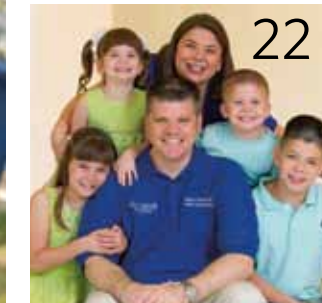


# Mission

## Serving women

Advancing research and patient care to make lives better





COVER STORY

## 16 Guiding Latinas to good health

With no insurance, no vehicle and a language barrier, 62-year-old Jovita De Leon nearly lost hope after discovering a lump in her breast. A year later, she met a patient navigator she calls her “ángel de la guardia” (guardian angel) and doctors at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. Together, they eliminated her cancer, lifted her spirits and led her on a path to lasting health. “My luck changed that day,” De Leon said.

Cover photo by Lester Rosebrock, Creative Media Services

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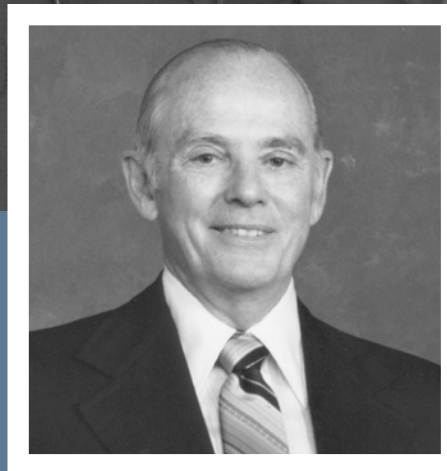
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### Frank Harrison, M.D., Ph.D. 1913 – 2013

Dr. Harrison is joined by Jose R. Coronado, left, director of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital (now the South Texas Veterans Health Care System), for the dedication of the Frank Harrison Crosswalk, April 1985. The structure connects the VA hospital and University Hospital.



## First president was innovator

The UT Health Science Center community, Texas and the nation lost a pioneer with the passing of Frank Harrison, M.D., Ph.D., on Aug. 9. He was 99. As the first president of the Health Science Center, Dr. Harrison paved the foundation for a strong faculty and administration and positioned the university as a model of excellence in education and research.

Soon after The University of Texas System Board of Regents named Dr. Harrison as president on Nov. 4, 1972, he named deans for the School of Medicine and Dental School of the Health Science Center and established the institution's Executive Committee. During the 1970s, a \$3 million laboratory animal resources area was completed as part of a \$15 million School of Medicine expansion project and the Board of Regents authorized plans for a \$9.5 million library building.

The School of Nursing and Dental School buildings were constructed and dedicated. Dr. Harrison oversaw the transfer of the School of Nursing from the UT System into the Health Science Center, and presided over the establishment of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences (now the School of Health Professions). He also launched the Health Science Center Development Board. It was a time of tremendous growth, and Dr. Harrison's graceful leadership always accentuated the positive.

The Health Science Center, at its establishment, enrolled 500 students, employed 1,000 faculty and staff, and conducted sponsored research of \$3 million.

By September 1984, upon Dr. Harrison's retirement, the Health Science Center enrolled more than 2,300 students, employed more than 3,000 faculty and staff, and conducted sponsored research of \$32 million.

Prior to his presidency at the Health Science Center, Dr. Harrison pursued a long and distinguished career of service within the UT System, notably at UT Southwestern, where he was associate dean of graduate studies. In 1966, UT System Chancellor Harry Ransom asked Dr. Harrison to launch the graduate program at UT Arlington. Within two years, Dr. Harrison had established six graduate departments approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Named president in Arlington in 1968, he fostered an atmosphere of collaboration and openness while demonstrating the desirable ability to run a tight ship. He was a detailed and skilled administrator who worked behind the scenes in advance of official actions to ensure their success.

Dr. Harrison was born on Nov. 21, 1913. The son of a Dallas neurologist, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Southern Methodist University and studied for two years at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. at Northwestern University.

UT Health Science Center President William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, said Dr. Harrison's legacy of innovation and collaboration in education and research helped mold the university into the success it is today. “Dr. Harrison will be remembered and appreciated for generations to come,” Dr. Henrich said.



## Women's wellness: VIP access for all

Each of us can name a woman close to us who is the light of our life. She could be our mother, sister, aunt, teacher or friend.

The light of my life is my wife, Mary. Her example of selflessness, kindness and courage serve as a compass for me. During this last year, she literally saved my life on several occasions. I will forever be grateful to her.

But what if the tables had been turned? What if it had been Mary who had fallen ill a year ago instead of me? Disease does not discriminate. Just as we all want the best care for our loved ones, I want only the best care for my family when they need it.

Every day I am reminded of how proud I am to continue leading the UT Health Science Center. Our institution is among the best in the nation in providing excellent and compassionate health care for those near and dear to us and for everyone.

This issue of *Mission* focuses on what we offer specifically in the domain of care and wellness for women. The clinical care and education we provide is backed by a multidisciplinary approach linked to evidence-based outcomes. Our faculty researchers and clinicians in all schools and departments collaborate to bring the very best to our students, patients and to our local and global community who come from all walks of life.

Jovita De Leon (pictured on the cover) is just one example. She had no insurance and a language barrier when her cancer occurred. Because of superb care, she has the prospects for a rich and full life.

One way we ensure this quality continues is to prepare the next generation of men and women scientists through pipeline programs such as The Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy. These bright young students may someday lead Nobel-laureate discovery and thereby save millions of lives. The generosity of the Voelcker Fund and others highlighted in this issue make our mission possible.

Thank you for taking the time to partner with us in these endeavors that make our exceptional health care, education, research and community service accessible to our loved ones and to everyone.



President Henrich joins Irene Chapa, Ph.D. (far left), and Sophia Piña, Ph.D. (right), in welcoming incoming high school students Clover Moten (left) and Karen Jimenez to the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy. Thanks to The Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund, the program is successfully preparing students for college while developing the next generation of biomedical scientists. More than 60 percent of the students in the program are female this year. Faculty members Drs. Chapa and Piña lead the program. Since 2007, the Voelcker Fund has generously supported biomedical research and education at the UT Health Science Center.



Click to learn more about the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP  
President  
Professor of Medicine  
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

**A reason to smile.** “The new building will allow us to care for patients with the same compassion and tailored treatment we have always provided, but in a new state-of-the-art facility. Ensuring patients’ oral health is an investment in their overall health and well-being. We pride ourselves on helping make their lives better.” - William Dodge, D.D.S., Dental School dean



Scheduled to open July 2015. To see a 3-D and 360-degree rendering of the building, visit [dental.uthscsa.edu/CFOHCR](http://dental.uthscsa.edu/CFOHCR).

**Community Goal: \$15 million**  
to fund equipment and technology and pre-doctoral clinic areas in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research

## Support the Center for Oral Health Care & Research

The \$15 million community goal for the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research will equip the Dental School’s new home with the latest tools and technology to help ensure continued success for the next generation of students, faculty, residents and the thousands of patients who come to the Health Science Center from across the globe.

As the top-ranked professional school within The University of Texas System and one of the most prestigious schools in the United States and the world, the Dental School leads in research discoveries, outstanding patient care and education.

The new center will foster advancements in these endeavors and propel them to the next level. The delivery of oral health care changes rapidly in

today’s world, and the new center will provide the flexibility to respond to and accommodate new technologies and training as they emerge.

The center’s location on the North Campus places it in close proximity to the university’s Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC), the Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute, the South Texas Research Facility (STRF), and the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC), the clinical practice facility for the faculty of the School of Medicine. With these world-class facilities nearby, patients will have access to the finest inter-professional health care available that addresses not only the patients’ symptom or disease, but their total well-being.

### Building highlights

**Cost:** \$108 million, which includes \$93 million from The UT System Permanent University Fund, state bonds and university clinical revenue

**Size:** 198,000 gross square feet

**Stories:** Four

**Patient exam areas:** 400 operatories

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“The Dental School gave me everything I needed – an outstanding education, mentoring and experience – to begin what has become my lifelong passion and career in dentistry. I ask you to give what you can to continue this legacy for the next generation of students. Your gift will help provide the best equipment, technology and training for future dentists who will deliver the finest care to patients in our community and throughout the state and nation.”

- Warren Branch, D.D.S., Dental School alumnus and campaign chairperson

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To make a gift or discuss a naming opportunity for the Center for Oral Health Care & Research, contact Sara Piety at [piety@uthscsa.edu](mailto:piety@uthscsa.edu) or 210-567-6536.

Or make a gift online at [MakeLivesBetter.uthscsa.edu/COHCR](http://MakeLivesBetter.uthscsa.edu/COHCR).



## Faculty members respond to disaster in West

By ROSANNE FOHN



PHOTO BY ANDY BARTEE

One of the first to hear about the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas, was Emily Kidd, M.D. The emergency physician and assistant professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio arrived in the northeast Texas town within a few hours, at midnight on Wednesday, April 17. She found that emergency medical responders had already transported the most severely injured patients to area hospitals.

While she did not treat patients, her work was far from over.

Dr. Kidd wears several hats due to her assignments in the Department of Emergency Health Sciences (EHS), part of the School of Health Professions, and the Department of Emergency Medicine (EM) in the School of Medicine. Because the EHS department has a contract to provide paramedic training for the San Antonio Fire Department, Dr. Kidd serves as its interim medical director. This role also places her in regional and state leadership positions in emergency planning and response.

After deploying to West, Dr. Kidd worked in the state medical operations center in Austin, where she helped deploy disaster

resources to West, including a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) – a hospital emergency room on wheels. She returned to West as medical director for the state's Emergency Medical Task Force to assess medical needs until the state medical resources were no longer needed.

Working in a similar advisory role was Craig Manifold, D.O., assistant professor in the EM and EHS, who serves as a colonel in the Texas Air National Guard and joint surgeon for Texas Military Forces. Dr. Manifold said, "As the senior physician and adviser to the adjutant general, I observed response activities and assured that military medical assets were available to help with the disaster."

In addition, three faculty members provided care for patients in the MMU:

- David Wampler, Ph.D., LP, assistant professor of EHS, helped set up the MMU and worked as a paramedic there on April 18 and 19.
- Craig Cooley, M.D., M.P.H., EMT-P, FACEP, assistant professor/clinical and program director of the EM's emergency medicine fellowship, assisted with setting up the MMU and was the only physician seeing patients there from 6 p.m. April 18 until 4 p.m. April 19. "In the MMU, we are capable of evaluating and treating injuries ranging from minor bumps and bruises to stabilizing critical patients. Most everything I saw while I was there were relatively minor symptoms related to the blast or other minor injuries," Dr. Cooley said.
- Todd Burgbacher, D.O., clinical instructor and an emergency medical services fellow, relieved Dr. Cooley until the MMU was no longer needed, around 6 p.m. April 19.

Dr. Manifold pointed out that Dr. Burgbacher received an invaluable educational experience. "In addition to treating patients, he was able to actively participate in planning and deploying in a complex multiagency response to a live disaster," he said. "This is something that few programs in the country are able to provide and that few emergency medicine residents are able to participate in."

## Methodist Healthcare Ministries funds new emergency medicine residency program

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas Inc. has partnered with the UT Health Science Center San Antonio to support the university's inaugural emergency medicine residency program.

A four-year, \$831,043 grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries commenced this summer as the first 10 residents started their orientation in the Department of Emergency Medicine in the School of Medicine. They are expected to graduate in the summer of 2016.

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, president of the UT Health Science Center, said Methodist Healthcare Ministries has worked with the Health Science Center since 1996 to build a stronger and healthier community.

In the last 10 years, Methodist Healthcare Ministries has given more than \$14 million to support UT System initiatives designed to improve the health and well-being of South Texas residents.

"By participating in this ground-breaking venture, Methodist Healthcare Ministries is helping to improve the quality and accessibility of emergency



Dr. Henrich thanks Kevin C. Moriarty (right), president and chief executive officer of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, for their continued and generous support.

care in South Texas. These physicians will attain exceptional knowledge, procedural ability and superb clinical judgment," Dr. Henrich said.

Kevin C. Moriarty, president and chief executive officer of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, said this new residency program aligns perfectly with MHM's dedication to providing medical and health-related human services to low-income families and the uninsured throughout the region.

"We are excited to team up with the Health Science Center in this long-range project that will help to alleviate the grave shortage of emergency medicine physicians throughout South Texas," Moriarty said. "By working together, we can help save lives."

South Texas has the country's second lowest number of board-certified emergency physicians with 5.5 physicians per 100,000 residents. Rural hospitals in this area are especially underserved with only 2.3 emergency physicians per 100,000 residents.

Dr. Henrich said, "Board-certified emergency medicine physicians are not projected to meet minimum workforce standards in our region until 2050, which is why the new civilian emergency medicine residency is crucial.

"Studies show that 80 percent of graduates from an emergency medicine training program settle within 75 miles of their residency location. Because of our support from Methodist Healthcare Ministries, we will be able to significantly reduce the emergency medicine physician shortage in this region of Texas."



Alumnus Jorge A. Alvarez, M.D., congratulates his wife, Rebecca, after she crosses the Boston Marathon finish line. Despite the shock of the tragedy that occurred thereafter, Dr. Alvarez took immediate action to help the injured.

## Alumnus serves, saves in Boston attack

By TINA LUTHER

San Antonio cardiologist and UT Health Science Center alumnus Jorge A. Alvarez, M.D., and his wife, Rebecca, are avid runners. They enjoy the spirit and excitement of participating in various runs and marathons. Oftentimes Dr. Alvarez volunteers in a medical tent where he treats runners for minor aches and exhaustion while Rebecca runs.

But routine injuries and fatigue turned into life-threatening lacerations and catastrophe during the Boston Marathon April 15. That afternoon, Dr. Alvarez was stationed as a medical volunteer near the finish line and proudly greeted his wife when she crossed.

Twenty minutes later, their celebration turned to turmoil when a thunderous boom exploded nearby. Two bombs detonated near the finish line.

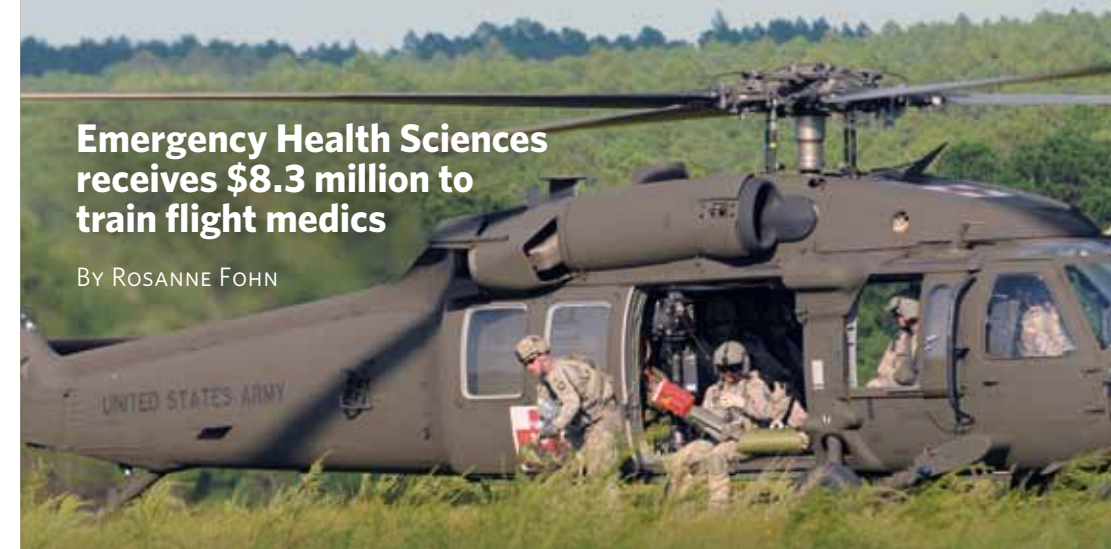
Instinctively, Dr. Alvarez, who was not hurt, rushed toward the scene – a ubiquitous fog of smoke and confusion. Blood and the wounded were scattered about. He immediately tended to the gravely injured while others hurried to offer help.

"I remembered the mantra 'life over limb' taught during clinicals in medical school," Dr. Alvarez said. "I used anything I could find – hoses, tubes and my belt – as tourniquets."

Authorities quickly cleared and secured the area. Dr. Alvarez was among the last to leave the scene as he helped move the wounded to a safe location nearby where he continued to attend to their injuries and

## Emergency Health Sciences receives \$8.3 million to train flight medics

By ROSANNE FOHN

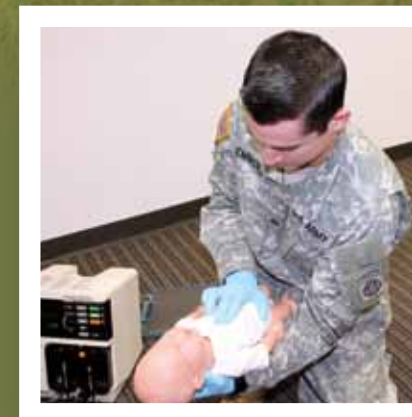


May 17, 2010, is a day Army Sgt. Eric Emmons will never forget. One of his brothers-in-arms died after stepping on an explosive device while their unit was en route for clearance operations in Afghanistan.

"He died instantly, so thankfully he did not have to suffer. But from that point forward I knew I would need to further my medical knowledge to ensure I could do everything possible for wounded soldiers in the future," said Sgt. Emmons, the unit's medic.

Now a flight medic, Sgt. Emmons volunteered for the new U.S. Army Critical Care Flight Paramedic Program offered through the Department of Emergency Health Sciences (EHS), part of the School of Health Professions.

"The Army conducted a data analysis over the past 12 years on battlefield injuries. It showed there was a training gap in the care offered before we got injured soldiers to our surgical hospitals," explained Lt. Col. Brian Krakover, M.D., an Army emergency medicine physician.



Sgt. Eric Emmons checks the breathing of a child manikin used in training. Flight medics learn advanced skills to help not only fellow soldiers but civilians, as well.

The new flight medic program at the Health Science Center provides seven and a half months of intensive, in-depth medical training and critical thinking skills that flight medics need to keep severely injured soldiers alive during helicopter transport to a surgical hospital for stabilization. Following a successful pilot program at the Health Science Center in 2012, the Army signed a five-year, \$8.3 million contract with the EHS to train 120 flight medics through four classes each year, for a total of 600 flight medics.

"These courses teach the 'why' behind what needs to be done,"

explained EHS Community Education Director Leslie Hernandez, M.A., Ed.D., who was recruited to lead the new program. "All of the students in our courses are volunteers, and most have had significant combat experience in Afghanistan. They are highly motivated."

Lance Villers, Ph.D., EHS chair and associate professor, added, "Our department has had a long history of working with the military. We have a great sense of pride in being able to have a role in improving the model of care for our soldiers."

waited for emergency responders to transport them to hospitals.

Later, Dr. Alvarez was tearfully reunited with his wife at a hotel nearby. She was unharmed.

Ultimately, dozens of lives were saved because of Dr. Alvarez's quick and selfless response and the help of other volunteers.

"It's what we are trained to do," he said. "The root of being human is compassion and that is what we are called to give."

Although his actions are considered heroic, Dr. Alvarez shies away from praise. "A hero wears a cape," he said. "I wear a white coat. The white coat means I'm here to help. I'm here to serve."

Natalie Gutierrez contributed to this story.



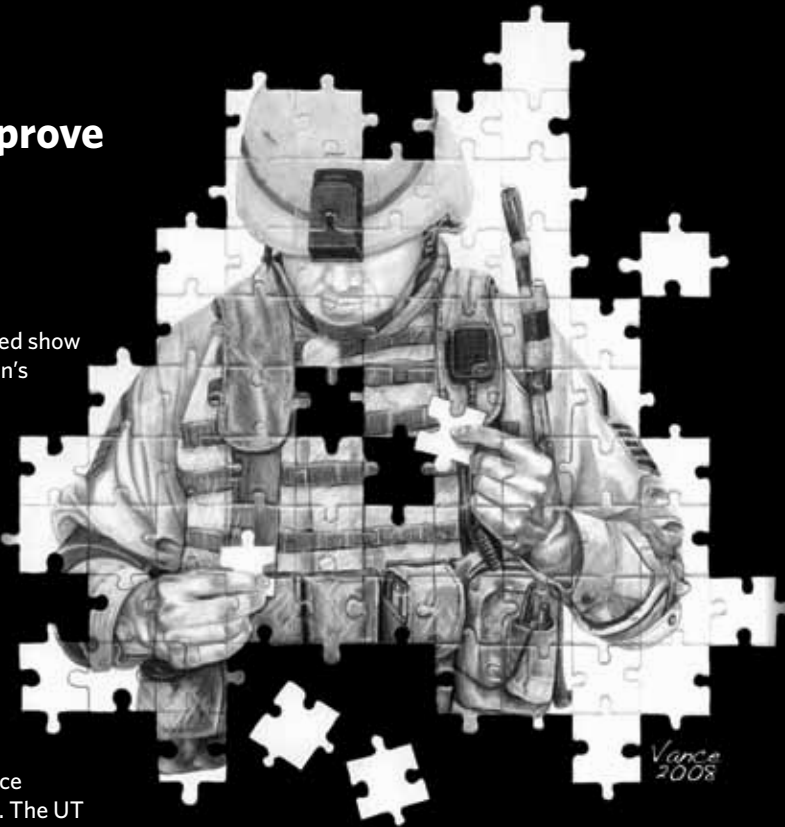
## DoD, VA approve \$45 million in quest for PTSD cure

In an unprecedented show of support for our nation's wounded warriors, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will provide approximately \$45 million over five years for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) research to advance diagnosis, prevention and treatment for service members and veterans. The UT Health Science Center San Antonio and the VA National Center for PTSD will lead the consortium.

The STRONG STAR Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (STRONG STAR-CAP) will provide an array of cutting-edge clinical treatment trials and biological studies for active military and veterans with PTSD and related conditions, said Consortium Director Alan L. Peterson, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center. Initiatives will include efforts to learn more about the biology/physiology of PTSD development and treatment response to inform diagnosis, prediction of disease outcome, and new or improved treatment methods.

"Historically, PTSD has been considered to be a chronic, lifelong disorder that is difficult to treat, particularly in military combat veterans," Dr. Peterson said. "However, results of studies of PTSD in civilian populations demonstrate that a large percentage of patients have been able to be treated to the point of remission or recovery. Although the term 'cured' is rarely used in reference to PTSD, we believe it is possible."

Clinical trials will be conducted to develop programs to treat the largest percentage of service members possible so that they can remain operationally and functionally fit for military service. The clinical trials will also recruit prior-service veterans.



Artwork by Cody Vance. [www.codyvancesculpture.com](http://www.codyvancesculpture.com)

An estimated 250,000 service members could be diagnosed with PTSD. Additionally, because an estimated 7 percent of the civilian population will develop PTSD at some point, treatment advances could help millions more Americans.

STRONG STAR (South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience) was initially funded in 2008 by the Department of Defense's Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), part of the U.S. Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command. For STRONG STAR-CAP, the original STRONG STAR consortium has partnered with the seven divisions of the National Center for PTSD and other VA, military and civilian investigators and institutions across the world to form the largest research consortium in history dedicated to the alleviation of combat-related PTSD.

For more information, visit [strongstar.org](http://strongstar.org).



## 22nd Annual San Antonio Express-News Book & Author Luncheon is Nov. 12

Don't miss the 22nd annual *San Antonio Express-News* Book & Author Luncheon set for Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Marriott Rivercenter, 101 Bowie Street, in San Antonio. Book sales open at 10 a.m. with the luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Six prominent authors will entertain the audience with tales from their best-selling books. Guests have the opportunity to purchase and have the books autographed by each featured author.

Since its establishment in 1991, the event has raised more than \$2.9 million for the Phase I Clinical Research Program at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

For more information and to make reservations, visit [MakeLivesBetter.uthscsa.edu/BookAuthor](http://MakeLivesBetter.uthscsa.edu/BookAuthor) or call 210-567-2508.



Author Jack Bishop signs his book for fans at last year's Book & Author Luncheon.



Graciela Cigarroa (left), wife of UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D., meets author Sandra Cisneros at last year's Book & Author Luncheon.

## Model of excellence in women's health

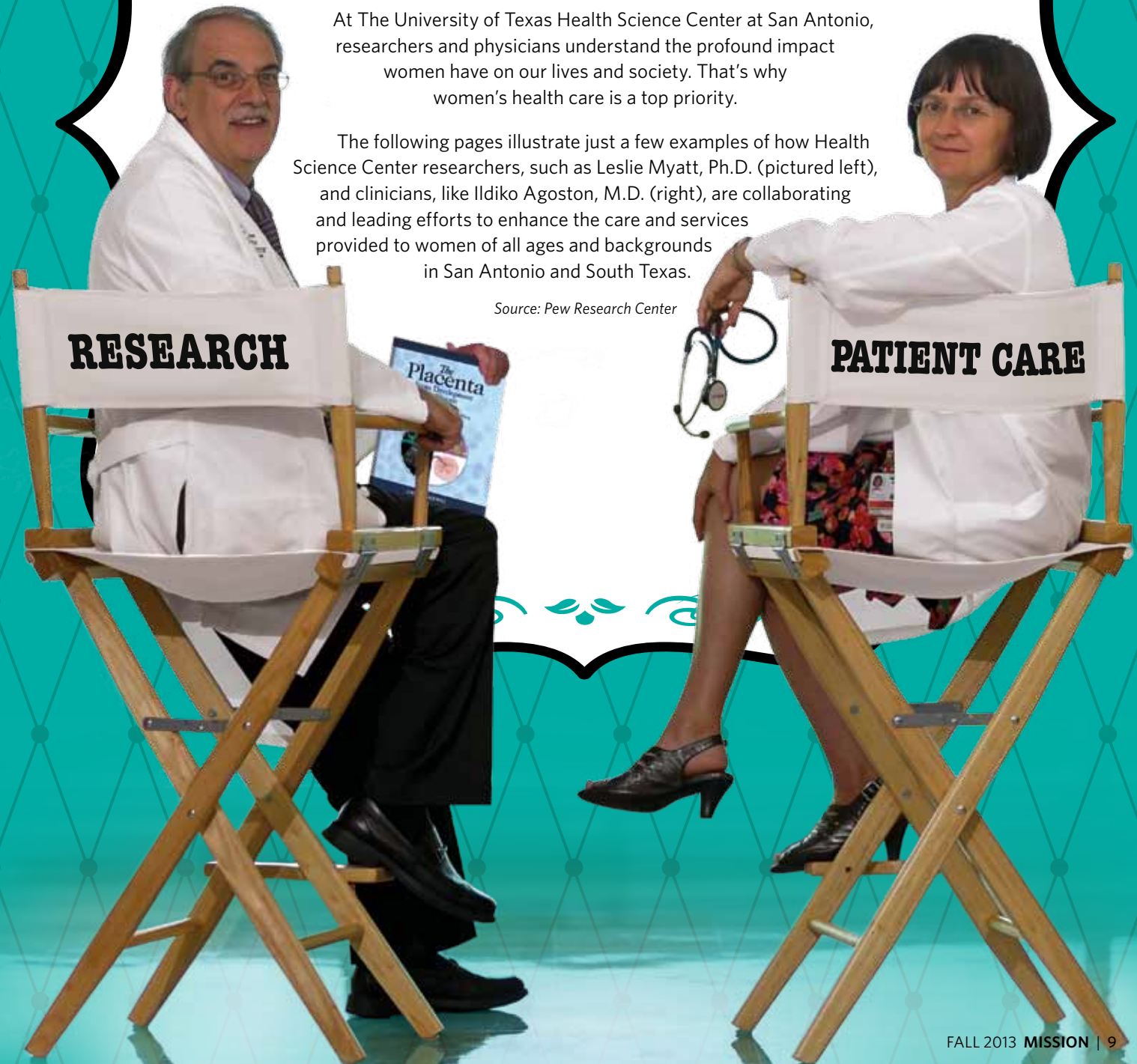
What if that special woman in your life – your mother, grandmother, sister or friend – was sick? What if she needed a doctor, medication or a medical procedure to make her better?

Today, women make up almost half of the U.S. labor force. About 40 percent of all households with children under 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income for the family. Single moms account for 8.6 million of those. And, grandmothers are more often becoming primary caregivers for the 1 in 10 children who live with a grandparent.

At The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, researchers and physicians understand the profound impact women have on our lives and society. That's why women's health care is a top priority.

The following pages illustrate just a few examples of how Health Science Center researchers, such as Leslie Myatt, Ph.D. (pictured left), and clinicians, like Ildiko Agoston, M.D. (right), are collaborating and leading efforts to enhance the care and services provided to women of all ages and backgrounds in San Antonio and South Texas.

Source: Pew Research Center





*Experience, collaboration and support fuel new center*

## Center for Excellence in Women's Health launched

BY NATALIE GUTIERREZ

**"WOMEN ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR LIVES AND WORLD,"**

said Leslie Myatt, Ph.D.

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Myatt has dedicated his life to reproductive science and women's health care. He focuses on applying basic bench research to clinical problems and translating his findings into better ways to diagnose and prevent diseases and disorders that plague women.

His passion stems partly from observing many of the strong women in his life. He describes his mother, aunts and two grandmothers as being determined and influential, yet sensitive and supportive of their spouses and family. As a young boy growing up in Yorkshire, England, Dr. Myatt remembers helping his family care for his paternal grandmother when she was diagnosed with diabetes, and his maternal grandmother during her final days battling bladder cancer.

Today, Dr. Myatt sees the same determination and support from his wife, Angela Elizabeth Myatt, with whom he has two children, George, 25, and Louise, 20. Angela earned her Master of Science in Information Science degree from the City University in London. She is an expert in information retrieval, teaches evidence-based medicine and serves as the curriculum liaison librarian for the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center.

Leslie Myatt, Ph.D., holds the widely used textbook "The Placenta: From Development to Disease," in which he authored a chapter in 2011 that examines comparisons between placental function in normal and abnormal pregnancies.

Dr. Myatt said his wife has been the pillar holding their family together during some of their toughest storms. "Angela has single-handedly dealt with family crises during my frequent work-related absences, and even kept the children safe during two actual tornadoes and a hurricane that hit when I was out of town."

In 2008 while Dr. Myatt was in Austria attending a research conference, the powerful remnants of Hurricane Ike blew through Cincinnati, where they lived at the time, leaving behind a trail of destruction. "When I got home, there was a huge tree lying across our yard and driveway. Angela had taken care of our children and our home through it all. She is amazing," he said.

### MYATT ON A MISSION

Motivated by his family philosophy and insatiable quest for new scientific knowledge, Dr. Myatt is on a mission to help solve some of the most vexing problems affecting women today. In the process, he intends to help provide new opportunities for women scientists and physicians to lead these critical efforts.

"We still do not know what causes preterm labor or preeclampsia. These problems affect a vast number of women worldwide and have a tremendous emotional, societal and economic impact. These are just two areas where we have a lot of work to do."

Dr. Myatt is professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the Center for Pregnancy and Newborn Research. He came to the Health Science Center after serving as a faculty member for 22 years at the University of Cincinnati where he directed the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Physician Scientist Training Program and the Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholars Program.

"Pregnancy is where life begins for the child and is a critical time in the life of the mother," Dr. Myatt said. "It's like a mapping system or computer programming, determining the future course of health for both the mother and child."

Dr. Myatt likened pregnancy to a "stress test" for the mother. "If a woman fails the stress test because she develops gestational diabetes or hypertension, that means she needs careful and regular follow up during and after she gives birth and, importantly, throughout the rest of her life." Failure of the stress test, Dr. Myatt said, could be the signal for a host of other disorders that the mother and child could develop in the future, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders, cancer, diabetes or psychiatric or mood disorders.

Dr. Myatt and his research team study how genes interact with environmental factors such as pollutants,



Because of the placenta's complex role in birth and life, some cultures have established traditions to honor the organ. The "Tree of Life" (pictured above) involves the practice of incorporating the placenta in artwork that is either displayed in the home or preserved as a keepsake.

lifestyle, diet, stress, and disease during pregnancy, and affect the mother and child. They also study how the placenta regulates fetal growth and development as it supplies nutrients to the fetus. When the placenta is compromised by the environment inside or outside the womb, preterm birth can also occur. Dr. Myatt said that children born prematurely face serious and sometimes lifelong health problems.

Dr. Myatt has published more than 220 research papers in his field and has a long history of funding from the NIH.

### ENDOWMENT OPENS WINDOW

This year, Dr. Myatt was named the holder of the Quincy and Estine Lee Endowment, funded by a gift from the Estate of Estine M. Lee and a matching gift from Francisco González-Scarano, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs. Dr. Myatt also was named the director of the newly created Center for Excellence in Women's Health at the Health Science Center.

"The generosity of the Estine M. Lee Estate and the decision to create the center shows a strong commitment by this institution and the community to women's health. It opened a window of opportunity for us to excel in this area," Dr. Myatt said. "Women comprise 50 percent of the patients we see throughout our Health Science Center and UT Medicine clinics.

Dr. Myatt explained that the national decline



in federal funding for research and education that began several years ago triggered the closing of many centers for women's health across the country, including the closing in 2007 of the center that had been established at the Health Science Center.

"It is time to rejuvenate and expand our efforts and attract additional funding," Dr. Myatt said. "A new dynamic center in women's health here on our campus will re-establish us as having the only center of this kind in Texas."

### CONNECTING AND COLLABORATING

The new Center for Excellence in Women's Health will be a multidisciplinary, coordinated effort by multiple departments and community partners to connect, consolidate and advance all aspects and efforts of women's health care, research, education, leadership and community service the Health Science Center offers.

A large portion of research conducted across the various schools concentrates on women's health. Obvious areas include perinatology and gynecology. Dr. Myatt said the center will work to identify and emphasize additional research opportunities in areas that may not be so obvious but that affect large number of women. Obesity, diabetes, depression, cardiovascular disease and cancer are some of those.

"Furthermore, San Antonio is notable for its predominantly Hispanic population and significant military presence. These present unique opportunities for us to bring researchers together to strengthen existing programs and develop new discoveries that benefit these groups," Dr. Myatt said.

Health care partners such as University Health System, the South Texas Veterans Health Care System and the network of researchers across the nation, who are connected by the university's Clinical Translational Science Award, will make valuable contributions. An advisory board, including community leaders, will help guide the center's efforts.

### UMBRELLA FOR GROWTH

UT Medicine San Antonio, the clinical practice of the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center, offers comprehensive care for women of all ages. Most recently, UT Medicine created the Women's Comprehensive Health Institute at its Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC). The institute serves as a one-stop destination where women can achieve annual health care assessments in one place on one single day.

Dr. Myatt said that under the umbrella of the Center for Excellence in Women's Health, the new institute and other clinical programs will benefit from access to new community outreach efforts such as health fairs that invite women to participate in clinical and research programs offered by the university.

Women's health research seminars and annual symposiums are also planned.

"All of these programs working together enhance our research and clinical enterprises," Dr. Myatt said.

Through curriculum expansion and career development, fellowship and mentoring programs, Dr. Myatt said the center will also focus on increasing the number of female faculty, students and fellows participating in women's health activities and increase the number of women faculty at the university overall. He said grant applications for funding support are underway.

### PHILANTHROPY CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS

Because the NIH and other state and federal funding sources have remained relatively flat for the past few years, Dr. Myatt said funding from private donors and foundations is crucial to the success of the center.

"The generosity of donors like the Estine M. Lee Estate has given us the start. Now we hope the community will join with us to continue our momentum," he said.

One group that will help advocate for the center is the Council for Excellence in Women's Health. Mary Henrich, wife of Health Science Center President William L. Henrich, M.D., co-chairs the council with Graciela Cigarroa, wife of Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D., chancellor of The University of Texas System. They lead a group of more than 100 influential women community leaders from San Antonio and South Texas who volunteer and serve on the council.

The goal of the council, which was formed in 2007, is to improve the physical and mental health of women in San Antonio by building awareness for women's health issues. Through various outreach activities, they promote a greater understanding and need for support of women's health care programs and initiatives.

Since its establishment, the council has raised \$84,000 (including matching funds from the President's Council), and has provided more than 32 scholarships to students enrolled in the five schools at the Health Science Center.

"I am excited and honored to be able to work with so many talented individuals at the university and partners in our community toward elevating women's health care, research, education and outreach in this city," Dr. Myatt said.

"The Center for Excellence in Women's Health is an opportunity that everyone can and should be a part of, and one for which everyone will greatly benefit in the long run."

See related story on the Women's Comprehensive Health Institute of UT Medicine San Antonio, page 14.

## Council for Excellence in Women's Health

*Improving the physical and mental  
health of women in San Antonio  
one woman at a time*

### Join today.

- Learn about women's programs and initiatives offered at the UT Health Science Center;
- Serve as a sounding board and act as "eyes and ears" in the community to help the Health Science Center fulfill its mission for excellence in women's health;
- Enlist other community leaders to serve as volunteers in support of the university's women's initiatives; and
- Participate in Women's Leadership Committee meetings and other events.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To join the Council for Excellence in Women's Health, call Kim Warshauer at 210-567-0242 or

warshauer@uthscsa.edu, or visit [uthscsa.edu/op/womenscouncil/index.asp](http://uthscsa.edu/op/womenscouncil/index.asp).

*"It is  
empowering*

when women from all walks of life join together to advance education and health care in order to help women from a multiplicity of backgrounds and traditions. The work we accomplish today will last a lifetime and span generations of mothers, daughters, sisters and grandmothers."

- MARY HENRICH, CO-CHAIR, COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH





# VIP care



BY CATHERINE DUNCAN

Ildiko Agoston, M.D., FACC, assistant professor of medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, has created what she calls a VIP clinic for the everyday woman without the VIP price tag.

Since arriving at the university in 2011, Dr. Agoston and her team created the Women's Comprehensive Health Institute. The institute, which opened last June, offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary clinic that addresses the complex and unique health care needs of women of all ages.

## ANNUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS DONE ALL IN ONE PLACE

"This truly is a one-stop shop for women. Instead of taking five days to go to five different doctor's offices, they can have all their annual health care assessments done in one place on one single day," she said. "We have all the specialists in one place. Women love the convenience and the time-saving process."

Based on a woman's age and insurance benefits, the annual appointment can include a physical exam, dermatology exam, gynecology exam with Pap smear, mammogram, electrocardiogram, bone density scan and other health screenings.

"To begin coming to our women's institute, a woman calls our office and talks to a registered nurse who answers questions about our services and provides a health questionnaire. We review the completed questionnaire and decide - based on the current evidence-based health guidelines - what the woman needs," Dr. Agoston said.

The registered nurse works with the patient to schedule the appointments and confirm insurance benefits. The patient is given an itinerary for the day.

## INSTANTANEOUS ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS

"The women have loved it. There is no clinic likes this in the city. Our electronic medical record system allows our doctors to share health care records instantaneously. The concept is to make it more convenient for our patients to take care of themselves," she said.

Dr. Agoston, who is a general cardiologist, said if the patient has multiple cardiac risk factors or has had cardiology problems, then she will see the patient. "Most women do not understand how prevalent heart disease is in females. Too many people still think it is a man's disease."

## APPOINTMENTS AT MARC AND CTRC

The majority of appointments are located in the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC), which is the eight-story clinical home for UT Medicine San Antonio, the faculty medical practice of the School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. The MARC is located at 8300 Floyd Curl Drive. The dermatology exams and mammograms are located nearby at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC), 7979 Wurzbach Road.



**"The women have loved it. There is no clinic likes this in the city. The concept is to make it more convenient for our patients to take care of themselves."**

-ILDIKO AGOSTON, M.D., FACC

 **FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Call the institute at 210-450-6400.



## Women's liberation

### Doctor relieves disconcerting disorders

BY SHEILA HOTCHKIN

When a woman has the sort of problem that's usually not discussed, she can find deep knowledge and a sympathetic ear in Elizabeth Casiano, M.D.

A fellowship-trained urogynecologist with UT Medicine San Antonio, Dr. Casiano has extensive training and experience treating conditions that affect female pelvic organs and the muscles and connective tissues supporting them. These conditions include urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, when one or more pelvic organs slip downward from their normal position.

A woman might be embarrassed to tell anyone - even her physician - that she's having such a problem. Still more common, Dr. Casiano said, is seeing women who have waited years to be evaluated because they thought their difficulties were a normal part of aging.

"They think it's something they have to live with as they get older," said Dr. Casiano, a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the School of Medicine of the UT Health Science Center. "A lot of older patients have stopped doing things because this is interfering. They really want to get back to their activities, the things they used to enjoy."

Women should not feel alone in having these problems. Up to 40 percent of women will have enough symptoms of urinary incontinence or pelvic organ prolapse to merit medical evaluation and treatment, which usually brings significant relief.

The specialty was a natural fit for Dr. Casiano,

who arrived in San Antonio as a child due to her father's military service. He is also a gynecologist, and by the time she attended Incarnate Word High School, she knew that she wanted to be a physician, too. "I always give my dad credit for that because I used to go around with him on the weekend," Dr. Casiano said. "He loved his job, and I was inspired by that."

She went to Brown University, where she completed an eight-year combined program in liberal medical education. She received a bachelor's degree in political science in 2000 and her medical degree in 2004.

From there, Dr. Casiano went to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center for residency and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for a fellowship in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. She joined UT Medicine in 2011 and is one of two fellowship-trained urogynecologists in San Antonio.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Casiano on our faculty and seeing patients of UT Medicine," said Mark Funk, M.D., medical director of the UT Medicine obstetrics and gynecology clinic, located at the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC). "The expertise she brings for the care of women with the most complicated pelvic organ prolapse and urinary problems is extraordinary. She is able to greatly improve the lives of women suffering from symptoms of these pelvic conditions."



 **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Casiano or other UT Medicine obstetricians or gynecologists, call 210-450-9500.





# Guiding Latinas TO GOOD HEALTH

BY NATALIE GUTIERREZ

**Patient Navigator  
Guadalupe Cornejo  
(left) pays a visit  
to patient Jovita  
De Leon at her  
home on the city's  
West Side.**

*Photo by Lester  
Rosebrock, Creative  
Media Services*

It was like a small, round bean; solid and smooth. Jovita De Leon, 62, described the lump she felt in her left breast. Over time as it grew, she felt something else deep in the pit of her stomach – fear. It was enough to scare her into seeking a doctor.

Visits to the doctor were not common for De Leon who doesn't have health insurance and whose income is limited by the number of sewing jobs she can get. She works as a seamstress out of her home on San Antonio's West Side. Without a vehicle, transportation to a doctor's office is problematic. But this time she needed to get there. "What if the lump was cancer?" she thought to herself. As a mother, grandmother and caretaker of her 94-year-old ill father, De Leon couldn't afford to be sick. Her family needed her.

It took two weeks, but with help from her grown children and money from her job, De Leon was able to gather the \$75 needed for a visit to the doctor. After her clinical exam, De Leon still didn't have all the answers. She knew it was serious when the doctor told her it was urgent she get a mammogram.

"He even gave me my money back," De Leon said. The physician sent her home with a list of phone numbers for clinics that offered low-cost scans. Even with \$75 and clinic phone numbers, De Leon, who only speaks Spanish, had problems communicating her needs over the phone and trouble saving the \$300 needed for the test.

Months passed and De Leon began to feel sick and listless. She had fever and intense pain. After several failed attempts to secure a mammogram, her morale was shot.

It was the fall of 2011 and Thanksgiving was quickly approaching. On one of De Leon's many sleepless nights, she saw an advertisement on television for an upcoming free health fair to be held in front of San Fernando Cathedral. It seemed to be De Leon's last hope. So her daughter, Gabriela Benavides, drove her downtown the next day. They arrived at 7 a.m. But to their dismay, police officers were closing down the streets. A fire that ignited in a building nearby caused the cancellation of the fair. Discouraged, desperate and in pain, De Leon prayed for help and hope.

## STUDY SHOWS LATINAS LEFT BEHIND

A national research study conducted by the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) in the School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Redes En Acción: National Latino Cancer Research Network, which is funded by the National Cancer Institute, showed that the average time for Latinas' to receive a definitive diagnosis of breast cancer was 60 days, compared with just 27 days for non-Hispanic white women. The study was published this year in the journal *SpringerPlus*.

"This lag time puts Latinas at greater risk of being diagnosed with larger tumors and more advanced-stage breast cancer. The delay can affect prognosis," said Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., who is an author on the study and director of the IHPR and Redes En Acción. "With cancer being the leading cause of Latino death, this study also signals a greater need for ethnically and culturally appropriate interventions to facilitate Latinas' successful entry into, and progression through the cancer care system."

For De Leon, the time delay was much longer. It was an entire year after she first discovered the lump in her breast that she learned about a financial assistance program for Bexar County residents, signed up and received the referral for the diagnostic mammogram she needed.

By then, she could see the lump protruding through her skin. The imaging revealed several more tumors that had developed. A biopsy was the next step and she was put in touch with doctors at the Cancer Therapy & Research Centers (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

"As soon as I came to the CTRC, everything moved fast," De Leon said. Two days later, she underwent a seven-hour biopsy and finally received the news she'd waited so long for. De Leon had two types of cancer – invasive ductal carcinoma and ductal carcinoma *in situ* with focal micro-invasion. Invasive ductal carcinoma is the most commonly diagnosed breast cancer in women. It grows through the milk duct walls into the surrounding breast tissue and can spread to other parts of the body. Ductal carcinoma *in situ* is more contained, but is the precursor for invasive cancer.

Doctors told De Leon she'd need surgery immediately.

Two weeks before Christmas, on Dec. 9, 2011, De Leon underwent a complete mastectomy (surgical removal) of her left breast. Alfredo Santillan, M.D., performed the procedure. Dr. Santillan is a UT Medicine San Antonio surgical oncologist and assistant professor in the School of Medicine.

"My luck changed that day," De Leon said. "Dr. Santillan was very warm. He spoke to me in Spanish. He understood me. He was very kind and





Institute of Medicine member Amelie G. Ramirez, Dr.P.H., who leads the Institute for Health Promotion Research in the School of Medicine, has spent more than 30 years directing programs focused on reducing chronic disease and cancer health disparities affecting Latinos in South Texas. She is the Dielmann Chair in Health Disparities Research and Community Outreach and the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Endowed Chair in Cancer Healthcare Disparities and Outreach at the CTRC.

he saved me. I will always be grateful to him.”

In addition to the care she received at the CTRC, De Leon was introduced to Guadalupe Cornejo – a woman she calls “mi ángel de la guardia,” (my guardian angel). Cornejo is a patient navigator who works at the UT Health Science Center’s IHPR.

### GUIDING PATIENTS TO GOOD HEALTH

Studies at the IHPR and its Redes En Acción network, led by Dr. Ramirez and her team, found that extra support for patients from trained patient navigators, like Cornejo, can lead to faster diagnosis and shorter time delays between an abnormal mammogram and definitive diagnosis – whether positive or negative for breast cancer – than those who did not receive navigation. Services provided by navigators include culturally sensitive support and help overcoming barriers related to transportation, child care, insurance, language and more.

“We’re now testing if patient navigation also can speed the lag time Latinas have from receiving that diagnosis to starting their treatment,” Dr. Ramirez said. Her team includes Cornejo, Armida Flores,

Arelly Perez and National Study Coordinator Sandra San Miguel.

Cornejo follows up with De Leon on her doctor appointments, prescription renewals and connects her with accessible health care resources. Last year, Cornejo introduced De Leon to a community-based wellness center for women surviving cancer where she now receives counseling and participates in a support group for Spanish-speaking cancer survivors. There, De Leon was also fitted for a prosthesis and special bra, which she received at no cost.

“Jovita could have died if she hadn’t gotten help,” Cornejo said. “She’s a strong woman. She just got lost in the system. I’m helping her find her way back.”

De Leon said her future is brighter. “I feel loved and I have my self-esteem again. I learned that there are really good people out there who you can trust, who will listen to you and take good care of you. This is a very good program. There should be more like it.”

*Cliff Despres of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at the UT Health Science Center, contributed to this story.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about the Institute for Health Promotion Research and the patient navigator program at [ihpr.uthscsa.edu](http://ihpr.uthscsa.edu). Visit the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at [ctrc.net](http://ctrc.net) or call Sheri Ortiz at 210-450-5512.


## What is a patient navigator?

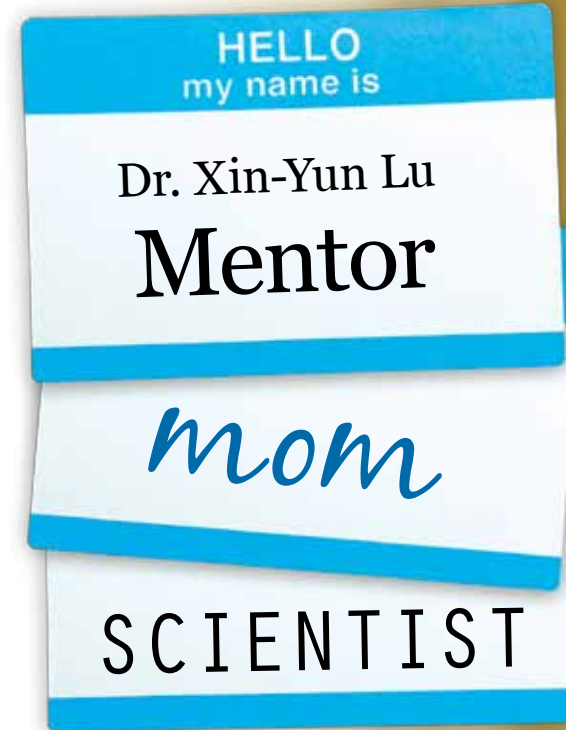
Patient navigators are trained, culturally sensitive health care workers who provide support and guidance throughout the cancer care continuum. They help people navigate through the maze of doctors’ offices, clinics, hospitals, outpatient centers, insurance and payment systems, patient-support organizations, and other components of the health care system. Services are designed to support timely delivery of quality standard cancer care and ensure that patients, survivors and families are satisfied with their encounters with the cancer care system. Patient navigator activities designed to achieve these outcomes include:

- Coordinating appointments with providers to ensure timely delivery of diagnostic and treatment services;
- Maintaining communication with patients, survivors, families and the health care providers to monitor patient satisfaction with the cancer care experience;
- Ensuring that appropriate medical records are available at scheduled appointments;
- Arranging language translation or interpretation services;
- Facilitating financial support and helping with paperwork;
- Arranging transportation and/or child/elder care; and
- Facilitating linkages to follow-up services.

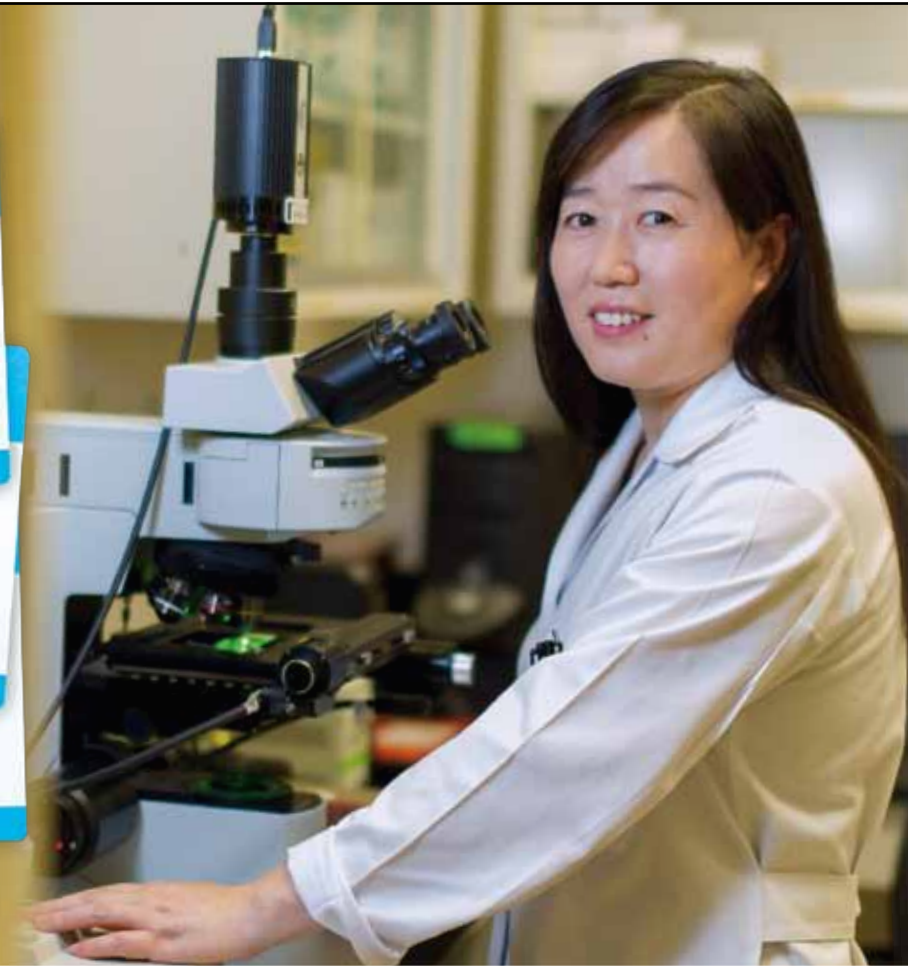
Other navigator activities include community outreach, providing access to clinical trials and building partnerships with local agencies and groups (e.g. referrals to other services and/or cancer survivor support groups).

*Source: National Cancer Institute Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities*

 **LEARN MORE** about patient navigation in "A Patient Navigation Manual for Latino Audiences: The Redes En Acción Experience," a bilingual guidebook that aims to motivate and guide health care providers across the nation to develop patient navigation services that can help Latino patients overcome barriers to timely health care. The manual outlines the step-by-step approach and resources to help providers and groups learn about and consider adding navigators. Visit [redesenaccion.org/PatientNavigatorManual](http://redesenaccion.org/PatientNavigatorManual).



BY WILL SANSOM



“Mentor,” “mom,” “scientist” and “game-changer” are fitting words to describe Xin-Yun Lu, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology in the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center. As a devoted mom, Dr. Lu attentively raises her children and steers them on a path toward success. Similarly, as a dedicated researcher, Dr. Lu is consistently raising up scientific discoveries that could pave the way to a novel class of medications for depression. One recent discovery even offers a solid clue as to why the risk of depression is doubled in persons with Type 2 diabetes.

Xin-Yun grew up in Northern China, where she attended medical school at Binzhou not far from Beijing. In 1992 after several years of study, she moved to the United States, where in a few years she completed her Ph.D. at Washington State University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. Today Dr.

Lu is one of the leading women scientists at the Health Science Center. Her novel studies of fat hormones’ role in depression – including the idea that these hormones could treat the disease without the metabolic side effects of current antidepressants – are highly cited by other scientists in journal articles worldwide.

“Fat secretes a lot of hormones, two of which are leptin and adiponectin,” Dr. Lu says. “Our team has shed light on their role in mood disorders and their potential as antidepressant agents.” In 2006 her lab reported that leptin, which regulates appetite, was decreased in rats that exhibited depression-like behaviors such as anhedonia (reduced pleasure seeking) and learned helplessness. The team’s findings led to more recent discoveries by other scientists that leptin is decreased in a broad spectrum of women with depression.



Click to watch video introduction to Dr. Lu's lab

Another milestone came in 2012 when the lab published its discovery that levels of adiponectin, a circulating hormone that sensitizes the body to insulin, are lower in mice undergoing chronic social stress. When the team injected mice with adiponectin, this effect was reversed. This offers an intriguing connection between diabetes and depression. Current antidepressants raise the risk of obesity and Type 2 diabetes and do not help all depressed patients.



Dr. Lu is raising two daughters, Wendy, now 17, and Jenny, 11, with her husband, Wei Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., a third-year pathology resident in the School of Medicine. And even while overseeing a lab that includes four postdoctoral fellows, one Ph.D. student and one junior faculty member, Dr. Lu still finds time for her family's activities. Since 2003 Dr. Lu has supervised at least 10 postdocs. She also has a lab and is a visiting professor at Binzhou Medical University, the institution that birthed her biomedical career.

Nicole Carrier, Ph.D., learned about Dr. Lu's research while at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Carrier is interested in why females are 2.5-times more prone than men to develop depression. "I came here to study gender differences in how leptin affects depression," Dr. Carrier said. "This was the only lab in the country doing this. The novelty is that this lab pioneered the whole idea of leptin in depression."

Jing Liu, Ph.D., instructor/research, said: "I joined Dr. Lu's lab in 2006 and since then Dr. Lu has been a great mentor for me and a role model of a successful woman scientist. Her research has opened a whole new aspect of understanding mood and emotion regulation by hormones derived from adipocyte (fat). As a brilliant scientist, Dr. Lu's enthusiasm and complete devotion to scientific research, together with her great wealth of knowledge, inspires and supports everyone in her group. As a respected mentor, she strongly encourages the development of both analytical and grant-obtaining skills, the two critical abilities for future scientific career development. It is exactly the fusion of her passion, charisma, intelligence and the exemplary style of her mentorship that makes me very confident about my future scientific career."



*Gail*  
Tomlinson, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Vivienne*  
Rebel, M.D., Ph.D.

## Women scientists lead efforts to fight cancer

BY WILL SANSOM

Vivienne Rebel, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of cellular and structural biology, and Gail Tomlinson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, are two women in science who play crucial roles at the Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute. Dr. Rebel dedicates her time to research that could one day translate to new therapies, while Dr. Tomlinson cares for seriously ill children and seeks to translate research discoveries.

Dr. Tomlinson, who holds the Greehey Distinguished Chair in the Genetics of Cancer, is division chief of hematology-oncology. She also holds the Greehey Distinguished Chair for the Children's Cancer Research Institute Director at the Greehey Institute where she serves as interim director. She sees hospitalized children and has a grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to study pediatric liver cancer. This work is developing into a national and international clinical research trial.

Dr. Rebel investigates the properties of stem cells in a bone marrow disease called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). "Stem cells are the only cells in the body that have a seemingly unlimited capacity to proliferate, just like cancer cells," she said. "I thought that by studying stem cells, we may learn about cancer." Dr. Rebel's laboratory is using a mouse model to try to understand what is going wrong in the production of blood-forming stem cells that may eventually lead to MDS and, in some cases, to leukemia. "It is thought that the culprit cell of MDS is the blood-forming stem cell," she said.

Dr. Tomlinson became intrigued by the molecular basis of cancer while a biochemistry student at Duke University. "I was

interested in how some of the biochemical findings could influence the cure of pediatric diseases such as leukemia," she said. "After I became more established, I focused my efforts on understanding genetic causes of pediatric tumors, all with a translational goal in mind to help guide therapies or understand causes so that, whenever possible, diseases could be prevented or detected early. Most pediatric cancers have historically not been thought to be preventable. It is a goal, albeit a long way out."

Dr. Tomlinson is principal investigator on a \$2.7 million CPRIT grant to empower health-care providers to map out cancer risks of their patients and to share information about family history as an important factor. The grant, awarded in 2012, also supports screening services for people at high risk for cancer who may not have adequate access to screening.

Dr. Rebel admires women scientists such as Bettie Sue Masters, Ph.D., the Robert A. Welch Foundation Distinguished Chair in Chemistry at the Health Science Center. "Dr. Masters is amazing," Dr. Rebel said. "She has faced the real difficulty of being from a generation when being a woman scientist wasn't easy. Over time, there has been improvement." Dr. Rebel also greatly respects Dr. Tomlinson for juggling both a clinic schedule and the institute. "I decided to stay with research and not go into the clinic," she said.

As these two women apply their intellect, compassion and resources to understanding pediatric cancers, the children of Texas and the world are the beneficiaries.



BY CATHERINE DUNCAN

Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor of family and community health systems, grew up on the city's West Side. "That is my barrio. I have gotten so much from my career in nursing. I want to give back, and there are limited resources on the West Side."

Dr. Cantu partners with local non-profit and governmental agencies to improve the health of these residents while providing nursing students invaluable hands-on experience. As part of these programs, nursing students work with residents to encourage healthy eating, exercise and behavioral changes that affect their overall health. To accomplish these goals, she has developed health-related projects including:

### Good Samaritan Community Services

For the past five summers, nursing students team with Good Samaritan staff members to host the Healthy Choices for Kids day camp. Children have fun while learning about diet, exercise and other healthy choices.

Undergraduate nursing students work with the elderly at the Senior Center. Students use culturally appropriate practices to show seniors how to make food in a healthier manner. Students also walk with seniors to encourage exercise.



Dr. Cantu (right) takes pride in the positive effects projects like Healthy Choices for Kids have on the community and on nursing students.

### La Fe Policy Research & Education Center

Dr. Cantu and the non-profit center received an AARP grant targeting seniors who are food insecure on the West Side. Nursing students educate seniors about resources available for getting food.

### San Antonio Metropolitan Health District

She worked with the public agency to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities. This program concentrates on food deserts, which are areas on the West Side lacking healthy food availability. In seven convenience stores, the program provided refrigerated units to hold fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables.

### Healthy Futures of Texas

Dr. Cantu partnered with the non-profit corporation to prevent unplanned pregnancies in teens and adults. Nursing students will use the Abstinence-Plus program in the community.

"In all of the programs, I give direction, but the nursing students do the teaching and work with the community members," she said. "This gives the students a perspective they will not get from just treating patients at the bedside. Students must understand the context of the community in order to better treat each individual patient."



(Left to right) 12-year-olds Gisselle Hernandez, Evelyn Acosta and Angelina Uriegas received medals in the Healthy Choices for Kids jump rope competition at Good Samaritan Community Services on the city's West Side. Healthy Choices, created by Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., RN, is a curriculum taught by nursing students from the UT Health Science Center.





*Taking it to heart*

# Researcher felt cancer firsthand

BY ELIZABETH ALLEN



Gregory Aune, M.D., Ph.D., is pictured with his wife, Christine Aune, M.D., and his children: 10-year-old twins Emma and Noah (seated) and 5-year-old twins Sophia and Elijah (standing). Photo by Lester Rosebrock, Creative Media Services

## From lab to clinic: Cancer survivors, patients benefit at CTRC

Dr. Greg Aune is just one of many physician-scientists at the UT Health Science Center who, through cutting-edge research, is paving the way for new treatments for cancer patients and survivors.

Just about a half mile from the university's main campus is the CTRC where investigators, like Dr. Aune, conduct their studies. Patients directly benefit from discoveries made here that are translated into tailored treatment and compassionate care.

Martha Arredondo has experienced that care firsthand.

Arredondo's parents had sheltered her from the worst news on her cancer diagnosis at age 13.

"They all said I would be okay," Martha said, "so I figured I would be okay."

But her parents bore the heavy weight of knowledge: Martha had developed a malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumor. It was rare to begin with, and even rarer in young females. They were told that she wouldn't make it to age 16.

Now 29, Martha has graduated from childhood cancer survivor to adult cancer survivor, and has two children of her own.

During that time she fought the cancer's return several times – in her stomach, liver and even her brain – with the help of Cancer Therapy & Research Center physicians and staff.

They are her friends. And as a veteran cancer patient, Martha knows how important that is.

"It's amazing. I have so many friends there. At CTRC when the nurses have a break, they'll come out of their way to talk to you. They always ask about my kids and my husband."

"It makes it a lot easier for you to handle whatever it is that you're going through at that moment. I've had so many experiences where it helped a lot."

Martha protects her own boys from many details of her illness, but they're acquainted with the CTRC.

"My son calls the nurses 'the snack doctors.' They would send snacks for him, so when I would get home he would ask, 'Did you see the snack doctor?'"

She had a long relationship with her oncologist as well. Kamalesh Sankhala, M.D., saw Martha when he was a fellow helping to establish the sarcoma clinic at the CTRC. When he returned as a board-certified internal medicine specialist she became his patient again.

"He was super nice and professional then, and he hadn't changed," she said.

*The Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio is one of the elite academic cancer centers in the country to be named a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Cancer Center, and is one of only four in Texas. A leader in developing new drugs to treat cancer, the CTRC Institute for Drug Development (IDD) conducts one of the largest oncology Phase I clinical drug programs in the world, and participates in development of cancer drugs approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. For more information, visit [ctrc.net](http://ctrc.net).*

Even as a childhood cancer survivor – or rather, because he was a childhood cancer survivor – Dr. Greg Aune knew he wouldn't be working in pediatric oncology.

Nevertheless, that's where he finds himself today, with a special focus on survivorship issues: specifically, the cardiac problems that can plague cancer survivors decades after a recovery.

More than 20 years after the sports-loving high school kid was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, Gregory Aune, M.D., Ph.D., is a pediatric oncologist in the School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. He's establishing a lab that approaches chemotherapy-induced heart problems from two perspectives: that of pediatric oncologist and laboratory cancer scientist. He is also the first graduate of the pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship made possible by the Greehey Pediatric Fellowship in Hematology Oncology endowment.

Things would have been different for Dr. Aune without that diagnosis. He might have gone into

coaching or journalism instead of medicine. He would not have donated sperm in anticipation of the harsh cancer treatments that would destroy his fertility, and he would not have the two sets of twins who romp with him and his wife, neonatologist Christine Aune, M.D.

But as a 16-year-old he suffered through 10 months of chemotherapy, losing 80 pounds and a year of school. He developed severe abdominal pain from chemotherapy-induced paralytic ileus, a serious shutdown of his digestive system.

Dr. Aune says he behaved like many teenagers receiving cancer therapy and was not eager to talk about his symptoms. He waited a week to tell anybody about the abdominal pain. After that he had to receive his nutrition intravenously for several months.

So over time, as much as Dr. Aune had once wanted to get away from that environment, "all that toxicity got me thinking that there has to be a better way to do this."

It's also given him a deeper understanding of what his young patients are going through, even when they try to keep it inside.

"I'm saying, 'What's going on in there? I know you're not telling me stuff.'"

**With 13 million adult and pediatric cancer survivors in the United States today and 20 million projected by 2022, both groups face significant and special health issues.**

*Source: Journal of Clinical Oncology of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*



## Survivor + Activist = Philanthropist

BY SAREN SPICER

Annabelle Jones lives to improve the future of the next generations.

Retired after 33 years of serving children as an elementary schoolteacher, she continues to make a difference in children's lives by reading with them at her local library and working on projects in her community to help create a healthy future. As an advocate for the preservation of natural resources, she shares with others her philosophy that everyone should "tread lightly on the earth." Jones is committed to reducing her carbon footprint. She is proud of the fact that she is "98 percent off the grid" through her use of solar energy.

In the summer of 1989 Jones' spirit was tested when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Fueled by her inherent courage and devotion to her health, her job and her family

in her hometown of San Angelo, Jones sought the expertise and a second opinion from physicians at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio where she decided to undergo treatment.

Bravely, Jones beat breast cancer and believes research at the CTRC played a major role in her survival.

"At the CTRC I felt I received kind, generous and professional care that fit my needs and allowed me to go home to San Angelo, finish raising my children, and complete graduate school and international studies," she said.

Today, Jones is an activist for several non-profit organizations with the goal of beating breast cancer by 2020. Most recently, she made the decision to endow the CTRC with a bequest through her will to be used for breast cancer research.

Jones believes research is the key to unlocking life's mysteries. Growing up in the 1950s, she vividly remembers collecting nickels and dimes to contribute to the cause of eliminating polio and developing the vaccine used worldwide today. "I believe research is the answer. There have been so many advances in breast cancer treatment since I was diagnosed in 1989."

Recalling her childhood memories, she knows that each contribution to vital research can make that goal a reality.

"I am just a retired school teacher, but I believe we are all in the same boat, and each of us needs to do what we can to help row the boat. I strongly believe we all should get behind the innovative research efforts at the CTRC to defeat cancer. I want my legacy to be that in the future, our children and grandchildren will not



have to deal with the pain and fear of cancer. I hope my contribution creates a domino effect so others give what they can."

To this day Jones remains grateful to Peter Ravdin, M.D., Ph.D., director of the CTRC Breast Cancer program. She also considers him a friend.

Jones fervently believes that women with cancer need support groups. "I am grateful because I feel I am always welcome to call CTRC with a question, come in and get a checkup or take one of their new classes in healthy cooking." She has been an active member of the CTRC Cabinet since its establishment in 1996 and enjoys her membership in the Laureate Society.

She has also reached out to others after her successful battle with cancer by participating in the Breast Cancer Coalition. As a breast cancer activist, Jones has, for many years, been a member of the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation and a regular volunteer for the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium that brings together thousands of health care professionals from around the world focused on curing breast cancer.

The word "philanthropy" is derived from the Greek language generally meaning "love of humankind." Annabelle Jones demonstrates that being a philanthropist is within reach for everyone who acts to enhance the quality of life and help others in need. She describes herself as a survivor and an activist, but she has become a philanthropist, giving from her heart to improve the future health of others. She joins the UT Health Science Center in their goal "to make lives better."

Natalie Gutierrez contributed to this story.



## HONORING YOUR GENEROSITY Laureate Society pays tribute to donors

Annabelle Jones is a proud member of the Laureate Society at the UT Health Science Center.

You can be a member too! The Laureate Society was established to pay tribute to those who have made gifts to the UT Health Science Center through a variety of estate planning vehicles including bequests, life income gifts and insurance policies.

Members share the common bond of generosity and visionary leadership, nourishing the university's continued success.

Contact us if you have made a gift or plan to give. We look forward to recognizing and honoring your generosity that has a lasting impact on future generations and helps make lives better.

For more information about the Laureate Society, gift options or ways to give, visit [giftplanning.uthscsa.edu](http://giftplanning.uthscsa.edu) or contact Kent Hamilton in the Gift Planning Office at 210-567-5001 or e-mail [hamiltonw@uthscsa.edu](mailto:hamiltonw@uthscsa.edu).

Saks Fifth Avenue and the CTRC at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio team up for the

## KEY TO THE CURE Charity Shopping Weekend Oct. 17 - 20

Enjoy exciting in-store activities, entertainment, food and prizes. A percentage of all sales benefit the Cancer Therapy & Research Center.

Beginning Oct. 1, purchase a limited-edition **KEY TO THE CURE** T-shirt designed by Emilio Pucci. All proceeds from the T-shirt sales benefit the CTRC.

For more information, call 210-567-2508.



Jennifer Aniston is the 2013 Entertainment Industry Foundation's Women's Cancer Research Fund ambassador for Saks Fifth Avenue's 2013 KEY TO THE CURE.

## Nurses, students, community members encouraged to preserve 'spirit of nursing'

BY ROSANNE FOHN

Although she has been a nurse for 42 years, it wasn't until Maria Wellisch, RN, B.B.A., LNFA, experienced the compassionate care of nursing firsthand that she felt the immense pride of being a nurse.

Wellisch, vice president of corporate education for Morningside Ministries, was the keynote speaker at the Nursing Advisory Council (NAC) spring luncheon. The philanthropic arm of the School of Nursing, the NAC provides student scholarships, funds research and supports major projects, such as the recently opened Center for Simulation Innovation.

A member of the NAC, Wellisch said that a few years ago she and her husband received the phone call that parents dread - her teenage daughter had been in a terrible wreck.

"When I walked into the emergency room, I was in nurse mode. I asked all the technical questions about Jessica's blood pressure and how many units of blood she'd had. Then, the 'mom' part of me stepped in for the six days that she was in a coma. The nurses were so patient with my repeated questions and concerns," she said, and noticed the smallest ways to provide comfort.

"Jessica was so particular about her appearance and cleanliness. The



(Left to right) Nursing Advisory Committee Chair Gregg Muenster stands with keynote speaker Maria Wellisch, RN, B.B.A., LNFA, and School of Nursing Dean Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN.

nurses carefully washed her hands and fingernails in a basin," she said. "They sang childhood songs with me to Jessica. And they were the ones who noticed that my younger daughter could not approach Jessica because of her appearance." The nurses trimmed Jessica's hair and rewrapped the turban so that she looked as though she had just washed her hair. "That is the heart and spirit of nursing," Wellisch said. "I never fully appreciated the impact we can have as nurses on our patients until then."

To support the spirit of nursing through the NAC or to become a member, contact Gwen Notestine at 210-567-5313 or [Notestine@uthscsa.edu](mailto:Notestine@uthscsa.edu).

**OCTOBER 18 - 27**

Proceeds from your \$50 card purchase benefit the **CTRC** at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

To purchase your Cancer Center Council **PARTNERS SHOPPING CARD** and to view a list of participating retailers, visit [cancercentercouncil.com](http://cancercentercouncil.com) or call 210-450-5571.

**20% OFF**

**PARTNERS SHOPPING CARD 2013**

THE CURE FOR CANCER JUST MIGHT BE IN THE BAG.



**Carlos Roberto Jaén, M.D., Ph.D.,**

chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, has been named chair-elect of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), the board that certifies the nation's family physicians. Dr. Jaén will chair the board for one year starting in 2014. Dr. Jaén occupies the Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Professorship in the Patient-Centered Medical Home, and is a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in the School of Medicine. The ABFM is one of the 24-member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.



**David J. Jones, M.S., Ph.D.,**

senior associate dean for admissions and professor in the Departments of Anesthesiology and Pharmacology, was named the recipient of the Robert Sabalis Award for Exemplary Service at the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) Southern Group on Student Affairs meeting this past spring. The award is in recognition of his extraordinary record of accomplishment, leadership, resourcefulness, dedication, mentorship of colleagues and commitment to the mission of the AAMC Southern Group on Student Affairs.



**Charleen M. Moore, Ph.D.,**

professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, was named a 2013 Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. She received a \$5,000 honorarium, certificate and gold pin. Only 10 faculty members statewide from institutions of higher learning are honored annually as Piper Professors. Dr. Moore is the 13th Health Science Center professor to receive this award. "I am still teaching after 40 years because of my opportunities to introduce students to the wonders of the human body, the human genome and the history of medicine," Dr. Moore said.



**Kathleen R. Stevens, Ed.D., RN,**

professor in the Department of Health Restoration and Care Systems Management in the School of Nursing and founding director of the Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice, was appointed to be The University of Texas System Chancellor's Health Fellow in Inter-professional Health Delivery Science. The purpose of the fellowship is to develop a multi-institutional network of investigators across the UT System in health delivery science and related areas, including implementation science, comparative effectiveness research, and patient-centered outcomes research. Since 2007, she has garnered \$9 million to support efforts that advance evidence-based quality improvement through research, education and practice.



**Health Science Center represented in national organizations**

**Faculty lead panels that maintain the 'bar' of quality in disciplines**

**School of Medicine**

**J. Jeffrey Andrews, M.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology in the School of Medicine, is secretary of the American Board of Anesthesiology.

**Antonio Anzueto, M.D.,** professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary Disease, serves on the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) International GOLD Committee.

**Steven Bailey, M.D., FSCAI, FACC,** chair of the Janey and Dolph Briscoe Division of Cardiology, professor of medicine and radiology, and occupant of the Janey Briscoe Distinguished University Chair in Cardiovascular Research, is past president of the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention; serves on the Executive Committee, Appropriate Use Criteria, for the American College of Cardiology; and is editor-in-chief of Catheterization and Cardiovascular Intervention.

**Kelly Berg, Ph.D.,** associate professor/research in the Department of Pharmacology, is secretary/treasurer of the International Society for Serotonin Research. Her four-year term ends in 2017. Previously, Dr. Berg held the position of Councilor-North America on the organization's board.

**Lois Bready, M.D.,** professor of anesthesiology and senior associate dean for graduate medical education, recently concluded a six-year term on the anesthesiology Review Committee, including two years as chairman.

**John Calhoon, M.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the School of Medicine, UT Health Science Center San Antonio, is chairman of the American

Board of Thoracic Surgery, which formulates the standards for the board examination taken by the nation's thoracic surgeons for certification. Dr. Calhoon has served on the board since 2003.

**Andrea J. (A.J.) Carpenter, M.D., Ph.D.,** professor and thoracic residency associate program director in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, is a member of the Adult Cardiac Writing Committee for the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. She has served three years in this capacity. Dr. Carpenter is vice president of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

**John Cornell, Ph.D.,** professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is associate editor for Annals of Internal Medicine.

**Lynette Daws, Ph.D.,** professor of physiology and pharmacology, is chair of the Neuropharmacology Division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). ASPET is a 4,800-member scientific society whose members help develop new medicines and therapeutic agents to fight existing and emerging diseases. Dr. Daws is also vice president and president-elect of the International Society for Serotonin Research, an association for biomedical scientists who are interested in any facet of research on serotonin. The society was founded in 1987 and has a worldwide membership of more than 600 basic and clinical scientists. Dr. Daws is an associate editor for the prestigious journal, *Pharmacological Reviews*.

**Donald Dudley, M.D.,** professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is chair of the Data Monitoring Committee, Obstetric Pharmacology Research Units Network for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The purpose of the committee is to monitor participant safety and data quality and evaluate the progress of the studies.

**Paul Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.,** professor of biochemistry, is executive editor of Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

**Annette Fothergill, M.A., M.B.A.,** associate professor/clinical in the Department of Pathology, is secretary-treasurer of the Medical Mycological Society of the Americas, an international society promoting research and education in medical mycology.

**Charles France, Ph.D.,** professor of pharmacology, is a Councilor of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He was elected to a three-year term in 2012. Dr. France has held other national elected positions including chair of the Behavioral

Pharmacology Division of ASPET, president of the Society for Stimulus Properties of Drugs, and president of the Behavioral Pharmacology Society.

**Alan Frazer, Ph.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, is secretary of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. The college's principal function is to further research and education in neuropsychopharmacology and related fields. He is serving a second five-year term that ends in 2015. Dr. Frazer is editor-in-chief for the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology, the official publication of the Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum. He is serving as an elected Councilor to the organization through 2014. Dr. Frazer was also elected to the Scientific Advisory Board of the Brain and Behavioral Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports research in major depressive disorders and schizophrenia.

**Lisa Gerak, Ph.D.,** assistant professor/research in the Department of Pharmacology, assumes duties as secretary/treasurer-elect of the Behavioral Pharmacology Division of ASPET in July 2013.

**Julie Hensler, Ph.D.,** professor of pharmacology, is serving as immediate past president of the International Society for Serotonin Research and presided over the 2012 meeting in Montpellier, France. Dr. Hensler is actively involved in the planning of, and obtaining sponsorship support for, the 2014 meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Carlos Jaén, M.D., Ph.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, the Dr. and Mrs. James L. Holly Distinguished Professor in the Patient-Centered Medical Home, and professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, in May was elected chair-elect of the American Board of Family Medicine.

**Thomas Jansson, M.D., Ph.D.,** associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is president of the Placental Association of the Americas.

**David Jimenez, M.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, recently served

on three committees of the Council of State Neurosurgical Societies: the Communication & Education, Reimbursement and Workforce committees.

**Marsha Kinney, M.D.,** professor in the Department of Pathology, is serving a two-year term as president of the 700-member Society for Hematopathology. The society is open to physicians and scientists whose work focuses on research and treatment of blood diseases and disorders.

**Craig M. Klugman, Ph.D.,** Reuter Professor of Medical Humanities and assistant director of ethics education with the Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics, is a member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Bioethics. Dr. Klugman is also the publication's blog editor. He recently served as social science review chair for the American Society for Bioethics & Humanities and as chair of the Nominating Committee for the Clinical Research Ethics Key Function Group of the Clinical Translational and Science Award.

**Ellen Kraig, Ph.D.,** professor of cellular and structural biology, is a member of the board of directors of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB), an association comprised of 26 scientific societies collectively representing more than 100,000 biomedical researchers. Dr. Kraig represents the American Association of Immunologists.

**Kaparaboyana Ashok Kumar, M.D., FRCS,** is serving a four-year term on the American Academy of Family Physicians' Commission on Health of the Public and Science. Dr. Kumar is vice chair of medical student education and clerkship director in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

**Yui-Wing Francis Lam, Pharm.D.,** professor of pharmacology, is a Scientific Council member of the Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics.

**Stephanie Levine, M.D.,** is president of the CHEST Foundation of the American Association of Chest Physicians.

**Michael Lichtenstein, M.D.,** professor of medicine in the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Medicine, serves

on the NIH National Institute on Aging Clinical Study Section. Dr. Lichtenstein has been a regular study section member since 2003 and will chair the study section in 2013 and 2014. He is also the immediate past president of the Association for Clinical Research Training and is president-elect of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science.

**Feng Liu, Ph.D.,** professor of pharmacology, is the founding president of the Chinese American Diabetes Association. Its mission is to promote research in diabetes and related areas and to encourage the advancement of biological and medical knowledge while facilitating professional contact among its members, especially mainland China and North America.

**Philip LoVerde, Ph.D.,** professor of biochemistry and pathology, is editor of Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology.

**M. Philip Luber, M.D.,** assistant professor of psychiatry and assistant dean for graduate medical education in the School of Medicine, is a member of the Review Committee overseeing psychiatry residency programs.

**Bettie Sue Masters, Ph.D., D.Sc., M.D. (Hon.),** professor of biochemistry and the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Professor in Chemistry, is president-elect of The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST). This organization brings the state's top scientific, academic and corporate minds together to further position Texas as a national research leader. Dr. Masters, a member of the Institute of Medicine, will serve as TAMEST president in 2014. She is also chair of the Public Affairs Advisory Committee of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

**Jennifer Milton, B.S.N., M.B.A.,** clinical assistant professor and administrative director of the University Transplant Center, is a board member for Donate Life America. DLA develops evidence-based strategies to improve donation registries and awareness of donation and transplantation in the U.S. Ms. Milton also serves on the Membership and Professional Standards Committee for the United Network for Organ Sharing, which is the governing body of transplantation and donation in

the United States. The committee ensures compliance by all members with national bylaws and patient safety standards.

**Charleen Moore, Ph.D.,** professor of cellular and structural biology, is past-president of the American Cytogenetics Conference. This group is an educational organization composed of cytogeneticists in all aspects of human, animal and comparative cytogenetic research and clinical practice. The biennial conference held in San Antonio last year had almost 300 attendees from 18 countries. Dr. Moore's term expires in 2014.

**Jay Morris, Ph.D.,** research assistant professor in the Department of Molecular Medicine, is serving on the steering committee for the Graduate Research Education and Training Group at the American Association of Medical Colleges and is a liaison within this group to the National Postdoctoral Association.

**Leslie Myatt, Ph.D.,** professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is chair of the Career Development and Diversity Committee and director of advancement and liaison for the Society for Gynecologic Investigations. He is also the executive treasurer of the International Federation of Placenta Associations.

**Bruce Nicholson, Ph.D.,** professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry, is serving a three-year term on the board of the Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry, and will be chairing the committee to draft a white paper on future directions in graduate education.

**Babatunde Oyajobi, M.B.B.S. (M.D. equivalent), Ph.D.,**

M.B.A., associate professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, is a charter member of National Cancer Institute Subcommittee F (Institutional Training and Education). His term expires in 2013. Dr. Oyajobi is also a member of the Membership Engagement Committee of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. This is the premier national and international society for both basic science and clinical researchers in the bone and mineral field. Dr. Oyajobi will

also serve on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 Standard Setting Panel, convened by the National Board of Medical Examiners.

**Deborah Parra-Medina, Ph.D., M.P.H.,** professor of biostatistics and epidemiology and researcher at the Institute for Health Promotion Research, is serving a two-year term on The Obesity Society's Pediatric Obesity Section, which supports scientific efforts to understand child obesity and inform the public of its treatment and prevention.

**Jan Patterson, M.D., M.S.,** associate dean for quality and lifelong learning in the School of Medicine, professor of medicine and pathology, and director of the Center for Patient Safety and Health Policy, was appointed in 2012 to the Subspecialty Board on Infectious Disease of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

**Thomas Patterson, M.D.,** professor of medicine and division chief of infectious diseases in the School of Medicine, recently concluded a multiple-year term on the ABIM Subspecialty Board on Infectious Disease.

**Jay Peters, M.D.,** is a member of the Board of Regents of the CHEST Foundation and is past chair of the Council of Networks for the American Association of Chest Physicians.

**Brad Pollock, M.P.H., Ph.D.,** professor and chairman of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is president of the Association of Clinical Translational Statisticians and chairman of the Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design Key Function Committee of the national Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Consortium.

**Marilyn Pollack, Ph.D.,** professor of pathology, is president of the American Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics, which is the major society in this country representing individuals involved in laboratory testing for organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and for immunogenetics. Dr. Pollack is also on the Board of Directors of the United Network for Organ Sharing. She directs the University Health System Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory.



**Amelie Ramirez**, Dr.P.H., professor of biostatistics and epidemiology and founding director of the Institute of Health Promotion Research, is a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM). The institute provides information and advice to the nation concerning health and science policy. Dr. Ramirez is also a member of the Minority Scholar Awards Committee of the Minorities in Cancer Research Council of the American Association for Cancer Research. She is a member of the Komen Scientific Advisory Board, as well, and a chair, co-chair or member of other national panels.

**Arlan Richardson**, Ph.D., professor of cellular and structural biology, Senior Career Research Scientist with the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, and the founding director of the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, is a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging.

**Nicole Riddle**, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, is serving on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Council of Faculty and Academic Society, is an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association for the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology, is serving on the Membership Committee of the Digital Pathology Association, and is on the Resident Forum Executive Committee and the Council of Membership and Professional Development for the College of American Pathologists.

**Corinna Ross**, Ph.D., research instructor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology and member of the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, serves on several committees for the American Society of Primatology: co-chair of the Media and Information Committee, member and former chair of the Education Committee, and member of the Program Committee, which reviews abstracts submitted for inclusion in the annual meeting program. Dr. Ross is also a member of the Steering Committee for the International Marmoset Research Association. The association's goal is to bring together scientists, veterinarians and research staff who work with marmosets.

**Paula Shireman**, M.D., professor of vascular surgery in the Department of Surgery and vice dean for research in the School of Medicine, is a member of the American Heart Association's National Research Committee.

**Robert Schenken**, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is a director and treasurer of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Review Committee.

**Mark Shapiro**, Ph.D., professor of physiology, is associate editor of the Journal of Neuroscience.

**Francis E. Sharkey**, M.D., professor of pathology and director of surgical and autopsy pathology, serves the following positions with the College of American Pathologists: vice chair, Commission on Laboratory Accreditation; editor, Laboratory Accreditation Manual; state commissioner for West Texas; and inspector. The College of American Pathologists is the leading standard-setting organization for laboratory medicine, both nationally and internationally.

**James Stockand**, Ph.D., professor of physiology, is associate editor of BMC Physiology and Frontiers in Physiology.

**Brent Thompson**, Ph.D., assistant professor of cellular and structural biology and pharmacology, is serving on the Scientific Affairs Committee for the American Association of Anatomists. The committee assesses research directions in the discipline of anatomy.

**Ian Thompson**, M.D., professor of urology and director of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, is serving on the American Board of Urology and will be its chairman in the future. The CTRC is one of four National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Centers in the state of Texas.

**Glenn Toney**, Ph.D., professor of physiology, is senior editor of the Journal of Physiology, a Steering Committee member for the American Physiological Society,

organizer of the Science Research Conference program for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), Editorial Board member for the American Journal of Physiology, and member of the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute study section of hypertension and microcirculation.

**Philip Valente**, M.D., professor of pathology and obstetrics and gynecology, is serving on the Executive Board of the American Society of Cytopathology.

**Kristine Vogel**, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, was appointed as a Scientist Member in 2010 to the Integration Panel (Programmatic Review and Vision Setting) for the Neurofibromatosis Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (U.S. Department of Defense). Her term expires in 2014.

**Susan Weintraub**, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, is president of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry. Membership includes more than 8,500 scientists involved in research and development. Members come from academic, industrial and governmental laboratories. Dr. Weintraub is associate editor of the Journal of Proteome Research and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Chromatography.

## School of Nursing

**Eileen T. Breslin**, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing, is president-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. She will serve as president from 2014 to 2016. The association is the national voice for university and four-year college education programs in nursing, representing more than 690 member nursing schools at public and private institutions.

**Adelita Cantu**, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Health Systems, serves on the Bylaws and Policy Committees of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) and completed a term on the NAHN Board of Directors.

She is also the incoming chair of the Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment.

## Dental School

**Irene Bober-Moken**, D.M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor/clinical in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, is a member of the National Board Patient Management Test Construction Committee, which formulates questions used by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations in assessing the knowledge of dental students in the provision of dental care.

**David P. Cappelli**, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., professor and director of the Research Division, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, is a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation, Dental Public Health Review Committee, and is a dental public health site visitor.

**David Cochran**, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., M.M.Sci., Dr. h.c., professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics, is president of the Academy of Osseointegration. The academy consists of more than 6,000 professionals and provides a focus for the rapidly advancing biotechnology involving the natural bond between bone and certain reconstructive materials.

**William Dodge**, D.D.S., dean of the Dental School and professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, is a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**Kevin Donly**, D.D.S., M.S., professor and chairman of the Department of Developmental Dentistry, is a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**Lily Garcia**, D.D.S., M.S., FACP, professor and director of the Advanced Education and External Affairs Division, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, is a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Prosthodontics' Review Commission, and is a CODA consultant and site visitor for advanced education programs in prosthodontics.

**Kenneth Hargreaves**, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor and chairman of

the Department of Endodontics and USAA Foundation President's Distinguished University Chair in Neurosciences, is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Endodontists. The board is the policy-making body of the association and has responsibility for and authority over all policy matters concerning the association. Dr. Hargreaves has served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Endodontics since 2003. He is also a professor of pharmacology, physiology and surgery at the Health Science Center.

**Jeffery Hicks**, D.D.S., FAAHD, DABSCD, professor of comprehensive dentistry, is a member of the Special Care Dentistry Association Executive Board. The association sponsors the American Board of Special Care Dentistry with proficiencies in hospital dentistry, geriatric dentistry and care of patients with special needs.

**Mary Jacks**, M.S., RDH, associate professor and acting director of the Dental Hygiene Division in the Department of Periodontics, serves on a regional board exam test construction committee called the Process of Care Examination for Dental Hygiene written by the Western Regional Examining Board.

**David Lasho**, D.D.S., M.S., assistant professor/clinical in the Department of Periodontics, is an examiner for the American Board of Periodontology.

**Jeffrey Mabry**, D.D.S., M.S., associate professor/clinical in the Department of Developmental Dentistry, is serving on the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

**Brian Mealey**, D.D.S., M.S., professor, graduate program director and director of the Specialist Division in the Department of Periodontics, just completed a term as chairman of the Board of Periodontology, served six years as a director of the American Board of Periodontology, is an examiner with the American Board of Periodontology, and is a consultant to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**Michael Mills**, D.M.D., M.S., clinical associate professor of periodontics, is an examiner with the American Board of

Periodontology and serves on the Periodontics Review Committee for the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**Thomas Oates**, D.M.D., Ph.D., professor and vice chair of the Department of Periodontics and assistant dean for clinical research of the Dental School, is director of the Southwest Region of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network. He also serves as co-director of the South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN). Dr. Oates is an accreditation consultant for basic science and research for the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and is a consultant for the CSW Computer Simulations LLC/Western Regional Examining Board periodontal exam.

## School of Health Professions

**Martha Acosta**, Ph.D., PT, GCS, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, is the item writer coordinator for the Geriatric Council of the American Physical Therapy Association, which sets the standards for geriatric physical therapists and provides educational guidelines for therapists aspiring to be a geriatric specialist.

**Cheryl Burns**, M.S., MLS(ASCP)cm, Distinguished Teaching Professor and associate professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, serves on the Clinical Chemistry Examination Committee, Board of Certification, for the American Society for Clinical Pathology. This board is responsible for writing, reviewing and editing test items for the Technologist in Chemistry examination, the Specialist in Chemistry examination, and the chemistry test items for the Medical Laboratory Technologist and Medical Laboratory Scientist examinations. The board also reviews statistics and performance of each of these examinations and every five years completes a practice analysis for each examination category. She is also serving on the society's 2013 Annual Meeting Abstract Review Committee and has recently completed

aterm on the Student Research Paper Review Committee.

**Steven Dallas**, Ph.D., D(ABMM), assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, is a member of the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) and is a committee chair responsible for job task analysis to reformulate the ABMM board examination. Dr. Dallas is currently serving on the American Society for Clinical Pathology CheckPath Committee, which is responsible for writing peer-reviewed pathology cases for continuing education of pathologists, medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians.

**Betty Dunn**, M.S., CG(ASCP), associate professor and program director of cytogenetics in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, recently completed her term as president of the Association of Genetic Technologists. She also completed a term on the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science's Standards Revision Task Force.

**Greg Ernst**, PT, Ph.D., ECS, SCS, ATC, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, is the communications chairperson for the Central District of the Texas Physical Therapy Association, the state division of the American Physical Therapy Association.

**Donna D. Gardner**, M.S.H.P., RRT-NPS, FAARC, associate professor and chair of the Department of Respiratory Care, the Steven Lloyd Barshop Endowed Chair, serves as a site visitor for the Commission on Accreditation for the Respiratory Care. She recently concluded a six-year term as the chair-elect, chair and now past chair of the Allied Health Network of the American College of Chest Physicians; she currently serves as a board trustee for the Chest Foundation in the American College of Chest Physicians. Ms. Gardner has also served as president of the Texas Society for Respiratory Care and president of the Texas Society for Allied Health Professionals.

**Michael Geelhoed**, D.P.T., OCS, MTC, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, is the chief delegate for

Texas to the American Physical Therapy House of Delegates, the policy-making body for the physical therapy profession.

**Mary Hart**, M.S.H.A., RRT, FAARC, assistant professor and director of clinical education in the Department of Respiratory Care, serves as a board member of the National Lung Health Education Program (NLHEP) and a Steering Committee member of the Allied Health Network in the American College of Chest Physicians. Ms. Hart also served on the board of directors for the Texas Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

**Emily Kidd**, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Health Sciences, serves on the American College of Emergency Physicians Disaster Committee and is the project director for the Texas Disaster Medical System in Texas.

**George Kudolo**, Ph.D., FACB, professor of clinical chemistry and director of the Graduate Toxicology Program in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, is serving a third term as the Texas delegate to the House of Delegates, American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

**Craig Manifold**, D.O., assistant professor in Department of Emergency Health Sciences, serves on the American College of Emergency Physicians Emergency Medical Services Committee, the National Association of EMS Physicians Quality Improvement Committee, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Emergency Medical Services Culture of Safety Project. He is also a member of EAGLES, a Consortium of Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors of the 25 largest municipal EMS programs in the U.S., and the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Committee EMS Medical Directors Committee, and is the senior physician and advisor to the Adjutant General of Texas.

**Catherine Ortega**, Ed.D., PT, ATC, OCS, Distinguished Teaching Professor and associate professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy, is past president of the World Federation of Athletic Therapy and Training, which establishes the global credentials and accreditation

for sports medicine practice for allied health professionals.

**Bridgett Piernik-Yoder**, Ph.D., OTR, Distinguished Teaching Professor and assistant professor of occupational therapy, is past president of the Texas Society of Allied Health Professions.

**Myles Quiben**, PT, Ph.D., DPT, GCS, NCS, CEEAA, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Diplomate, American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties, is serving on the Geriatrics Section of the Board of Directors for the American Physical Therapy Association. She has been appointed to the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties and is on the Examination Development Committee of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

**Richard Rahr**, Ed.D., PA-C, adjunct professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, is on the Texas Medical Board and the Texas Physician Assistant Board.

**Ruben Restrepo**, M.D., RRT, professor and director of the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program for the Department of Respiratory Care, is the past chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee for the American Association for Respiratory Care, which determines the standards of care for respiratory care, and as the Central Region Secretary for the Texas Society for Respiratory Care. He is an item writer for the National Board for Respiratory Care's Certification and Registry Examinations. Dr. Restrepo is a member of the Editorial Board for Respiratory Care, the Journal of Pediatric Intensive Care, and the Journal of Allergy and Asthma.

**Linda A. Smith**, Ph.D., BB, MLS(ASCP)cm, Distinguished Teaching Professor, professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, is president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and just completed her term on the Alpha Mu Tau Honorary Fraternity Scholarship Selection Committee.

**Helen Sorenson**, M.A., RRT, FAARC, assistant professor in the Department of Respiratory Care, serves on the American Association for Respiratory Care 2015 Steering Committee

and is the chair of the American Association for Respiratory Care's Geriatric Roundtable. She is an item writer for the National Board for Respiratory Care's Certification and Registered Respiratory Therapy board examinations. She is also on the Board of Directors of Christian Senior Services in San Antonio.

**Lance Villers**, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Health Sciences, serves as an executive analyst and reviewer for the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Profession and is a member of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Committee, EMS Education Committee.

**Richard Wettstein**, M.M.Ed., RRT, assistant professor of respiratory care, serves on the Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy (ASRT) to the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) Bridge Programs Committee for the Coalition for Baccalaureate and Graduate Respiratory Therapy Education. He recently served on the Clinical Practice Guidelines committee for the American Association for Respiratory Care, which determines the standards of care for respiratory care, and as the Central Region Secretary for the Texas Society for Respiratory Care. He is an item writer for the National Board for Respiratory Care's Certification and Registered Respiratory Therapy board examinations.

**Leo Wittnebel**, Ph.D., RRT, assistant professor of respiratory care, was a consultant for the American Board of Internal Medicine's Choosing Wisely program (Pulmonary Section) in relation to recommendations for the routine use of bronchoscopy in the intensive care unit. He recently served on the Clinical Practice Guideline Committee for the American Association for Respiratory Care.

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*Faculty list, as of June 1, provided by the deans' offices of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.*



# HARGROVE IS TRAILBLAZER IN

# FORENSICS FIELD

BY TINA LUTHER

said. "It helps give families closure to the passing of their loved ones who may have died unexpectedly."

This program stood out in a very particular way to Dr. Hargrove. "When I finished the practicum I knew that's what I wanted to do," she said. About six months later, a toxicology chemist position opened at the Medical Examiner's Office. She was called by the office and was hired on the spot. Soon after graduating in 2007, she pursued her Ph.D. in pharmacology in the Health Science Center's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and became certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology as a forensic toxicology specialist. She was appointed chief toxicologist and completed her Ph.D. in 2013.

Dr. Hargrove speaks humbly about her advancement and appointment as chief toxicologist and credits her success to the influence of her professors at the Health Science Center. "I had a lot of personal interaction from professors who guided me every step of the way," she said. "They were role models to me both personally and professionally and showed me how to help students, who now I enjoy mentoring."

Today, she runs the post-mortem lab and oversees approximately 2,500 cases per year, helping determine cause of death. Additionally, the Medical Examiner's Office handles some toxicology testing for persons who are suspected of driving under the influence. These cases have dramatically increased from approximately 250 to 4,000 cases annually since the enactment of the mandatory blood-draw law in Bexar County.

She and her team run thousands of drug panels yearly and oftentimes quantitate their findings. Although blood is primarily tested, urine and tissue, such as muscle, are also included in testing samples at times in the investigation. "Illegal drugs. Prescription drugs. Heavy metals. Cyanide. If it's poisonous, even if it's not a drug, if it can kill you; we'll look for it," she said. Once the investigation is complete, it is sent to the medical examiner, and, together, they review the entire case to confidently determine a cause of death. In this process she helps the medical examiner with researching and interpreting various findings, such as determining combinations, concentrations and influences of drugs, alcohol and poisons.

"Interpretation is what I enjoy most about my job," she said. "Seeing an entire case and determining if and how a drug caused a death continues to intrigue me."

Learning never stops for Dr. Hargrove, and to her, it is second nature. "The Health Science Center absolutely prepared me for the position that I have today. I am very thankful to the schools for their programs and professors," she said. "They prepared me for a career that I love and a job that allows me to do so much for others in our community."



## SOLVING MYSTERIES

COMES NATURALLY TO VERONICA HARGROVE, PH.D., M.S. As chief toxicologist of the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office, she leads a team of 10 who study how drugs and poisonous substances play a role in many impairments and deaths in criminal cases.

Dr. Hargrove is the first woman at the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office to hold this position. Although more women are entering the field, toxicology historically has been a male-dominated field.

Her path to this fascinating career began during her studies as a graduate student in the Forensic and Analytical Toxicology program in the Health Science Center's School of Health Professions. "It was a great program that opened my eyes to a lot of specialties such as environmental toxicology, clinical toxicology and post-mortem toxicology." A six-week rotation at the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office, located on the Health Science Center's Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long (main) campus, sparked her interest in post-mortem toxicology. "I loved working in the lab and thought it was interesting to see how toxicology could play a role in deaths," she

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