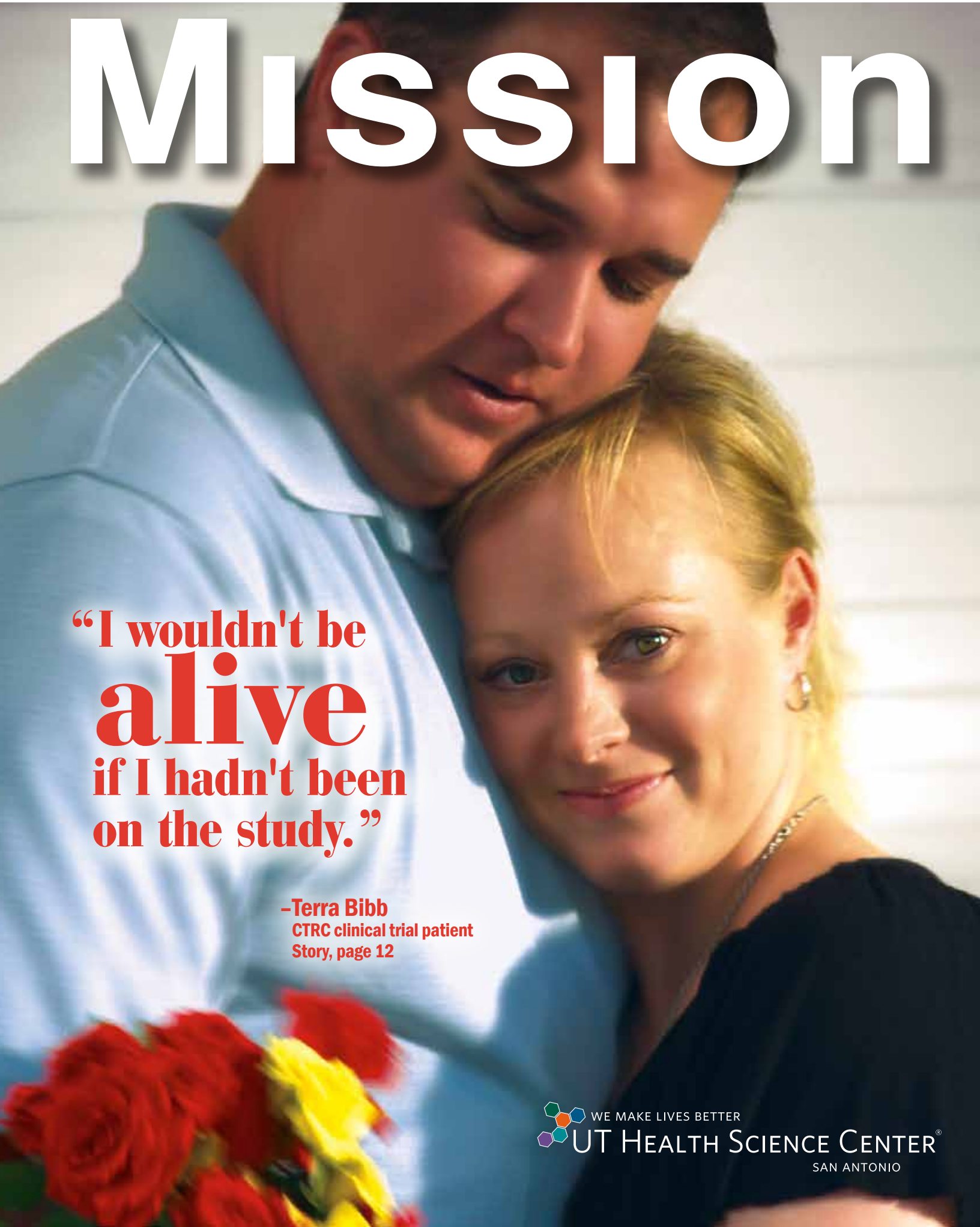
Mission



"I wouldn't be **alive** if I hadn't been on the study."

–Terra Bibb
CTRC clinical trial patient
Story, page 12

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COVER STORY

FEATURES

PHILANTHROPY

IN EVERY ISSUE

Hope:

From research to saving lives

I have waited eight months to say six simple words – I am thrilled to be back. This past summer, my career as a nephrologist and president of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio was put on hold. I was diagnosed with myelodysplasia. I underwent a stem cell transplant in August.

Thanks to the love and support of my family and community, modern medicine and 378 million cells from my son, John, I am doing well and convalescing quickly.

My return to work is, in many ways, a product of leading-edge science, superb clinical care and support from family, friends and colleagues.

A major reason I take pride in and continue leading the Health Science Center is because of the same determination, collaboration and spirit I see in our own students, faculty and researchers. I am inspired by their dedication to improving the human condition, to fight back against dreaded diseases, and ultimately to defeat them. The by-product of this work is the most precious commodity in the world, one that I treasure more than any gold: hope, hope that there is a chance for a cure, for a reduction in suffering and for healing.

Terra Bibb, featured on the cover of this issue of *Mission* is a perfect example of this hope. Because of the research and treatment Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., provided her at our Cancer Therapy & Research Center, Terra has been given promise and precious time to spend with her husband, Jeremy and three young sons, Rylan, Conor and Parker. Please take a moment to read Terra's story (page 12) and the many other extraordinary accounts of how our Health Science Center investigators are translating research into therapies that enhance and save lives.

Although we are advancing at record speed, we continue to do so in an uncertain and unfavorable financial climate. The National Institutes of Health budget has remained relatively flat for the past few years, and the ongoing budget crises could devastate our national research programs. It is not just the scarcity of federal funding that threatens vital projects, it is the cloud that is cast over making a career choice to pursue the health sciences that discourages our best and brightest and leads them to turn to other careers.

We thank our generous donors such as The USAA Foundation, Bill Greehey, Joe and Teresa Lozano Long, the Kolitz family, the Hamilton Oliver and Adler families and so many others highlighted in this issue. Their gifts are making it possible for the UT Health Science Center to produce lifesaving research and treatments, recruit stellar scientists and students, and educate and train the next generation of health care providers.

One cannot predict who will lead the next major scientific breakthrough. But what motivates us is the sure hope that, among our 1,900 faculty and 3,300 medical, dental, nursing and health professions students, there is someone who will make a major scientific or clinical breakthrough and solve a difficult, seemingly insoluble problem, and thereby save millions of lives.

Thank you for your partnership that ennobles our work every day.

Sincerely,

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

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The future of children's health care is here

UT Health Science Center, Vanguard to build new children's hospital in San Antonio

Groundbreaking for a freestanding $300 million children's hospital in the South Texas Medical Center will take place within a year.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents authorized the UT Health Science Center to execute an agreement with Nashville-based Vanguard Health Systems to bring a new, state-of-the-art children's hospital to San Antonio. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the nation's top-ranked children's hospital, will join Vanguard, which owns and operates seven Baptist Health System Hospitals in San Antonio and South Texas, in the management of the San Antonio facility. The hospital's location will offer access and convenience to patients and families across the region. Built by Vanguard, it will be just minutes away from physicians and scientists at the Health Science Center and will be designed and built specifically for children's most pressing medical needs. Most importantly, the hospital will anchor a regional network of clinics that will deliver top-tier pediatric care throughout San Antonio and South Texas communities.

The Health Science Center brings to the partnership faculty from UT Medicine San Antonio – the practice plan of the School of Medicine – that will offer both general and specialty care to children and adolescents. The faculty members will also lead medical students, residents and fellows in instruction and cutting-edge research. The network and the new children's hospital will operate on an open-staff model, which means that it will also benefit from the talents of community doctors from across San Antonio and South Texas.

UT Medicine physicians will continue to provide pediatric services at the University Health System's expanded Robert B. Green Campus downtown. As University Health System is the primary teaching partner of the UT Health Science Center, our physicians will continue to provide ambulatory primary and specialty care services there after the new hospital and network are completed.

"The long-standing partnership between UT Health Science Center and University Health System has been beneficial to both institutions and the community as a whole," said George B. Hernández Jr., president/CEO of University Health System. "The community will benefit from having an orderly and seamless transition of care for pediatric patients, and a new range of children's services downtown."

The San Antonio Medical Foundation provided acreage in the South Texas Medical Center near the Health Science Center for the new facility, allowing easy access to research and other key clinical programs.

For example, the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC), Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute, Center for Oral Health Care & Research, the South Texas Research Facility, the McDermott Research Imaging Institute and the Cancer Therapy & Research Center – one of Texas' four National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer centers – are all nearby.

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, president of the Health Science Center, said the agreement with Vanguard and CHOP is an important step toward enhancing world-class pediatric care in San Antonio and South Texas.

"Having multiple specialists from the faculty and community in a single location will allow the new children's hospital to deliver the best possible care to children with complex medical cases and enhance the recruitment and retention of the best specialists in the country," Dr. Henrich said.

For more news and information about the children's hospital, visit **uthscsa.edu/OPA/chp/index.asp.**

Pei Wang, Ph.D.

CPRIT gives HSC researchers $3.7 million

The Health Science Center was awarded $1.8 million by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to fund work ranging from genetic analysis to patient counseling skills in San Antonio. CPRIT also awarded the Health Science Center a recruitment grant of $1.9 million to recruit Pei Wang, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow from Stanford University, as an assistant professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology.

"We are exceptionally pleased at the confidence and support of CPRIT for our scientists," said Ian M. Thompson Jr., M.D., director of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center. "We're eager to turn research into results."

Dental School receives $2.5 million for faculty development

A $2.5 million, five-year federal grant obtained by the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry will support faculty development and training in the Dental School. The project will provide career development training, including fellowships and workshops for dental students, residents and faculty. Investigators on the grant are Jeffrey L. Hicks, D.D.S., professor, and M. Norma Partida, D.D.S., M.P.H., associate professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. The intent of the program, sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is to fund projects that address a current shortage of faculty in the primary care areas of dentistry and dental hygiene, and to increase access to oral health care.

Jeffrey L. Hicks, D.D.S.

M. Norma Partida, D.D.S., M.P.H.

Board of Regents authorizes Academic Learning and Teaching Center

The University of Texas System Board of Regents authorized $45 million from Permanent University Fund bond proceeds toward the construction of the Academic Learning and Teaching Center. The 125,000-square-foot center will include a state-of-the-art human anatomy teaching facility that is needed to train medical, dental, nursing and health professions students. It will also help relieve the Health Science Center's nearly half-million-square-foot space deficit by providing additional classroom space and lecture halls.

More than 600 medical, dental, health professions and graduate students, as well as faculty and residents benefit from the Human Anatomy Program at the Health Science Center each year.

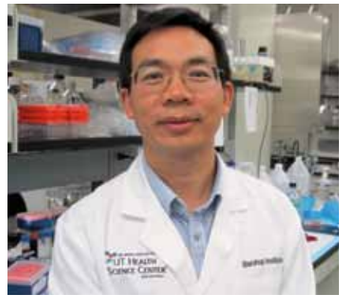
$1 million grant supports occupational therapy

The Department of Occupational Therapy received a $1,077,765 grant from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services of the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year grant, "Project Reaching More: Increasing Highly Qualified Occupational Therapists to Serve Children, Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities," addresses the documented shortage of qualified occupational therapists needed to provide services for children with disabilities in school and early intervention settings, particularly in underserved and high-poverty Texas school districts. Karin Barnes, Ph.D., OTR, associate professor, chair of occupational therapy and the project's principal investigator, said occupational therapy services help children with disabilities so they can benefit from their education and participate in meaningful activities.

(Left to right) Kimberly Vogel, Ed.D; Karin Barnes, Ph.D., principal investigator and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy; Autumn Clegg, M.O.T.; and Alison Beck, Ph.D., all registered occupational therapists, will implement the new program funded by the grant.

$1.2 million funds studies of Alzheimer's cell biology

Two newly funded grants totaling $1.2 million will support studies of Alzheimer's disease at the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies. One grant, $960,000 over four years from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is furthering studies of environmental toxins and their role in Alzheimer's risk. Qitao Ran, Ph.D., and his team found that exposure to pesticides can worsen cognitive decline in mice and increase deposits of amyloid-beta protein in the mouse brain. Amyloid-beta plaques often are seen in the brains of Alzheimer's patients studied at autopsy. The second grant, $240,000 over three years, is from the Alzheimer's Association. In this study Dr. Ran and his team are overexpressing an enzyme called glutaredoxin-2. "If we have more of this enzyme, we believe we can protect the cells and reduce amyloid-beta accumulation," he said.



Qitao Ran, Ph.D.

Brent Shriver, Ph.D., (pictured, center) associate professor, is principal investigator of the grant that aims to increase primary care practice in South Texas and the nation.

Physician assistant program receives $980,141 federal grant for primary care training

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies received a five-year, almost $1 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to provide better primary care to more patients. The funding period began Aug. 1 and runs through July 31, 2017. "We expect this project to provide high-quality training materials and resources for current and future faculty," said Juanita Wallace, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Professions. "More importantly, we will be able to both support and enhance collaborative primary care experiences for our students and future graduates."

Biochemists receive $1.7 million NIH grant to fight heart disease at molecular level

Reto Asmis, Ph.D., biochemistry professor and associate dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, was awarded a four-year, $1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to look at underlying causes of cardiovascular disease at the cellular level. The NIH grant may allow these scientists to develop new drug treatments that could be used to stop or prevent oxidative stress in monocytes (white blood cells formed in bone marrow) in order to prevent cardiovascular disease. "Findings from the studies proposed here are likely to have a major impact on both preventive and therapeutic strategies for a wide array of diseases – including atherosclerosis, heart failure, healing after a heart attack, and diabetic complications such as renal disease and impaired wound healing," Dr. Asmis said.

Study uses promotoras to increase physical activity among Latinas

To improve Latinas' health, a new five-year, $3.48 million National Institutes of Health study will use promotoras – trained community health workers – to lead culturally appropriate group education and exercise sessions for Latinas in a program called Enlace (a Spanish term that means to "connect" or "join") in community centers in South Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley. "The idea behind Enlace is that, through this promotora intervention, Latinas will gain an otherwise-unavailable layer of social support to overcome barriers to activity and make positive behavioral changes – namely that Latinas engage in 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity on five or more days a week," said study leader Deborah Parra-Medina, Ph.D., M.P.H., professor at the Institute for Health Promotion Research.

Students examine the intricacies of brain anatomy, under the direction of current medical students.

Students practice intubation and gain an appreciation for a functional airway.

Expo gives teens hands-on experience in health, science careers

High school and college students throughout South Texas were introduced to a wide range of health-related and biomedical professions at the 10th annual Health Professions Fair & Science Expo. Nearly 1,100 students from schools throughout South Texas learned from Health Science Center students and faculty how to intubate mannekins, immobilize patients (as would paramedics) and start intravenous (IV) lines. "I thought it was a great way to expose a lot of students at once to everything the Health Science Center offers," said Irene Chapa, Ph.D., director of the Office of Recruitment and Science Outreach. "And it was a great opportunity for our Health Science Center students to really put their knowledge into practice by teaching."

UT Medicine, Minute Clinic partnership to increase health care access

No appointments are required at MinuteClinic and most health insurance is accepted. Clinics in San Antonio are open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MinuteClinic, the retail health care division of CVS Caremark, and UT Medicine San Antonio, the academic medical practice of the School of Medicine, have entered into a clinical affiliation to enhance access to high-quality, affordable health care services in the region. MinuteClinic walk-in medical clinics are open seven days a week inside select CVS/pharmacy stores. The clinics are staffed by nurse practitioners and physician assistants who provide treatment for common family illnesses and administer wellness and prevention services, including health condition monitoring. Under the agreement, UT Medicine physicians will serve as medical directors for MinuteClinic locations in San Antonio. UT Medicine will accept patients who need a level of care that is not provided at MinuteClinic.

New emergency medicine residency announced

The emergency medicine residency program – the first of its kind for South Texas – has been approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. University Hospital, San Antonio's largest emergency center and the leading civilian Level I trauma center for the 22-county region of South/Central Texas, will be the chief training site for the residency program. "The demand on emergency rooms in the region is increasing rapidly and is twice the national growth rate," said Bruce Adams, M.D., director of the Center for Emergency Medicine. "Establishing an emergency medicine residency program will dramatically improve the quality and accessibility of emergency and acute health care for the South Texas region." The first 10 residents will begin the rigorous three-year program in July. Ten new residents will begin the program each year until the residency reaches its final complement of 30 doctors.

Regional Campus in Laredo to focus on obesity, diabetes

Nearly half of adults in the Texas border region are obese and 30 percent have diabetes. A new University of Texas System initiative – the South Texas Border Community Obesity and Diabetes Program – aims to address these major health issues through research, education and community engagement. The Regional Campus, along with Health Science Center campuses in San Antonio, Edinburg and Harlingen, will join forces with UT Brownsville, UT Pan American and Texas A&M International University in this effort. The initiative is led by Joe McCormick, M.D., vice president for South Texas Programs and regional dean of the UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health in Brownsville.

Joe McCormick, M.D.

Employees honored at Presidential Awards

Faculty and staff members who exemplify exceptional leadership in their fields were recognized at the 2013 Presidential Awards ceremony. The Health Science Center's highest honor, the Presidential Distinguished Scholar award, was presented to Kenneth M. Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Endodontics in the Dental School, and professor of pharmacology, physiology and surgery in the School of Medicine. The award winners are:

Presidential Distinguished Scholar
- Kenneth M. Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., Endodontics and Pharmacology, Physiology and Surgery

Junior Research Scholar
- Manjeet K. Rao, Ph.D., Cellular and Structural Biology

Teaching Excellence Award
- Gregory Anstead, M.D., Ph.D., Infectious Diseases
- Lily Dong, Ph.D., Cellular and Structural Biology
- Alexandra Loffredo, M.D., Family and Community Medicine
- Ridley O. Ross, D.D.S., Comprehensive Dentistry
- Alan Sakaguchi, Ph.D., Cellular and Structural Biology
- Mark Soucy, Ph.D., RN, APRN, Family and Community Health Systems and Psychiatry

Click to view program.

Clinical Excellence Award
- M. Rosina Finley, M.D., CMD, Family and Community Medicine
- Deborah Jo Levine, M.D., Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
- Randal Robinson, M.D., Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Employee Excellence Award
- Rosanne Fohn, Communications
- Gloria A. Matthews, Endocrinology
- Richard M. Ongkiko, Office of the Dental Dean
- Rebecca Smith, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Susan Stappenbeck, M.Ed., M.P.H., Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science

Sixteen faculty and staff members from the UT Health Science Center San Antonio were recently honored for excellence in research, clinical care, teaching and service.

See related story, page 23, on Dr. Hargreaves being named the first holder of The USAA Foundation's President's Distinguished University Chair in Neurosciences.

Click here to view a video about our Presidential Awards.

Dodge named Dental School dean

William W. Dodge, D.D.S., was named dean of the Dental School effective April 1, 2013.

Dr. Dodge holds the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. He joined the Health Science Center in 1978 after five years as a successful general dentist in San Antonio and two years as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. During his tenure, he served as vice dean of the Dental School since 2004 and associate dean for patient care from 1996 through 2003.

Dr. Dodge served as dean *ad interim* since June 2012 while former Dean Kenneth L. Kalkwarf, D.D.S., M.S., was president *ad interim* throughout President William L. Henrich's, M.D., MACP, medical leave. Dr. Kalkwarf, who held the dental deanship for 24 years, has been appointed as special assistant to the president and plans to retire this summer.

"Dr. Dodge is highly regarded nationwide by his colleagues in academic dentistry for his expertise in matters of accreditation of dental programs, competency assessment, evidence-based clinical education and financing of dental education," Dr. Henrich said. "His goal, shared by me and the faculty, is that the school be regarded as the finest dental school in our country. I have complete confidence that Dr. Dodge will lead the school in an exemplary manner in the years to come."

Dr. Dodge and his wife, Jill, have two sons, Rhett and Ryan.

The Dental Dean Search Committee, which was led by Eileen Breslin, Ph.D., RN, dean of the School of Nursing, identified many outstanding candidates for this role before selecting Dr. Dodge as the Dental School's fifth dean.

Bench to bedside

Turning discoveries into treatments that save lives

Chances are your life is touched by someone in need of health care, whether it is an aging parent, a spouse with heart disease, or a family member with diabetes or cancer.

Researchers at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio work tirelessly, in labs behind the scenes, making innovative discoveries that are translated into better ways to diagnose and prevent disease and life-changing and compassionate care for patients.

The following pages illustrate just a few of the many success stories of bench-to-bedside research, which is the link between basic research and patient care. Health Science Center investigators are world renowned for their landmark breakthroughs that are changing the face of medicine and saving lives every day.

Center for Innovation in Drug Discovery translates homegrown discoveries

By Will Sansom

Taking homegrown discoveries – research findings from laboratories in San Antonio – and turning them into drugs to treat disease is the focus of a new center built through a collaboration between the UT Health Science Center San Antonio and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The Center for Innovation in Drug Discovery (CIDD) will help develop drugs out of original discoveries made at the Health Science Center and UTSA to treat all forms of disease and infection.

The earliest phases of pre-clinical drug discovery can take many forms. Unique changes in the behaviors or patterns of protein expression of normal and diseased cells are being used by several laboratories to screen for new drugs to treat cancer and neurodegenerative and infectious diseases. In addition, high-resolution structural studies at the Health Science Center have identified specific protein targets for therapy in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, HIV infection, diabetes, cancer and other disorders. Both strategies can be very effective in guiding the design of new drugs, said center Co-Director Bruce Nicholson, Ph.D., professor and chair of biochemistry in the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center. The CIDD will facilitate this.

A high-content/high-throughput screening core facility at the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Campus of the Health Science Center, under the direction of Matthew Hart, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry, will enable researchers to use these assays to rapidly sift through thousands of potentially therapeutic compounds in search of lead candidates for the drugs of the future. Analysis and refinements of these lead compounds to make them more effective drugs will then be achieved through a medicinal chemistry core facility under the direction of Doug Frantz, Ph.D., center co-director, and Stanton McHardy, Ph.D., medicinal chemistry core director, located on the West Campus of UTSA.

State and private funding of $3.5 million launched the center. Support from the Texas Legislature enabled renovation of research space and equipment purchases, along with initial operating costs through an award from the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute.

CTSA funding continues to spark translational initiatives

By Will Sansom

The Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, which selected the Health Science Center and its South Texas partners for CTSA funding in 2008, is undergoing an evolution at the National Institutes of Health, where a new institute, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), now administers the CTSA program.

The CTSA program at the Health Science Center, under the auspices of the Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science (IIMS), is also evolving in its scope and outreach, said IIMS Director Robert A. Clark, M.D., assistant vice president for clinical research at the Health Science Center.

The IIMS provided CTSA funding to develop electronic health record capability at 24 different practice-based research network sites, a vital lifeline that ties health care providers in the community to academic resources in the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center. "We are developing capabilities to pull clinical data from electronic health records at these practices and merge this information with clinical research data," Dr. Clark said.

CTSA funding also makes possible a robust education, training and career development program that developed a translational science Ph.D. program to educate the next cadre of scientists focused on translating research discoveries from bench to bedside. The first five graduate students in the program began course work last fall. The program is in collaboration with UT San Antonio, UT Austin and the UT Houston School of Public Health.

These and other initiatives – including a pilot projects program supporting research that is jointly funded by various partners – has the CTSA on a continuing high trajectory.

Targeting tumors, protecting tissue, saving lives

Researchers offer new treatment to brain cancer patients

By Elizabeth Allen

When Terra Bibb came to the CTRC to meet with Dr. Andrew Brenner, she was desperate.

At eight months pregnant with her third child, Bibb was diagnosed with a deadly brain tumor. In a dramatic double surgery, doctors delivered her baby and then removed the tumor, and then Bibb underwent the best approved therapies available – chemotherapy and radiation. It was a fight that Terra Bibb and her entire family willingly took on, but very soon thereafter, the tumor began growing back.

Dr. Brenner had something else to offer her: a drug that was still in clinical trials.

"It was a miracle," Bibb said. "They gave me, tops, six to 12 months to live when I was diagnosed with a grade 4 glioblastoma – and I'm here."

Almost three years later, Bibb's tumor has shrunk to almost nothing, and with few side effects, the mother of three is able to keep up with her three busy boys and the things that are most important to her.

"Dr. Brenner was so excited when he knew he could get me on this study," she said. "He had a reason to be excited, because it's worked, more than even he thought it would."

For Bibb, it was also a modern wonder to be able to take this experimental therapy in the form of a pill. It was also a huge help for her, as the young family had moved to Tyler, Texas.

"To have a chemo in a pill form – that's amazing to me. It's so important to do that kind of research."

Clinical trials don't just give researchers the opportunity to test new drugs. They also help find new ways of delivering known therapies so that they will be more effective.

Dr. Brenner is in the midst of developing a clinical trial for just such a promising new method of delivery.

For the past 40 years, radiation has been the most effective method for treating deadly brain tumors called glioblastomas. Although the targeting technology has been refined, beams of radiation still must pass through healthy brain tissue to reach the tumor, and patients can only tolerate small amounts before developing serious side effects.

A group of researchers at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio has developed a way to deliver nanoparticle radiation directly to the brain tumor and keep it there. The method doses the tumor itself with much higher levels of radiation – 20 to 30 times the current dose of radiation therapy to patients – but spares a much greater area of brain tissue.

The study, published today in the journal *Neuro-Oncology*, has been successful enough in laboratory experiments that they're preparing to start a clinical trial at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, said Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., the study's corresponding author and a neuro-oncologist at the CTRC who will lead the clinical trial.

"We saw that we could deliver much higher doses of radiation in animal models," Dr. Brenner said. "We were able to give it safely and to completely eradicate tumors."

The radiation comes in the form of an isotope called rhenium-186, which has a short half-life. Once placed inside the tumor, the rhenium emits radiation that only extends out a few millimeters.

But simply putting the rhenium into a brain tumor would not work well without a way to keep it there – the tiny particles would be picked up by the bloodstream and carried away. That problem was solved by a team led by nuclear medicine physician William T. Phillips, M.D., and biochemist Beth A. Goins, Ph.D., in the Department of Radiology; and Ande Bao, Ph.D., a medical physicist and pharmaceutical chemist in the Department of Otolaryngology, all of the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center. They encapsulated the rhenium in minuscule fat molecules, or liposomes, about 100 nanometers across.

"The technology is unique," Dr. Brenner said. "Only we can load the liposomes to these very high radioactivity levels using a specific compound called BMEDA made to trap radiation in these tiny fat molecules. This compound was not available before Drs. Goins and Phillips created it. Now we can deliver these radioactive liposomes into the tumor where the cancer cells eat them up."

The doctors hope to launch the clinical trial by summer.

"Patients like Terra are the reason I do what I do every day," Dr. Brenner said. "My job is to find new ways in the lab to kill brain tumors and then take these remedies into the clinic to help my patients. Sometimes it means trying something that no one else has thought of, or teaming up with other scientists. Of utmost importance is our role in helping our patients live as normally as possible, and we are committed to doing that any way we can."

For more information about clinical trials at the CTRC, call 210-450-5798.

Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D., and his team translated laboratory research into a remedy that saved patient Terra Bibb's life.

Click to view Terra's story.

Terra Bibb shares a laugh with her grandfather, Raymond Shelton, and her son, Parker, 3. Bibb was eight months pregnant with Parker when she was diagnosed with a deadly brain tumor.

(Left to right) Dr. Brenner and his wife, Nicole, thank Sandi and Bob Kolitz for supporting research at the CTRC at the UT Health Science Center.

$1 million gift from Kolitz family supports brain cancer research

A transformational gift totaling $1 million from the Kolitz family – Sandi, Bob and Aaron Kolitz, and Karee, Loren and Millie Jones – will support the research of Andrew Brenner, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Brenner is a neuro-oncologist at the Cancer Therapy & Research Center (CTRC) and an assistant professor of medicine at the UT Health Science Center. Part of the gift, $750,000, establishes the Sandi and Bob Kolitz Chair in Neuro-oncology Research at the CTRC. Dr. Brenner has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the chair.

The other portion of their gift, $250,000, has created a research fund in neuro-oncology that supports Dr. Brenner's innovative approach of applying rhenium-186 to treat deadly brain tumors called glioblastomas. The method attacks the tumor with higher levels of radiation – 20 to 30 times the current dose of radiation therapy to patients – but spares a much greater amount of brain tissue. Dr. Brenner is developing a clinical trial at the CTRC for this promising new therapy that could revolutionize the treatment and care of patients with brain cancer.

Bob Kolitz said funding research at the UT Health Science Center and the CTRC is more important than ever. "The UT Health Science Center is vital to this region and we want to ensure that, even in challenging economic times, the lifesaving research and treatments produced here continue for a lifetime," he said. "Dr. Brenner is a brilliant scientist and the Health Science Center needs more researchers like him who will help so many patients in this community now and in the future."

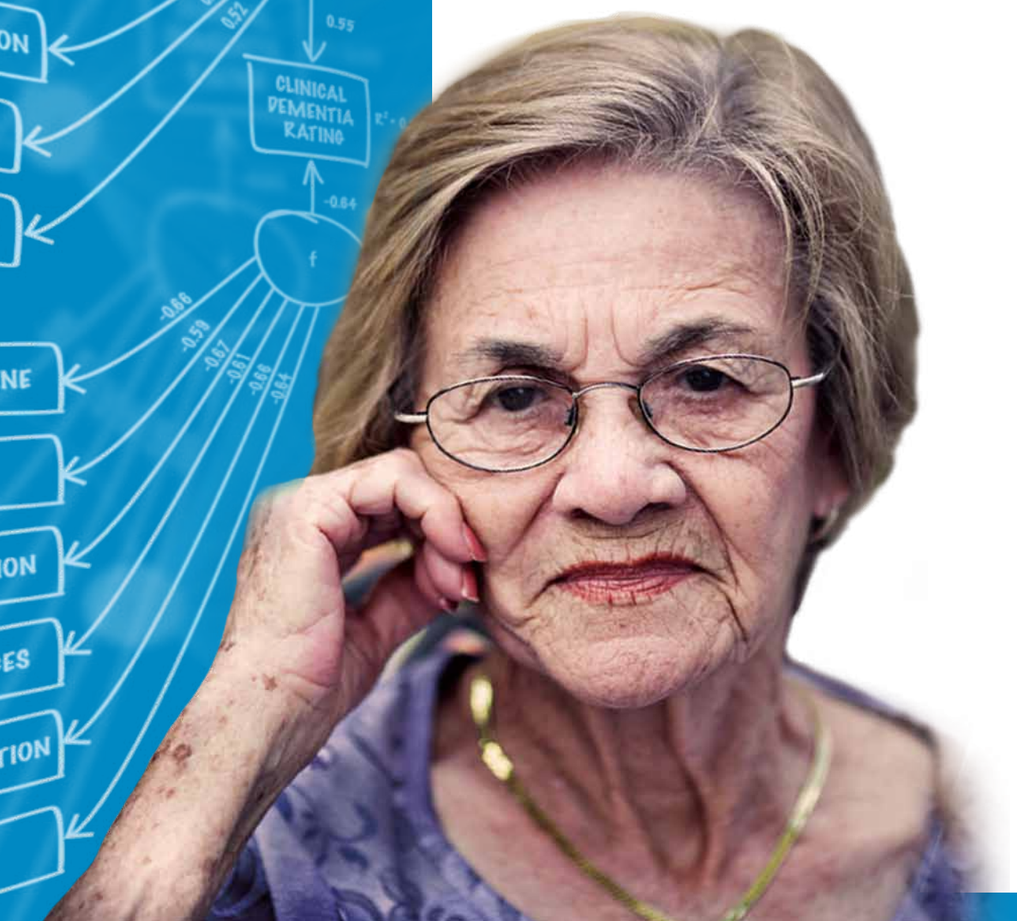
The CTRC is one of the elite academic cancer centers in the country to be named a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Cancer Center, and is one of only four in Texas. A leader in developing new drugs to treat cancer, the CTRC Institute for Drug Development (IDD) conducts one of the largest oncology 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 www.ctrc.net.

Detecting dementia and Alzheimer's disease

Researchers create blueprint for better diagnosis

By Natalie Gutierrez

Researchers have developed a smarter way to diagnose dementia and Alzheimer's disease that could be achieved, in the very near future, from a smart phone or mobile device. Scientists at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio have created a first-of-its-kind algorithm that is more accurate than traditional clinical and diagnostic testing.



The new system is improving diagnosis and could make a huge impact in Mexican-Americans who are at higher risk for developing dementia but more difficult to diagnose. The test could be translated to work on smart phones and mobile devices for more efficient and accurate diagnosis.

Donald Royall, M.D., and his colleague Raymond F. Palmer, Ph.D., both of the UT Health Science Center, developed the new test. Dr. Royall is a professor and chief of the Division of Aging and Geriatrics in the School of Medicine. Dr. Palmer is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the School of Medicine. They co-authored two studies on dementia published in the *Journal of Neuropsychiatry* and the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. Their latest research, which focuses on depression and its relation to dementia and Alzheimer's, will be published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* later this year.

Cultural query

"Before we began studies at the UT Health Science Center two years ago, little was known about dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the Mexican-American population," Dr. Royall said. Studies are ongoing. "Mexican-Americans are thought to have higher rates of dementia and conditions such as depression and stroke that can be confused with Alzheimer's disease. So we don't know yet if the dementias to which they succumb are caused by Alzheimer's disease, stroke, depression or a combination of the three."

Alzheimer's ranks among diseases most feared by Americans. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and no cure exists. Dr. Royall said it is vital to better understand and accurately diagnose dementia especially in Mexican-Americans because this group will comprise a majority of the state's population in the near future and is the fastest-growing minority in the nation.

"Disparities in access to care and language as well as cultural barriers and co-morbid conditions (the presence of more than one disease such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity) make it more difficult for physicians to diagnose and treat dementia in the Mexican-American population," Dr. Royall said.

From research to results

Using information and research Dr. Royall and his colleagues gathered from ongoing studies of 350 Mexican-Americans enrolled in research at the UT Health Science Center, and with information from a battery of tests that participants undergo through the study (clinical exams, blood tests and cognitive and functional tests), researchers developed the more accurate method of assessing patients to determine if they are suffering from dementia and to study its causes.

The new system allows doctors to enter test results for analysis while negating information from language, education or cultural bias that may create confusion and misdiagnosis. The test produces an accurate assessment of the patient's dementia status by ranking certain criteria.

"We were surprised to find through our studies that depression can be dementing in its own right," Dr. Royall said. "This explains the disability associated with depression and the difficulties doctors have in distinguishing it from Alzheimer's disease. In fact, depression appears to double the risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But unlike Alzheimer's disease, depression can be treated. This system could be used to select patients who might better respond to antidepressant therapy."

> "Depression appears to double the risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But unlike Alzheimer's disease, depression can be treated."
>
> -Donald Royall, M.D.

An app for Alzheimer's?

Dr. Royall said researchers could possibly take this new system and create a computer application that could be used in doctors' offices or could be accessed from smart phones or mobile devices by physicians who treat patients in rural areas or home health care settings for example. Dr. Royall has submitted a patent for the system that he currently calls "Latent Variable Dementia Case Finding."

The Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) funded studies at the UT Health Science Center. Dr. Royall and his colleagues are seeking additional funding for brain imaging of study participants.

"Now we are looking to study the brain more carefully to see where diseases such as depression, dementia and Alzheimer's are occurring and how they might be altering brain structures," Dr. Royall said. "All of this data could help physicians more effectively tailor treatment plans for individual patients."

Eric D. Vidoni, Ph.D., and Robyn A. Honea, Ph.D., both research assistant professors of neurology at The University of Kansas Medical Center, contributed to this research.

Dr. Royall's work is supported by the departments of psychiatry, medicine, and family and community medicine of the UT Health Science Center, and the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, Audie L. Murphy Division.

Using an infant virus to fight cancer

School of Medicine researchers' discovery proves effective as cancer treatment

By Will Sansom

Discoveries in science sometimes come by serendipity, when hard and consistent work done in one area of interest leads to a stunning discovery in a related or even unrelated area. Santanu Bose, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and immunology in the School of Medicine at the Health Science Center, knows by experience that this can happen.

Dr. Bose was studying the immune response of normal and cancerous cells to RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), which causes respiratory infections in infants and young children. Without specifically looking for a cancer treatment, he saw that the virus was "oncolytic" – it preferentially infected and damaged cancer cells while leaving the healthy cells alone. This propelled a new line of research. Dr. Bose teamed with Bandana Chatterjee, Ph.D., of the School of Medicine and the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, to test RSV in her mouse model of prostate cancer. Those results again showed a robust anti-cancer effect of RSV. Mice with prostate tumors were treated with the virus and within a week the tumors were gone. "We kept the mice for four months, and the tumors never came back," Dr. Bose said.

Now Dr. Bose is the inventor on a pending U.S. patent of RSV as an oncolytic therapy. This represents a new use for the virus. Dr. Chatterjee, professor of molecular medicine, is the co-inventor. CZ BioMed Corp. of Tampa, Fla., licensed the oncolytic use of RSV in an agreement with South Texas Technology Management (STTM), a regional University of Texas technology-transfer office managed by the Health Science Center. RSV is already showing effectiveness in human trials abroad, according to a company statement.

Dr. Bose, whose work is funded by the National Institutes of Health, said, "This is an exciting development because this is a homegrown invention that is being tested in humans, and therefore this scientific discovery has direct clinical, translational relevance."

"We are pleased that CZ BioMed has agreed to work with us to commercialize Dr. Bose's and Dr. Chatterjee's exciting discovery to efficiently target and treat different forms of cancer," said STTM Executive Director Arjun Sanga, J.D., assistant vice president for technology transfer at the Health Science Center.

Dr. Chatterjee said it is significant that the virus killed tumors even in mice with competent immune systems. This mirrors human patients who have functioning immune defenses. RSV also worked whether it was injected directly into the tumor or systemically through the abdomen. "This is important because there are some tumors to which you can inject the drug directly, whereas others you can't and a drug must work systemically," Dr. Chatterjee said.

Her work on the RSV project is funded by a Merit-Review grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a VA Senior Research Career Scientist Award, and a grant to Drs. Bose and Chatterjee from the National Cancer Institute.

RSV is expected to be safe because it is a children's virus – it does not infect adults. It also only infects the lungs. "Normal cells have weapons to shoot down viruses, but cancer cells have lost their anti-viral arsenal," Dr. Bose explained. "For this reason viruses can establish themselves in a tumor, grow and induce cell death."

A press release from CZ BioMed said: "Results from human trials overseas have been extremely successful and exciting to date, with minimal side effects as compared to traditional chemo or radiation therapies." The company's statement also indicates its plan to conduct a clinical trial with oncolytic RSV in the U.S.

Grants from the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute and the Cancer Therapy & Research Center at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio also supported this research.

TEAMWORK

SPORTS MEDICINE COLLABORATION ADVANCES PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION

By Catherine Duncan

Some of San Antonio's best orthopaedic physicians – who specialize in sports medicine surgery, patient care, rehabilitation and research – are joining forces under the new UT Medicine Sports Medicine Institute.

This collaboration brings together faculty from UT Medicine San Antonio, which is the clinical practice of the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, with physicians from Sports Medicine Associates of San Antonio.

Sports Medicine Associates is famous in town for serving as the official doctors to the San Antonio Spurs, San Antonio Rampage, San Antonio Silver Stars, San Antonio Missions baseball club, and area collegiate athletic teams.

Robert Quinn, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopaedics, said the new collaboration is bringing together the best and the brightest to care for athletes from the Spurs to college football players to student athletes of all ages.

"The institute helps us share our strengths and knowledge. By doing so, we can provide doctors in training from the Health Science Center the opportunity to learn from a vast array of sports medicine specialists. Our residents and medical students will attain invaluable knowledge in sports medicine as they help care for professional and non-professional athletes," he said.

Continued, next page.

(Pictured) Anthony Cavallaro
Photo by Lester Rosebrock, Multimedia Services

Matthew Murray, M.D., an orthopaedic surgeon and an assistant clinical professor of orthopaedic sports medicine surgery, said doctors at Sports Medicine Associates are the most well-known orthopaedists in town.

"They have established their practice as the go-to place for sports injuries in this area. We will have them as consultants and teachers for our students. Our sports medicine fellows and residents will be working with Dr. (David R.) Schmidt and his colleagues. Our students will receive a more comprehensive experience in sports medicine," Dr. Murray said.

He calls the new institute an "umbrella for people who need accessible and readily available care. Both entities already have state-of-the-art equipment, MRIs and physical therapy equipment."

Jesse DeLee, M.D., professor of orthopaedics, said this collaboration will make the university the lead location for the management of sports injuries. He said the partnership puts the research capabilities of the UT Health Science in a position to be utilized for sports medicine.

"I believe the ability to do sports medicine research is the most important aspect of the institute," Dr. DeLee said. "It will allow us to be recognized as the place to go for athletic injuries."

Dr. DeLee said a research project has already begun on the bone quality of patients with anterior cruciate ligament, which is commonly called ACL, injuries. Dr. Murray is overseeing this research and has six patients participating. "By doing this study, we all have access to the research findings. We will be able to better teach our residents and better care for our patients," he said.

David R. Schmidt, M.D., an orthopaedic knee surgeon with Sports Medicine Associates of San Antonio, hails the collaboration as a win-win for all involved.

"This will substantially improve the sports medicine experience for residents and fellows who are studying orthopaedics at the Health Science Center. They will learn from all the doctors involved. In the end, this collaboration will result in better trained sports medicine doctors throughout this area," said Dr. Schmidt, who received his medical degree and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Health Science Center.

Ralph Curtis, M.D., an orthopaedic shoulder surgeon with Sports Medicine Associates who also received his medical degree and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Health Science Center, said it is great to be able to give back to the university by working with the residents and fellows.

"This collaboration is Dr. Quinn's brainstorm. He is right on the money. It is a wonderful way to better train the residents and fellows. The collaboration will allow them to gain experience in sports medicine on all levels," he said.

The UT Medicine Sports Medicine Institute will create first-class sports medicine training and patient care in the San Antonio area, Dr. Curtis added.

Patients treated as part of the new institute will be seen at the Sports Medicine Associates' offices at 21 Spurs Lane in the South Texas Medical Center and at 5921 Broadway in Alamo Heights as well as UT Medicine's orthopaedics clinic on the third floor of the Medical Arts & Research Center, 8300 Floyd Curl Drive.

To schedule an appointment at UT Medicine, call 210-450-9300. To schedule an appointment with Sports Medicine Associates, call 210-699-8326.

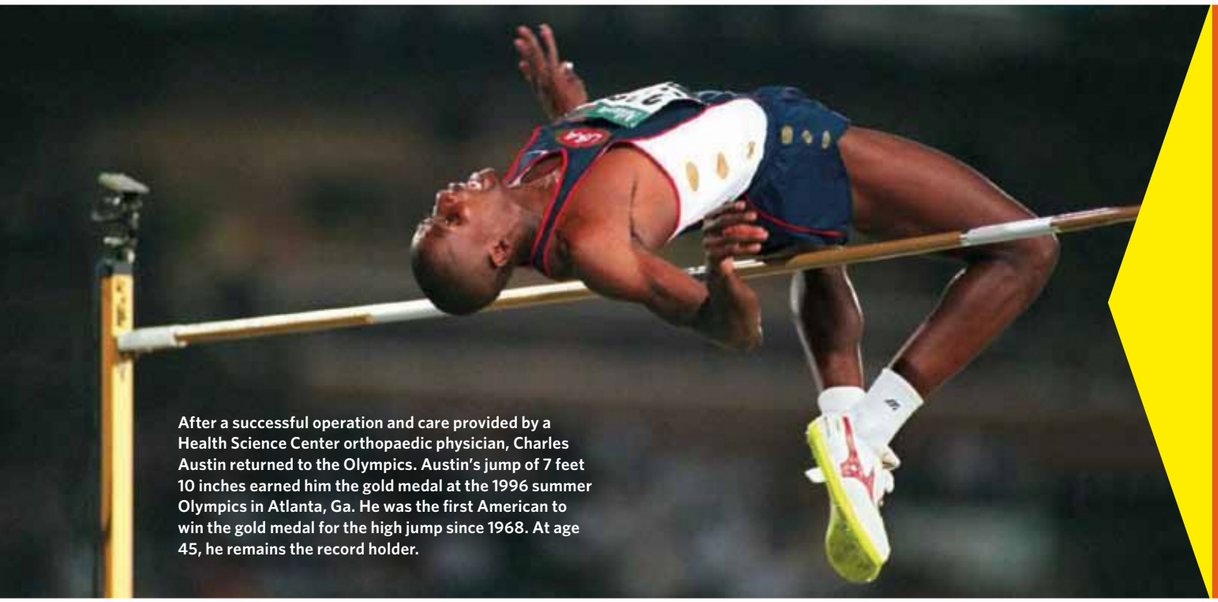
KNEE NEMESIS

- **The ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) of the knee is one of the most commonly injured ligaments.**
- **Approximately 250,000 ACL tears occur in the United States each year.**
- **Although ACL injuries are most often seen in team sports, 70 percent are incurred with little or no contact with another athlete.**
- **Female athletes participating in basketball and soccer are 2 to 8 times more likely to suffer ACL injury.**

Source: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the National Institutes of Health

VICTORY AFTER SURGERY

Matthew Murray, M.D. (pictured left), adjusts 16-year-old Anthony Cavallaro's knee brace. The 5-foot-11 Claudia Taylor Johnson High School sophomore tore his left ACL while defending his home turf during a district soccer game in February 2012. A month later, he underwent reconstruction surgery performed by Dr. Murray, who completed his medical degree and orthopaedic surgery residency training at the UT Health Science Center. After pre- and post-surgery physical therapy sessions, Cavallaro is back on the field running, kicking and winning in more ways than one. His mom, Jane, says her son is feeling better than ever. "He says he feels stronger and that he can run faster. We call him the bionic man when he runs with his brace on," she joked. This spring, Dr. Murray gave Cavallaro the green light to participate in soccer without the use of his knee brace.



After a successful operation and care provided by a Health Science Center orthopaedic physician, Charles Austin returned to the Olympics. Austin's jump of 7 feet 10 inches earned him the gold medal at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga. He was the first American to win the gold medal for the high jump since 1968. At age 45, he remains the record holder.

RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS: AFTER SURGERY, OLYMPIAN TAKES GOLD

Raised in Van Vleck, Texas, Charles Austin was the youngest of 10 children. As a high school senior searching for the means to attend college, his friends convinced him to try high jumping. He cleared 6 feet on his first try and finished the year with a best of 6 feet 11 inches.

His jumping ability led to an athletic scholarship at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) in San Marcos. During his college career, he shattered school records before being named the nation's top college high jumper.

Austin believes he tore his patellar tendon during his senior year of college. Despite the knee injury, he won the World Championship in 1991 and was considered a contender to win the 1992 Olympics. Although he made the Olympic team, his injury cost him a medal.

"At that point, two doctors in the United States and two in Europe had told me there was no hope of jumping again," Austin said. "In 1993, I met Dr. (Jesse) DeLee who said he had never seen an injury like mine. He didn't make me any promises, but he said he would try. Dr. DeLee gave me a chance. He gave me the hope I needed," he said.

On July 7, 1993, Dr. DeLee performed the extensive surgery and closely monitored Austin's rehabilitation. By December 1993, Austin was jumping again. In 1994, he began his journey back to the top of the high jumping world.

In 1996, he returned to the Olympics. His jump of 7 feet 10 inches earned him a gold medal. Today, Austin, age 45, remains the American and Olympic high jump record holder. He lives in San Marcos with his wife and three sons. Austin owns the So High Sports & Fitness Performance Center and Studio.

"I still do not have any problems with my knee. Dr. DeLee did a fantastic job. I owe a lot of credit to him. He gave me hope when no one else would. I recommend Dr. DeLee and his colleagues to all athletes," he said.

ROAD TO RECOVERY

PHYSICAL THERAPY BUILDS STRENGTH, BOOSTS CONFIDENCE

By Catherine Duncan

For an athlete recuperating from an injury, an elder suffering from arthritis pain, or anyone needing physical therapy, UT Medicine San Antonio offers state-of-the-art out-patient physical therapy services as a key component of comprehensive patient care and recovery. The clinic treats a variety of conditions including sports-related injuries, general orthopaedic problems, neurological disorders, women's health and geriatrics issues, and post-surgical cases.

"Some of San Antonio's elite physical therapists practice right here in our clinic," said Chad Hodges, PT, FAAOMPT, who is trained in advanced manual-manipulation techniques and orthopaedics. A graduate of the UT Health Science Center's physical therapy (PT) program, Hodges is a clinical faculty member and currently enrolled in the university's inaugural Transitional Doctorate in Physical Therapy program (t-DPT).

"Combined, our four therapists have more than 70 years of clinical practice experience," he said. "And each of our PTs has completed post-graduate specialization training."

UT Medicine Physical Therapy Services staff includes: Sheri Fossler, PT, center director, who is an orthopaedic certified specialist (OCS); Mike Geelhoed, PT, OCS, who is manual therapy certified (MTC) and an associate professor in the Health Science Center's PT program; and Smita Mehta who specializes in women's health issues.

Physical therapists are graduate-level trained health care providers who specialize in the neuro-musculoskeletal system. They use various techniques to reduce pain, restore function and promote mobility.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 210-450-9694. The clinic is located on the third floor of the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC), 8300 Floyd Curl Drive.

Natalie Gutierrez contributed to this story.

CARE THAT HEALS, INSPIRES

(Photo above) Physical therapist Chad Hodges engages patient Ashley Garza in neuromuscular close-chain squats to strengthen her quadriceps and lower extremities. Garza is a junior at John F. Kennedy High School.

During the first scrimmage of the basketball season against Robert G. Cole High School this past winter, Garza, 16, stole the ball from an opponent and as she passed it to a teammate, she felt a pop and intense pain in her left knee. Garza tore her ACL and had to be carried off the court. Matthew Murray, M.D., performed surgery to repair her injury on Dec. 4, 2012 and the day after, Garza began an intense six-month course of physical therapy at the Medical Arts & Research Center (MARC).

Garza's mother, Rosita Dominguez, said the care her daughter received at the MARC is outstanding and convenient. "Ashley has gotten everything she needs right here," Dominguez said. "She says she has more muscle and strength, thanks to the physical therapists. And they boosted her confidence. In the beginning, she was scared to take a step. Now she's ready to play her other favorite sport – volleyball. And she's talking about plans to study at the Health Science Center in the future to become an anesthesiologist. Not only did they get her back on her two feet, they've inspired her to dream bigger. I am so grateful."

Protecting pint-sized patients

UT Medicine physicians improve vaccination rates among children

By Sheila Hotchkin

Parents have a lot on their minds. Some are learning to balance an infant's many needs with life's other obligations, even while celebrating each sign of a healthy baby: the first laugh, words, steps and more. Other parents are racing after an active toddler or facing the rapid-fire questions of a preschooler.

At times, lost in all of this activity are well-child checkups and routine immunizations. Parents are quick to call the doctor at the first sign of illness, but it's easy to lose track of appointments for a healthy child.

A half-dozen years ago, UT Medicine San Antonio family physicians at a downtown clinic realized they were not seeing many children. Those they did see often had fallen behind on scheduled vaccines or were not receiving them at all.

This was particularly troubling because the clinic – the Family Health Center at University Health System's Robert B. Green Campus – fills an important role. Its neighborhood is home to many medically underserved people, and few nearby pediatricians accept CareLink. The Family Health Center, which does, helps meet the need.

Led by Alexandra Loffredo, M.D., UT Medicine physicians and their partners at University Health System began a concerted effort to improve vaccination rates within the community. Their work has earned national recognition and, more importantly, protected thousands of children from preventable diseases.

"People want to come back to us," said Dr. Loffredo, an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the UT Health Science Center. "Once we started this well-child clinic, they got such great

service they just made their next appointment with us."

The first step was carving out a place within the larger Family Health Center especially for children. There are baby scales, child-sized hospital gowns and an eye chart with symbols for those who have not yet learned their letters. Child-friendly art decorates the walls. And the medical staff has set aside several times during each week to focus on their younger patients.

Alexandra Loffredo, M.D., leads efforts to help families stay current with their children's well-child check-ups. Her team of UT Medicine San Antonio physicians and University Health System partners are protecting children in the community from preventable and deadly diseases.

A group of medical assistants received special training in well-child care, including interpreting the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Immunization Schedules and administering vaccines.

Aware that many families fall behind on well-child visits and vaccinations, clinic staff found new ways to keep them on schedule. Staffers keep logs of which children are due and check to make sure they have appointments scheduled. They follow up by phone with those who do not – and, after finding that many families lack reliable phone service, they started sending bilingual appointment-reminder letters.

The clinic also fine-tuned its own record-keeping on childhood vaccinations and designated a "vaccine supply champion" to make sure needed vaccines are always in stock.

Every parent who brings a child to the Family Health Center for a well-child visit receives an English-Spanish informational booklet describing the importance of vaccines and listing ages at which they are given. As parents leave, they are given a colorful reminder card with the date their child is due back.

The clinic also has useful gifts for families of young children – each with the Family Health Center's name and number on them. Those include diaper-wipe cases, electric outlet covers and baby spoons, and they are given at developmentally appropriate times. Children older than six months take home a new book, with the clinic maintaining a supply in English and Spanish.

Four-year-old Isabella Watson-Cabrera benefits from well-child check-ups and immunizations provided by UT Medcine San Antonio physicians.

Mirna Watson has been bringing her children to the clinic since moving to San Antonio about six years ago. She recently brought in two of her four children: 4-year-old Isabella and 3-year-old Juan Angel.

"I just love this place," she said. "I encourage all of my friends to come here. It's like a big family."

The medical staff crowded around her children, expressing surprise at how much Juan Angel had grown and watching the little boy show off his muscles and ability to do pushups. Isabella was quieter at first, smiling broadly and saying little. As the appointment went on, she became inquisitive, trying to remember names and asking about people's jobs.

She was dismayed, though, by the four shots that came at the end of her appointment. Her brother was in only for a well-child visit and braved no needles that day.

In 2011, the Family Health Center received a prestigious national award: the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation Pfizer Immunization Award in the "Most Improved" category. The clinic also has earned 100 percent ratings in its last three annual site visits by the federal Vaccines for Children program, which provides vaccines at no cost for uninsured or underinsured children.

Just as important, the clinic makes life easier for busy families. "We help parents stay on top of scheduled vaccinations," said Jennifer Gonzales, the clinic's lead medical assistant. "If we discover a child is missing one, we know that we have it in stock and can give it right away. We're helping keep kids healthy and making sure they don't miss school because they're missing a required vaccination."

Neurosciences research gets $3 million boost from The USAA Foundation

By Sheila Hotchkin

The USAA Foundation has given a $3 million boost to neurosciences research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, which is already a leader in this far-reaching area of study.

The gift will be used to endow The USAA Foundation President's Distinguished University Chair in Neurosciences. The chair will help retain and recruit international leaders and foster interdisciplinary discovery in neuroscience research, a field that spans all five schools and multiple scientific disciplines at the UT Health Science Center.

The first holder of the chair is Kenneth Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor and chairman of endodontics in the Health Science Center's Dental School, whose groundbreaking research soon may lead to a new class of nonaddictive painkillers that hold the promise of impacting burn and cancer patients and others who suffer from severe or chronic pain worldwide.

The USAA Foundation recognizes the value of having a top health sciences university within the community and supports the Health Science Center in its efforts to achieve greater preeminence, USAA CEO Josue (Joe) Robles Jr. said. Recruiting and retaining outstanding scientists and clinicians is crucial to the Health Science Center's ascent.

"We want to compete to bring the best and brightest to San Antonio, where they can make a difference for our community and the world," Robles said. "This is certainly true in our business community, and it's particularly true with the Health Science Center, which has the ability to improve so many lives."

In the larger effort to move the Health Science Center forward, the neurosciences are a natural area of focus, both because of their especially broad impact and the Health Science Center's existing strengths in that area.

Virtually everyone is affected by one or more of the large number of conditions that fall under the neurosciences, including chronic pain, headache, sleep disorders, stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, autism, neuropathies and movement and muscular disorders. The neurosciences also encompass psychiatric conditions, such as mood disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia.

The country's aging population has brought greater attention to conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. And military conflicts have led to more cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

These conditions have common threads, and research in one area can lead to unexpected breakthroughs in another. This is leading to a new paradigm in the study of neurosciences – one that recognizes that medical and surgical issues often overlap with psychiatric conditions.

The Health Science Center currently has $55 million in annual research funding dedicated to the neurosciences, making them the leading funded scientific area at the university. Faculty working in the neurosciences can be found in all five Health Science Center schools and across any number of departments and divisions.

The university counts two leading neuroscientists among its deans: Francisco González-Scarano, M.D., vice president for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, and David Weiss, Ph.D., vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Given the vast expanse of neuroscientific research taking place across the Health Science Center, President William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, saw the need to recruit an accomplished investigator to help advance this promising field of study.

"We recognize that our work in the neurosciences will be enhanced by a leader who can speak to the collective vision that drives our many research projects, and who can use that vision to recruit outstanding faculty, develop exciting new lines of research and encourage collaboration across disciplines," Dr. Henrich said.

Dr. Hargreaves epitomizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to the neurosciences. He holds appointments in the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in addition to the Dental School, and his training includes research fellowships at the neurobiology and anesthesiology branch of the National Institute of Dental Research, one of the National Institutes of Health.

His team, which brings together researchers with backgrounds in medicine, dentistry and the basic sciences, has made important advances in pain research.

As The USAA Foundation President's Distinguished University Chair in Neurosciences, Kenneth Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D. (pictured), will help retain and recruit international leaders and foster interdisciplinary discovery in neuroscience research.

"Our research is on the verge of a significant breakthrough. A gift like the one The USAA Foundation has made lifts us all and spurs the field forward. It will certainly be transformative in advancing my work and the efforts of our entire team, and it will set a course for future and continued success for generations to come."

–Kenneth Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Helping the homeless heal

Students provide care to patients at Haven for Hope

By Rosanne Fohn

Through their clinical training and volunteer work, UT Health Science Center San Antonio students and residents have many opportunities to learn while providing valuable service to the community.

Working with underserved patients at Haven for Hope – San Antonio's transformative program for homeless men, women and children – provides a different perspective for students in the School of Medicine, and Dental School students and residents.

"Most of the patients we see are trying to make a positive change to improve their lives. Many of them have been affected by addiction, abuse, abandonment, bankruptcy and illness," said Paul Orjuela, D.D.S. The 2012 Dental School graduate saw patients there during clinical rotations as a student. He now provides more complex care as a resident in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program.

Second-year medical student Ebele Achebe, offers calming words and a reassuring smile to a patient at Haven for Hope as she checks the patient's blood pressure.

Changing lives

One of his patients was a former businessman whose life unraveled due to drug addiction and business problems. "In a matter of three years he lost his family and home. He became ill and lives in a shelter. He came to our clinic because he needed about 40 percent of his teeth extracted due to decay and he needed other major restorative care. It is incredible how drugs can destroy a person's life, spirit and body in just a few years," Dr. Orjuela said.

He also provided care for a young woman who had a large abscess and had been unable to eat for two days. "We extracted the tooth, prescribed antibiotics and told her how to keep the extraction area clean. I ran into her the next time I was in the clinic. She approached me in the waiting room, shook my hand and reminded me of the treatment I provided," Dr. Orjuela said.

"I found out she had been homeless for two years and has a 3-year-old. She wanted to thank me because she was able to study for her computing class, passed her exam and was applying for jobs," he said.

These are familiar stories to the approximately 100 senior dental students who participate in a weeklong rotation at the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic at Haven for Hope. Thirteen AEGD residents, such as Dr. Orjuela, provide care there on Tuesdays and Thursdays as part of their clinical training. And this semester, about 30 senior dental hygiene students began rotations at the clinic, said Elaine Neenan, M.S., D.D.S., M.P.H., associate dean for External Affairs in the Dental School.

Students gain life lessons

Meanwhile, nearly 200 medical students per year work at the Centro Med Haven for Hope Clinic on Wednesday evenings. "We have first- through fourth-year medical students at the clinic working as volunteers or as part of their classes," said Jessica Mendez, community service learning program coordinator and assistant to the director in the Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics, which coordinates the medical students' efforts at all five of the center's student-run free clinics.

Fourth-year medical student Tiffany Cortes said she has learned important lessons while volunteering there. The clinic serves Haven for Hope residents as well as others who cannot afford care.

"There was one woman who developed a rash that kept spreading," Cortes said. "Eventually her ankles, hands and wrists became swollen. Then, she developed sores in her mouth and throat. When she came to us she said she had tried all these different medicines but it kept getting worse. She had to quit her job at an elementary school because she couldn't work, and without a job she no longer had health coverage."

After consulting, the medical students on duty that evening proposed that the patient might have lupus. Supervising faculty member Richard Usatine, M.D., agreed. He recommended the patient be tested for the chronic autoimmune disease.

Unparalleled experience

"What I have enjoyed the most is being able to help people get back on their feet," said Cortes, who is from Corpus Christi. "It is easy for a medical condition to grow and hinder a person from being able to work. I have enjoyed learning about different diseases and conditions in class and then being able to see them in the clinic.

"I've also gained so much by working with my peers. The upper-level students have the chance to teach the less-experienced students. I enjoy helping them get oriented in the clinic. We learn a lot from each other," she said.

As a result of their experiences at Haven for Hope, both Cortes and Dr. Orjuela, who is from Harlingen, plan to care for underserved patients in their careers.

Health Science Center and Haven for Hope champion is among world's greatest business leaders

Bill Greehey, a longtime friend of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, has been named one of the world's greatest business leaders.

In January, the *Harvard Business Review's* "100 Best-Performing CEOs in the World" ranked Greehey 12th among U.S. CEOs and 31st worldwide.

His ranking was based on his tremendous success as CEO of Valero Energy Corporation. As chairman and CEO of Valero, he led the growth of a small petroleum pipeline and storage company that was affiliated with Valero until that company spun off from Valero as an independent company, and was renamed NuStar Energy LP. Greehey retired from Valero in 2005, but he continues to serve as chairman of NuStar.

No description of Greehey would be complete without mentioning his strong commitment to the community, including gifts and collaborations that touch the Health Science Center.

In 2007, the Greehey Family Foundation donated a transformative gift of $25 million to the Health Science Center for the Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute. The gift also established the Greehey President's Endowment for Excellence in Children's Health Sciences, and the Greehey Cancer Laboratories. Both the institute and laboratories are located on the Greehey Academic and Research Campus.

"We congratulate Bill Greehey on this significant international recognition," said William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. "We appreciate his excellent leadership not only in the board room but also in the community, and thank him for his generosity that has benefited the Health Science Center and so many others."

In 2006, Greehey launched Haven for Hope, an innovative program to transform and save the lives of homeless individuals and families. Now, Health Science Center medical students and dental residents receive clinical training there while providing care to patients who otherwise could not access or afford care.

In 2012, a research team from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics began working with Haven for Hope to build an infrastructure to evaluate the program's community and economic impact and identify the best and optimal use of resources and services for its clients.

In 2006 Bill Greehey launched Haven for Hope. Now, Health Science Center medical students and dental residents receive clinical training there while providing care to patients who otherwise could not access or afford care.

Adler family gift advances research, education

A gift of $1 million from the estate of Laura A. Adler in memory of her husband, Harry F. Adler, M.D., Ph.D., is providing students at the UT Health Science Center with laboratory space and endowed scholarships for perpetuity. The gift will establish the Harry F. Adler, M.D., Ph.D., Laboratory in the South Texas Research Facility (STRF), and the Harry F. Adler, M.D., Ph.D., President's Endowment at the UT Health Science Center. Dallas dermatologist Max Adler, M.D., a 1976 alumnus of the School of Medicine, presented the gift at a reception at the STRF this past winter. Dr. Harry Adler was an early pioneer in translational medicine who achieved the rigorous educational milestone of physician with his M.D. degree and of biomedical scientist with his Ph.D. degree. His legacy is being passed on to future generations of M.D./Ph.D. students studying at the Health Science Center. First-year M.D./Ph.D. student Jeffrey Cooney, co-authored a paper published in the prestigious journal *Nature*. "A big part of my decision to do an M.D./Ph.D. degree was rooted in the fact that I love both science and medicine," Cooney said. "I spent several years doing hematology research and fell in love with the elegance of a well-designed experiment. The ability to contribute to these advances is the real reason that I chose this career path." Thanks to the Adler family, students such as Cooney will have opportunities for success to last a lifetime.

Dallas dermatologist Max Adler, M.D., (front row in the red tie) is surrounded by appreciative M.D./Ph.D. students during a November 2012 gift announcement at the South Texas Research Facility. On the left in the white coat is M.D./Ph.D. Program Director, Jose Cavazos, M.D., Ph.D.

Hamilton Oliver legacy honored through endowment

Scholarships will prepare next generation of physicians for rural regions

By Rosanne Fohn

If you drive a country road this time of year it won't be long before you witness spring in all its glory. Bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes and little yellow daisies splash their color along the roadsides and sweep through the ranchland of South Texas. You may end up in the town of Cuero, the Wildflower Capital of Texas, located about an hour and a half southeast of San Antonio on U.S. Highway 183.

Cuero is the seat of DeWitt County, which has a history in the cattle and mercantile business.

The town was one of the origination points of the legendary Chisholm Trail cattle drive and provided supplies for new immigrants heading west to occupy Texas homesteads in the 1800s. Now Cuero is beginning to boom again as part of the Eagle Ford oil and gas development.

Despite its rich history, however, DeWitt County is designated by the federal government as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Area (MUA). There are not enough health professionals to serve the needs of the population there.

Frances Hamilton Oliver is shown on a trip to California with her youngest son, Robert, in 1971. Robert Oliver shares many of his mother's interests including regional and family history. Robert's great-grandfather, Alexander Hamilton, a Texas settler from Kentucky, began a thriving mercantile business in Cuero in 1873. He later opened the First National Bank in his store, founded and managed a cottonseed oil company, and brought some of the first registered Hereford cattle into DeWitt County.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Cuero resident Robert Oliver, more bright medical students will have the opportunity to complete their education and provide care in rural areas such as DeWitt County. In memory of his mother, Oliver has established The Frances Hamilton Oliver Endowed Scholarship at the UT Health Science Center. The scholarship will support students who intend to practice in rural areas.

The UT Health Science Center serves primarily 38 counties south and west of San Antonio, most of which have an HPSA or MUA designation. The university actively recruits students from underserved areas not only into the School of Medicine, but also the Dental School, School of Nursing, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Health Professions to address the shortage of health providers in the region.

Oliver said education and health care were important to his mother, who was the great-granddaughter of an early Victoria physician, Dr. William Thornton. Frances Hamilton graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and was a schoolteacher in Refugio until she married Gale Oliver Jr. While she occasionally was a substitute teacher, Frances Hamilton focused on being a full-time mother to their four boys, steering them all toward a college degree.

"My mother was really strong on history, family tradition and education," Oliver said. "My brothers and I were all raised in Refugio, but every summer we spent a week in Cuero visiting my grandmother and cousins. I spent a lot of time at our family's ranch. I listened to my mother and grandmother talk about family history, and that's important to me, too.

"It used to be that young people left home, got an education and then came back to the small towns to raise their families. Now that isn't necessarily the case. This gift honors my mother's love of education and brings health care providers to rural areas to improve our quality of life," Oliver said.

Oliver spent some years away from home, too, as a property manager in Vail, Colo., but returned to Cuero in 1995. In retirement, he has dedicated his time to founding the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. The museum will open later this year and will house UT Austin's Horseman of the Americas – Tinker Collection, with more than 900 ranching and horse-related artifacts. "It is generally regarded as one of the finest international collections of cowboy objects in the world," Oliver said.

Once the museum is open, Oliver plans to host in its meeting rooms continuing education sessions for regional health care providers, as well as community health education speakers from the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

Through his support of health care, history and education, Oliver is helping improve the lives of residents of Cuero, DeWitt County and all of South Texas, while honoring his beloved mother's legacy.

Young Frances Hamilton of Cuero was crowned queen of the Turkey Trot festival in 1934, an event similar to San Antonio's Fiesta.

Cuero, San Antonio share rich history of culture, education

As "Sultana Oreuc" (Cuero spelled backwards) young Frances Hamilton and the town's "Sultan Yekrut" (turkey spelled backwards), Dan Peavy, D.D.S., M.S.D., reigned over the community celebration that helped promote the town's main agricultural industry at that time – turkeys. In those days, thousands of turkeys were herded through downtown Cuero from outlying farms to a processing plant and then shipped by rail for Thanksgiving dinners across America.

Dr. Peavy was an orthodontist, practicing in Cuero and San Antonio from the mid-1930s until his death in 1962. His son, also an orthodontist and named Dan Peavy, D.D.S., M.S.D., was raised in San Antonio. He is an adjunct faculty member in the Dental School at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

Hamilton married Gale Oliver and lived in Refugio. She was a schoolteacher and the mother of four sons, including Robert Oliver, who generously established The Frances Hamilton Oliver Endowed Scholarship for first-year medical students who want to practice in rural areas.

Baldwin's legacy honored in new simulation center

Located in the School of Nursing, the new Center for Simulation Innovation (CSI), as it is officially named, continues to evolve under the leadership of nationally recognized simulation expert Teresa Anne Boese, M.S.N., RN, who joined the faculty this past fall.

"We are so fortunate to have Ms. Boese on our faculty," said Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the School of Nursing. "As an early promoter of simulation training, she helped write the international standards for simulated education. She has a keen grasp of how to use simulation for nursing education, certification and continuing education."

Boese follows in the footsteps of many outstanding faculty, including the late Ruth Ann Baldwin who taught clinical skills in the School of Nursing for 15 years, retiring in 2001.

Colleagues remembered Baldwin, who also was an alumna of the School of Nursing, as dedicated to helping her students achieve the highest standards in clinical skills. Teaching and nursing were life, they said.

Last year, Baldwin's husband, retired Air Force Capt. Gary Baldwin, established a generous endowment in the School of Nursing for student scholarships and for the new CSI. The Ruth Ann Baldwin Control Center in the simulation center is named in her honor.

To support the CSI and other programs in the School of Nursing, visit **MakeLivesBetter.uthscsa.edu** or contact Gwen Notestine, director of development in the School of Nursing, at 210-567-5313.

Standing by the Ruth Ann Baldwin Control Room in the School of Nursing's Center for Simulation Innovation (CSI) are Ruth Ann Baldwin's daughter, Jo Ann Becher, and her husband, Gary Baldwin.

The Center for Simulation Innovation (CSI) provides far more realistic clinical training than could have been offered just a little more than a decade ago when Ruth Ann Baldwin, RN, M.S.N., retired from teaching clinical skills. Known for having high expectations, Baldwin also was a School of Nursing alumna, earning her bachelor's degree in 1979 and master's degree in 1985. She is pictured here as a master's graduate.

Teresa Anne Boese, M.S.N., RN (right), trains students in the Center for Simulation Innovation how to care for patients using the RotoProne™ Therapy System. The bed is designed especially for patients with severe pulmonary complications. Boese said that thanks to donor KCI (Kinetic Concepts Inc.), the UT Health Science Center School of Nursing is the only nursing school in the nation with this particular type of technology.

Click here to see how the simulation center works.

School of Medicine alumni make giving back to students a family affair

By Tina Luther

As a medical student at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, Pamela (Blum) Camosy, M.D., class of 1980, had a prodigious enthusiasm and desire to help and heal.

"The university gave me the opportunity to work in clinical settings with patients. That experience really inspired me and helped me grow in my profession," she said.

Today, Dr. Camosy works as a private practice family physician and also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Health Science Center. She also serves as a member of the School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Directors and mentors students who volunteer at the SAMMinistries free medical clinic.

Dr. Camosy said she is proud her daughter, Caroline, has also chosen to pursue a career in the medical field. Caroline is a third-year medical student at the Health Science Center. "I feel it's important to help students by giving back to the university that gave me so much and is now preparing my own daughter for her career path as a physician."

Likewise, Patrick Nguyen, M.D., FACS, class of 2004, cites mentorship from faculty, residents and senior students as instrumental to his formation as a student and career path as a surgeon. He practices as an assistant clinical professor of general surgery and teaches students and residents at the Health Science Center. Grateful for the education and guidance he received as a student at the university, Dr. Nguyen also volunteers his time mentoring students.

Both graduates are dedicated to the Alumni Association in a variety of ways, including supporting the Student Education Enhancement Fund (SEEF).

Launched in 2009 by the Alumni Association, the SEEF supports student-related educational causes, including tutoring services, summer research projects, community-service-learning initiatives, medical mission trips, new equipment for the H-E-B Clinical Skills Center and enhancements to the School of Medicine Alumni Association Student Lounge.

"I certainly do not want lack of money to prevent a medical student from taking part in worthwhile projects," Dr. Camosy said. "From time to time I have the chance to talk to medical students who have received SEEF monies. They describe to me life-changing experiences that have given them a better understanding of the human condition and of their own emerging role as a healer."

Dr. Nguyen agrees. "When I was a student, I took advantage of the student lounge because it was a place to study and build camaraderie, although at the time it was outdated and it was next to the dean's office, albeit not a prime location for a medical student to relax!" Dr. Nguyen said jokingly, with a smile. "It is great that the Alumni Association helped with the recent relocation and renovations of the new student lounge. I feel like giving back is a small way I can help to enhance the educational experience for students."

Giving to the SEEF helps foster the important tradition within the School of Medicine of seasoned alumni who are willing and eager to assist the younger generation.

"One could look at it as a family mentality," Dr. Camosy said. "Family members turn to each other when they have a need, or a story to share or an event to celebrate. I enjoy being part of the lives of the younger generation of healers. It gives me a sort of youthful energy by osmosis. I wish more alumni could experience this."

Pamela (Blum) Camosy, M.D. (right), class of 1980, pictured with her daughter, Caroline, said supporting the School of Medicine, where her daughter is now in her third-year, is an investment in the future of health care.

Scholars reunite to honor Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long

Students and alumni of the School of Medicine, who have benefited from the generosity of Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long, reunited recently to pay tribute to the Austin couple. In 2000 the Longs established the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Presidential Scholars program that awards full scholarships for tuition, fees, instruments, textbooks and additional expenses to support deserving medical students from South Texas. Many of the scholarship recipients are the first in their families to attend college and pursue their dreams of becoming physicians. Since the program's establishment, 34 Long Scholars have graduated from the School of Medicine and are practicing in prestigious residency programs across the country. An additional 12 scholars are currently enrolled in the School of Medicine.

"Our Long Presidential Scholars program at the Medical School has been one of the most worthwhile programs we've ever done," Mr. Long said. "We are very proud to see so many accomplished graduates who are now practicing medicine across South Texas, and we know there will be many more in the future."

In 2008, the Longs donated a historic gift of $25 million – the couples' largest donation ever to any institution – to the Health Science Center. The university's main campus on Floyd Curl Drive in San Antonio is named in their honor – the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Campus – acknowledging the couple's generosity.

Jessica Treviño Jones was among the students who attended the reunion. She is a fourth-year medical student who will graduate this year and begin her internal medicine residency program here at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

"Thank you for letting me be a part of your Long family," Treviño Jones said. "Without your support, I would never have been able to have time for both my education and my family. Now my husband and I have a beautiful son and with my education and training that you've made possible, I'll be able to support his future. I can't express how much this means to us. We are so grateful."

If you are a Long Scholar who would like to reconnect with the UT Health Science Center and other scholars, contact Sabrina Paniagua at 210-567-2508 or paniaguas2@uthscsa.edu.

Joe and Teresa Lozano Long (sitting center, front row) enjoyed visiting with graduates and students of the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Presidential Scholars program.

Alumni support student success

More than 210 School of Medicine alumni have made gifts to the SEEF totaling more than $310,000. Their generosity has been far-reaching and has provided funding for the following:

Alumnus Patrick Nguyen, M.D., FACS, said he supports the School of Medicine so that current students can benefit from the excellent education that prepared him for his own career as a surgeon.

- **Two medical mission trips to India and two trips to Ethiopia;**
- **Grants to support more than a dozen community-service-learning projects for students;**
- **Sponsorship of the poster session and reception at the 2012 and 2013 Community Service Learning Conferences;**
- **Grants supporting six student research projects;**
- **700 hours of tutoring services and First Aid Study Guides for the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) Step 1 Exam for the Class of 2015;**
- **Equipment for the H-E-B Clinical Skills Center, including new instruments for arthrocentesis training, ultrasound paracentesis and thoracentisis training packages; an ultrasound compatible LP trainer; a breast-exam trainer; and a chest-tube trainer; and**
- **Renovations to the School of Medicine Alumni Association Student Lounge as well as the addition of a freezer, Keurig coffee maker, pool table, ping-pong table, foosball table and installation of three microwave ovens.**

For more information and to donate to the SEEF, contact the School of Medicine Alumni Relations Office at 210-567-4400 or e-mail perrymand@uthscsa.edu.


Cantu


Garcia


Lapiz-Bluhm


Patterson


Stevens

Adelita Cantu, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor of family and community health systems, has been honored as Nurse of the Year by the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN). She was selected because of her leadership in developing the Healthy Choices for Kids program and Healthy Choices for Seniors as part of her community service learning work, and for her leadership in the NAHN and its local chapter.

Lily T. Garcia, D.D.S., M.S., FACP, professor and director of the Division of Advanced Education and External Affairs in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, is the recipient of the 2012 Hispanic Dental Association Women's Leadership Award. "To receive recognition from my colleagues, who represent my cultural heritage and have experienced similar challenges to achieve excellence in our profession, is so special to me," she said. Dr. Garcia is the immediate past president of the American College of Prosthodontists and was the first Hispanic female to serve in the presidency.

M. Danet Lapiz-Bluhm, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor of family and community health systems, received the Nurse Research Excellence Award from the Philippine Nurses Association of America. Previously engaged in preclinical research on the effects of stress, Dr. Lapiz-Bluhm currently conducts translational research on the neurobiological biomarkers of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Jan Evans 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 to the Subspecialty Board on Infectious Disease of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). ABIM's subspecialty boards and test committees are composed of experts in both academic medicine and practice, all of whom must be ABIM certified in their particular subspecialty.

Kathleen Stevens, RN, Ed.D., ANEF, FAAN, professor of health restoration and care systems management and director of the Academic Center for Evidence-Based Practice, was inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame at the 23rd International Nursing Research Congress in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Dr. Stevens is known internationally for her work in improving patient safety and the quality of patient care through evidence-based practice.

Four faculty receive national award

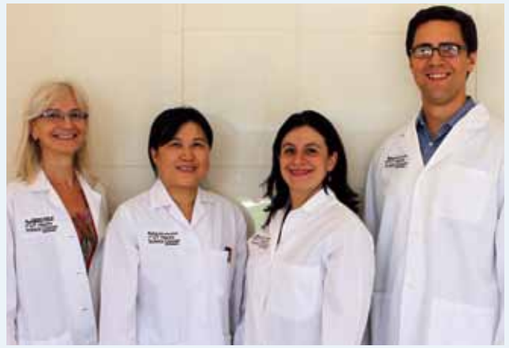
Four faculty members have been named recipients of the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) Young Investigator Grant. They are:

Jing Liu, Ph.D., instructor in the Department of Pharmacology, is seeking to validate a hypothesis that adiponectin, a hormone from fat tissue with anti-diabetic properties, plays a role in dentritic remodeling in a chronic social defeat mouse model of depression. Dendrites, the "tree branches" of a neuron, constantly expand and contract, remodeling the connections between neurons. Dr. Liu found that social defeat induces dentritic retraction in the brain area associated with depression and that this is accompanied by reductions in circulating adiponectin levels, which leads to increased susceptibility to stress-induced depression-like behavior.

Ruth Madelaine Paredes, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychiatry, is studying the function of neuregulin-1, a strong candidate gene for schizophrenia and psychosis. Her research will provide insight into the gene's regulation of the immune response and its role in schizophrenia disease formation.

Milena Girotti, Ph.D., instructor in the Department of Pharmacology, is using rat models in an effort to unveil a causal link between interleukin 6 (an immune protein) and symptoms of mood disorders. Interleukin 6 levels are elevated in patients with major depression, but it is not known whether the protein is involved in inducing or aggravating the symptoms. One goal of the research is to suggest more effective interventions.

David Roberts, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, developed an easy-to-remember daily strategy that schizophrenia patients can apply in real-world circumstances. He predicts that by practicing this strategy on tablet computers, patients will improve in their speed, accuracy and general ability to interpret others' thoughts and feelings, and also believes this daily training will lead to patients' brain circuits becoming more efficient at social cognition, which will be measured with brain imaging.


The four School of Medicine researchers who received Young Investigator Grants from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression are (left to right) Milena Girotti, Ph.D., Jing Liu, Ph.D., Ruth Madelaine Paredes, Ph.D., and David Roberts, Ph.D.

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