week, more than 1,500 Texans will be diagnosed with some form of cancer.
- Cancer kills nearly 32,000 Texans annually ... about 100 a day.
- Four types of cancer account for more than half of Texas' cancer burden: lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, breast (female) and prostate cancer.
- Many deaths from colon and rectum cancers are preventable by improvements in nutrition and physical activity, as well as timely screening tests.
- Nearly all cervical and skin cancers can be prevented and/or diagnosed at their earliest stage when the disease is most curable.
- The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders receives more than 25,000 patient visits per year throughout North Texas at their 54,000 square foot downtown Fort Worth location and five satellite clinic locations, including Weatherford, Cleburne, Burleson and Mineral Wells.
- Researchers at UNT HSC are investigating how to use state-of-the-art nanotechnology platforms to aid in early cancer detection and to create new therapies.

(Sources: American Cancer Society, Texas Cancer Facts and Figures; www.texascancercare.com)

Collaborating to Conquer Cancer



The Next Big Cancer Breakthrough: Could it Emerge from the Health Science Center?



Father and son researchers Yogesh Awasthi, PhD and Sanjay Awasthi, MD are on a life-long quest – find a new cancer treatment that won't harm the body but will kill cancers.

They believe they are close to finding the gold at the end of that rainbow. Their quest, which has spanned some 25 years, has brought them to a likely suspect – a protein called RLIP76. It's this protein and its potential to “turn off” vital signaling processes within cancer cells that may hold the key to developing a revolutionary approach to cancer treatment.

The Awasthis' quest began in India, when Yogesh received his doctorate in natural plant chemistry and began to pursue his passion to reduce the toxicity of environmental cancer-causing agents. After moving to the United States, the elder Awasthi first identified the existence of the RLIP76 protein in 1983. What he didn't realize at the time was his son's keen interest in his research.

“When Sanjay was 14 years old, he began to secretly visit my research lab at night,” Yogesh said. “He would talk to fellow researchers and began some of his own experiments. That is what ultimately led to his identification in 1999 of RLIP76 as a multifunctional protein and transporter that responded to any stress applied to the cell.”

In September, Sanjay joined the Health Science Center as associate vice president of clinical research. Meanwhile, at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Yogesh and his fellow researchers helped support and further the work of Sanjay and his Dallas-Fort Worth-based researchers. Ultimately, Yogesh moved to the Metroplex last fall, joining UNTHSC as professor of biology and immunology, and his son in the lab.

Sanjay, a board-certified oncologist and researcher, compares RLIP76 to car exhaust stored in a tube on the side of the cell. When the cell is stressed, the tube attaches to the wall of the cell and pours out noxious chemicals. This biochemical change sends signals that result in inflammation and cancer cell growth. Interrupt

that signaling process by reducing or eliminating the RLIP76 protein through the use of enzymes, and the changes in the cell stop. The cancer stops growing and dies. Ultimately what they hope to show is that the patient survives and returns to a healthy, normal life.

The Awasthis are buoyed by exhaustive animal trials that showed a reduction and ultimate elimination of tumors in mice that were given the protein inhibitor and in some cases that received complementary chemotherapy. That has led them to the Health Science Center and the prospect of conducting clinical trials.

“My father and I are extremely excited about joining the UNTHSC family because the institution is highly recognized for its research biologists and its successful track record in sponsoring and conducting clinical trials,” Sanjay said. “Our work is at a critical point, and our association with UNTHSC will help our research move forward to the next level.”

“There are several groups around the world who are focused on this particular protein,” Sanjay added. “We were the first to show that the protein was a transporter, and now we have demonstrated that by eliminating the protein, cancers die. This opportunity has come along at just the right moment for us, for our research and for the cancer patients who may someday benefit from it.”

The Awasthis' lab includes a team of experts and will feature technology that is critical to the researchers' efforts to demonstrate key characteristics of the RLIP76 protein.

“The technology and equipment we have at our disposal at the Health Science Center will enable us to show in pictures that this is a protein that walks, shakes and moves – that it is a transporter,” Sanjay said.

“In a way, this protein has brought my son and me full circle,” Yogesh explained. “What began as my interest in plant toxicity and the environment has led us to work together in the lab at Fort Worth where we may be able to refine and introduce a completely new approach to cancer treatment.”

Photo: Jeremy Enlow



Hands-on treatment *meets* cutting-edge technology

Can osteopathic manipulation and other treatments change the way a person's body responds to injury and illness? If so, how can this response be measured?

Answers to these questions and more are coming from the Health Science Center's Physical Medicine Institute (PMI), where researchers and practitioners study osteopathic manipulative medicine, orthopedic surgery, and other aspects of musculoskeletal disease and bodily dysfunction. Their goal: prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate disease involving the brain, muscles and bones in people of all ages.

To aid in their quest, the PMI staff recently opened a 7,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility on the fourth floor of the Center for BioHealth. Employing unique combinations of measurement and computers, researchers can examine how the body moves and if various therapies provide improvement.

Visionary Leadership

Scott Stoll, DO, PhD, TCOM chair and associate professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, serves as co-director of PMI. Formerly executive director of the national Osteopathic Research Center, housed on the Health Science Center campus, his past

experience with the ORC will allow the work of the PMI to complement the ORC's. Dr. Stoll has diverse interests in the area of physical medicine and rehabilitation, which include both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. He has expertise in electrodiagnosis, pain management, manipulative medicine, sports medicine, occupational medicine, spinal cord injury, head injury and the rehabilitation of the amputee.

Shrawan Kumar, PhD, will serve as the other co-director of PMI as well as a professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. He has 30 years of research experience in biomechanics and physical therapy, with most of his work focused on musculoskeletal maladies of the trunk and back. He holds two U.S. patents for his inventions of biomechanical devices related to the treatment of spine mobilization and manipulation. In addition, three prototypes of his technology for assessment, treatment and training for patients with back disorders are currently under review by the University of Alberta's patent sub-committee.

Dr. Kumar has held more than \$1,850,000 in work-related grants over the life of his career in both individual and joint projects. Currently, he has two grants under review at the National Institutes of Health. His teaching experience includes design, development and teaching of courses in tissue biomechanics, electromyographic kinesiology and rehabilitation ergonomics.

Team Oriented Research

Also leading the PMI work is Rita M. Patterson, PhD, director of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Physical Medicine Core Research Facility and a tenured professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. Her lab is devoted to improving knowledge of musculoskeletal function to assist physicians with medical diagnosis and treatment. The goals include improved clinical measurements of biomechanical function, objective methods of evaluation, treatment, and therapy, and mathematical/computer models of muscle, joint, and bone mechanics.

Her main research focus has been in collaborations with physicians and therapists investigating the biomechanics of the wrist and upper extremity. She has used her knowledge of engineering tools and experience in the wrist and applied them to projects in the spine and knee joints as well as a multitude of other projects designed to increase knowledge about the human musculoskeletal system. Her current research interests include the investigation of how joints move. Currently, she has one grant funded by the National Institutes of Health and another funded by the UNTHSC – UNT Joint Institutional Seed Research Program.

Victor Kosmopoulos, PhD, is the most recent addition to the PMI team. Starting his academic career in 2003, he has teaching experience in mechanical and biomedical engineering, while remaining actively involved in orthopedic biomechanical research. During this time, Dr. Kosmopoulos developed and directed the first Biomechanics Research Laboratory at the College of New Jersey. Prior to his arrival at the Health Science Center in March, he was co-director of an academic spinal research unit at a large university orthopedic hospital in Switzerland. In 2007, Dr. Kosmopoulos published more than 11 peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented at multiple national and international conferences on topics including spine and bone mechanics.

Under the leadership of Drs. Stoll and Kumar, Drs. Patterson, Kosmopoulos, and their PMI colleagues will use their expertise in the area of muscle and bone performance to help discover and implement treatments that will improve the health and physical abilities of people across the nation. 🇺🇸



Dr. Scott Stoll



Dr. Shrawan Kumar



Dr. Rita Patterson



Dr. Victor Kosmopoulos

NEWS

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Ransom Honored



Dr. Scott B. Ransom, UNTHSC president, was conferred as a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives (ACPE) by its board of directors, an honor that is only given out once every few years. This distinction is given to physician executives who make "exemplary and enduring contributions to the knowledge and advancement of medical management." A formal ceremony will be held in New York City in April.

DNA lab appears on "America's Most Wanted," "NBC Nightly News"



The Health Science Center's DNA lab recently was featured on two national television broadcasts, thanks to its work on a case in Fort Meyers, FL. The lab was

featured on "America's Most Wanted" in a story about eight bodies discovered in Fort Meyers, which law enforcement are still working to identify. The bodies were found in a wooded area in March 2007.

Thanks to the lab's work two of the men, Erik Kohler and John Blevins, have been matched through DNA to family reference samples. The story on "AMW" as well as a story on "NBC Nightly News - Weekend Edition," served as a call for more family reference samples. Footage shot in the lab and of Dr. Art Eisenberg were featured on both broadcasts. Several NBC stations across the nation rebroadcast the NBC Nightly News piece, including stations in Greenville, NC; Portland, OR; Atlanta, GA; and West Palm Beach, FL.

Forensic scientists have been able to determine that the eight men were either Caucasian or Hispanic, between the ages of 18 and 49, and were left in the woods sometime between 1980 and 2000.

ORC to host international research symposium

The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC) will host researchers from around the world at a conference called, "Delineating the Evidence-base for Somato-Visceral Interactions," on the UNTHSC campus March 31-April 1. Leading researchers from the United States, Japan, Germany and Canada will discuss how the body's nervous system affects internal organs. The symposium is part of the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference series. It immediately follows the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation, which was held in Dallas March 26-30.



ORC researchers have private audience with Prince of Wales

John Licciardone, DO, executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center (ORC), and Hollis King, DO, associate executive director of the ORC, met with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles of Wales, in February to discuss the role of the ORC in conducting research to provide evidence on the efficacy of osteopathic manipulative treatment. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Advancing

Osteopathy 2008 Conference and the General Osteopathic Council meeting in London, Feb. 1-3.

Dr. Licciardone also delivered the conference's keynote address, entitled "What's the Evidence? Osteopathy Answers Back," at the opening session hosted by the National Council for Osteopathic Research. The conference attracted more than 1,000 delegates, including American osteopathic physicians and other osteopathic practitioners, researchers, and educators from around the globe.

Prince Charles, who is Patron of the General Osteopathic Council in England, spoke on global health issues at the GOsC reception prior to the conference.



Symposium focuses on primary care for women

The Health Science Center's collaborative women's health organization, FOR HER, hosted the 19th annual Pelham P. Staples, Jr., MD, Educational Symposium on Women's Health Care, Nov. 15-17 in Arlington. Women's health experts from the Health Science Center and around the country participated in the conference, which focused on primary-care topics such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and the state of women's health care. Nearly 200 health care professionals attended the symposium.

Presenters included Scott Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH, UNTHSC president and professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Elwyn Grimes, MD, chair of obstetrics and gynecology at JPS Health Network; and Texas State Senator Jane Nelson. Participants earned continuing education credits through the Health Science Center's Office of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE). This year's symposium is scheduled for September 2008.

For information, visit PACE at: www.hsc.unt.edu/education/pace



University of North Texas Chancellor Emeritus/UNT System Chancellor Emeritus Alfred F. Hurley received the prestigious Founders' Medal at UNTHSC's annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony.



Chancellor Lee Jackson (left) and President Scott B. Ransom (right) presented Fort Worth's First Lady Rosie Moncrief with The Mary E. Luibel Distinguished Service Award at the annual Convocation and White Coat Ceremony.



Bob Lansford, trust officer for the Joe & Jessie Crump Fund, recently presented a generous donation of \$155,000 to the Health Science Center for cancer research. Pictured from left to right are George Pepper, UNTHSC foundation board president, Bob Lansford, J. K. Vishwanatha, PhD, Scientific Director, Institute for Cancer Research; Thomas Yorio, PhD, Executive Vice President for Research.

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School of Public Health expands programs, faculty

It's an exciting time for the Health Science Center School of Public Health (SPH). Under the leadership of new dean, Richard Kurz, PhD, the school is preparing for more students, more faculty and new programs.

The SPH now offers a Master of Health Administration degree to prepare students for management careers in health services organizations such as hospitals, insurance and pharmaceutical companies. The curriculum is in place, and applications are now being accepted for the first class in Fall 2008.

The SPH is hiring several new senior faculty members to support its growth. The search is underway for new chairs in both the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and the Department of Health Management and Policy. The SPH will also fill five new senior faculty positions across all four departments, as well as a new associate dean for academic affairs. The new positions are expected to be filled by July of this year.

To help recruit the best and brightest students from across the country, the SPH recently joined the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS). The service will make it easier for potential students to apply at the Health Science Center while applying for other schools of public health. SPH is also offering \$1,000 scholarships to 10 incoming students each year. Students entering in the fall of 2008 will be the first to be eligible for the scholarships.

The first-ever North Texas Health Forum will be hosted by the SPH on April 15 at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. The keynote speaker for the event is Thomas C. Dolan, PhD, the president and chief executive officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dolan will participate in a session for UNTHSC students and give a formal address that is open to the public.

The student forum will begin at 2 p.m. and will be followed by the keynote address at 6 p.m. The Fort Worth Community Arts Center is located at 1300 Gendy Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/education/sph/>



Myong-Gwi Ryou, Dr. Albert Yurvati, Dr. Robert Mallet and Devin Flaherty are testing the effects of pyruvate on trauma injuries and cardiovascular surgery using this heart-lung machine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

North Texas Research Alliance for Urgent Medical Assistance

Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86) and Robert Mallet, PhD have teamed up to determine the benefits of using pyruvate in trauma victims and battlefield casualties. (Pyruvate is a naturally occurring compound which acts as an anti-oxidant and a fuel source).

With critical trauma injuries, especially to arms, legs, hands and feet, a tourniquet is usually applied immediately to stop the bleeding. Once the injury is stabilized (with stitches, surgery or other means), the tourniquet is removed, allowing blood to course back into the limb. While blood flow is essential, the oxygen carried in blood can damage the tissue when it rushes back into the blood vessels of the injured limb.

"In the field, there can be benefits from administering pyruvate immediately," said Dr. Yurvati. He is handling the clinical research, which initially was funded by a grant from Health Science Center President Scott Ransom as part of his commitment to collaborative research on campus.

Preliminary studies of intravenous pyruvate have shown that it can help prevent damage to tissue if administered within an hour of the injury. The compound also may have anti-inflammatory applications by reducing swelling and oxidative

stress in surgery patients, especially those undergoing cardiovascular surgery.

"Pyruvate can help the heart work more effectively and maintain blood pressure, in addition to preventing tissue damage and maintaining cardiovascular health," said Dr. Mallet. "However, it must be administered intravenously; oral doses aren't effective."

As part of their research, Drs. Mallet and Yurvati are teaming up with the North Texas Research Alliance for Urgent Medical Assistance (NTrauma) at UNT Denton to test pyruvate's effects using a heart-lung model and machine. NTrauma scientists are investigating vascular growth and injury, consequences of poor tissue oxygenation, limb reperfusion techniques, and wound repair and healing.

"We believe some of the most immediate and critical uses for pyruvate may be for the military treating casualties in the field," Yurvati said. "Civilian emergency medical and trauma teams could also see benefits in treating trauma injuries by incorporating this compound in resuscitative fluids." ❏

Inauguration heralds a ...

World of Possibilities



On Oct. 19, Dr. Scott Ransom was inaugurated as the Health Science Center's fifth president. The week of "World of Possibilities" events included a talk on Alzheimer's disease by University of Pittsburgh expert Dr. Steven DeKosky, the inaugural ceremony, an all-campus celebration, the DO Dash, and a black-tie fundraising gala.

The inaugural ceremony at the Fort Worth Convention Center Ballroom was attended by UNT System Board of Regents members, Health Science Center administrators, faculty, staff, students, retirees, alumni, friends, and Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine founder, Dr. Carl Everett. In his inaugural address, Dr. Ransom emphasized the Health Science Center's future possibilities. A procession of students carrying flags from their countries of origin spiced up the regal ceremony, which debuted the new custom-designed Health Science Center medallion and mace.

After the ceremony, more than 800 UNT Health Science Center employees, students and their family members attended the "World of Pasta-bilities" Campus Celebration. A silent auction raised \$2,260 for the DO Dash charitable cause. Dr. Lori Fischbach, assistant professor of epidemiology, was the lucky winner of the grand-prize drawing for a three-night stay for two at any Fairmont Resort Hotel in the world, courtesy of Travel Service Everywhere and airfare for two sponsored by Green Urban Development, Urban Race Street and Milagros Consulting.

On Oct. 20, almost 400 people registered for the DO Dash, and 138 runners and walkers helped raise \$3,548 for colon cancer screenings. A community health fair followed.

The sold-out black-tie inaugural gala at the Worthington Hotel that evening raised funds for the UNTHSC Fund for Excellence, which underwrites programs in education, research, patient care and community service. Honorary chairs Edward P. Bass and Congresswoman Kay Granger joined community and academic dignitaries for a formal dinner, followed by toasts and dancing to Buddy's Big Band. 📺



Dr. Scott Ransom received the traditional mace and medallion at the inaugural ceremony, and was later congratulated by TCOM co-founder Dr. Carl Everett.



DO Dash runners at the starting gun.



International students present Dr. Ransom with traditional gifts of honor at the all-campus celebration.



Student leaders, Dr. Ransom and Master of Ceremonies Wes Turner toast the future at the Inaugural Gala.



Foundation Board member Pati Meadows and Honorary Co-chair Ed Bass enjoy the gala.

Celebrating A WORLD of POSSIBILITIES.

We thank the following sponsors for their generous support of a week of events honoring the inauguration of Scott B. Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH, as our fifth president.

Benefactor

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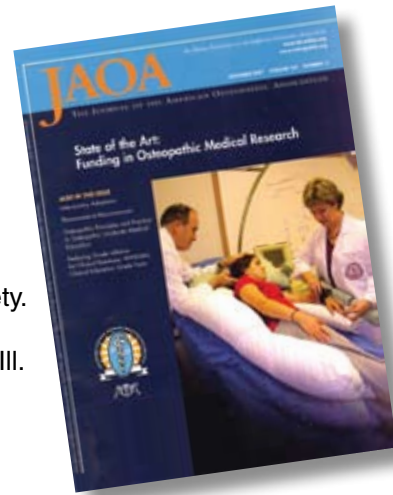
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Applause

Kendi Hensel, DO, assistant professor of OMM, and Hollis King, DO, PhD (TCOM '83) associate professor of OMM

...were featured on the cover of the November 2007 issue of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. The journal features articles on expanding research and research funding at colleges of osteopathic medicine. Several HSC faculty members also contributed to the journal.



Anthony W. DeLorenzo, DO (TCOM '92)

...was inaugurated as president of the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society. Dr. DeLorenzo is associate professor of clinical medicine at Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dowers Grove, Ill.

Al Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86) and chair of surgery

... was inducted as a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Dr. Yurvati is a PhD candidate in education at Northcentral University.

James Simpkins, PhD, chair of pharmacology and neuroscience, and ShaoHua Yang, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience

... had a research article selected for the Virtual Journal of Biomedical Optics (VJBO). The article is titled "Noninvasive monitoring of estrogen effects against ischemic stroke in rats by near-infrared spectroscopy." It can be found on the VJBO Web site.

Scott B. Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH, president of the Health Science Center, and Russell Gamber, DO, MPH, associate professor of OMM

... were featured in the December 2007 issue of the American Osteopathic Association's The DO magazine. Their photos were included in a feature on the 2007 AOA Convention in San Diego.

The Texas Public Health Training Center at the UNT Health Science Center

... was certified as a Community Health Worker Training Site by the Texas Department of State Health Services Cardiovascular Health and Wellness Program. The Training Center will provide training and continuing education for community health workers. Go to the Texas Public Health Training Center's web site to learn more.

"Texas Super Docs"

... Twelve UNT Health physicians were chosen as "Texas Super Docs" for the December 2007 edition of Texas Monthly. More than 40,000 medical professionals across Texas were asked to nominate doctors (other than themselves) based on the question: "If you needed medical care, which doctor would you choose?"

UNT Health physicians named as "Texas Super Docs":

Allergy

John Fling, MD

Psychiatry

Alan Podawiltz, DO

Orthopedic Surgery

David Lichtman, MD

Russell Wagner, MD

Cardiology

Martin Weiss, DO

Internal Medicine

Bernard Rubin, DO

Stephen Weis, DO

Trauma Reconstruction

Arvind Nana, MD

Obstetrics/Gynecology

Ralph Anderson, MD

Kathleen Crowley, MD

General Surgery

Sam Buchanan, DO,

(TCOM '75)

Ava C. (Alter) Stanczak, DO (TCOM '83) and chair of pediatrics at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg

... was named 2007 George W. Northrup, DO, Educator of the Year by the Student Osteopathic Medical Association at their fall convention in San Diego in September. The award is given to an osteopathic educator who demonstrates commitment to the education and overall well-being of his or her students.

Dennis Shingleton, MS, MBA, TCOM chief of staff

... was elected chairman of the Fort Worth City Planning Commission for the fifth straight year. The commission approves subdivision plats and advises the city council on all matters relating to public improvements.

Karan Singh, PhD, chair and professor of biostatistics

... was the keynote speaker for this year's International Congress on Modeling and Simulation at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Dr. Singh's address was titled "Statistical Methods for Analysis of Public Health Data."

David E. Garza, DO (TCOM '89), of Laredo

... contributed an article to the November issue of DOCTalk, a magazine that focuses on policy and politics of medicine. His article was a commentary on the thoughts of Dr. Michael DeBakey, renowned cardiovascular surgeon.

Marc B. Hahn, DO, TCOM dean

... was also featured in the same issue of DOCTalk magazine. The interview with Dr. Hahn touched on topics including osteopathic medicine, separate certification exams for DOs and MDs, the physician workforce shortage and minorities in medicine.

Brian Gladue, PhD, director of the Office for the Protection of Human Subjects

... has been formally named as chair of the Health Science Center's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects. The IRB is responsible for protecting the welfare and rights of individuals who are subjects of any research conducted by Health Science Center faculty, staff or students. ❏



Photo: Lennie Sirmopoulos

American Osteopathic Board of Surgery member Dale H. Brancel, DO, FACOS (left), and AOBs Vice Chair Albert H. Olivencia-Yurvati, DO, FACOS (TCOM '86), chair and professor of surgery (right), accepted presidential citations presented by Alison A. Clarey, DO, FACOS (center), during the ACOS Annual Ceremonial Conclave. The citations recognize the dedication and commitment of these AOBs members to the development and implementation of standards for the evaluation of competence and the certification of osteopathic surgeons during Dr. Clarey's term as ACOS president.



Photo: Lennie Sirmopoulos

Don N. Peska, DO, FACOS, associate dean for educational programs for TCOM and associate professor was recognized during the 2007 Annual Ceremonial Conclave of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, as the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Osteopathic Surgeon Award for his outstanding accomplishments and leadership in the field of surgery.

In the COMMUNITY



Dr. Marc B. Hahn, TCOM Dean, and Jean Tips, VP for Marketing and Communications, at the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

The Health Science Center provides medical team for 3-Day

Blisters and dehydration are just part of the scene when thousands of determined women and men take part in a three-day, 60-mile walk to benefit breast cancer research and care.

Good thing the Health Science Center's dedicated staff volunteered to care for walkers at the Breast Cancer 3-Day event last October, benefitting Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Breast Cancer Fund.

As co-medical director, Brent Sanderlin, DO, (TCOM '96) helped triage and care for the multitudes. He was assisted by Laurie Hill, PA; Melva Jones, Sr. LVN; Mae (Aline) Wyrick, RN; Janice Misner, Sr. LVN; Darla Pierce, LVN; Erika Lebaron, MS2; and Stephanie Johnson, ANP. Walter Nettles, Facilities Management, was also available during the duration of the event to assure coordination of transportation logistics.

"The UNTHSC Team was phenomenal," Judy Stuedeman, RN, medical team member said. "I have never worked with a more dedicated group of people. The sacrifice of four full days and nights of hard work was an extraordinary demonstration of compassion. It's something I will never forget."

The next Breast Cancer 3-Day will be held in the Dallas/Fort Worth area on Nov. 7-9, 2008.

Classrooms without walls

How would the world of science and research be affected if Health Science Center instructors could pipe their knowledge into every classroom of every school district in the state?

That's just what happened last fall when the departments of Cell Biology and Genetics and Biomedical Communications brought science into Fort Worth ISD classrooms (as well as classrooms across the state) via distance learning.

Rusty Reeves, PhD (GSBS '97) and assistant professor of cell biology and genetics, presented "How Systems Work in Your Body: The Human Heart and Lungs" to 54 classrooms around the state. Using live video conferencing, Dr. Reeves taught approximately 3,000 fourth- and fifth-graders about the human heart and lungs from the HSC's gross anatomy lab.

The live feed used multiple video cameras in the lab and connected to classrooms through the Internet. The conferencing allowed Dr. Reeves and other faculty and students to interact with the students in real time – the students asked and responded to live questions.

In another video conference, Project SCORE mentor and PhD student James Flynn connected with students at Carter Riverside High School in Fort Worth, teaching about the eye.



PhD student James Flynn broadcasts his lab work to local high school students.

Dr. Reeves said most of the students had never seen what a researcher actually does in the lab. Video conferences helped them see how they could make science a career.

These video conferences were a first for the Health Science Center, but more are in the works, in addition to expanding the use of PowerPoint presentations.

Go Centers receive high praise

Health Science Center students volunteer as mentors in Go Centers at Dunbar and North Side high schools, in addition to their normal studies, and guide students through the process of college preparation. These centers focus on first-generation college students, especially African-Americans and Hispanics.

Recently, Liz Davis, associate director of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science Office of Outreach, received a letter from Barbara Novero, lead counselor at Dunbar High – one of the Health Science Center's Adopt-a-School partners – praising the program's effects on students' education.

"The students at Dunbar High School have accessed the services provided in the Go Center more than any high school in Fort Worth," Novero wrote. "They have completed college searches, applied for scholarships, registered for SAT/ACT tests, written magnificent essays, and attended presentations.

"It is this beautiful teamwork in motion that built to the grand finale at the end of last year with Dunbar students being awarded \$3.5 million in merit-based scholarships! This achievement placed Dunbar at the top of FWISD again.

"These accomplishments are possible because of the teamwork and dedication of our Adopt - A

- School partners. We are truly appreciative of our friends at UNT Health Science Center. They have [given] the best gift of all, opportunity!"

Cowtown Marathon and UNTHSC celebrate 30-year anniversary

In the spring of 1977, despite a fine running trail along the Trinity River, there was no such thing as the Cowtown Marathon. At the time, a group of faculty members of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine had established the Institute for Human Fitness, a model program designed to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles through its medical curriculum and its clinical practice program. Bob Kaman, PhD, JD, acting director of the Institute, and Bob Patton and Joel Alter, DO, members of the Institute board, proceeded in obtaining their board's approval to undertake developing a plan for what would become the Cowtown Marathon.

The first marathon and 10K races were held on Feb. 17, 1979, amid an ice and snow storm, but still saw 210 brave souls start the marathon from a field of about 500 registered runners. In the 10K run, 247 runners finished that wintery day, on snow-covered courses marked with spray paint.

The Cowtown Marathon has been a cultural mainstay of Fort Worth ever since, and recently celebrated its 30th anniversary on Feb. 23 with 703 marathon finishers, 2,689 10K runners and for the first time 118 ultra-marathon finishers.

As part of the Health Science Center's continued support as a presenting sponsor, UNT Health physicians, staff and TCOM students provided medical team support for the thousands of runners and participants. Christopher Mann, DO, served as race medical director, helped by staff including Brent Sanderlin, DO, and Judy Stuedeman, RN. 🏃



ADVANCEMENT *update*

Foundation installs new board members, officers

The UNT Health Science Center Foundation Board of Directors introduced five new members and named new officers for fiscal year 2008 at its quarterly meeting last fall. The Foundation, established in 1978 by the founders of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, acquires and manages private funds to be used solely for the benefit of the school. Community and business leaders, alumni, and distinguished medical and scientific professionals serve, without compensation, on the Foundation's Board as advocates, advisors and strategists. They work with the Health Science Center president, his leadership team and the Division of Community Engagement/Office of Institutional Advancement to help make friends, raise community awareness and conduct fundraising campaigns during their three-year term.

UNT Health Science Center Foundation Board Officers



Chair
George Pepper
George Pepper
Investments



Vice-chair
Arnold Gachman
Gamtex Industries
Gachman Metals
& Recycling Co.



Secretary
Lisa Jamieson
Shannon, Gracy,
Ratliff & Miller, LLP



Treasurer
Paul Greenwell
Luther King Capital
Management

New Board Members

Carlos De La Torre is the area manager for customer and community relations for Oncor Electric Delivery of Fort Worth, which is the regulated electric delivery business within TXU Corp. He is past chair of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, past chair of the Main Street Arts Festival, and a member of a number of other community and civic boards.

Luis Galindo is a personal law attorney. He works closely with the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission on Housing Discrimination and has worked with the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as legal counsel and director.

Terryl Kendricks, RN, is the chief nursing officer for HCA/Plaza Medical Center Fort Worth and has worked in several different functions within the organization since 1996. She has been involved in a number of community activities, including the American Heart Association Board of Directors, Cardiovascular Nurses Task Force and the Vital Links Initiative of the Fort Worth ISD's Adopt-a-School Program.

Pati Meadows has been involved in assisting clients for Kelly, Hart & Hallman, LLP, for the past 27 years. She is the attorney for several major real estate developments in downtown Fort Worth, including the City Center project, Sundance Square, Sundance West, Sundance East projects, and the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall. Her involvement in community organizations includes serving in volunteer board and officer positions with Historic Fort Worth Inc., Texas Ballet Theatre, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Fort Worth Country Day School and the Texas Women's Alliance. She has held leadership positions on the Metropolitan YMCA Board, the Y's Metro Sustaining Campaign and the Camp Carter Capital Campaign.

William (Bill) Wallace, DO, is a 1980 graduate of TCOM and a practicing cardiovascular surgeon in Fort Worth. Dr. Wallace served as chief of medical staff and a board member of the former Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas.

Continuing Board Members

Mark Baker, DO (TCOM '76)
North Texas Radiology

Joe Maly
Hillwood Properties

Richard Connor
Fort Worth Business Press

Mary Palko
Palmea Corp.

Robert Fernandez
Fernandez & Co., PC

Joe Thompson
TXU Electric, retired

Allan Howeth
Cantey & Hanger, LLP

Naresh Vashisht
Omimex Energy Inc.

William Jordan, DO
The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders

Stanley Weiss, DO
Occupational Medicine Consultant

Robert M. Lansford
JP Morgan

The current presidents of each of the Health Science Center's alumni organizations also serve on the Foundation Board.

Robert DeLuca, DO (TCOM '84)
Eastland Family Medicine

Eve (Ettinger) Shulman, PhD (GSBS '04)
Alcon Research, Ltd.

Marcus Martin, MPH (SPH '03)
J. McDonald Williams Institute
Foundation for Community Empowerment

Heidi Medcalf, MPA (PA '04)
JPS Health Network





Q&A: A Talk with Gary Grant

On Feb. 1, 2008, Gary Grant joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as Vice President of Development. With more than 20 years of medical and institutional advancement experience, he is driven by a personal commitment to grow and strengthen major gifting programs while keeping the “fun” in fundraising. Gary’s team is focused on activities that include the campus master plan, endowments, major gifts, annual giving and scholarships. In a recent discussion, he enthusiastically discussed his team’s goals and the importance of his outreach to students, alumni and the Fort Worth community.

Q: Tell us a bit about your background.

A: I was director of major gifts for the National Alzheimer’s Association for the past five years. We were extremely fortunate in that we were able to double major gift support and build the program to about \$15 million a year in donations. Prior to that, I spent more than 15 years in development at my alma mater, the University of Chicago, serving as the associate dean for external affairs at the School of Social Service Administration (the Social Work School). That led to a position as director of major gifts for the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Q: How do you see the function of Advancement and Development shaping up at the HSC?

A: I would like to see us develop in several areas. First, we must explore ways to build a broader base of support—inviting the wider community here in Fort Worth to help us seek cures and better treatments for cancer and Alzheimer’s and to serve the people of Tarrant County better each year. Second, I hope that we can create a closer bond with our alumni and involve them in the life of the school to a higher degree. Third, I’d like to build a program that supports faculty by aiding them in the search for foundation grants. And finally, I’d like to see us work more closely with philanthropic leaders who can set a high bar for giving, so that we can set the highest possible bar for achievement.

Q: Tell us about your goals.

A: I tend to think in two mindsets right now. The first is how to meet the current goals and make progress in the short term. The second is how to create new strategies and systems that will help us grow over the long term. One thing that makes me particularly excited about being here is the truly talented and capable team in Development and their desire to build creative fundraising programs that are second to none. And I’m also excited about our capacity to be top 10 in what we do. We have outstanding academic, research and care elements in place and we think we can raise our Development efforts to be top 10, too.

Q: How and where will you begin?

A: We’ll start with the alumni as a vital natural constituency. Alumni giving is important itself, but also critical as a vote of confidence in the school and a symbol for others: students, foundations, etc. I want us to seek alumni input and involvement and not just ask them for money. I would love to see a day when more alumni are excited to get a call from us about how we’re doing and what we’re doing, because they’ll be more likely to give whatever they can! We’ll work on all fronts in the first year, but I think we can make some particular gains in reaching out to our graduates.

Q: And over the long term?

A: We have a wonderful Foundation Board that will really be the heart of our long-term growth. We want to make sure to involve our Board in growing strong, long-term relationships with more leadership donors and volunteers and advocating for the Health Science Center. I want to make sure our team empowers the Board and I know outstanding results will be seen as we engage volunteer leadership. I’m excited about working with the board and continuing to attract motivated, enterprising people who can be real leaders and help guide us on our journey to top 10 status.


Q: What intrigues you the most about UNTHSC?

A: We’re addressing the things that concern people most – diseases like cancer and Alzheimer’s, and the disparities that affect health and quality of life here in Fort Worth and beyond. Even those who know us as a medical school need to be aware of our world-class research, because it may impact their lives directly. And as our philanthropic community gains a better awareness of what we’re doing, the opportunities for giving will grow, too. It is an excellent time to get people mobilized in our community around these issues, and we’re working right now to get our heads around the best ways in which to do that.

Q: You’re also an author. Tell us about that.

A: Yes, I’ve co-authored several books, mainly on how nonprofits and social service staff can best use the Internet. The most recent one was “Fundraising Online: Using the Internet to Raise Serious Money for Your Nonprofit Organization,” (2006) but the first two were “The Social Worker’s Internet Handbook,” (1998) and “The Nonprofit Internet Handbook” (1998). Basically, while others were jumping on how to use the Internet to get wealthy, I was obsessed with how it could help people. If I’d been on the right bandwagon, I’d probably be a major donor today instead of a fundraiser! But I love my job, so it all worked out. 📖

2008




**The President’s
Invitational
Tournament**

Presented by:



Benefitting:



Ridglea Country Club
Monday, April 7, 2008
11 a.m. - Evening

This event raises critical funds to expand the educational support for tomorrow’s healthcare professionals and scientists serving our community and Texas.

Questions or for additional information,
 please contact Amy Baker
 Phone: 817-735-2445 E-mail: ambaker@hsc.unt.edu

To register online <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/invitational/>

Alumni update

Who's Doing What Now?



Capt. Terry D. Hashey, DO (TCOM '03), MC, USAR, served as a flight surgeon during a four-month tour to Forward Operation Base Salerno in Afghanistan.

His experiences convinced him that osteopathic manipulative treatment in the field can help soldiers recover faster and perform better. In his own words:

"Soldiers work hard! They wear heavy body armor, carry heavy loads, and sit in uncomfortable positions for long periods of time. I used OMT often in Afghanistan with great success!"

"I've returned troops to full duty faster with OMT and have avoided mind-altering pain medications in doing so. This is a concern in a deployed environment because many of my patients fly and refuel aircraft and load weapons. Returning them to duty as quickly and safely as possible was very important to my mission."

"Much like the osteopathic medicine's philosophy of treating the whole person and the whole family, we take care of the whole unit. And we have to understand how all the soldiers in a unit

fit into the scheme of this operation in order to better care for them."

Dr. Hashey was awarded an Army Commendation and Army Achievement medal for providing outstanding medical care and for conducting flight physicals for helicopter pilots, aircrew and support staff.

Eric Gonzales, PhD (GSBS '05) recently appeared on the cover of *nature* magazine, which spotlighted his lab work on how cell membranes open to allow ions into cells. Visit www.nature.com to read more. Vol 449/20 September 2007 doi:10.1038/nature06163

Jim Walton, DO (TCOM '82) is Board certified in Internal Medicine and is a 2009 candidate for an Executive MBA from the University of Michigan. He currently serves as Chief Health Equity Officer for Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, where he is responsible for overseeing Baylor's health equity improvement efforts. His work earned him an invitation to join a year-long executive leadership program led by the Disparities Solutions Center at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

TEXAS COLLEGE of OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

CLASSES OF

1978 • 1983 • 1988 • 1993 • 1998

Save the Date! September 26–27, 2008

Stay informed at www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

TCOM Reunion 2007

Thank you for coming home for TCOM Reunion Weekend 2007! The classes of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 1997 were all well represented.

Friday night's event was held on campus in the Atrium and featured a barbeque dinner, student awards presentation, student-led campus tours that included the new Health Science Center history wall.

Saturday night's function was held downtown at the Fort Worth Hilton where attendees had a chance to mingle in individual reception rooms dedicated to each class while others played catch-up in the hallway.

Dr. Jim W. Czewski, DO (TCOM '77), received the Dean's Award for Philanthropy, and Steven Bander, DO (TCOM '82), received the Dean's Award for Distinguished Service.

President Scott Ransom and Dean Marc B. Hahn, DO (TCOM '82) also extended an invitation for alumni to get more involved in the progress and vitality of our medical school -- through giving, mentoring, supporting our Alumni Association, spreading the good word and returning to campus whenever possible just for a friendly visit, for special events and, most importantly, the next reunion! 📅


View or purchase pictures / video clips from Reunion 2007, or just keep in touch: alumni@hsc.unt.edu
817-735-2278 or 800-687-7580
www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni

Stay up to date with campus news at: www.hsc.unt.edu/news/connections/campusconnection/

View and share Class Notes:
www.hsc.unt.edu/alumni



735-DOCS operators answer the call....over 60,000 times

 Tarrant County residents are quickly becoming familiar with UNT Health's 735-DOCS phone number as a resource for physician scheduling and referrals. The last four month's numbers totaled a whopping 62,514 calls.

The average waiting time before speaking with a live representative was 51 seconds. Each call averaged just under three minutes, which means each staff member averaged 11.5 calls every hour.

Currently, there are seven customer service representatives manning the phones, two of whom are bilingual. Efforts are also underway to add additional staff and an RN Assistant Director.




Tjuana Johnson answers questions at the UNT Health Call Center.

Electronic Medical Records: Fast, Efficient and Secure

Computer files are replacing paper files in the offices of UNT Health physicians. Electronic medical records (EMR) help physicians by providing instant access and speedier documentation in all facets of the medical practice, including referrals, customized patient records and other applications, while minimizing errors. The result: higher quality patient care. EMR is currently rolling out in the Family Medicine

department of UNT Health's Patient Care Center (PCC). Implementation throughout PCC clinics is estimated to be complete by the end of summer 2008.

Other UNT Health clinic locations will be added to the system in a subsequent rollout, said Robert Adams, DO, chief medical officer for the 160-physician group.

"This is a critical step in becoming a true, fully-integrated, multi-specialty practice," said Scott Ransom, president of the Health Science Center. 



UNT Health, the physician group affiliated with the Health Science Center, continues branding efforts to help establish the multi-specialty group as Tarrant County's preferred medical practice. Owned facilities, such as the Eagle Ranch Family Practice clinic and the Patient Care Center, recently received new UNT Health signage.



April 7
Third Annual President's Invitational Golf Tournament
11:00 a.m.
Ridglea Country Club

April 15
School of Public Health "North Texas Health Forum"
Noon
Fort Worth Community Arts Center
<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/education/sph/documents/NTHF/NTHF.pdf>

May 17
UNTHSC Commencement
2 p.m.
Fort Worth Convention Center

May 29-31
Debates & Directions in Health Disparities: Third Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities
3:00 p.m.
UNTHSC Campus

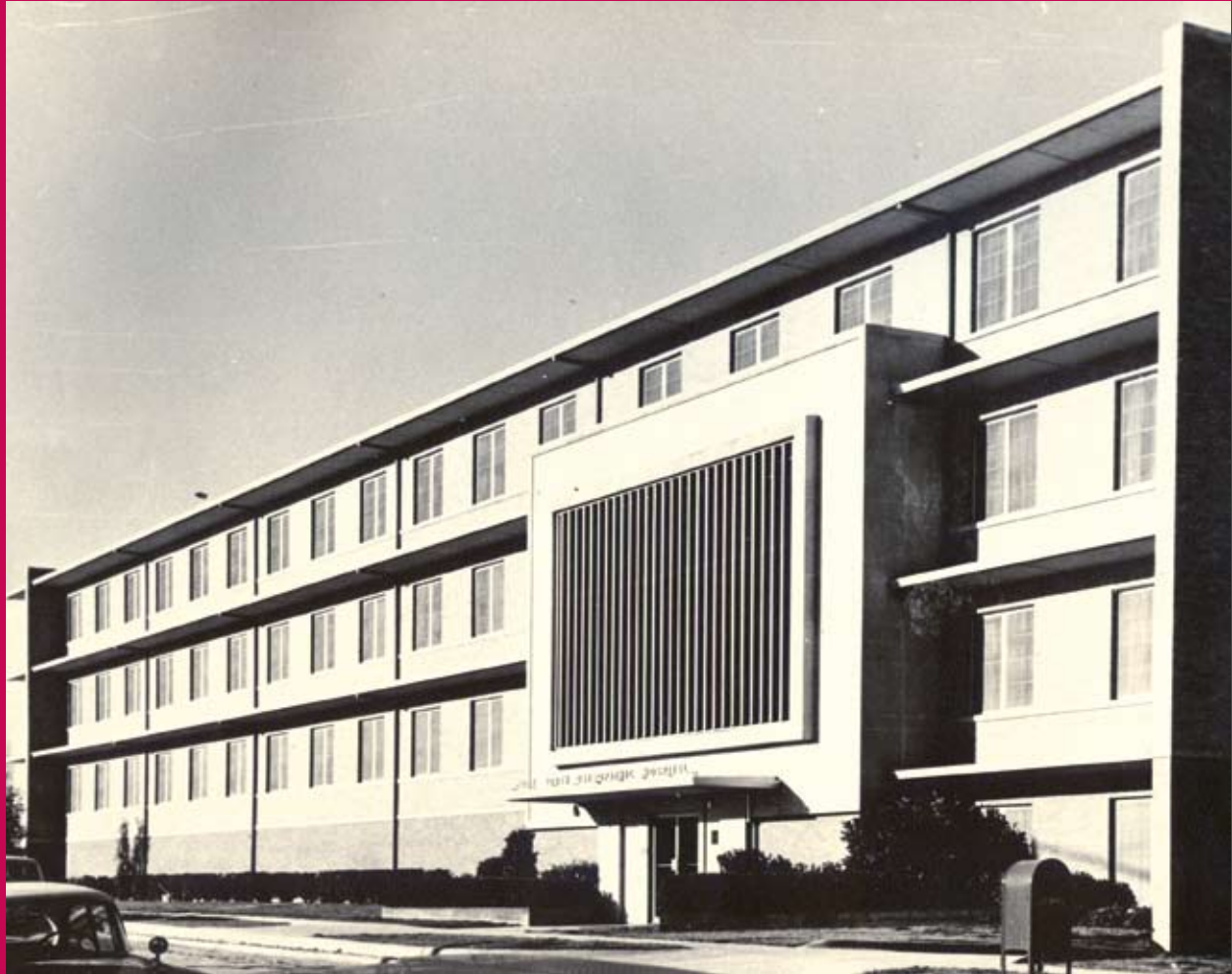
September 12
Convocation and White Coat
2 p.m.
Will Rogers Auditorium

September 26-27
Alumni Reunion 2008
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Atrium and Fort Worth Hilton

October 25
UNTHSC Annual Gala
Celebrating the 15 Year Anniversary of the GSBS
Worthington Hotel Grand Ballroom

For more information about any news item or event, please e-mail news@hsc.unt.edu.

FROM *the* ARCHIVES



Built in 1956 in its present location on Montgomery Street, this building held the first TCOM students on its fifth floor. The construction of this new facility for the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital marked growth not only for osteopathic medicine and education, but also for the city of Fort Worth. New construction will once again mark growth for both as the UNT Health Science Center moves forward with its own new building on this site.

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