



TechView

Weekly News - October 30, 2009

Fiscal Affairs Moves

The Department of Fiscal Affairs has moved from the third floor of the MEB to the second floor, Rm 2145. The phone numbers remain the same. To contact Fiscal Affairs, call 783-5523.

From the Desk of the Founding Dean

As the temperature dips and the holidays roll in – and flu season begins to peak in El Paso – it's time to take some precautionary measures to fight off the seasonal and H1NI influenza viruses. It's as simple covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and washing your hands frequently. Make sure to wash before preparing and eating food, using the bathroom, changing diapers, tending to someone sick, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, handling animals, throwing the garbage – and before and after treating a wound or cut. I can't stress enough how these simple actions can help prevent you and your loved ones from becoming sick.

Our Center of Excellence in Cancer Research hosted its first Breast Cancer Symposium to over 60 attendees. Feedback about the symposium was positive. Because of this, we plan to create additional opportunities to share our research endeavors with the public through events such as this one.

On Tuesday, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster SOM hosted the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development. The organization chose El Paso as one of 18 regions internationally to assess its economic development. Our role was to discuss how higher education in healthcare affects economic development.

Have a safe Halloween!

- Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D., Founding Dean

SECC Campaign Winding Down - But Not Over

There is still time to donate to the State Employee Charitable Campaign. Last year, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster SOM employees generously donated over \$40,000. The donations are still trickling in. Employees who wish to donate through payroll deduction have until November 5. Those who are donating through cash and check can do so until December 2009. Please contact your department's SECC coordinator for donation forms.

Faculty Honored with President's Awards

Two faculty members from the Department of Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, were honored during the Faculty Awards Convocation on Thursday, October 29. *TTUHSC Interim President Elmo Cavin* made presentations in six categories to 11 faculty members in the HSC system.

Manuel Rivera, M.D., professor of medicine, and a pulmonologist, received the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Rivera has been with the Health Sciences Center for 18 years. His nomination letter indicated that Dr. Rivera's passion in life was teaching and his foremost priorities were in educating and mentoring residents and students, molding them into competent physicians as well as providing them with an academic environment conducive to intellectual growth.

German Hernandez, M.D., assistant professor in medicine, and a nephrologist, received the President's Young Investigator Award. Dr. Hernandez has been with the Health Sciences Center for three years.

Dr. Hernandez has received research funding allowing him to establish a kidney disease study, with the goal to study the role of lead exposure, and other metals, as a risk factor for the progression of established chronic kidney disease among a group of ethnic and racial minorities. He is also establishing a bio-repository from which future studies can be performed. His preliminary work and development of the bio-repository has allowed him to forge collaborations with other institutions.

"We're here to celebrate another great year for the Health Sciences Center," said Cavin. "Our university is stronger than ever because of our faculty and staff. Without them, none of this would be possible."

Attention HealthSelect Participants:

Previously, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) mailed Explanations of Benefit statements (EOB's) to the address submitted by the provider's office on your claim; however, beginning November 1, 2009 the address on file with BCBSTX will be used.

Ensure your address is correct by visiting ERS Online at www.ers.state.tx.us.

If you do not have internet access, you may call the BCBSTX Customer Service Department toll-free at (800) 252-8039.

IMPORTANT: If your address is incorrect and you are an active employee, please contact your Benefits Coordinator. If you have a dependent, whose address is different than yours, and it is incorrect, please contact the BCBSTX Customer Service Department at (800) 252-8039.

You may also turn off your paper EOB's and view your claims information by visiting the HealthSelect website www.bcbstx.com/hs and logging in to Blue Access for Members. Simply select "Stop receiving paper statements" under the Quick Links section of the HealthSelect home page.

Caremark Retail Pharmacy Network

Some employees enrolled in HealthSelectSM of Texas may have questions about a letter they recently received from Caremark. The letter sent to participants tells them that a pharmacy they have used recently is leaving the HealthSelect network as of November 1, 2009.

Please note that pharmacies have an opportunity to return to the network before November 1 and some have already let us know that they have changed their mind about terminating from the network. We have been informed that Wal Mart Pharmacies will be leaving the Network effective November 1, 2009.

Using a Caremark participating retail pharmacy for filling short-term prescriptions (up to a 30-day supply) is convenient and economical. Participating pharmacies can easily access information about your prescription benefit program and the appropriate payment. You will not need to file any additional paperwork when you use a participating retail pharmacy.

In most cases, you will pay more for your prescription if you use a pharmacy outside the Caremark network. You will be asked to pay 100% of the prescription price at the pharmacy. Then, you will need to submit a paper claim form along with the original prescription receipt to Caremark for reimbursement of covered expenses.

If you have questions regarding these changes or any other issue with the pharmacy benefits for HealthSelect, you may contact Caremark, Customer Care Representatives, toll-free at (888) 886-8490 or visit www.caremark.com/ers.

CIMA Lecture on World Health

The Center for International and Multicultural Affairs (CIMA) invites everyone to attend an ongoing lecture series on world health. The lectures are held the first and third Wednesday of the month. Invited guest speakers share their experience and work involving international health. Anyone may attend.

The next lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, at 11 a.m. in Room 235 of the HSC Building and will feature Breedlove Foods, Inc. The lecture topic is "Breedlove: Innovative Humanitarian Relief."

Breedlove Foods, Inc., is a non-profit organization committed to alleviating hunger across the globe. Their vision is to be a leader in international hunger relief, providing hope to the impoverished through growth and innovation. The crisis of hunger, malnutrition, and poverty affect over one billion people, with over 950 million lacking adequate nutrition to maintain health. According to statistics, over 25,000 people die each day from hunger. More than half of all child deaths worldwide are caused by malnutrition. Poor nutrition makes a person much more likely to contract disease and/or suffer from illness. It also reduces the effectiveness of medication.

Breedlove Dehydrated Foods is committed to feeding the hungry of the world by building relationships with commodity producers, distributors, warehouse, transporters, and processors; processing nutritious food of consistent quality; and developing partnerships with other organizations.