

# PULSE



SUMMER 2010 | A PUBLICATION OF

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



**POWER OF ONE:**  
*our battle against cancer*



# PULSE

## on the cover



### THE POWER OF ONE: OUR BATTLE AGAINST CANCER

Michael Robertson, M.D., (SOM '82, Resident '85) learned what it was like to battle cancer first as a patient. Delivering a diagnosis today is a bit more palatable because of medical advancements being made at his alma mater.

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### STEPPIN' UP TO THE PLATE

TTUHSC's eighth president sees great opportunities ahead with his new team.

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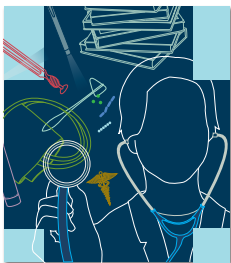
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The School of Medicine launches a first-of-its-kind curriculum that puts primary care physicians on a fast track to the work force.

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### EDUCATION FOR \$1,000

Game show buzz-in competitions provide alternative approach to learning for millennials and more.

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## ALUMNI

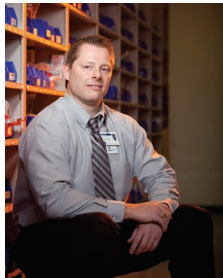
MELINDA LACKEY, M.S., J.D.  
GSBS '03  
Building a case for a new career



ALISON CHAPA, OTR  
SOAHS '96  
Big returns from investing in little ones



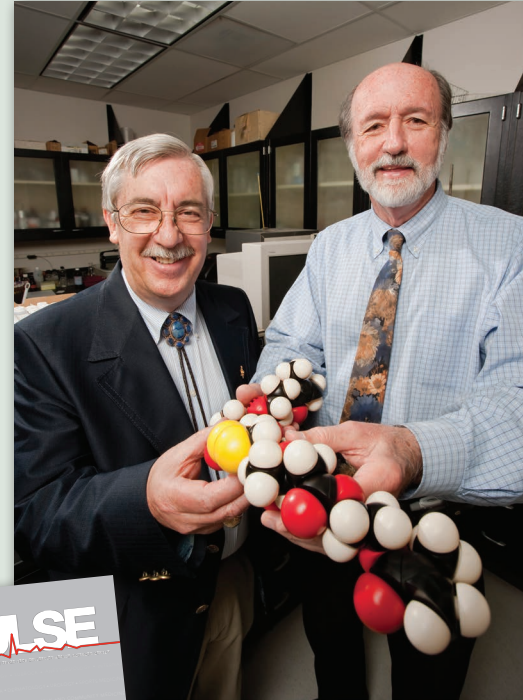
RICHARD CAUDILL,  
PHARM.D.  
SOP '00  
Writes prescriptions for patient safety



ERIC DARROW, M.D., PH.D.  
SOM '91, GSBS '89  
Administers a good dose of laughter



AZUCENA ORTEGA-MADANI  
R.N., B.S.N.  
SON '09  
Paving the way for future providers



Julian Spallholz, Ph.D., and Ted Reid, Ph.D.



### RESEARCHERS WORK GARNERS NIH GRANT

The work of **TED REID, PH.D.**, TTUHSC professor of ophthalmology and **JULIAN SPALLHOLZ, PH.D.**, TTU professor of nutrition and biochemistry, is once again making headlines.

*Pulse* reported in the Summer 2009 issue about a new line of orthodontic products sealed with a selenium-based compound developed by Reid and Spallholz.

Now, Selenium Ltd., the company licensed to market their work, has received a federal grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research that will provide almost \$1 million during the next two years. The funding will support development of additional microbial-resistant dental devices and water lines using the selenium-based compound that can reduce the patient's risk of contamination or infection during the dental visit.





HELLO FROM A NEW RED RAIDER

BY TTUHSC PRESIDENT TEDD L. MITCHELL, M.D.

Having grown up in the East Texas pines, it might seem unusual to some that I'd wind up in West Texas. I must admit a minor sense of trepidation about that famous West Texas dust. We've had a taste of it, but we've also had a taste of West Texas hospitality, which makes the occasional dust storm quite tolerable.

Since taking the reins just a few months ago as the eighth president of TTUHSC, I've had a chance to visit most of the campuses, and the rest are on the schedule. I've been amazed at the dedication of the folks I've met. Faculty, staff, students ... so many have an infectious enthusiasm!

As in any endeavor, success is based primarily on the quality and dedication of the people involved. On that count, Texas Tech is blessed. We've got folks at every level of the system who hold themselves to high standards. This is the foundation we need in order to propel TTUHSC onward and upward.

Our future lies not just in continuing to produce high caliber health practitioners and biomedical researchers, but also in expanding our research efforts and augmenting the impact of our clinical services. The fact that we cover nearly half the state's geography and only 12 percent of its citizens may seem daunting to some, but with challenges come opportunities. Indeed, some of our newer initiatives, such as the Family Medicine Accelerated Track, exemplify a true Texas "can do" attitude for addressing local, regional, state, national and even international needs in health care.

Directing the enthusiasm and energy of our faculty, staff and students toward a common purpose and advancing the impact TTUHSC has on society is our goal. By doing so we'll unleash a force for positive change as powerful as that of the West Texas wind.

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TEXAS PANHANDLE POISON CONTROL CENTER: SAVING LIVES, TIME, MONEY

Children are taught that there are vital pieces of information that they need to know in order to be safe: their home address, their telephone number and of course to dial 911 in case of an emergency. However, considering that in 2006 poison control centers reported 2 million cases of unintentional poisonings or poison exposures, perhaps the number to the local poison control center should be added to that list.

Jeanie Jaramillo, Pharm.D., (SOP '01), managing director of the Texas Panhandle Poison Control Center in Amarillo, said most people don't think about poison safety until an emergency strikes. However, managing a center that's open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, poison control and prevention are a constant thought for Jaramillo. The center became part of the School of Pharmacy at Amarillo in 2003. Shu Shum, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics in the, School of Medicine at Amarillo, is the center's medical director.

The staff answers about 25,000 calls annually from the 71 Texas Panhandle counties they serve. Sometimes a call to the poison center can make the difference between life and death.

Jaramillo recalled an incident where a child accidentally ingested Tessalon Perles, a cough suppressant. Within a few minutes, the child began to have seizures and subsequently went into cardiac arrest.

"Fortunately, due to rapid emergency response, this child survived ... by providing education, we hope that we can prevent such exposures," said Jaramillo, who also is an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy's Division of Pharmacy Practice Management.

Even the not-so-serious calls make a huge impact. Instead of a trip to the emergency room and incurring huge medical bills, calls to the poison center have saved almost \$4 million in hospital fees.

The amount of money saved each year can be attributed to more than the timely responses of the center's staff. The center also provides programs and assistance including:

- **Medication Cleanout**, removal of unused medication from residences;
- **H1N1 epidemic**, provided assistance to the Texas Department of State Health Services in response to the epidemic;
- **RADARS System**, Researched Abuse, Diversion, and Addiction-Related Surveillance, helps measure abuse and misuse of prescription drugs to develop effective intervention; and
- **Poison is Bad**, prevention/education campaign.



APPOINTMENTS

Three School of Nursing students were elected to the Texas Nursing Students' Association State Board of Directors: **BOBBY SCHNITTKER**, president; **LIZ TOMPKINS**, vice president, and **LINDSEY BANKHEAD**, editor. TNSA is dedicated to promoting professionalism and leadership. The group represents more than 3,000 student nurses from throughout Texas preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses.

**WRENNAH L. GABBERT, PH.D., R.N.**, associate professor, School of Nursing, was recently chosen to serve a three-year term on the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Continuing Education Review Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing continuing education applications from pediatric nurse practitioners and providing evaluation comments to the organization's national office.

**ALAN TYROCH, M.D.**, professor and chairman, Surgery, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, was elected governor-at-large of the American College of Surgeons. He will represent ACS Fellows in Texas for a three-year term. Governors are the official, direct communications link between the fellows of the college and the members of the ACS Board of Regents.

**CYNTHIA O'NEAL, PH.D., R.N.**, chair, Traditional Undergraduate Program, School of Nursing, recently was appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee. The 23-member committee is a forum to improve undergraduate education, reflecting the goals of Texas' higher education plan, Closing the Gaps by 2015.

**VINOD SETHIA, M.D.**, associate professor, pediatrics, School of Medicine at Amarillo, is representing the American Academy of Pediatrics Texas chapter at the Chapter Advocate Training on Oral Health, which prepares pediatricians to serve as Chapter Oral Health Advocates. He will serve for two years in establishing relationships with pediatric and general dentists, as well as various dental organizations to improve oral health among children in the community.





# Guess WHO

<<< This faculty member finds Disney the perfect prescription for an evening's entertainment. Can you Guess Who? see story on page 10

# JUST the facts...

**\$159k**

amount of support raised through the Power of the Purse luncheon held in February by the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health in Amarillo. Proceeds from the event were granted to the TTUHSC InfantRisk Center, established by Tom Hale, Ph.D., Department of Pediatrics. The national call center, which opened July 16, will provide information to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and health care providers regarding the use of medications. Learn more at [www.infantrisk.org](http://www.infantrisk.org) or call 806.352.2519.



**\$100,000**

in scholarship funding awarded to the School of Nursing from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through its New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program. The grant will provide 10 scholarships for students beginning the Second Degree Program this fall. Award preference is given to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds

**13**

second-year medical students created works of art under the guidance of seasoned professional artists age 65 or older as part of their curriculum on geriatrics. Their work was displayed at the Martin-McDonald Gallery at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts in Lubbock.

**130**

medical schools in the United States accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education participate in Match Day. Visit Pulse online for results from the TTUHSC School of Medicine.

**\$4.75 million**

amount of funding from Cancer Prevention and Research Institute received by TTUHSC for research and prevention. Funded projects include those from Min Kang, Pharm.D., Guillermo Altenburg, M.D., Ph.D., Patrick Reynolds, M.D., Ph.D., Marjorie Jenkins, M.D., Katherine B. Chauncey, Ph.D., R.D., and a joint project between Raul Martinez-Zaguilan, Ph.D., and Siva Vanapalli, Ph.D., (TTU).

**10**

years ago, the first class of students graduated from the School of Pharmacy.



## NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP REACHES FIRST-YEAR MILESTONE

It has been one year since the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing implemented the Nurse-Family Partnership, an innovative program that helps first-time mothers develop the skills they need to raise happy, healthy children.

In 2008, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission awarded the school \$854,835 to establish the program at the Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness Center in East Lubbock.

Since then, eight full-time nurse home visitors including **CYNTHIA HUNT, R.N., B.S.N., WHNP-BC, (SON '08)** have helped more than 20 rural families, including those in Lubbock and nine surrounding counties. Hunt begins counseling new moms on prenatal health during the first trimester of pregnancy. The relation-

ship continues for two years and involves emotional preparation for baby's arrival, education on the birth process, health and development education for mother and child, and life coaching.

"I am helping clients learn how to help themselves," Hunt said. "I tell a potential client I am here to help her have a healthy pregnancy, a healthy baby, and to be the best parent she can be ... not to come into her home and point fingers."

Danielle Goin began the Nurse-Family Partnership in December 2008, when she was 16 weeks pregnant, at the suggestion of her obstetrician. She said Hunt has helped her feel more comfortable about the decisions she makes for her daughter.

"Being a new mom is wonderful, exciting, overwhelming and down-right scary at times," Goin said. "Having help a phone call away is very important."

**LISA DILLARD, R.N., B.S.N.**, nurse supervisor, said the program has the potential to impact up to 400 families before the grant period ends in 2012. She said she hopes that by keeping the community involved the Lubbock program will be one of the most effective in Texas.





# Help for Haitians



4:53 p.m. Jan. 12, 2010  
The strongest earthquake in Haiti's history struck just 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince, a coastal city of 2 million people.

Within days, individuals and organizations began pouring into the country to offer aid. Among them: Marco Diaz, M.D., and Leonardo Loaiza, M.D., faculty members from the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. Here are a few excerpts from correspondence sent to family and colleagues while they were in Haiti.

*Jan. 19, 2010 - Dr. Diaz*

We have just completed the initial stage of this unbelievable experience. ... The damage is immediately evident, and we have not yet left the airport. The face of despair and disbelief is still fresh. We are hooked up w/ Father Rick Frchette working at St. Damien Hospital located next to what was the U.S. Embassy.

*Jan. 21, 2010 - Dr. Diaz*

Today finally brought the arrival of reinforcements. Late in the evening, we received two large groups of mostly non-surgical physicians. Up until now there were only three of us managing all nonsurgical, emergent and postoperative care continuously for four days. ... We managed to leave the hospital for a short tour of the city ... to the streets and homes of some of the youth who volunteer in the hospital. It was amazing to see the resilience of these kids as they laughed and jokingly bullied each other in what was left of their collapsed homes. It was as if there was no time to shed a tear. ...

*Jan. 21, 2010 - Dr. Loaiza*

It's very interesting to see how communications are managed here. What was supposed to be a United Nations medical center was in reality a building in a slum of Haiti that one New York journalist found without medical service. Anyway, I went with two orthopaedic surgeons and two translators. We saw several cases of over-infected wounds, in this case, not bad enough to amputate but certainly to have

medical care. I got the nickname by the Haitians of the "Pregnant Doctor" not because I'm fat, but because I got to see at least 10 pregnant ladies. All they wanted to know was that their babies were fine. After all these days of seeing sad cases, these patients brought a wonderful fact: life goes on!! ... A new group of doctors brought by some actors were here. Our patient with tetanus died after a very slow agony. Five minutes later the antitoxin arrived. Only one friend was with him. ... I will try to sleep.

*Jan. 23, 2010 - Dr. Diaz*

We now have somewhat of a surplus of physicians here in the hospital, and thus are now looking to deliver care outside. ... Up until now we had been limited to tending to the masses that somehow managed to make it out alive and to the hospital. No easy feat considering there is little if no transportation not to mention food or water. In some cases, families are having to hike through rubble for several miles with the wounded on a make shift stretcher (if lucky), otherwise simply dragging them. We had someone with a C2 spine fracture that somehow managed to make it here without paralysis. The area we visited today was devastated beyond all scope of the imagination. ... A group of teenage boys eagerly offered to take us through the devastation. (I get the sense they want us to see what they have been through so that we can forever remember what happened here and share it with others). ... Needless to say, these images and this experience will forever mark me.



Marco Diaz, M.D., and Leonardo Loaiza, M.D.



*Jan. 24, 2010 - Dr. Loaiza*

Today was a busy day. ... We took with us a tent that the Italian civil protection gave us ... to be used as shelter for some of the people affected. ... We are now starting to treat a community!! Several cases still coming to us without being seen by a doctor: Gangrenous foot (three patients), open depressed skull fracture ... In total we saw around 100 patients. ... We asked Gaston (a community leader), to get a count of the families in that community that are living in tents ... I was speechless when I saw a spreadsheet he did by hand ... There are 238 families with 10 to 12 members per family. I have to take a closer view to the list but roughly there are 79 that died and 138 injured. ... There are helicopters back and forth all day long, United Nations cars all over the city. We had a meeting with Father Rick today, who is the founder of this amazing organization. He plans to keep this clinic running for at least two months. How are they going to be staffed? Come on guys pitch in!!!

— reprinted with permission, from Tech View Feb. 11, 2010

## Help, Hope, Haiti

The Double T Health Services Corps, a group of students from TTUHSC and TTU, partnered with Convoy of Hope to provide about 300 personal hygiene kits for the victims in Haiti.

Each kit contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hand towel, antibacterial soap and shampoo. Double T members placed collection barrels on both campuses and then coordinated with Convoy of Hope for shipping.

Members of the Double T Health Services Corp engage in various projects that improve health and well-being, specifically those that benefit underserved communities and people across West Texas. The TTU Student Union recently named the group Student Organization of the Year.







**SCHOOLS NAME NEW REGIONAL DEANS FOR ABILENE** :: The School of Nursing welcomes **PEARL MERRITT, ED.D., M.S.N., R.N.**, as its new regional dean. The Abilene native comes to TTUHSC from Buckner Retirement Services Inc., in Dallas, where she served as president. Merritt has more than 30 years experience in the health care field — 22 specifically focusing on long-term care. She is credited with implementing new initiatives such as the Green House model and culture change. This new model defines a cutting-edge level of skilled nursing care for seniors and was the first model of its kind to be implemented in Texas. She also is affiliated with several state and national nursing organizations, including the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the American Nurses Association and the Society for Advancement for Gerontological Environment Committee.



**VIRGIL VAN DUSEN, R.PH., J.D.**, joins the School of Pharmacy at Abilene as regional dean and also will serve as professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Van Dusen comes to TTUHSC from the College of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy. He received his law degree from the University of Tulsa. During his career, Van Dusen has practiced extensively as a pharmacist and an attorney and has authored numerous articles dealing with management issues related to pharmacy practice. He has a special interest in legal concerns for pharmacy education and has presented research at state and national conferences and is frequently invited to speak to various pharmacy organizations.

**AWARDS**

**AHMED BADR, M.D.**, chair, anesthesiology, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, was among the 1,259 surgeons worldwide initiated as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Badr joined the Foster School of Medicine faculty in 2008. He is board certified in anesthesia and critical care medicine.

The El Paso Diabetes Association honored **ROBERT CHRISTENSON, M.D.**, as the 2010 Person of Vision. Christenson, clinical associate professor, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, has practiced medicine as a pediatric endocrinologist in El Paso for 16 years.

**MICHAEL HOOTEN, ED.D.**, regional dean, School of Allied Health Sciences at Amarillo, received a Senior Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives. Hooten was recognized for his significant contributions toward the organization's achievement of its goals and the advancement of health care management excellence.

The Texas Nursing Students Association presented the **ANITA THIGPEN PERRY SCHOOL OF NURSING** with its Image of Nursing award for the annual Stork's Nest Baby Shower and Community

Health award for Teen Straight Talk. The Image of Nursing award recognizes those who improve the perception of nursing through media and personal experience. The Community Health award is given to the school that presents the best school project that implements a community health project on the local, state or national level.

**RICHARD LAMPE, M.D.**, professor and chair, pediatrics, School of Medicine at Lubbock, has been awarded the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Uniformed Services 2010 Outstanding Service Award. This special award rotates among the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force annually to recognize a pediatrician, who is or has served in the Uniformed Services, for outstanding lifetime services to the military and pediatrics.

**PAUL LOCKMAN, PH.D.**, assistant professor, pharmaceutical sciences, School of Pharmacy at Amarillo, was a finalist for a 2009 Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He was recognized for his exemplary contributions toward closing the higher education gaps that challenge the state, as outlined in the THECB's Closing the Gaps Higher Education Plan.

**MULTIMEDIA**



JEFF HARBIN/LIFE OF RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

**NEW PUBLIC ART SCULPTURES ON AMARILLO CAMPUS**  
Vibrantly colored artistic brick pillars were added to the Amarillo campus in the spring. Ken Williams of Pueblo, Colo., submitted the winning entry in an art competition sponsored by the Texas Tech University Public Art Collection committee. Williams installed the sculptures in front of the School of Pharmacy Academic Center and the Amarillo Research Building. TTU System policy requires 1 percent of new construction budgets be dedicated to original artwork in or near the new structure. For other public artwork, go to <http://www.fpc.ttu.edu/index.cfm?zone=view.pubart>.

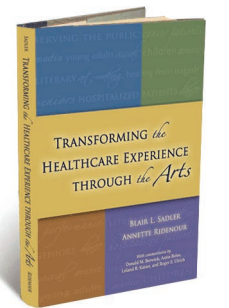
**NUTRITION FOR THE EYE: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR EYESIGHT**  
(Stanley Publishing, 2009)

**NEAL ADAMS, M.D.**, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology and associate professor at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, writes about 50 nutrients that protect the eye and vision. Adams has reviewed extensively the medical literature on nutrition and eyesight and believes that a good healthy diet may help prevent some forms of eye disease and possibly reduce the progression of existing eye disease. The net proceeds from the book go to support the Collaborative Vision Research Program of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Foster School of Medicine.



**TRANSFORMING THE HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE ARTS**

(Aesthetics Inc., 2009)  
This book features 36 examples of health care arts projects that provide practical steps for health care organization and artists. Included is the project "Boom: House Calls About Medicine and Graying America," an innovative arts project on the quality of health care experience for families and caregivers of residents at the Mildred and Shirley L. Garrison Education and Care Center. **JUDITH RENEE BUCHANAN, M.D.**, (SOM '08), produced the video as a third-year medical student. She now is a neurology resident at the University of Iowa.





## TTUHSC, MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL COLLABORATION IMPROVES OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH SEVERE SEPSIS

Results from a collaborative program between TTUHSC and Medical Center Hospital (MCH) in Odessa show positive results being made to enhance care and improve outcomes of patients with severe sepsis.

The Severe Sepsis Management Program at MCH was launched in September 2008 and focused on the care of patients with severe sepsis admitted to the hospital through the Emergency Department, which is the situation for about two-thirds of all severe sepsis patients, said Lavi Oud, M.D., associate professor and division chief of pulmonology and critical care medicine at TTUHSC at the Permian Basin. Oud implemented and is overseeing the program at MCH.

Preliminary results a year after implementing the program show:

- 95 percent increase in the number of patients discharged home (as opposed to a rehabilitation or other inpatient facility);
- The death rate decreased 35 percent; and
- The median hospital bill for those patients studied decreased by more than \$5,900.

Sepsis is the term used by physicians to describe the body's response to an infection; the condition can, if not treated, cause damage to body organs or even result in death. Severe sepsis

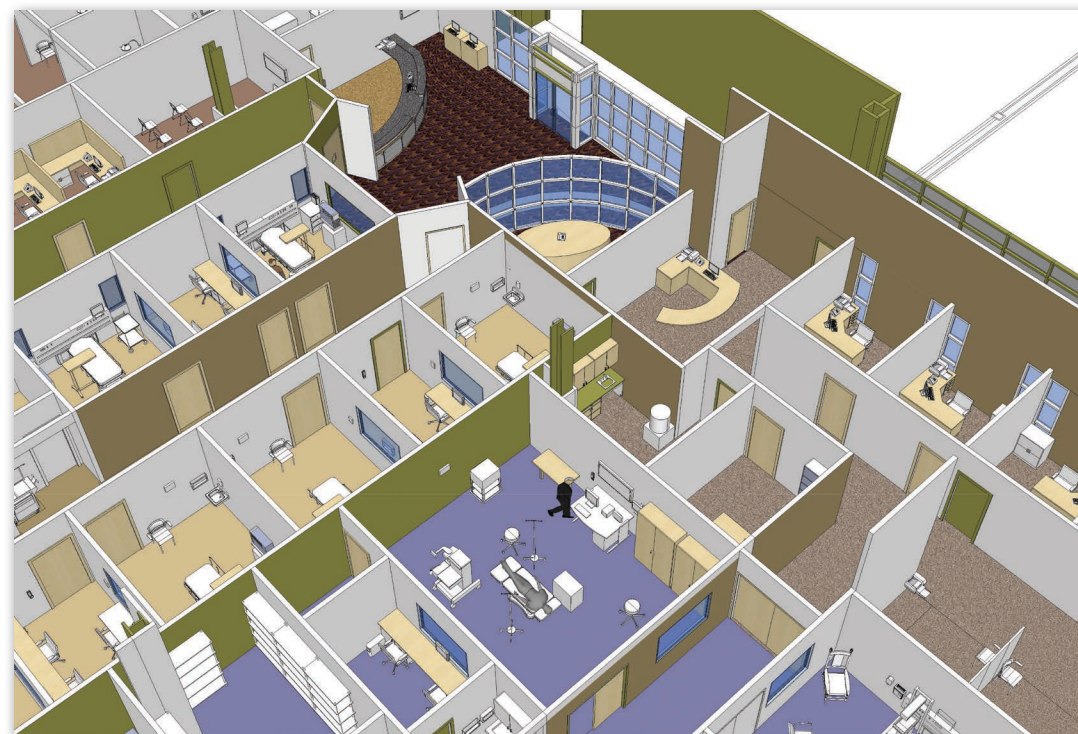
develops in more than 750,000 Americans each year, with an annual death toll of about 215,000, which is similar to that of heart attacks.

In order to improve a person's odds of recovering from severe sepsis, literally every moment counts, Oud said. "Recognizing that the patient has symptoms suggestive of severe sepsis and then implementing immediate effective interventions are key to improving the patient's chances of survival."

The program at MCH takes widely accepted measures for treating severe sepsis and implements them as strict protocol, Oud said. Clinicians in the hospital's Emergency Department were trained to enhance their skills for early identification of patients with severe sepsis and improve capacity for effective time-sensitive therapy. Also, changes were made to reduce treatment barriers. For example, he explained, the Emergency Department started stocking antibiotics used for severe sepsis and premixed medication drips used to counter shock to reduce turnaround time from the doctor's order to drug administration.

"It sounds ridiculously simple, but it saves lives," he said.

The Severe Sepsis Management Program will eventually be expanded to other departments in the hospital, Oud said.



The F. Marie Hall SimLife Center at Lubbock is scheduled to open in September.

This 25,000 square-foot unique learning environment allows students, residents and health care providers to engage in activities that build collaborative teamwork and effective communication skills. The multiple health care settings within the center include an operating suite, a birthing center, patient hospital rooms and a clinic setting.

The goal of the center is to provide a risk-free environment where individuals can gain the competencies required to provide safe, quality patient care.

If you would like to contribute to the SimLife Center, please visit [www.give2tech.com](http://www.give2tech.com) or contact Kendra Burris at 806.743.2786.



## Guess WHO?



## CURRICULUM, CAREER AND CHARISMA CONVINCED ANDERSON OF MOVE

By Mark Hendricks

For Glenn Anderson, Pharm.D., teaching future pharmacists is not a Mickey Mouse undertaking. He developed the School of Pharmacy's first residency program in 1997, and five years later he became the school's first junior faculty member to be promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.

His time away from the School of Pharmacy, however, is not always so serious.

Anderson, who is a founding faculty member of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and director of the school's Drug Information Center, is an avid collector of Walt Disney movies, especially those featuring the world's most lovable rodent.

"When I buy Disney movies I tell my wife they're for our kids," he said, chuckling, "but they're really for me. I've always liked Disney movies, and I think I have all of the Mickey Mouse movies except for two."

Anderson earned his bachelor's and doctorate degrees from Ohio State University, and he also completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in drug information while a Buckeye. In fact, he was wrapping up his

fellowship when he learned about an opening in drug information at TTUHSC.

"Three factors fueled my interest in joining the School of Pharmacy faculty at TTUHSC: the pedagogy upon which the school's curriculum was built was so different from that I trained under; there was a position being offered that I felt was the best fit for my personal career aspirations; and Dr. Cynthia Raehl (professor of pharmacy practice at Amarillo) was one of the most charismatic sales persons I have ever had the pleasure of meeting."

However, he says, a weather anomaly almost nixed the deal.

"I came to Amarillo in February; there were no clouds in the sky and it was 83 degrees. I sold my wife on coming to Amarillo based on how nice and constant the weather was during my visit. Of course, Dr. (Arthur) Nelson (School of Pharmacy dean) failed to tell me it was minus 5 and snowing the day after I left. I'm just glad my wife is understanding and patient."

There are surely times when Mickey Mouse feels the same way about Minnie.



## Thank you

Your gifts are essential in fulfilling the mission of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Gifts reported were given between December 2009 and June 2010.

### ABELL-HANGAR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Abell-Hangar Foundation has provided scholarship funds for School of Nursing and School of Medicine students at the Permian Basin.

### AMBROSE MONELL FOUNDATION PILOT PROJECT

The Ambrose Monell Foundation has awarded the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health funds to support a pilot project regarding medical reimbursement expenses.

### MYRNA L. ARMSTRONG/ ELIZABETH (HANSLIK) MONTALVO SCHOOL OF NURSING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Myrna Armstrong established the Myrna L. Armstrong/ Elizabeth (Hanslik) Montalvo School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship, which will award scholarships to RN to BSN students in the counties surrounding Marble Falls. The Adolf R. Hanslik Estate is providing matching scholarship funds.

### BALLARD FAMILY TRUST RESEARCH ENDOWMENT

The Ballard Family Trust created an endowment to assist research dealing with the fungi known to be associated with sick building syndrome.

### JAMES A. "BUDDY" DAVIDSON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GIFTS FOR PHARMACY, NURSING, CLINICAL SIMULATION

A gift from the James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation will be used to establish an endowed professorship in pediatric pharmacology in the School of Pharmacy's Pediatric Pharmacology Research and Development Center in Dallas. Additionally, the foundation provided funding to increase its School of Nursing scholarship endowment at the Permian Basin and awarded a grant to help address the need for clinical simulation equipment in the F. Marie Hall SimLife Center in Lubbock.

### GARRISON FAMILY FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR CLINICAL SIMULATION

The Garrison Family Foundation has provided gifts to assist in the purchase of clinical simulation equipment needed for the F. Marie SimLife Center, which is scheduled to open in September.

### MARIE HALL GIFTS BENEFIT NURSING STUDENTS, RURAL HEALTH

A donation from Ms. Marie Hall will provide the School of Nursing with funds to begin new research projects within the school and expand the vision of the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health.

### GEORGE AND MARY JOSEPHINE HAMMAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation is providing scholarships for School of Nursing students from the Houston area.

### TED LAWSON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Ted Lawson School of Medicine Endowed Scholarship was established by Von Dean Lawson to provide scholarships for School of Medicine students at the Permian Basin.

### BILLY K. AND RUBY POWER ENDOWED CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Billy K. and Ruby Power have provided additional funding to an endowment they previously established to fund cancer research at TTUHSC.

### JOHN KENNETH AND LAVITA REED PA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Lavita Reed has funded the John Kenneth and Lavita Reed PA Endowed Scholarship to benefit TTUHSC physician assistant students at the Permian Basin.

### RWJF NEW CAREERS IN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The School of Nursing has received, for the third year in a row, scholarship funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.

### WOLSLAGER FOUNDATION GRANT

The Wolslager Foundation awarded grants to the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine for the University Breast Cancer Center and the El Paso Community Partnership Clinics.

# Discoveries

RESEARCH  
& SCHOLARLY  
ACTIVITY

KIDNEY DISEASE AMONG HISPANICS 14  
INVESTIGATIONS 15  
AWARDS 14  
ACCOLADES 15





## NEPHROLOGIST FOCUSES STUDY ON CONNECTION BETWEEN KIDNEY DISEASE, METAL EXPOSURE

German Hernandez, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, is the principal investigator of a unique study on kidney disease with a focus on the Hispanic population. More specifically, he is examining the association between kidney disease and metal exposure.

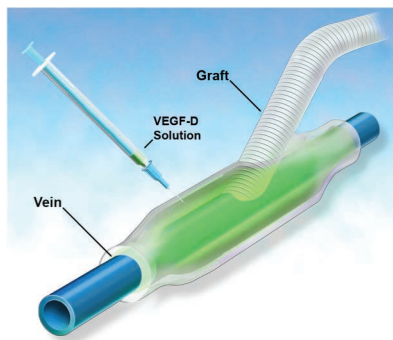
“The Hispanic population has a larger burden of kidney disease compared to the non-Hispanic white population,” said Hernandez, who has received the Clinical Science Research Award from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases’ Network of Minority Research Investigators. “Hispanic people also have two- to three-times higher exposure rates to heavy metals such as lead and cadmium.”

The study has enrolled almost 250 people, and Hernandez is seeking additional funding to continue the study during an extended period of time in order to determine why kidney disease intensifies for people living in the U.S.-Mexico border region compared to people living in other areas. He also wants answers to questions like: Do lower levels of metal exposure result in a slower progression of kidney disease? If so, “maybe we can do something about it,” Hernandez said, “like decrease lead in the body and decrease lead in the environment.”



## AWARDS

The Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation has awarded its Young Investigator Scholarship to **DEBJANI TRIPATHY, PH.D.**, a post-doctorate research associate at the Garrison Institute on Aging. **SID O’BRYANT, PH.D.**, assistant professor in the School of Medicine Department of Neurology at Lubbock, has received a grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. His study will examine depression among adults aged 40 and older and living in rural areas of West Texas, measuring gender and ethnicity as factors in depression levels. He will look at how the use of antidepressants varies according to gender, ethnicity and availability of health insurance. O’Bryant also serves as director of rural health research at the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health and is the principal investigator of Project FRONTIER, an ongoing epidemiological study of rural health.



## NATIONAL STUDY TARGETS BLOCKED VEINS

Dixon Santana, M.D., assistant clinical professor in the School of Medicine Department of Surgery, is leading a national study to test a new experimental gene therapy called Trinam®. The gene therapy is applied locally by putting it inside a biodegradable collagen

collar. This collar sits around the graft, or bridge between a patient’s vein, and the dialysis machine. Trinam® has the potential to prevent blockages in the vein and may reduce the number of surgeries patients with kidney failure need to create new dialysis access points. A small number of patients are enrolled in the study, which is being conducted at 18 sites throughout the United States. Trinam® has yet to be approved by the FDA.



## CANCER IMMUNITY

Could asthma protect you from ovarian cancer? Possibly so, according to results from a recent study by researchers in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

By analyzing a large statewide hospital database, the team found that women with asthma were 30 percent less likely to have ovarian

cancer than those who did not have the respiratory condition. Their study was published in the *Archives of Environmental & Occupational Health* earlier this year.

“While our results are similar to those of a previous Swedish study, more epidemiologic studies are needed,” said Z.D. Mulla, Ph.D., associate professor and senior author of the article. “Prospective studies would be able to identify those patients with allergic asthma from those with non-allergic asthma and also examine the various types of ovarian cancer.” Therese H. Tran, D.O., (Foster SOM Resident ’09) and Wafic ElMasri, M.D., a former faculty member, also were involved in the research.

Thirty-somethings taking selective serotonin receptive inhibitors, known as SSRIs, may be at a greater risk for early bone loss that could lead to osteoporosis.

Preliminary results from a study by Charles F. Seifert, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS, professor of pharmacy practice and regional dean for the School of Pharmacy at Lubbock, and Michalea Daggett, Pharm.D., pharmacy resident and assistant clinical instructor, have shown bone loss in individuals as young as 30 who are taking antidepressants such as Lexapro, Celexa, Prozac, Zoloft and Luvox. About 10 percent of the patients in the study have been diagnosed with osteopenia, a less-severe form of bone loss, but often a precursor to osteoporosis. Those at risk can take precautions such as increasing calcium intake.

Seifert and Daggett conducted previous research and found SSRIs to have no affect on bone loss in younger adults, age 20 to 25. However, data did indicate a relationship between bone loss and length of time on the prescription drugs. Research has also clearly shown a link between bone loss and such medications in those 50 and older.



## SSRIs MAY INCREASE BONE LOSS

## ACCOLADES

**KENDRA RUMBAUGH, PH.D.**, (GSBS ’08) assistant professor, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine at Lubbock, has teamed with Stuart West, Ph.D., a prominent Oxford University evolutionary biologist, and Steve Diggle, Ph.D., a microbiologist from Nottingham University, to test whether “bacterial cheaters” could be used to treat bacterial infections. Their successful work was published in the Feb. 24 issue of *Current Biology*. The paper also has been featured in *Science* magazine and discussed on several Web sites including *Wired.com*. The group is continuing to pursue this strategy as an alternative treatment and has filed a provisional patent on the technology. A semen collection device developed by researchers at TTUHSC and TTU will soon be available for use in livestock reproduction. Reproductive Solutions Inc. (RSI), a Lubbock-based firm plans to manufacture the proprietary containers designed to improve the collection and transportation of livestock semen. **SAM PRIEN, PH.D.**, a professor jointly appointed in the TTUHSC School of Medicine’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and in the TTU Department of Animal and Food Sciences, began work in 2000 with **DUSTIE JOHNSON, PH.D.**, then a graduate student at TTU, to improve semen collection and keep more of the sperm viable. In 2005, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent for their device. Officials estimate the semen device may more than double the success rate of conception by artificial insemination in livestock, a \$27 billion industry. A similar device, developed by the same team, is in its first phase of clinical testing for the treatment of infertility in humans.



## TTUHSC's eighth president sees great opportunities ahead with his new team

Using a sports analogy, which seemed befitting for one who advocates physical activity as a key to good health, Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., told faculty, staff and students in meeting his new academic family that he's excited to be a part of the team.

"I feel like the guy in a softball game who just got picked for one of the best teams in the league."

Mitchell began official duties May 17 as TTUHSC's eighth president. He commends the institution's founders, saying they made the right call to focus initial efforts on training health care providers for this region. And likewise, in recent years, administration has made the right transition by channeling efforts toward research.

"In West Texas there is this microcosm of health representative of the entire country. The populations are faced with aging, heart disease, diabetes and obesity," Mitchell said, noting that the university serves an area that has almost half of the state's geography and 12 percent of its population.

"With challenges like that come great opportunities."

Research, Mitchell says, will be the catalyst that moves TTUHSC to the national and international levels. Future efforts need to focus on the recruitment of scientists to do translational research, which will become novel ideas applicable in the clinic. So that TTUHSC becomes an organization of researchers and health care professionals, "not replacing, but complementing one another," he said, which will positively impact the mission of improving outcomes for patients.

In essence, creating the perfect team.

"The good news is that we have a unique opportunity to make an impact in health care," said Mitchell, an internal medicine specialist. "My goal is for the HSC to operate as a single institution. The synergy we will get from operating as a cohesive system is just tremendous."

Mitchell traces his success to pivotal points throughout his career. He developed a desire to practice medicine from his father, who also is a physician, and from his mother, a teacher. As a medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, his plan was to specialize in pulmonary critical care. And then, based on his interest in preventive health, a professor introduced him to Kenneth Cooper, M.D., and the Cooper Clinic. There, Mitchell says, he became intrigued with the idea of diagnosing and treating diseases by changing health behaviors.

Through his practice, as a motivational speaker, and as a health editor for *USA Weekend* magazine, Mitchell educates and encourages healthy lifestyle choices.

"It's about more than eating tofu and running marathons," he explained. "If you look at the leading causes of death – heart disease, cancer, stroke, emphysema – one of the root causes is behavior choices whether it be tobacco use, poor diet, lack of exercise."



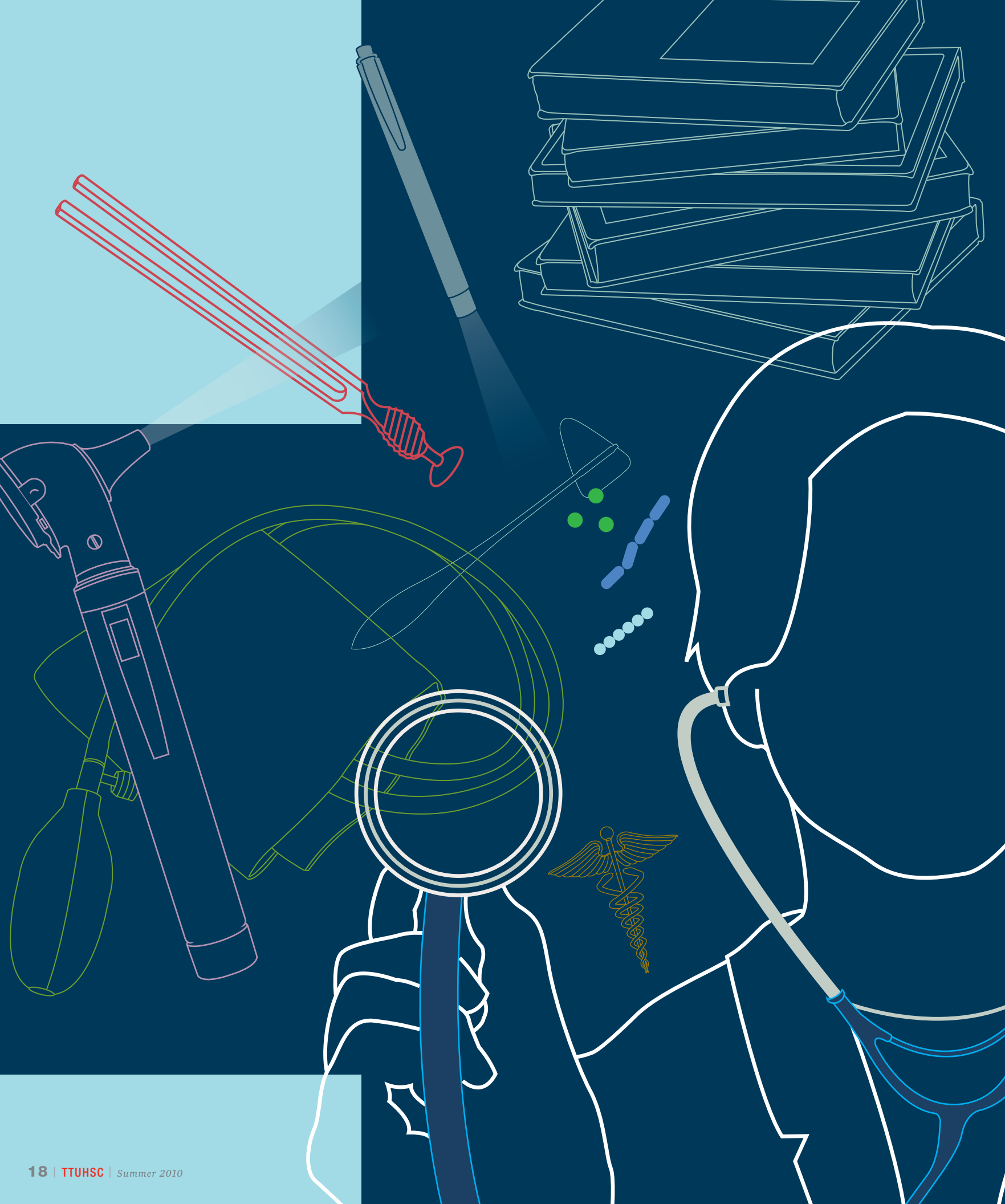
NEAL HINKLE

### TEDD L. MITCHELL, M.D.

- TTUHSC's eighth president
- Previously served as president and CEO at the Cooper Clinic in Dallas, an internationally recognized center of excellence for preventive medicine
- Health editor and columnist for *USA Weekend* magazine, a publication included as a supplement in 600 newspapers nationwide, reaching about 49 million readers weekly
- Motivational speaker
- Enjoys music by George Strait, The Beatles and Elvis
- Served on the President's Council on Physical Fitness
- Author of two books, *Move Yourself* and *Fit to Lead*

Steppin'  
up to the plate





# FAMILY MATTERS

The School of Medicine has launched a first-of-its-kind curriculum that will put primary care physicians on a fast track into the work force.

By Danette Baker | Illustration by Christopher Brothers

This Wednesday was shaping up like many others for Mark McClanahan, D.O. He began with hospital rounds and then traveled across town to see patients at the West Texas Family Medicine Clinic. Before day's end, McClanahan had performed a C-section and a routine colonoscopy, in addition to seeing about 40 patients.

"It's been crazy busy since October," said McClanahan, who established the clinic about a year ago in his hometown of Plainview. He had a private practice for 12 years in Muleshoe and seven in Brownfield, before moving to Plainview to expand. Three TTUHSC School of Medicine alumni joined his staff last July, and eventually so will McClanahan's two sons – after they complete medical school and residency training. Yet, they are a rare breed.

According to the Journal of American Medical Association, only 2 percent of current medical students plan a career in primary care. That coupled with an aging population and health care reform could create a nationwide deficit in the next 15 years of about 38,000 family medicine physicians.

The School of Medicine has taken an innovative approach to address this issue. In March, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved the school's new Family Medicine Accelerated Track, or FMAT, which will allow select medical students to complete their medical degree in three years and at half the cost of the standard four-year program.

The FMAT is unique in that students prepare during the summer for a concentrated clinical experience in family medicine that is carried out through their second year. The new





course provides students with a foundation regarding diseases and illnesses commonly seen in the clinic, said Simon Williams, Ph.D., associate dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Medicine. “My hope is that this will provide a precedent for other clerkships to begin thinking about the art of their craft.”

Texas continues to lose medical students to out-of-state-residencies because there are not enough subspecialty spots, yet family medicine residency positions are going unfilled. Because of the payment scheme determined by Medicare, subspecialists such as orthopedists and plastic surgeons receive better pay than those in family medicine.

Medical students aren't missing that point, said Mike Ragain, M.D., (SOM Resident '95) Braddock Chair of the TTUHSC Department of Family and Community Medicine. The average debt for medical students is about \$160,000.

“We've been looking at this shortage issue from a public policy standpoint for quite some time,” said Ragain, who also chairs the Texas Medical Association's Council on Medical Education. “Everyone has piece of the puzzle in solving this crisis. Curricular innovation is the piece that is in our hands.”

The School of Medicine began looking at curriculum models about three years ago and developed a first-of-its-kind for family medicine that satisfied LCME and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requirements, said Dean Steven Berk, M.D. Medical schools in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Ohio and Nebraska had accelerated programs in the 1990s, but these did not receive permanent ACGME accreditation.

“WE WANT TO BE KNOWN AS AN INNOVATIVE LEADER IN FAMILY MEDICINE, AND THIS PROGRAM REALLY PUTS US STRONGLY ON THE MAP.”

FMAT meets those requirements and addresses the financial issues for medical students and state budgets, says Ragain. “We're giving students selected for the program a complete one-year scholarship to medical school, and we've cut one year off the curriculum – so cost for them will essentially be about half of the traditional program.”

Upon completion of medical school, the students will then transition into family medicine residencies, with guaranteed positions at TTHUSC campuses in Amarillo, Lubbock and at the Permian Basin, Williams said. They are eligible for residencies elsewhere, and “if they chose those, I don't see that as a failure to the system,” he explained. “Certainly we would encourage them to choose a family residency position first at TTUHSC and if not here then somewhere in Texas, which would still be pretty good use of state monies. If they do choose to go to other states, it's still helping with the impending crises.”

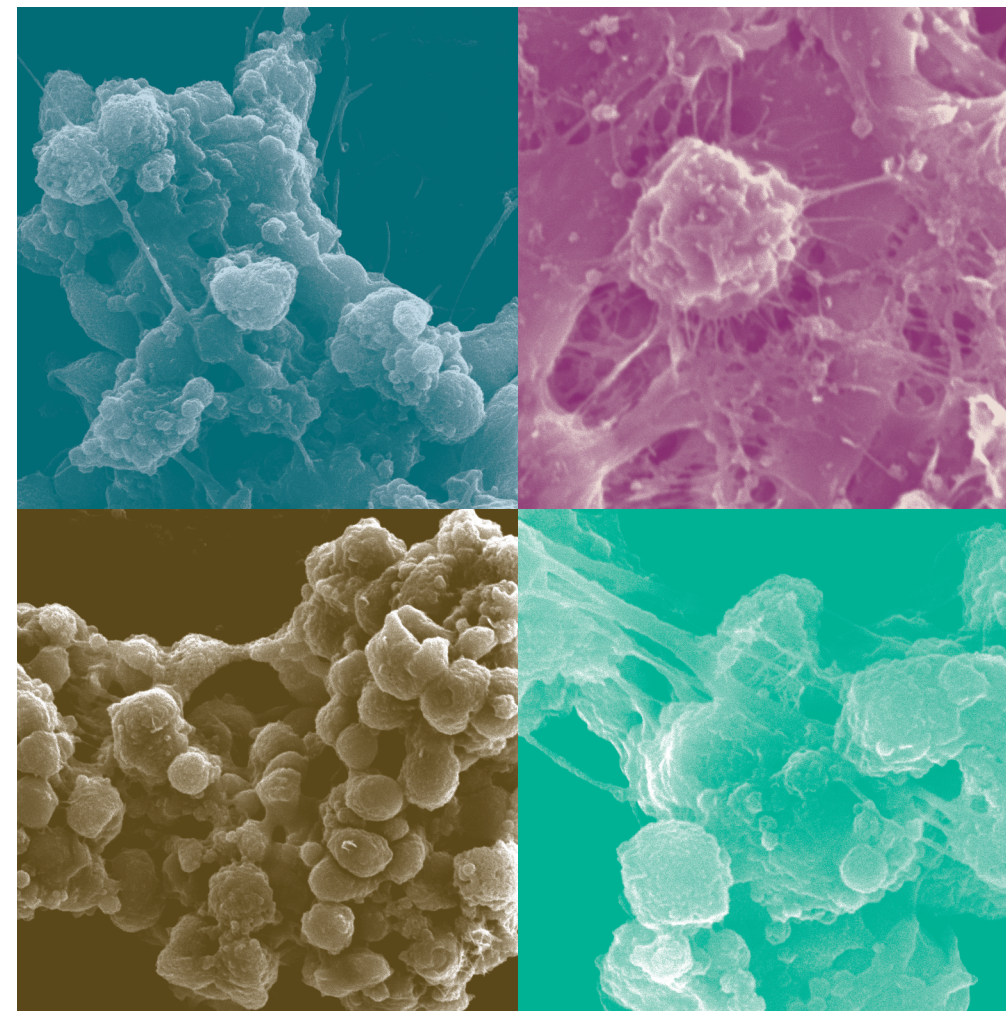
Cindy George, M.D., (SOM '10) was ready for a family medicine residency by the end of her third year in medical school. She said having the down time afforded by the fourth year was nice, but she would have preferred to skip it and gone straight to her residency.

“Academic wise, everything came screeching to a halt at the end of my third year because I had decided my next steps, so I wouldn't have missed anything really in a program that didn't have that fourth year.”

The FMAT won't work for all students, and it's certainly not going to solve the shortage overnight, says Williams, but for qualified, committed students it's a viable option to help them reduce debt and accelerate the transition to the work force.

And it fulfills a school goal, says Ragain. “We want to be known as an innovative leader in family medicine, and this program really puts us strongly on the map.”

## The power of one: our battle against cancer



One healthy cell that, instead of dividing systematically as nature intended, begins an uncontrolled division erupting into a massive growth. Most of the time, the body self-corrects and life goes on without complications. But sometimes, things go awry. The result? Cancer.

At TTUHSC a host of health care professionals seek answers to the prevention and treatment of such maladies. Basic scientists look for ways to thwart mutations, and develop vaccines to halt the disease's spread. Physicians, pharmacologists and nurses test new drugs in the laboratory and in clinical trials, and dieticians provide knowledge as to the role of nutrition in prevention, symptom management and recovery from cancer. Each health care provider has an integral role in this fight against cancer, but they share one common goal: to beat cancer.





## One story

Almost 30 years ago, Michael Robertson, M.D., (SOM '82, Resident '85), had his own battle to fight. At 26, Robertson had just begun an internal medicine residency at TTUHSC when he was diagnosed with chronic myelocytic leukemia, an almost-always fatal cancer involving the white blood cells. "I just remember thinking, 'Oh my God, I have leukemia,'" Robertson recalls. "All I knew about CML was that it has a fairly indolent course ... you can treat it with drugs to control the white blood cell count, but after about 36 months it transformed into what they call blast crisis, and you just died."

At the time, treatment options locally were sparse. The medical school itself was still in its infancy, although there were many subspecialties represented, including hematology and oncology. There were no cancer centers, and for many, acquiring treatment was as complex as the disease itself. In the early '80s, places like M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston were very protective of their procedures and their results, Robertson said. His only hope was a clinical trial for interferon being conducted at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, which he learned about through colleagues. Robertson was among the first dozen patients in the United States to undergo the therapy, and one of the few that survived.

He beat the odds; yet Robertson, a general practitioner in internal medicine and a partner in the Southwest Diagnostic Clinic in Lubbock, still finds it difficult to give a patient the diagnosis. "Sometimes they hear not a thing you say except that word. Cancer."

Medical advancements make delivering such news a little more palatable, he says. The vast majority of those diagnosed today with cancer can receive state-of-the-art medical care without having to leave Lubbock because of places like the Southwest Cancer Treatment and Research Center at University Medical Center, where oncology specialists work with researchers to develop novel therapies. Additionally, protocols are shared more freely between cancer centers located across the state and nation, and there is more in-depth knowledge of the disease's immunology and biology.

"There's hope that someday you can take a little piece of a tumor and submit it to the lab, and they can do genetic testing and sequencing and develop targeted treatments to kill it. That's when we'll have something. We're not there yet, but we're a lot closer than we were in 1982."



## Multidisciplinary cancer clinics

A multidisciplinary team — Internal Medicine Department Chair Cynthia Jumper, M.D., M.P.H., (SOM '88, Resident '91) and Raed Alalawi, M.D., assistant professor, Internal Medicine; Ari Halldorsson, M.D., and Everarado Cobos, M.D., — provides comprehensive care at the region's only lung clinic. The team meets patients weekly at the Southwest Cancer Treatment and Research Center at University Medical Center in Lubbock. TTUHSC experts offer this multidisciplinary approach to treatment of several cancers including prostate, breast and gastrointestinal. Patients benefit from a team of specialists that work together to provide optimum health care as well as learn how they can participate in novel treatments through research trial.



"Sometimes they hear not a thing you say except that word. Cancer."

## Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans

Registered dietitian and cancer survivor Kathy Chauncey, Ph.D., leads a team of experts who provide evidence-based nutritional information to cancer patients, their caregivers and family members as well as to health care professionals regarding how nutrition can impact the quality of recovery during the cancer experience. Billy U. Phillips Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., vice president and director of the F. Marie Hall Institute For Rural and Community Health, started the network, which produces a monthly newsletter, Web site and patient-education materials addressing topics that were identified by focus groups throughout Texas.



## One team

Advancements have come along in all of the communities served by TTUHSC, said Everarado Cobos, M.D., associate dean and division chief for oncology/hematology in the School of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine at Lubbock. Cobos was at TTUHSC at the onset of its cancer initiative. Among his first patients was a woman he diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She waitressed at a local Mexican food restaurant and had to travel to Houston for treatments. Now, patients with most types of cancer no longer have to leave the communities TTUHSC serves.

"It's gratifying to have Texas Tech now be the referral in this part of Texas for cancer," said Cobos, who also is an oncology professor.

From the early '90s until the turn of the century, TTUHSC focused on recruiting clinical cancer specialists, spending the greater part of the decade on assembling a clinical team to treat a spectrum of cancers. Building alongside were facilities such as the Southwest Cancer Treatment and Research Center in Lubbock, a collaboration between TTUHSC and University Medical Center, where TTUHSC experts take a multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer. The center supports state-of-the-art treatments such as bone marrow transplants as well as research studies such as the NIH-sponsored national Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, a clinical trial

## WISE Woman Program

In addition to the financial support provided to researchers, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health in Amarillo has joined several local organizations in the WISE Woman program to increase early diagnoses of breast cancer, through education, awareness and access to screening services. There are a disproportionate number of women in the lower socioeconomic areas of the community who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Although the program is directed toward medically underserved women who live in low-income housing areas, all women are encouraged to participate.



**School of Medicine Cancer Center**  
 Researchers *C. Patrick Reynolds, M.D., Ph.D., Barry Maurer, M.D., Ph.D., and Min Kang, Pharm.D.* in the School of Medicine Cancer Center ([www.Cancer.TTUHSC.edu](http://www.Cancer.TTUHSC.edu)) focus on developing new drugs that target difficult-to-treat cancers in adults and children. They are known for their collaborative research work with other researchers through the Children's Oncology Group, the South Plains Oncology Consortium ([www.SPONC.org](http://www.SPONC.org)), and the new Texas Cancer Clinical Trials network ([www.TexasCancer.net](http://www.TexasCancer.net)). These organizations bring together investigators from across the region, state and nation to conduct clinical trials designed to expedite novel medications to cancer patients.



**Where there's hope**  
*Harry Weitlauf, M.D., professor and chair of the School of Medicine Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry,* was among Lubbock's medical and community leaders who worked with the American Cancer Society to select Lubbock for the first Hope Lodge in Texas. The facility, which opened in July near TTUHSC, will provide lodging for adults who travel to Lubbock for cancer treatment. Weitlauf said the facility also has helped the school recruit top cancer researchers, who in turn are conducting clinical trials, giving new hope to those with cancer.



that identified new preventative treatments for preventing invasive breast cancer. In Amarillo and El Paso, TTUHSC developed collaborations with the Harrington Cancer Center and established the University Breast Cancer Center, respectively. The UBCC, focuses on comprehensive breast health for medically indigent women and treats more than one third of all breast cancer patients in the region. With the addition of several physician scientists at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, a cadre for breast cancer research is developing.

The School of Pharmacy was a huge asset to TTUHSC when they came on board because the school administration recruited doctorate-level scientists, many of whom had NIH funding in drug developments for cancer, which in turn has led to a number of collaborations, Cobos said.

The most recent addition of the basic research group headed up by Patrick Reynolds, M.D., Ph.D., has enhanced TTUHSC's ability to make novel therapies developed in the laboratory more readily available to the patient, Cobos said. A classic example is the group's collaboration on the National Cancer Institute-funded phase I clinical trial for new oral formula of the anticancer drug fenretinide, which proved successful increasing dosages in children for greater effectiveness.

In the last decade, TTUHSC has intensified this focus of linking the expertise of basic scientists with the clinical physicians and building networks within TTUHSC as well as across the state and nation to build an army of health care professionals ready to battle cancer on all fronts.



### Genetic Risk Assessment

Knowing your genetic risks can provide great arsenal against certain cancers. In El Paso, the high incidence of breast and ovarian cancer in young patients prompted *Salvador Saldivar, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine,* and colleagues in gynecological oncology *Antonio Santillan, M.D., Harvey Greenberg, M.D., and Kayla Castaneda, APN,* to begin a genetic cancer risk assessment program this spring.



*Salvador Saldivar, M.D., M.P.H.*



*"With all the stress of dealing with cancer, it was such a relief to know that I didn't have to travel for treatment."*

### One purpose

For Sherry Sancibrian, M.S., CCC-SLP, (SOAHS '78) having that expertise in her own community gave her the support she needed to fight breast cancer. Sancibrian had no warning signs and no family history of cancer. So when she discovered a lump in 1996 that turned out to be stage 3 breast cancer, her initial reaction was one of anger, followed by sheer determination to not let the illness interrupt her life.

"With all the stress of dealing with cancer, it was such a relief to know that I didn't have to travel for treatment."

Sancibrian, program director for the Speech-Language Pathology Program, opted to participate in a clinical trial following surgery, knowing the importance of evidence-based practice. "It appealed to me as a clinician and also gave me a sense of a bit more control — if I had to go through all the treatments, at least medicine might learn something from my experience."

Because of a network of providers in Lubbock — Catherine Ronaghan, M.D., (SOM '86), now medical director at Covenant Health System's Joe Arrington Cancer Center in Lubbock, was her surgeon, and Cobos her oncologist — Sancibrian was able to continue with her teaching duties in the School of Allied Health Sciences while undergoing chemotherapy treatments next door at the Southwest Cancer Treatment and Research Center.

"I drew great comfort in knowing that there was a team of experts who seem to understand that I wouldn't let cancer take over my life. They helped me arrange my chemo and radiation appointments around my class and clinic schedule, so I missed as little work as possible."

And that's the reason, says Cobos, TTUHSC's cancer initiative is unlike that of any other across the state or nation. "There's no question that we are not a M.D. Anderson," he said. "But what we are, no one else can be."

"Through our multicampus system we are the solution to cancer for those living in the West Texas region."



# TOUCHPOINTS

BY TAJI SENIOR

PEDIATRICIAN'S SUCCESS RESULT OF PROFESSIONAL,  
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

FOR DENISE FITZSIMON-HAWKES, M.D., fencing has provided rewards other than a national ranking. She began competitive fencing nine years ago and has been ranked as high as third overall nationally. In 2006, she placed third at the Summer National Championships in Veteran Women's Sabre.

Today, at age 51, FitzSimon-Hawkes continues to challenge the competition. She participated in the 2010 Summer Nationals, which is no small feat considering that most of her opponents are in their 20s and teens.

"I think it (fencing) helps me deal with difficult parents and patients because of the way you view the other person," FitzSimon-Hawkes said. "It is not about brute strength, but finesse."

That same finesse she acquired through fencing was a key component in adapting to a new culture and lifestyle while working in the remote villages around Bethel, Ala. FitzSimon-Hawkes said she traveled to the 56 villages – none of which had running water – strictly by bush plane as there were no roads out on the tundra. Through her work she encountered different Native American tribes, specifically the Yup'ik, Chup'ik and Athabascan. Interactions with those tribes, FitzSimon-Hawkes said, gave her the opportunity to view life from a different paradigm.

"I have a new perspective and appreciation for what I have access to every day. No cell phones there. No fast food," she said.

Her experiences have contributed to her success as department chair of pediatrics for the School of Medicine at the Permian Basin. Those experiences also include taking care of children with drug-addicted parents in inner city Portland, Ore.

Perhaps her most outstanding accomplishments, she says, are evidenced in her children. FitzSimon-Hawkes, a mother of eight – including her biological and step children as well as twin girls placed with her in permanent foster care when they were 16 – proudly boasts her children's accomplishments. The twins, now 30, also work in health care. One is a registered nurse and the other is in pharmaceutical sales for Abbott. Two of her children are enrolled at Texas A&M University (one of whom is in medical school and the other in honors physics); another child attends Midland College. Two others have entered the work force: one, a graduate of the Texas Culinary Institute, is a chef; and the other works in the area's oil field. Success is sure to come for the youngest child, who attends high school in nearby Crane, as soon as she completes her secondary education.



"I THINK IT (FENCING) HELPS ME  
DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PARENTS  
AND PATIENTS BECAUSE OF  
THE WAY YOU VIEW THE OTHER  
PERSON. IT IS NOT ABOUT BRUTE  
STRENGTH, BUT FINESSE."



# g e e s q u i z

By Beth Phillips

Physician Assistant students Lesli Jansa, Heidi Felton and Samantha Scheible with faculty members Tina Butler, MPAS PA-C, Bruce Christensen, MPAS, PA-C, and Donald Diemer, MPAS, PA-C, associate director and coordinator of clinical education.



CAROLYN CRUZ

## Game-show style competitions present different approach to learning

Amanda Houston, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); Leila Little, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); JoBeth Campbell, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); and Julie Stitt, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10)

Foam fingers wave and air horns blare as Jessica Aguilar, M.S., CCC-SLP, (SOAHS '08), and three classmates sit on stage in the crowded ballroom. Aguilar feels the butterflies in her stomach as she scans the sea of more than 500 speech-language pathology students, faculty and professionals gathered for Praxis Bowl.

As a section of the crowd chants, "Raider... Power..." Aguilar is hit with her first question:

**"What is the major physical or organic factor underlying impairment in the speech of persons with cleft palate?"**



ROBERT LEVEY

Months before, while most other students studied in quiet libraries, Aguilar crammed for the national speech-language pathologists licensing exam during the Jeopardy-style academic quiz game.

"Out in the field, we are required to think quickly on our feet when family members and patients ask questions," said Aguilar, a speech-language pathologist at Lubbock's Transitional Learning Center. "Participating in the Praxis Bowl provided an opportunity to develop an answer quickly and respond appropriately under pressure."

Carolyn Perry, M.S., CCC-SLP, clinical instructor, in the School of Allied Health Sciences Speech-Language Pathology Program, has co-organized the Praxis Bowl since 2007. She believes the game is a sign of the times when it comes to teaching the current generation.

"I think education in general has shifted to almost a consumer-type approach," Perry said. "It's incumbent upon us to meet the students where they are so that we can be more effective educators."

An increasing number of instructors from all different backgrounds are meeting the

educational needs of millennial students like Aguilar by encouraging them to participate in academic quiz games to augment traditional classroom learning. Millennial generally refers to the more than 70 million Americans born between 1977 and 1994. This technologically savvy age group is characterized as having short attention spans and prefers collaborating and connecting in the classroom, according to the University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching.

Ashley Mott, who just completed her first year in the Physician Assistant Program, said she prefers study groups as opposed to working on her own. Mott and several of her classmates competed this spring in the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants Medical Challenge Bowl in Houston. The School of Allied Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program placed two of its three teams, first and third out of the 12 teams competing.

Mott said training for the "buzz-in style" state competition was beneficial because she will use the information in her future practice, and it gave her the opportunity to review the coursework with others.

"When I study with other people it forces me to be prepared and also helps me learn things that I didn't otherwise know," Mott said.

Having grown up with ever-changing technology, social networking and video games, millennials seem not to respond as well to traditional education manuals or lecture methods, said LesLee Taylor, Ph.D., A.T.C., L.A.T., program director, Master of Athletic Training in the School of Allied Health Sciences.

"Standing up and lecturing really isn't their mode of learning," Taylor said. "They're used to that instant gratification and quick turn around."

Two of Taylor's students participated last year in the National Athletic Trainers' Association Quiz Bowl, a two-round competition that pits district teams of three entry-level students against each other for the NATA Quiz Bowl trophy and other prizes. Whitney Vardell, was selected to compete in this year's Quiz Bowl.

Donald Diemer, MPAS, PA-C, assistant professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences Physician Assistant Program in Midland, coaches the TTUHSC Medical Challenge Bowl



Leila Little, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); JoBeth Campbell, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); Julie Stitt, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); and Amanda Houston, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10).



CAROLYN CRUZ

“When I study with other people it forces me to be prepared and also helps me learn things that I didn’t otherwise know.”



Charlotte Walters, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10); Ligon Burriss, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '10); and Lindsay Alexander, M.S., SLP, (SOAHS '08, '10).

team. In class, he employs quiz-show tactics to encourage independent thinking in addition to practicing with students for the bowl.

“After the students compete, they actually do better on the test,” Diemer said. “It’s something different instead of five days of death by PowerPoint.”

While Diemer agrees quiz games are a welcome change in curriculum for most students, he’s not convinced that generation is a factor in whether people respond positively to these unconventional teaching methods.

“We have students from all age ranges in our programs, and they’re all equally good, and they all learn the same basic way,” Diemer said. “I don’t know that I could put a generation on that.”

In fact, not all academic quiz competitions are purely educational. Internal medicine residents from throughout the country compete in the annual Doctor’s Dilemma, a contest sponsored by the American College of Physicians, simply to showcase their knowledge of medical trivia. Known as “Medical Jeopardy,” the competition takes place at the organization’s annual meetings. Participants are asked questions ranging from current events to obscure historical facts, said Matt Chua, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the School of Medicine at Amarillo. Chua, a former Doctor’s Dilemma contestant, coaches the TTUHSC team. He began working at the university in 2009 after he finished a year as chief resident and a junior teaching attending at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New Jersey.

Chua said training for competition can be good preparation for board exams, but for the most part the contest is just an adrenaline rush. Questions come fast, and they are not easy.

**Who was the first to see red blood cells with a microscope?**

[A: Anthony Van Leeuwenhoek]

**What is the name for the sudden loss of vision associated with hemorrhages confined to the optic disk and macula in acute pancreatitis?**

[A: Purtscher’s retinopathy]

“The experience you gained in residency might help, but it is definitely not enough,” Chua said. “Even a seasoned, well-experienced veteran attending would have difficulty answering the questions.”

Win or lose, though, Chua says the competition was rewarding for him and his students because it gives them an edge when it comes to medical knowledge.

“The experience itself helps me to be a better doctor and teacher,” Chua said.



Think you could be a quiz bowl champ?

Test your medical knowledge with the new online game based on the Doctor’s Dilemma competition.



Text the word “scan” to 43588 or go to [www.getscanlife.com](http://www.getscanlife.com)

from your mobile browser and then follow the directions to scan this code. Available on select web enabled camera phones. Standard rates may apply.



## I'll take academic skills for \$1,000

Students across the nation put their academic skills to the test in a variety of game-show-style quiz competitions. For many, participation has proven more beneficial than they initially imagined. In addition to a day of learning that doesn't involve the routine lecture and subsequent question and answer, students also have the opportunity to travel and are rewarded with neat prizes!



ROBERT LEVEY



ROBERT LEVEY

(top photo) Physician Assistant students Britney Friesenhahn and Samantha Scheible

(bottom photo) Physician Assistant students Heidi Felton, Audra Leonard and David Zeitler

### NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION QUIZ BOWL

**Meet the contestants** 10 districts in the National Athletic Trainers' Association; three students are chosen to compete for each district team  
**And the winner is** 2009 was the first year TTUHSC's district competed in the Quiz Bowl; Chapman University (District 8) won.

### TEXAS ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS MEDICAL CHALLENGE BOWL

**Meet the contestants** Physician Assistant students compete annually at the state and national level; each school that competes sends at least one team of three students.  
**And the winner is** TTUHSC won state championships in 2008 and 2010. The university first entered competition at the state level in 2004 and placed second after advancing to the regional competition by default. UT Southwestern won, but could not fund their team's trip to the AAPA Southwestern Regionals. TTUHSC competed instead at the request of TAPA and won the regional competition.

### NATIONAL PRAXIS BOWL

**Meet the contestants** Students from all Texas speech-language pathology graduate programs participate each year.  
**And the winner is** TTUHSC placed second in the 2010 competition for the second year in a row, finishing behind the University of North Texas. In the competition's history, TTUHSC has won or placed five times.

### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS DOCTOR'S DILEMMA CONTEST

**Meet the contestants** Up to 40 teams of residents from around the nation compete for the coveted title of national champion.  
**And the winner is** In 2009, TTUHSC School of Medicine at Amarillo placed third among 14 internal medicine programs in the Texas chapter. To compete, a team must be nominated by their chapter governor, and the chapter must hold a similar event at their state meeting.

### HURST NCLEX BRAIN BOWL

**Meet the contestants** About 100 nursing students from throughout Texas participate in teams of four to six players.  
**And the winner is** One of the TTUHSC teams placed third in 2010.

### REACHMD'S NEXT TOP DOC

**Meet the contestants** 16 third- and fourth-year students representing 13 medical schools throughout the U.S.  
**And the winner is** TTUHSC medical student and MBA candidate Nina Resetkova made it to the final round in 2009 before being defeated by Dan Henderson from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

## EL PASO PEDIATRICIANS MEET COMMUNITY'S HEALTH CARE NEEDS



Isela Ibarra, M.D., and Angelica Machorro, M.D.

**ANGELICA MACHORRO, M.D.**, (SOM '03) and **ISELA IBARRA, M.D.**, (SOM '01) seemed destined to become partners in pediatrics. Both women grew up in El Paso, received their undergraduate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated from the TTUHSC School of Medicine at El Paso. Their paths then took a slightly different turn with Machorro completing her pediatric residency at UT-San Antonio while Ibarra returned to UT at Austin for hers.

From an early age they wanted to work with children and, over time, began to recognize the need for a pediatric clinic in El Paso. Today, they are co-owners of Sun City Kidz Clinic.

"We think the same in a lot of ways, and we practice medicine in the same ways," said Ibarra. "We both have families, and that part of our life is important to us. I think we are a good fit."

Not only are they pediatricians, they are mothers as well. Machorro said, "I believe the reason we came together is because we are both young female pediatricians, and we are both starting our families off."

Spending a majority of their lives in El Paso is what made the women realize the need for a pediatric clinic on the West Side. Machorro said, "Through my education you would always hear about the high need for physicians here along the border. Always constantly hearing, and even being here now, there are so many patients."

Ibarra agreed, "I knew there was a need, after growing up here, for pediatricians."

Both women have taken the same steps throughout their lives to get to this point and because of this, both women predict a similar future for the clinic. "I would like to see us grow with our patients and population and be able to provide care and continuity of care to patients," said Ibarra.

CHRIST CHAVEZ



Research conducted by J. Andrew Hockert, Ph.D., (GSBS '07) was selected by the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* editorial board as a Paper of the Week in the Jan. 1 issue. Hockert's research developed a new method to look at the proteins that control how genes are expressed. Specifically his research targets the protein known as CstF-64, which controls an essential step in gene communication.

Hockert completed the featured research as a student at the TTUHSC Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry. He is now an assistant professor at the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Ky.



## Alumni Receptions

Spring and fall receptions brought alumni together in cities across the state. You can keep in touch year-round by joining the TTUHSC Alumni Association on Facebook.



Ellen Turner, M.D., (SOM '01) and her husband, Mark, at Hully & Mo's in Dallas.



School of Allied Health Sciences faculty, dean and alumni at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts in Lubbock: Charter Rushing, P.T., MPT, (SOAHS '97) assistant professor of physical therapy; Dean Paul Brooke, Ph.D.; Patti Kissko, P.T., (SOAHS '88); and Kerry Gilbert, P.T., ScD (SOAHS '97, '04).

## friends we'll miss

Susan Camp Fogarty died Dec. 29, 2009, in Horseshoe Bay. She was the wife of W. Tom Fogarty, M.D., (SOM '80).

Otice Green died Feb. 7, 2010, in Lubbock. He was chief of staff for Gov. Preston Smith and served as political strategist for the governor as well as for TTU System Chancellor Kent Hance.

Ashley Khosla died Jan. 10, 2010. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree posthumously during commencement held May 15, 2010. Her older brother, Ankur Khosla, M.D., is a 2009 graduate of the School of Medicine. Her younger brother, Akhil, will return to medical school this fall.

Gayle Anglin Littleton died July 24, 2010, in San Antonio. She and her daughters established the Littleton-Anglin families funds to support Parkinson's Disease Research at the School of Medicine at Lubbock.

Donna L. Milstead, R.N., (SON '09) died May 21, 2010, in Lubbock. She was a nurse at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Jeffrey W. Oliver, M.D., (SOM '95) died Feb. 14, 2010, in Lubbock. He was an associate professor in School of Medicine Department of Pathology.

Malcolm O. Perry II, M.D., died Dec. 5, 2009. He was a professor in the School of Medicine Department of Surgery in Lubbock from 1991 to 1995.

Gifts in memory of or in honor of are routed to the desired location of the donor through the TTUHSC Office of Institutional Advancement, 3601 Fourth Street, Stop 6238, Lubbock, Texas 79430.

## THE PRACTICE

BY MORGAN GRUBBS

A graduate course in alternative careers for scientists inspired MELINDA LACKEY, M.S., J.D., to transition from biomedical sciences to law. Actually, the idea of working as a patent attorney is what piqued her interest, she said. Such an opportunity would allow her to interact with and help advocate for people and it would permit her to use her scientific training in an innovative way.

Lackey now is an associate at the Houston office of Howrey, a law firm with a concentration on global litigation, antitrust and intellectual property law. She primarily represents biotechnology companies that develop and sell medical reagents and devices used in research and clinical situations. As an associate, she is responsible for legal research and works with partners by drafting initial motions, providing support at trials, and dealing with disputes and discovery issues.

The most rewarding part of her job, Lackey said, is protecting people's rights, and her background in microbiology and immunology provides practical experience most of her colleagues lack.

"I can read scientific papers and patent literature and understand when certain experiments should have been run or when certain experimental data does not make sense," she said, "because I have done so much laboratory bench work myself."

Lackey also does pro bono work in which she provides free legal services to people who need representation, but do not have the necessary funds. This allows for direct client relations as well as opportunities to be an advocate in the courtroom.

ALUMNI PROFILE :: biomedical sciences

Melinda Lackey, M.S., J.D.  
GSBS '03  
Medical Microbiology

BUILDING A CASE FOR A NEW CAREER





ALUMNI PROFILE :: allied health sciences

**ALISON CHAPA, OTR**  
Occupational Therapy '96

BIG RETURNS FROM  
INVESTING IN THE LITTLE ONES



NEAL HINKLE

## COMMITTED TO THE KIDS

BY GILLIAN M. NORTH

ALISON CHAPA, OTR, has received numerous awards and achievements both professionally and for her volunteer work in the Lubbock community. However, the things that truly matter to her don't come in the form of shiny plaques. Instead, it is having the honor of picking out a wig for a young teenage girl with cancer or helping a child smile again.

"I think it is the little rewards everyday that make my job so much fun," said Chapa, an occupational therapist who has worked 13 years at Covenant Health System. "I have watched a child progress from hitting, kicking, and spitting on me every session to running up and hugging me, smiling while he says, 'What's up Alison?' That makes my whole day!"

Chapa's community involvement includes leading construction of the H.U.B. City Playground, a place that allows children with or without disabilities to play together. Chapa also started Happy Trails Hippotherapy, a program that provides funding for children to further their rehabilitation by riding horses. She has also been honored as National Therapist of the Year and received The Extra Mile Award for the city of Lubbock and The Justice Award for Covenant Health System.

Apart from being an award-winning occupational therapist, Chapa enjoys spending time with her husband of 11 years and their 2-year-old son.

"I enjoy giving back to others," she said. "I enjoy making a difference in someone's life. I get excited about watching my patients get better or helping their dreams come true."

## HEALTHY HUMOR

BY TAJI SENIOR

Through jokes, Disney character imitations and a few songs, ERIC DARROW, M.D., Ph.D., proves that sometimes laughter can be the best medicine, especially if you are a child about to go into surgery.

For Darrow, a pediatric anesthesiologist at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, putting children and their parents at ease before an operation is all in a day's work.

"Surgery is a very scary and high-stress situation for most people, let alone children, so anything I can do to help alleviate that anxiety makes their experience better," Darrow said.

He enlists Hanna Barberra characters, like the lovable Yogi Bear, in the process of making the experience better. However, Darrow's act isn't limited to cartoon characters. Show tunes, knock-knock jokes and even Forrest Gump are all a part of the act.

While Darrow takes great pride in his comedic skills, gaining the trust of parents as well as patients is no laughing matter.

"Allowing a total stranger to take your child and administer an anesthetic requires a tremendous amount of trust," he said. "Earning that trust is one of our most important jobs."

ALUMNI PROFILE :: medicine

**Eric Darrow, M.D., Ph.D.**  
SOM '91, GSBS '89

ADMINISTERS A GOOD DOSE OF LAUGHTER





**Richard Caudill,  
Pharm.D.'00**

*Doctor of Pharmacy Practice, '00*

WRITES PRESCRIPTIONS  
FOR PATIENT SAFETY

## FUELING HIS FREE TIME

BY MARK HENDRICKS

RICHARD CAUDILL, Pharm.D., is a sports car fanatic from way back.

“My father liked muscle cars and classic cars when I was growing up. I guess that’s what got me into them.”

Caudill recalls the hours of fun they had painstakingly restoring a couple of classic Chevys—a 1957 Bel Air and a 1955 pickup.

To feed his automobile appetite, Caudill, clinical pharmacy manager at University Medical Center in Lubbock, subscribes to multiple car magazines and seeks out movies that involve racing and chase scenes. He also is a card-carrying member of the BMW Car Club of America.

His job responsibilities, however, prevents Caudill from taking on full restoration projects like the ones he and his father completed. He is responsible for formulary management and developing and implementing therapeutic guidelines and clinical programs. Caudill also manages decentralized pharmacy services and oversees staff education, drug information and Joint Commission compliance.

“There are many things I enjoy about my job,” he said, “but the two most rewarding things for me are the feeling that I have a direct impact on the safety and care of patients and — most importantly — because UMC serves a large number of patients that cannot afford health care, it gives me great satisfaction knowing that the work I do is helping someone less fortunate.”

When time permits, Caudill enjoys modifying his BMW, especially when his youngest son, Luke, pitches in.

“Luke is an enthusiast like me—maybe more so. He loves helping me play with my car, and it’s a great way to spend time with each other like me and my dad did.”

NEAL HINKLE

CHRIST CHAVEZ

**Azucena Ortega-Madani  
RN, BSN**

*Second Degree BSN (El Paso) '09*

PAVING THE WAY FOR  
FUTURE PROVIDERS

## BETTER HEALTH ON THE BORDER

BY BETH PHILLIPS

After graduating in 1998 from a medical doctoral program in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, AZUCENA ORTEGA-MADANI, R.N., B.S.N., worked at La Clinica Del Parque in Zargoza, Mexico, as a general practitioner for a few years. But overcrowding, limited resources and low practice standards at the private for-profit clinic prompted her to apply to nursing programs in El Paso.

An American citizen, Ortega-Madani saw an opportunity to use her experience as a physician in the suburbs of Ciudad Juárez to improve communication between health care professionals and patients on the U.S./Mexico border.

“In El Paso we have people from every part of the world. Because of this, we should have diverse health care workers.”

Although she had already obtained a medical degree and experience as a physician in Mexico, getting into an American nursing program proved challenging. Ortega-Madani faced rejection from a community college before being accepted into the TTUHSC School of Nursing at El Paso’s Second Degree Program.

“The support and encouragement I received from the El Paso regional dean gave me the opportunity to become a registered nurse,” she said. “The hands-on training provided by the clinical coach model enables the student nurse to enter the work force upon graduation with the skills to succeed.”

Ortega-Madani graduated at the top of her class and is now a retention counselor for the school. She plans to stay in Texas and pursue her education as a family nurse practitioner.

“I hope to pave the road for the future physicians and/or nurses that have graduated from Mexico and together create a more diverse health care system in El Paso.”



## TTUHSC can upgrade health care industry from critical to stable condition

BY TTU SYSTEM CHANCELLOR KENT HANCE



When Texas Tech University Medical School was established in 1969, Gov. Preston Smith's vision was to improve the quality of health care in West Texas. One of the medical school's initial purposes was to better serve the citizens of this region by providing more practicing physicians to an underserved population.

Today, more than 40 years later, the original medical school has become the thriving Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Our eight campuses offer beneficial patient care in various disciplines throughout the state of Texas. While our university has greatly expanded and evolved, we have remained true to our founding principles.

As we are all aware, there are severe shortages in many disciplines across the health care industry, and this shortfall is a growing trend.

The passage of the recent federal health care law will create millions of newly insured individuals, increasing the need for health care professionals. As an institution of higher education, it is our responsibility to provide solutions to these rising demands.

Fortunately, TTUHSC has a history of providing care to the underserved, and as a founding principle, our university is committed to making health care more accessible for those in need.

Providing more educational opportunities for future practicing professionals is key in combating this issue, making our role as educators more crucial than ever before to the welfare of our state and nation.

Increasing enrollment is a top priority of the Texas Tech University System. This spring, TTUHSC has set record enrollment with 3,416 students, an increase of 16.5 percent from the same time last year. This also marks the second consecutive semester our institution has enrolled a record number of students.

*"By increasing our enrollment, we continue to add to the number of globally competitive graduates entering the health care field. Our students are known for their strong work ethic and have been consistently recognized for their unsurpassed performance on their respective professional exams."*

Health care reform is a primary concern for all citizens, but no matter which side of the political fence you reside, there is no doubt the future of the industry is drastically changing.

TTUHSC must continue to make advancements to remain competitive and to improve the quality of life for others. With the announcement of Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D. as the eighth president of TTUHSC, we are extremely confident in the future of our institution. We look forward to his visionary leadership and the continued success of TTUHSC as we create innovative solutions to meet the growing needs of our community, state and nation.

From here, it's possible.





Rx

JEAN STOCKTON LOVES TO TELL STORIES; SHE SAYS IT'S THE IRISH IN HER. SOME OF HER FAVORITES ARE ABOUT HER COLLEGE DAYS AT TEXAS TECH.

Mrs. Stockton's desire is for others to have their own stories as Red Raiders. Her generous gifts throughout the past 20 years have provided scholarships for students and enabled academic programs to prosper.

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[AND LEARN HOW YOUR GIFT CAN IMPACT TTUHSC]  
<http://giving.ttuhscc.edu>



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