Twelfth Annual Resident Research Day held

David Baldwin, Ph.D., assistant dean of research and the director of clinical research, welcomed residents, faculty, staff and guests to the Twelfth Annual Residents’ Research Day June 5. The program was held in the auditorium.

Thirteen presentations were given by residents from various departments within the School of Medicine. Each resident chooses his or her own topic of study. Some topics chosen are new studies, and others are continuous.

A panel of three judges evaluated each presentation based on the abstract, presentation, technique, originality, knowledgeability and results. The judges were Bruce C. Becker, M.D., chief medical officer at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Texas; Daniel Castracane, Ph.D., director of scientific affairs at Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Inc. in Webster, Texas; and Anthony L. Talbert, M.D., professor in the department of pediatrics at TTUHSC-Odessa.

The first place presentation was “The Impact of Family Practice Residency Training on Physicians Attitudes Toward Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide,” by Hormazd Sanjana, M.D., PGYII in the department of family and community medicine.

In second place, was a presentation entitled “The Uterine Transplant,” given by Edwin Ramirez, M.D., PGYII in the department of obstetrics and gynecology. (AEH)

WIC becomes environmentally savvy

After a vehicle was vandalized the WIC department decided it was time for a change. Three Toyota Pruis cars were purchased, solving more than one problem. The vehicles are powered by a gasoline engine and an electrical motor, saving money in the excessive travel done visiting clients and patients in rural areas.

They are great for the WIC program because they get up to 52 mpg on the highway and over 500 miles per tank. Incredibly, the vehicle doesn’t need to be plugged in to recharge, it’s charged by the gasoline engine.

“Since state vehicles have to use some type of alternative fuel, in addition to gasoline, we thought we’d try this instead of the usual propane. We feel like real pioneers in the environmental arena,” said Judy Harden, director. (AEH)

TTUHSC raises money for March of Dimes

Mary Jo Donahy, information system specialist, news and publications, walks with Donna Garza, the mother of Julie Hinojos, administration, at UTPB for the March of Dimes. The walk is a celebration for the volunteers for all of the time and efforts they contribute to raise funds and awareness for the organization.

A dozen employees and family members participated in the March of Dimes Walk America celebration April 26 at UTPB.

Money was raised by selling small paper shoes for one dollar each, a bake sale and a pizza sale.

The funds raised by the TTUHSC employees will be used to help fight prematurity. The campaign is a five-year, $75 million research, awareness and education campaign to help families have healthier babies.

The Texas Tech University system takes an active interest in the foundation through the chancellor, David R. Smith, M.D., who is the chairman of the March of Dimes Texas Prematurity Campaign. In the last year, March of Dimes awarded a $300,000 grant to TTUHSC and the Texas Department of Health for the research of infections that can cause preterm labor.

Fundraising efforts were coordinated by the members of the ServicePlus committee. (AEH)

Quality Service award winners announced

Amanda Neal, Audrey Land and Margaret De La O received Quality Service awards at an annual ceremony held April 15. President Elmo Cavin hosted the ceremony.

The Quality Service awards are given to employees on all campuses who “go the extra mile.” Recipients of the award are nominated by co-workers, customers or supervisors. A selection committee ranks each nominee by a point system and refers their recommendations to the Chancellor and President.

“Lubbock sends back a list of who won, and it’s kept a big secret,” said Julie Hinojos, coordinator of the event. Sara Campbell nominated Amanda Neal, an M.L.T. in the Family Practice Center Laboratory. Neal is credited with increasing the department’s efficiency and improving the quality of service to the patients.

“This recipient is an outstanding employee who extends the ServicePlus philosophy to all employees and patients,” said Campbell.

Audrey Land is a member of the administration and was nominated by Cindy Kager. Land has taken on many new responsibilities as her department has grown and changed. She goes the extra mile to ensure quality of service to all employees and visitors.

“Wherever there is a need, she volunteers to lend a hand,” said Kager. “She is a great asset to our campus.”

Amy Buchanan nominated Margareet De La O, of facilities. Buchanan calls her a gift to the HSC; she is always prepared to go the extra mile to do her job and to make sure that is done to the best of her ability.

“My nominee consistently exceeds my expectations,” said Buchanan. “[She] cares enough to remember the details.” (AEH)
United Blood Services has scheduled a Summer blood drive for the TTUHS-CON on Tuesday, July 22 in Room 3168. Not only will donors help those who need blood in the Permian Basin, but they will also receive a free t-shirt. If you would like to sign up to give please contact Catherine Page at 335-5119.

Letters from our troops

Hello All,

I wanted to write you and say thank you to you and the rest of the team that sent me the wonderful care package that meant so much to me. I was really appreciated out here. I shared with my shipmates that you are very much in my mind and I was able to show my appreciation to those who sent the package.

I think the biggest fight was the word search book. We wound up having to make copies of the searches just to have enough for everyone to share.

Thank you once again so much.

HM2 Colin Glynn,
a.k.a. Verna’s kid
U.S.S. Bonhomme-Richard

Dear Employees of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center,

Thank you so much for the care package that you sent. It was especially good to receive the stuff you sent. The pills were really helpful.

I hope I get the opportunity to come by and thank you personally. Again, thanks for everything!

A1C Rebecca Natividad
USAF
Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia
Lupe Valenzuela, chosen employee of second quarter

In April, Lupe Valenzuela, patient service specialist, was chosen as the employee of the quarter. Dr. Donald Loveman presented the award. “She is one of our most dedicated employees and is always cheerful and has a smile for everyone; patients and co-workers alike. Her attitude is one of ‘What can I do to help you?’” said Loveman.

Valenzuela was very instrumental in the development of Centralized Registration and is very active in the ongoing process to provide outstanding customer service to patients. Her duties also include handling complaints on the phone, and interacting with the patients. Her hobbies include spending time with her husband and her two dogs.

TTUHSC welcomes new faculty members

Internal Medicine welcomes Mohsen Sharifi, M.D., associate professor and director of interventional cardiology who comes to Odessa from Case Western Reserve University. He plans to introduce a new procedure to West Texas called percutaneous mitral valvuloplasty and ASD closures, which will bring uniqueness to the Odessa campus and allow patients to be referred from other medical facilities.

The School of Allied Health is pleased to announce a new addition to their faculty.

J.A.M.P. Shadow Day

High school students who qualify for the Joint Admissions Medical Program shadowed clinic physicians on June 27. The mission of J.A.M.P. is to support and encourage highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education. Texas Tech and the Texas Tech HSC are members of this statewide program.

S.A.R.T.

Les White, M.S.N., R.N., C.C.S., F.N.P., instructor of clinical nursing was recently appointed to the Sexual Assault Response Team (S.A.R.T.) in Big Spring. The SART is charged with developing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program for Big Spring and the four smaller surrounding counties. He has worked closely with Victim Services/Rape Crisis in the areas of grant writing and candidate selection.

PTUHSC to participate in American Heart Association Annual Heart Walk

Employees of the TTUHSC are encouraged to become heart healthy by participating in the Annual Heart Walk this Fall. “Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States,” said Dr. Donald Loveman, regional dean and chairman of the walk.

According to Loveman, individuals can practice healthy living by making lifestyle changes through proper diet and exercise. As a runner, he feels that people should be responsible for their own health and that those who are, live happier, heart healthy lives.

This year, the Annual Heart Walk will be held October 18, 2003 at UTPB. Kelly Cowart will be the coordinator for the Texas Tech team. For more information or to sign up, she can be reached at 335-5184.

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