



Patient Care



Education



Research



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine\*

Weekly News | 02.04.10

## WELCOME BACK!

We are grateful to have *Dr. Marco Diaz* and *Dr. Leonardo Loaiza*, both from the Department of Family and Community Medicine, back safe from their mission trip in Haiti. We are extremely proud of their selfless act of heroism, sharing their medical expertise during such a time of need. Look in the next *Tech View* as they recount their journey.

## El Paso Baby Cafe Celebrates Anniversary

The El Paso Baby Café will celebrate a year of providing breastfeeding moms with a place to breastfeed their babies while bonding over decaf with other moms. On **Friday, February 5, 2010**, El Paso Baby Café staff and volunteers will host an Open House from **3 - 6 p.m. at 5032 Montana**. Keepsake gifts and door prizes will be given away and refreshments served.

Since it's opening, the El Paso Baby Café has had over 1500 visitors, including 500 new mothers - and that doesn't include their babies! Numerous health benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and baby have long been recognized by the medical community. The El Paso Baby Café's mission is to provide social and practical help to breastfeeding mothers as a way of improving the health of the whole community.

## From the Desk of the Founding Dean

*Dr. Michael A. Escamilla* - I spent the week introducing Dr. Escamilla, the new chair of Psychiatry, to faculty and staff. He is a welcomed addition and I know that his research efforts will help Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine grow into a leading entity. Please read a short biography on Dr. Escamilla below.

*White House Fellows* - Next week the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine will host White House Fellows on campus. White House Fellows are exceptional individuals who receive first-hand experience working at the highest levels of federal government. They work with senior White House Staff, Cabinet Secretaries and other top-ranking government officials while participating in educational programs consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders. We are pleased to not only be attracting the research community but also those interested in political policies that will affect our long term goals along the border.

*El Paso Baby Café* - Congratulations to everyone that has made the El Paso Baby Café a success. It's been open for over a year now and has offered many new mothers support with their breastfeeding experience. On Friday, February 5, they will celebrate with an Open House from 3 - 5 p.m. at 5032 Montana, in the Chelmont Shopping Center. I encourage anyone who can get away - especially expectant mothers - to stop by and see what a wonderful place the El Paso Baby Café is.

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

## World-Renowned Researcher Joins

### Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Faculty

*Michael A. Escamilla, M.D.*, is the new chair and a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Paul L. Foster School of Medicine (SOM) and director of our school's Center of Excellence in Neurosciences.

Dr. Escamilla is committed to the training and development of researchers in the fields of psychiatry and genetics. He designed and directs two training programs (funded by the National Institutes of Health) for training of post-doctoral and pre-doctoral fellows. He has taught medical students, residents, and post-doctoral fellows at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and the University of California, San Francisco and has served as a primary mentor on several graduate school dissertations for students at UTHSCSA and other schools in South Texas, Mexico and Costa Rica.

In addition to directing the Centers and their research and training programs, and his role mentoring students and junior faculty, Dr. Escamilla serves as a reviewer for several journals and serves the NIH as a grant reviewer, and an organizer and participant in workgroups conducted by the NIMH to foster research in mental health in Latinos, international collaborations on psychiatric genetic research, and the



## Cook-Off A Success!

*Message from Jill Junkes, MS1, organizer of this year's Chili Cook-Off:*

Faculty, Staff and Students:  
Thank you very much for attending the 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off and purchasing all 144 tickets! It was so nice to see so many new faces and be able to spend our lunch hour with you! Thank you to Dean de la Rosa and his office staff (*Judith and Loretta*) for providing the drinks at the cook-off. Thank you to Student Affairs (*Diana, Dr. Horn, Alex, Izel, and Lorenzo, Rita*) for providing guidance and taking care of ALL event details! Thank you to Subway (*Jeanie, John, and Gus*) for assisting us and providing some of the toppings for our chili! Thank you to our safety and maintenance departments who made this event run so smoothly! And last, thank you to the cooks from the Class of 2013 organizations (ASMA, CMDA, EM, IMIG, MS4C, and PIG) for making the chili and the whole class for making this event so much fun! I hope that you enjoyed the cook-off enough to come again next year (it sounds like most of you would like to see a competition and tasting)!

training and recruitment of minority students into mental health careers. Outside of his primary work on mental illnesses, Dr. Escamilla's work also includes research on medical (non-psychiatric) genetics, including diabetes, dental illnesses and chromosomal abnormalities.

Dr. Escamilla grew up in San Antonio, graduating from Central Catholic High School. He completed his B.A. at Harvard University, his M.D. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, and his post-doctorate work (in psychiatry and psychiatric genetics) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

## Psychiatry Faculty Member Becomes A Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association

*Frank L. Giordano, M.D.*, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L Foster School of Medicine recently became a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Such fellowships are granted for substantial contribution to the field of psychiatry over time. The individual elected as a fellow must be recommended in writing by two other fellows. This recommendation then goes to the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, the state branch of the American Psychiatric Association. The Committee on Membership must concur with the recommendation. If they concur, it is forwarded to the national organization where it is evaluated by the national Committee on Membership. If the national committee concurs, the fellowship is then granted. Dr. Giordano is a past president of the El Paso branch of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and has been a member of the residency training committee of the state society.

## CIMA Lecture on World Health

### *Topic: Haiti by John C. Baldwin, MD*

The Center for International and Multicultural Affairs (CIMA) invites you to attend an ongoing lecture series on world health. The lectures will be held every first and third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Invited guest speakers will share their experience and work involving international health. Everyone is invited to attend. The next lecture is on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 11 a.m. in Room 235 and the topic is Haiti. The speaker is *John C. Baldwin, M.D.*

Dr. John C. Baldwin most recently served as the seventh president of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Prior to his appointment as president, Dr. Baldwin served as professor of surgery at Harvard University and president of the Immune Disease Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. He is a scientist, university administrator, and physician with substantial and diverse business experience in biotechnology and bioengineering, intellectual property, technology transfer, pharmaceutical and device company start-up, health insurance, banking, and nonprofit organizations. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, Dr. Baldwin had the opportunity to travel to the island where he was able to put his medical expertise to good use. He will share first hand accounts of the situation in Haiti and the relief efforts currently in effect.

For more information please contact: CIMA ([cima@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:cima@ttuhsc.edu)) or (806) 743-1524.

## Employee Performance Evaluations Due February 26, 2010

Completion of employee evaluations allows for two-way discussion between supervisors and employees on the employees' job performance and expectations. The process is also essential to establishing and maintaining an efficient, productive, and positive working environment.

All evaluations should be completed no later than February 26, 2010 and forwarded to the Human Resources (HR) office. Please send a signed original and copy for the file.

## Hispanic Participants Needed for Genetics of Bipolar Study

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Psychiatry Department needs Bipolar Type 1 or schizoaffective, Bipolar Type patients ages 11-90 to participate in a genetic study ending February 28. Participants will receive \$100-\$140 for taking part in this study. David Briones, M.D., is the principal investigator. For more information, please call Mor Regev, Pilar Provencio, or Mayra Morales at (915) 545-6830, ext. 228 or 270.

## We Want To Hear From You

The Texas Tech University Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Department of OB/GYN needs women 18 to 45 years old to participate in focus groups to discuss emergency contraception (the morning after pill). Participants will receive \$15 for taking part in this study. Claudia Suarez, M.D., is the principal investigator for this study. For more information, please call Loretta Hernandez at 545-6611, ext. 290 or Liz Ledger at 545-6611, ext. 225.

All evaluations should be completed no later than February 26, 2010 and forwarded to the Human Resources (HR) office. Please send a signed original and copy for the file.

Please note that in order to be eligible for a merit increase, employees must receive an evaluation for the current year and have it on file in the HR department.

The performance evaluation form and the Supervisor's Guide to Performance Management Development may be found in HSC OP 70.12 <http://www.ttuhs.edu/hsc.op/op70/op7012.pdf> and is also available on the Human Resources website under the forms link <http://www.ttuhs.edu.hr.forms.asx>.

The final Performance Management class is scheduled for Tues, Feb. 9 from 9 – 11 a.m., Room A3400, Medical Clinic Building.

If you have questions or need assistance, call the Human Resources Office at 545-6515.

You're invited to the



**El Paso Children's**  
HOSPITAL  
& Mother/Baby Tower



**Tree Topping Ceremony**

Join us as we hoist the last piece of structural steel to the top of the Children's Hospital.

**Saturday, Feb. 13th, 11 a.m.**