

IMPACT



EXCELLENCE DURING CRISIS

UTMB receives coveted credential status for patient care

Editor's note: UTMB recently received its Magnet Recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (www.nursingworld.org/ancc/magnet.html). Below is UTMB President John D. Stobo's message to campus that was distributed via email on April 20.

I'm extremely pleased today to share some wonderful news with the UTMB community: we've just learned that UTMB has received Magnet Recognition by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) of the American Nurses Association. Only 2 percent of the 6,000 hospitals in the United States, and only 12 others in the state of



Message from the President

Texas, have received this recognition. This coveted magnet recognition validates that patient care in UTMB Hospitals meets the "gold standard" of excellence for nursing and quality patient care. It

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Hospitals and Clinics staff rally together to provide top quality care in aftermath of Texas City explosion



A special message from Dr. Karen Sexton

the right place and the right time—and how proud I am to be part of an organization that can provide such a high level of care.

Within minutes of the incident, our trauma teams were standing by, ready to care for the injured. The university's clinical disaster plan—which we

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As the administrator in charge of the UTMB Hospitals and Clinics, I sometimes take for granted the expert work our nurses, physicians and other caregivers perform every day.

Because they are so consistently good, the medical miracles they make happen in our fast-paced environment just become part of a day's work. It may be that even the community takes this great medical center and its people for granted.

But then, in a moment, we are reminded of how truly special these professionals are.

The March 23 explosion at the BP refinery in Texas City brought into sharp focus for me the importance of having the right medical expertise at

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Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of *Impact* is **noon, one week prior to publication**. Inclusion of all other articles is determined by the Public Affairs staff. Content is generally scheduled two to four editions in advance. Items submitted for consideration are subject to editing for style and length.

Pardee Foundation pledges \$150,000 to cervical cancer research

Grant will support study to develop more effective, less invasive cancer screening

By J. Christian Messa

The Elsa U. Pardee Foundation has pledged \$150,000 to support the research of a UTMB faculty member who is seeking to develop a more effective and less invasive screening for cervical cancer.

Dr. Concepcion Diaz-Arrastia, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is working to create a screening procedure in which a few drops of blood drawn from a woman's finger would reveal the signs of potential cervical cancer development. Diaz-Arrastia's research is based on proteomics, the scientific discipline that examines the function and nature of proteins in the human body.

Because women with persistent and progressive human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are at greater risk of contracting cervical cancer, Diaz-Arrastia envisions identifying the unique protein characteristics linked to such HPV infections.

She could then design a finger-stick test to recognize women with those protein traits, thereby giving them early warning for the possible occurrence of cervical

cancer.

Such finger-stick screenings would vastly improve medicine's current cervical cancer identification procedure, the Pap test. Pap tests pinpoint only a fourth of all cervical cancers and have been known to produce significant numbers of false-positive results that require additional patient consultations.

In addition, women who have the highest cervical cancer risk often forgo the recommended annual screening, typically due to the related cost and inconvenience. Almost 80 percent of all cases worldwide are reported in developing countries.

World Health Organization statistics cite HPV as the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women globally, with almost 290,000 lives lost each year.

The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 10,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be reported in the United States in 2005, with almost 4,000 women dying from the disease. According to the Texas Cancer Registry, about 1,100 women in Texas are annually identified as having invasive cervical cancer, and some 300 deaths are attributed to it each year.

Diaz-Arrastia said the Pardee Foundation's commitment will help advance her cancer research.

"The Pardee Foundation's support is vital to my cervical cancer study," she said. "Thanks to the foresight of the foundation's board of directors, we will be one step closer to identifying women truly at risk of cervical cancer."

Dr. Garland D. Anderson, chairman of UTMB's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, said, "The Pardee Foundation is helping pave the way to develop an even more reliable, convenient and cost-effective test for cervical cancer screening. I applaud the foundation for taking this major step toward advancing women's health care." Anderson is the Jennie Sealy Smith Distinguished Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Mrs. Elsa U. Pardee established her Michigan-based foundation in 1944 to help support cancer research, the same year she lost her life to cancer. Today the foundation's trust fund contributes up to \$4 million annually to cancer research and care.

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speaks to the outstanding quality and professionalism of our clinical staff, faculty and hospital leadership, and it underscores how valuable all of our employees are to UTMB, Texas and beyond.

To our patients, magnet status means they are receiving care from people, and in a facility, recognized for better patient out-

comes, shorter lengths of stay and lower mortality rates.

This was no accident. Our nurses at UTMB set magnet recognition as a goal, and teams have worked hard and deliberately over several years to put all the pieces in place: professional models of care, a high quality of care, effective nursing leadership, a commitment to continual improvement, and more. Their work is very much in keeping with our

values and our institutional commitments to professionalism, excellence and service.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking Vice President and Chief Executive Officer for Hospitals and Clinics Karen Sexton, Chief Nursing Officer David Marshall, and UTMB's outstanding and hardworking nursing staff. Once again, they've made us all very proud.



Numbers
to know

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- To report suspected waste, abuse and fraud.
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- Call Public Affairs if you have any questions, or to arrange for the required institutional review of your promotional materials.



**Commit
to Fit**

www.utmb.edu/getfit

- Visit the Commit to Fit web site for ideas and tips on how you can join the campus initiative to get in shape.

Gender behavior in space topic of UTMB study

By Seena Simon

Using a simulated Mars research facility in the Utah desert, a UTMB researcher is exploring how men and women might behave differently during missions to outer space.

Dr. Sheryl Bishop, associate professor of clinical preventive medicine, epidemiology and biostatistics, is studying two single-sex teams living and working in a simulated space capsule in the Mars Desert Research Station in Hanksville, Utah.

The gender experiment began April 15, when an all-male team began a two-week rotation in the capsule. A six-member all-female team will take the men's place May 1–15. Bishop will be conducting the behavioral experiment while simultaneously serving as part of the female team. The 12 subjects hail from Russia, Turkey, Germany, France and other nations.

Mars Society, an organization of Mars enthusiasts, many of them scientists, engineers, geologists, physicists and researchers, operates the research station. The Mars Society operates the research station in Hanksville amid a desert landscape that resembles the topography of the planet Mars.

Volunteer subjects live in an isolated Mars "habitat" in two-week rotations. These space "crews" wear space suits outside their capsule, and explore in all-terrain vehicles.

This is the first Mars Desert Research Station study of gender behavior using deliberately constructed all-male and all-female crews.

- For information about Mars Desert Research Station, visit the web site at <http://www.marssociety.org>.
- Photos of the Mars Desert Research Station are available online at www.marssociety.org/MDRS/media.
- For information about the gender study, visit the web site at <http://Monalisalceonardo.isunet.edu>.

SON's Sandor named Fulbright winner

By John Koloen

Dr. Kay Sandor, a registered nurse and associate professor in the School of Nursing, is the recipient of a Fulbright Lecturing Award for 2005–2006. She is the third member of the School of Nursing faculty to receive the Fulbright award in the past four years.

In addition to her nursing background, Sandor is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Certified Holistic Nurse. Her research interests include spiritual development in nursing and medical students and the effects of walking the labyrinth on the mind, body and spirit.

The Fulbright award is for five months during the 2005–2006 academic year in Hungary. Starting in September, she will teach at Semmelweis University in



Dr. Kay Sandor

Budapest and the University of Pécs (pronounced Paych).

She will spend her time lecturing at Semmelweis University and in Pécs, a city in Southern Hungary. She will teach community and transcultural nursing.

Sandor teaches in the undergraduate and graduate nursing program at UTMB. She participated in the development of an interdisciplinary course entitled "Spirituality and Clinical Care" taught to junior nursing students and first year medical students. In addition, she conducts labyrinth walks for healing and self-discovery.

Dr. Pamela G. Watson, dean of nursing, is

enthusiastic about the School of Nursing's third Fulbright scholar.

"Of course I am delighted for this scholarly recognition of yet another faculty member in the School of Nursing," she said. "Dr. Sandor's background in community and public health, coupled with her expertise in mental health, will make her a highly valued Fulbright scholar in Hungary."

Sandor earned a nursing diploma from Mt. Sinai Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis., a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, Okla. She earned her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin. She completed her training in clinical psychology at the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

Lecture to focus on 'empowering the poor through health'

The PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Training in International Health is hosting UTMB faculty member Dorothy Granada, director of Medical Services and coordinator of Community Health and Outreach Services at the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Cooperative and Clinic in Mulukuku, Nicaragua, for the International Health Lecture on May 3.

The lecture, titled "Empowering the Poor through Health" will be noon–1 p.m. May 3 in Levin Hall South Auditorium.

Granada is a past recipient of the International Pfeffer Peace Prize, awarded by the Fellowship of Reconciliation for her lifelong commitment to nonviolent social

change and her commitment to working for peace and justice. She is also a recipient of the Central American Institute for International Health Dr. Hugo Behn Rosas Award for "her continuous struggle for the poor." This award is given to acknowledge those who struggle for those excluded from the basic and essential benefits of health care.

Granada also serves as faculty and mentor for students enrolled in the UTMB elective course "Introduction to Primary Health Care in Developing Countries," offered to medical students each June since 1997, and to UTMB nursing students since 2004. More than 100 UTMB students, residents and faculty have

worked in her clinic in Nicaragua during the past nine years.

This collaboration with the Maria Luisa Ortiz Clinic and UTMB was started and continues to be a part of medical mission trips sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Galveston.

For information about the lecture, contact Marianne Trainer in the Center for Training in International Health, (409) 772-0637 or mtrainer@utmb.edu.

For information about Dorothy Granada or the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Cooperative and Clinic, visit <http://www.peacehost.net/Dorothy/>.

Grant funds research on frailty among older Mexican-Americans

By John Koloen

A UTMB researcher has received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue investigating disability in older adults.

Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, director of the Division of Rehabilitation Sciences in the School of Allied Health Sciences, received the five-year grant titled "Disablement Process in Mexican-American Older Adults." The grant continues work on disability in older adults by Ottenbacher and colleagues in the Sealy Center on Aging

and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health.

The focus of the new grant is on risk factors for frailty. Frailty is a precursor of disability, institutionalization and death.

Drawing on participants from the Hispanic Established Population Epidemiologic Study of the Elderly directed by Kyriakos S. Markides, the researchers plan to collect information from 1,000 Mexican-American older adults. Markides is co-investigator on the grant examining frailty.

"The findings will extend our understanding of how frailty impacts independence and quality of life in the rapidly expanding Mexican-American older adult population," Ottenbacher said. "Frailty has not been extensively studied in minority populations.

"We will determine whether changes in strength, balance, walking speed, cognition, daily living skills and other components of frailty impact a person's ability to live independently in the community," he said.



Dr. C. Joan Richardson

“I was so inspired by the amazing teamwork and the high level of professionalism in the Emergency Department and throughout the institution. People did their jobs beautifully, and when needed, also pitched in to carry out tasks they usually don’t perform. What I most love about UTMB is that we are at our best when things are at their worst. That kept running through my mind as the ambulances and helicopters brought in patient after patient. I knew we were going to do whatever it took to take good care of them. This is a remarkable place, and I am blessed to be a part of it.”

Dr. C. Joan Richardson
Institutional Emergency Preparedness Officer and Medical Director for Inpatient Services



Dr. Alexander J. Indrikovs

The UTMB Blood Bank collected 274 units of blood in the three days following the BP explosion. And, the bulk of transfusions in the first 24–48 hours were units donated by individuals before the explosion. “This is the importance of people donating on a regular basis so that we have the blood available and ready to be transfused when disaster strikes.”

Dr. Alexander J. Indrikovs
UTMB Blood Bank Director



Clockwise from left: UTMB personnel meet emergency vehicles outside the ER for triage; multiple ambulances and emergency vehicles bring patients to UTMB; emergency personnel transport a patient from ambulance to the ER; emergency personnel, as well as hospital administration and leadership, wait for more patients to arrive.

All photos by John Glowczwski.



Dr. John D. Stobo

“The extraordinary events of March 23 and the response of the UTMB community made me extremely proud. When our community needed us we rolled up our sleeves and gave it all we had—doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmacists, blood bank, communications, facilities, security staff and countless others—working together as a community of equals to address the pressing needs of those patients and families brought to UTMB.”

Dr. John D. Stobo
UTMB President

“From the emergency management perspective the UTMB response to the BP explosion went very well. The

Emergency Department geared up quickly and was ready to receive patients well ahead of the first patient who arrived. All of the support departments also mobilized staff, extra equipment and supplies, or moved into a work mode that would handle any patient problem we confronted. We all recognized the worst of the worst patients would come here, because that is what we do. And, we did a great job of taking care of the patients who needed us most. The efforts of everyone participating in the initial response, and the ongoing care for these patients should make us all proud to be members of the UTMB health care team.”

Michael J. Megna
Administrative Emergency Preparedness Officer

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regularly rehearse to properly prepare for events we hope never happen—brought order to an inherently chaotic situation, and our faculty and staff got on with the job at hand.

Twenty-three of the most seriously injured in the explosion came to us that day by ambulance or helicopter.

They, along with our other patients who weren’t affected by the blast but nonetheless were in need of emergency-level services, received the very best care available.

From directing traffic to providing hands-on patient care to informing and comforting families, the people of UTMB rallied together as professionals — and as neighbors.

We were able to respond in such a fashion because of our status as a Level I trauma center. That status, conferred by the American College of Surgeons, involves a lengthy review every three years to ensure we remain in a state of constant readiness. This means that UTMB is qualified to treat the most severe of traumatic injuries. It speaks to a scope and quality of care not often found in a town of 60,000.

It has been earned through the dedication and expert-

ise of physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers and other health care professionals who work in our emergency room, operating suites, intensive care units, blood bank and all other areas of our health care complex — and through the commitment of administrators who have enabled us to preserve this community resource, even through challenging financial times.

Usually, our trauma specialists care for victims of car accidents, falls, gunshot wounds or other injuries that seem to be part of daily life.

Occasionally, they must deal with catastrophic events that affect scores of families at once. In those cases, they apply their considerable skills even as they grieve for their community. They are truly special, indeed.

And so, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank each and every UTMB caregiver and staff member who helped us respond so quickly and so well in the aftermath of the BP explosion.

You are a credit to your respective professions and to your community, and I want everyone in Galveston County to know just how proud I am to serve you.

Karen Sexton is vice president and chief executive officer of UTMB Hospitals and Clinics. This column originally ran in the DATE, edition of The Galveston County Daily News.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1:20 p.m.—Explosion heard/felt
- 1:25 p.m.—Emergency Room and Emergency Management advised of explosion in Texas City
- 1:30 p.m.—Texas City issues Level 3 warning and shelter in place alert
- 1:30 p.m.—EMS advises UTMB to prepare for mass casualties
- 2:05 p.m.—President notified and External Disaster Plan implemented; ER activates “Code ED”
- 2:24 p.m.—First patient arrives
- 4:43 p.m.—Patient No. 22 arrives
- 4:45 p.m.—ER and EOC stands down from emergency operations status
- 5:00 p.m.—Patient No. 23 arrives



Women's Health Center opens in Dickinson

UTMB recently celebrated the opening of its new Women's Health Center with a ribbon cutting and reception for UTMB faculty and staff, as well as Galveston County community members.

Located off Interstate 45 at Bay Colony Town Center (next to HEB), the 9,980-square foot facility offers a full range of women's services, including annual gynecologic screenings and general obstetrics. The center also houses doctors who specialize in diagnosing and treating reproductive infertility, gynecologic cancer, incontinence, chronic pelvic pain and problems associated with menopause.

The opening of the Women's Health Center marks an effort on the part of UTMB's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to become more accessible to women in northern Galveston County.

"This is a fast-growing community, and we want to provide more convenient service to our patients near Dickinson and League City," said Terri Gately, senior practice manager for the UTMB Women's Health Center. "We've designed this practice to provide an unparalleled level of care, while keeping in mind that a woman's time is very valuable."

For information, or to make an appointment, call (281) 534-6414; a web site will soon be available at www.utmb.edu/whc.

IN BRIEF

Free skin cancer screening available May 7

UTMB's Department of Dermatology will offer a free skin cancer screening from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. May 7 at the Family HealthCare Center, 3828 Ave. N in Galveston. Patients will be seen on a first come, first served basis, and no appointment is necessary.

The UTMB screening is part of a national effort, coordinated by the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Cancer Society, to educate the public about the benefits of early skin cancer detection.

UTMB dermatologists will screen for cancerous or pre-cancerous growths. Patients who require further attention will be referred to their own physicians for follow-up care. The clinic will provide sunscreen samples, a list of dermatologists who practice in the Galveston/Houston area and literature on how to spot suspicious skin growths.

For information, contact the UTMB Department of Dermatology, (409) 772-1911, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Relay for Life registration begins, teams needed

It once again is time to register for the Galveston Island Relay for Life. In

collaboration with the UTMB Sealy Center for Cancer Cell Biology, the American Cancer Society's Galveston Relay for Life is an event for communities to come together and walk from dusk until dawn to raise money and support for cancer research.

Teams of 8–15 people register for the event and begin raising money to fight cancer. Each team member is asked to raise at least \$100.

"Everybody knows somebody who has been affected by or has lost their life to cancer," said Dr. Mark Evers, professor of surgery. "This event celebrates the lives of those who have survived their battle with this disease as well as those whom we have lost. The funds we raise for the American

Cancer Society will help us aggressively continue to find a way to defeat cancer."

The relay will be held from dusk May 20 until dawn on May 21 at Kermit Courville Stadium, 27th Street and Avenue M in Galveston. A slumber party under the stars, teams will gather and relay around the track throughout the night. As the sky darkens, luminaria will be lit, each representing a loved-one who has battled the disease.

To register, join a team, or for information, contact Christi Buras at (409) 266-9433, Christy Taylor at (409) 266-9435, or the American Cancer Society at (409) 938-0672.

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AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

BRIEFS from Page 6

Proposals now accepted for President's Cabinet Awards

Applications are being accepted for 2005 President's Cabinet Awards. Proposal forms are available online at www.utmb.edu/cabinet. This year's theme is Creating a Caring and Healing Environment and all proposals should be based on that theme. Awards are granted in amounts up to \$50,000. All proposals must be received by 4:30 p.m. June 20.

Proposals are reviewed by a committee of President's Cabinet members, who submit a list of finalists to UTMB President John D. Stobo for final approval.

If you have any questions please contact Rachel Curtis in the Office of University Advancement at (409) 772-3957 or rlcurtis@utmb.edu.

OF NOTE

Dr. Ron Carson, director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities, served as the moderator at the Texas Legislative Educational Stem Cell Research Forum for a panel discussion about the ethics of stem cell research.

The Biological Society of the Royal College of Surgeons and Royal College of Physicians of Ireland recently invited

Dr. Jeff Davis, professor of clinical preventive medicine, to present the annual Widdess Lecture. His lecture "Medicine in Space" was delivered in Dublin.

Dr. Aytekin Oto, associate professor of radiology, received a letter of appreciation from Dr. Andrew V. Proto, editor of *Radiology*, complimenting him for the "exceptionally fine quality of his reviews" on behalf of that medical journal. Proto indicated that the quality and timeliness of the reviews place Oto's work among the top of all reviews. Oto also was honored at a reviewers' luncheon at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed **Dr. Linda R. Rounds**, associate professor of nursing, as president of the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners. Perry also reappointed Rounds to a six-year term as a board representative for advanced practice education. She has served as president of the Board of Nurse Examiners since 2000 and as a board



Lab dedicated to Warren

Dr. John Troupe, associate professor and chair ad interim for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, dedicates the new Ophthalmic Surgery Training Lab to Dr. Michael Warren, Robert Earl Cone Professor of Urology and chief of the Division of Urology. Dr. Valerie Parisi, dean of the School of Medicine, attended the dedication ceremony February 23, when Troupe thanked Warren for seeing the department through a number of changes as interim chair from May 2001 to September 2004. Warren also "provided the motivation, and released the funding, to found this lab for surgical simulation," Troupe said. The Michael M. Warren Ophthalmic Surgery Training Lab is on the second floor of the University Eye Center.

Photo by Z.B. Krason



Dickinson student creates winning design

Out of more than 100 entries, 8-year-old Haley Slone, 8, of Bay Colony Elementary School in Dickinson created the winning artwork for this year's Earth Day Children's Recycle Art contest. Her drawing will appear on official UTMB Earth Day 2005 T-shirts, posters and promotional items and will be displayed on the UTMB campus at the 13th annual UTMB Earth Day celebration on April 22. Haley and her classmates will be official guests of the Earth Day Committee during the celebration.

member representing advanced practice education since 1999.

Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president for community outreach and correctional managed care, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the Texas Institute of Health Policy Research Board of Trustees. Based



Orthopaedic Clinic teaches kids about casting

Mark Zepeda applies a cast to a child's arm at a Brookwood Elementary School fund-raiser. The UTMB Orthopaedic Clinic at South Shore Harbour provides the casting booth service at different school functions to show the children about how casts are applied, and the kids get to see what a cast feels like without breaking any bones to try it. The booth at Brookwood raised about \$900 for the school's PTA organization. Clinic staff volunteers their time for the events, and OrthoGlass donates the casting supplies.

in Austin, the institute is a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of Texans and their communities through education, research and health policy development. Projects focus on health policy education, grass-roots solutions and data-driven ideas. Raimer's appointment concludes August 2007.

Nominations sought for McGovern Award

In 2001, UTMB's Office of the President established the John P. McGovern Award in Oslerian Medicine, a lifetime achievement award that recognizes the practice and teaching of humane medicine in the tradition of Sir William Osler and affirms the university's commitment to Oslerian ideals. The award, which consists of a statuette of Sir William Osler by late Galveston sculptor David Moore, also honors Houston physician and philanthropist John P. McGovern, himself a committed Oslerian. His long and generous support of UTMB has made possible a number of significant programs in teaching, including the John P. McGovern Academy in Oslerian Medicine.

Candidates for the award must both practice and teach medicine and be affiliated with UTMB School of Medicine either as faculty members or as former students or residents. The selection will be made by the McGovern Academy's Osler Scholars, who will assess nominees for their longstanding and distinguished careers of service in four categories:

- Combining scientific principles with humane practice in his/her clinical care and being committed to relief of patients' suffering;
- Displaying imaginative, innovative and inspirational teaching;
- Displaying exemplary personal attributes: honesty, modesty, generosity, affection, a respect for the past, spirituality and passion for aesthetic and creative pursuits; and
- Displaying social consciousness and community involvement.

The McGovern Award in Oslerian Medicine will be presented at the annual Osler Oration, 6-9 p.m. July 8 at Open Gates.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. May 16. They must be submitted as hard copy to Rosemary Lindley, Administrative Coordinator, John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77555-1311.



Stobo visits Washington to discuss biodefense research, national lab

UTMB President John D. Stobo recently visited with U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla in Washington, D.C., to discuss plans for the Galveston National Laboratory and biodefense research at UTMB. Bonilla is on the House Appropriations Committee.

Internal Medicine reconnects with its alumni through outreach visits

Over the course of the past year, the UTMB Department of Internal Medicine, in cooperation with the Office of University Advancement and its Special Events division, held five Chairman Outreach Visits (COVs) in selected Texas cities.

Patterned after Dr. John D. Stobo's President's Outreach Visits, the purpose of the COVs has been to reconnect with the department's alumni.

Hosted by local alumni, invitees to these events included former residents, fellows, faculty and UTMB School of Medicine alumni practicing internal medicine or one of its subspecialties.

Guests at the COVs socialize and enjoy a dinner along with a presentation that offers them an overview of UTMB key activities, and then more detailed information about the Department of Internal Medicine's programs, growth

and development. Chairman ad interim Dr. Randall J. Urban seeks to develop partnerships in education, patient care and research and envisions them to be of long-term mutual benefit to the alumni physicians and their patients, as well as to the department.

More than 225 individuals attended this year's inaugural COV.

"The enthusiastic response of our alumni to the COVs has been heartwarming, and I have no doubt that the partnerships we develop will be exciting and productive for their medical communities and for UTMB," Urban said.

"Many of our former house staff and fellows have a deep affection for UTMB, and are profoundly grateful for the education they received here.

"Developing outreach programs with them seems only natural, and I am very excited about the future," he said.

UTMB IMPACT

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Here for the health of Texas