

# Connections

The Newsletter for the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health



## CPRIT Grant to Give Rural Women Increased Access to Breast Cancer Screenings

In May of 2010, researchers with the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health (LWBIWH) were awarded a \$1.67 million grant to launch the Access to Breast Care for West Texas (ABC4WT) project. The project aims to increase breast cancer screening rates and preventive care in the underserved populations of West Texas. ABC4WT will work to "close the gap" between screening, diagnosis and treatment by helping women navigate the health care system to access breast screening and diagnostic services.

The three-year grant includes a variety of initiatives to overcome the barriers faced by women in West Texas. Women living in this region often fail to receive the necessary mammography and other screening services due to barriers such as finances, geography and lack of child care or means to travel to screening locations. Additionally, Hispanic, rural and other medically underserved women in West Texas experience a higher incidence of advanced breast cancers.

While women with private insurance, Medicaid or the state's BCCS (breast and cervical cancer screening) program are covered, there's still a gap, said Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., executive director of the LWBIWH.

*Women living in West Texas often fail to receive the necessary mammography and other screening services due to barriers such as finances, geography, and lack of child care or means to travel to screening locations.*

goal is to expedite innovation and commercialization in cancer research and to enhance access to evidence-based prevention programs and services throughout the state.

### ABC4WT Investigators

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Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., Program Director  
Barbara Pence, Ph.D., Program Co-Director  
Betsy Jones, Ed.D., Lubbock Site Director  
Rakhshanda Rahman, M.D.,  
Amarillo Site Director  
Sharmila Dissanaikie, M.D., Program Faculty  
Yan Zhang, Ph.D., Program Faculty  
Leigh Johnson, Ph.D., Program Faculty

"This grant allows us to offer mammography to women in this population," Jenkins said. "If [the results are] abnormal, the grant will pay for the diagnostic work up."

The grant was sponsored by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). CPRIT was founded in 2007 when Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to form the institute and authorized the state to issue \$3 billion in bonds to fund ground-breaking cancer research and prevention programs and services in Texas. CPRIT's

*Excerpts courtesy of Sarah Nightingale and the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Events

Oct. 5

**Pink the Basin Breast Cancer Lunch, 11 a.m., MCM Grande Hotel, Midland, Texas.**

Oct. 9

**Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, Texas.**

Oct. 12-13

**LWBIWH National Advisory Board Meeting, Double Tree Hotel, El Paso, Texas.**

### Announcements

Majorie Jenkins, M.D., will be a featured speaker at the **Texas Conference on Women** on Nov. 20 in Houston, Texas.

Visit the LWBIWH website, Facebook and Twitter pages for more news and announcements:

- [twitter.com/lwbiwh](http://twitter.com/lwbiwh)
- [facebook.com/lwbiwh](http://facebook.com/lwbiwh)
- [www.ttuhscc.edu/lwbiwh](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/lwbiwh)

Please submit news for the website, social networking outlets and *Connections* newsletter to Catherine McGovern at [catherine.mcgovern@ttuhscc.edu](mailto:catherine.mcgovern@ttuhscc.edu).



The Jenna Welch Center staff greet Jenna Welch and Laura W. Bush.

*“I believe that lifelong good health begins with awareness by educating women who are too busy taking care of their children, taking care of their jobs and taking care of everyone else to take care of themselves.”*

— Former first lady Laura W. Bush



Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., Leslie Chupp, M.D., and John C. Jennings, M.D., greet Jenna Welch and Laura W. Bush.



Former first lady Laura W. Bush and her mother, Jenna Welch, tour the Jenna Welch Women’s Center at the Texas Tech Physicians building in Midland, Texas.

## The Permian Basin and the LWBIWH Welcome the Jenna Welch Center

On Aug. 10, former first lady Laura W. Bush and her mother Jenna Welch attended the official dedication of the Jenna Welch Women’s Center of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health.

The center provides patient care in the areas of women’s wellness, adolescent health, first trimester pregnancy loss, chronic pelvic pain and minimally invasive total hysterectomies. Several local areas of women’s health are targeted to provide health literacy, risk prevention and specialty care that will enhance and broaden medical training and services already in existence.

The center is overseen by Director Leslie Chupp, M.D., an associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Odessa.



At the dedication, Bush spoke enthusiastically about the partnership between the Jenna Welch Women’s Center and the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health.

“I believe that lifelong good health begins with awareness by educating women who are too busy taking care of their children, taking care of their jobs and taking care of everyone else to take care of themselves,” Bush said.

Bush also discussed the history of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health.

“It began as a community-wide effort to improve women’s health through research and education,” Bush said. “Since then, the institute has taken on some of the most pressing health problems we face as women, including early diagnosis of ovarian cancer, finding better drugs to treat breast cancer, and an issue that’s becoming more and more important to me — women and the aging process.”