

CALENDAR

Volunteer Services

Volunteer Services is now accepting applications for the 2001 Summer Junior Volunteer Program. Junior Volunteers provide service to UTMB Hospitals and Clinics throughout June and July. Applicants must be at least 14 years old. Applications will be accepted until May 4 and may be picked up in the Volunteer Services office located in room 1.308 of John Sealy Annex. Individuals may also call ext. 22549 to request an application. Selection is based on a telephone interview and school recommendation.

Nursing rounds

The School of Nursing and Center for Healing Practices in Nursing sponsor bimonthly Healing Through Nursing Rounds. The March 5 program, "Applications in Nursing Practice: Reflections on the Mind, Body, Spirit Education Program," will be presented by Dr. Carolyn Kinney with panelists Dr. Elizabeth 'Bets' Anderson, Chris Bray and Kathy Nash. The panel will explore the implementation and development of nursing practices based on the Mind, Body, Spirit Education Program.

The program will be from 2-4 p.m. in Levin Hall North. The program is open to the UTMB community. Contact Julie Zahorik at ext. 28304 for additional information.

Parking garage closed

The Administration Building Parking Garage is being closed for repairs for three consecutive weekends, which began Feb. 23.

The garage is on the corner of Market Street and University Boulevard.

During this time, alternative parking will be available in the surface lot directly south of the Sealy and Smith Professional Building at University Boulevard between Market and Mechanic streets.

Following are the scheduled closings:

- Friday, March 2, 5 p.m. to Monday, March 5, 4 a.m.
- Friday, March 9, 5 p.m. to Monday, March 12, 4 a.m.

Employees who park in the Administration Building garage will be asked to relocate their cars as soon as possible after 5 p.m. on these Fridays.

While repairs are being made, there will be no charge for parking in the surface lot on weekends and until 9 a.m. on Mondays. Parking in other areas of the campus will not be affected during this time. According to university officials, repairing the garage now will enable UTMB to avoid more costly repairs in the future.

For additional information, call ext. 24786 or ext. 21581.

IMPACT

UTMB THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON



Dorothea Wilson

As Vice President for Research Dorothea Wilson prepares to relocate to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, she speaks with passion about her work with UTMB's research community. Page 7

Question and answer

The second in a series of articles that will appear over the next few months concerning the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Page 2



HEART TO HEART

Top photo: UTMB President John Stobo observes a cholesterol screening at the Second annual Healthy Heart Fair held Feb. 14. Participants learned how to minimize their risk for heart disease at the annual event.

Right: Sponsored by the University of Texas HeartCenter at UTMB, the Healthy Heart Fair featured blood pressure and cholesterol screenings for UTMB employees and visitors, as well as provided health tips and evaluations for cardiovascular risk factors.



UTMB, city to begin new transit program

By Cathy C. Nail

By late March or early April, UTMB and the City of Galveston will introduce UTMB patients, employees, students and visitors to a new and improved way to travel on the island.

From the ferry landing to 89th Street, patients who show proof of clinic appointments, and employees and students who show their UTMB badges will ride for free. Students, employees, patients and anyone else who needs a ride to UTMB will be able to access city buses from various stops on the island and come to campus.

Working with the city, UTMB has developed a new set of routes to and within the UTMB campus. "We are replacing the old campus transit system, the Island Transit CART, with new routes and buses that will serve the

See TRANSIT on page 2

IMPACT

Impact is the semimonthly newsletter of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB). Published by the Office of University Advancement, it is distributed free of charge in support of UTMB's education, patient care and biomedical research objectives.

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Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of the March 12 Impact is noon, March 5. Submissions should not be more than 100 words for Briefs or 75 words for People items.

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.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

HIPAA

HIPAA at UTMB: Wide range of issues

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles that will appear over the next few months concerning the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and its effect on the treatment of patient information by all employees at UTMB. Shelly D. Witter, HIPAA coordinator for UTMB, answered these questions

What has UTMB done to address the many issues associated with HIPAA?

We have established an institutional task force consisting of representatives from a cross section of the university. In addition to the task force, there will be work groups that will address the following specific topics: data transactions and code sets; privacy; information security; legal/contracting issues; and environmental and physical security.

Who will help the work groups?

Coordinators have been appointed for each major area. These coordinators will be responsible for filling out a survey to assist us in determining the extent to which HIPAA affects them, generating ongoing status reports of work in their area, and helping to build HIPAA awareness on campus.

How will we know what is going on?

The campus community will be receiving lots of important information through a variety of communication mechanisms, such as e-mail announcements,

Impact, campus monitors, iUTMB and presentations to departments.

When will all of this happen?

We have already begun the awareness phase and are about to kick off an information-gathering initiative. The coordinators will be conducting a survey for the HIPAA Project Office that will be used to assess potential risks for non-compliance. We will first pinpoint where we keep patient information currently, find out what policies are in force concerning that patient information and then compare our practices to what will be required by HIPAA. Lastly, we will prioritize the improvements that need to be done.

How can I find out more information?

The best way to contact the HIPAA Project Office is through e-mail at utmb.hipaa@utmb.edu or by calling ext. 78717. Contact us if you have questions, or would like us to talk to you about HIPAA and how it will impact your area.

TRANSIT, from page 1

UTMB community's transit needs more efficiently," said Mike Shriner, chief facilities officer.

In addition to free rides to and from work or school, UTMB employees and students will have the added benefit of using the buses for travel on campus and to off-campus locations such as 1902 Harborside and Shearn Moody Plaza. UTMB identification also gives students and employees the opportunity to travel to island locations, such as restaurants, shops, the Strand or the seawall, via the bus or trolley.

Because of the new system, people who live on Bolivar will now have the option of leaving their cars on the peninsula, then riding the ferry as walk-on passengers and catching the bus to UTMB. Walk-on passengers have the added advantage of being able to catch the first ferry available rather than waiting for one that can accommodate their vehicle. This new option may also help reduce daily traffic congestion at the

ferry landings, said Shriner.

"UTMB will continue to provide funding to the city of Galveston, as we have for the CART system," said Shriner. The current system is limited to campus-only stops and consequently the average number of riders is very low. "It was clear it was time for a change," Shriner added.

The catalyst that sparked this major change began last year. "In preparing to submit Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant application last summer, we discovered that a lack of transportation is second only to a lack of health insurance among the leading barriers to health care in Galveston County," said Dr. Ben Raimer, vice president of community outreach.

A fundamental part of the HRSA grant application included addressing the transportation issue with the county and the city of Galveston, Raimer added. "By offering free transportation, we hope it will be one less hurdle for patients to face when trying to access health care."

"This is a huge benefit for the UTMB community," said Shriner. "It's just another example of how UTMB can partner with the city to provide improved services, as well as help the city transit system to remain viable." Shriner added that under this agreement, the City of Galveston has also committed to upgrade the quality of transit vehicles and existing amenities, such as shelters, benches and signs.

"The potential benefits of the new system are many," said Shriner. "If people choose this alternative, the number of vehicles entering the campus will be reduced, there will be less parking congestion and the results should have a significant positive effect on the environment."

Buses run Monday through Friday from 6:05 a.m.–11:30 p.m. and Sundays from 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. A map with times and routes will be available on buses, at the UTMB parking office, and for download from the iUTMB web site.

For more information, contact Island Transit at (409) 762-2903.

ON CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

PEOPLE

Dr. Steven F. Viegas (Orthopaedics) was the invited guest lecturer at the 14th annual East Japan Society for Surgery of the Hand meeting in Tokyo this month. He lectured on the anatomy and biomechanics of the wrist. He also presented lectures on wrist injuries and their treatment, and was the visiting professor at Nagoya University Medical Center and Osaka University Medical Center. Viegas is chief of the hand surgery division of Orthopaedics.

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Dr. Kurt Mossberg (Physical Therapy) recently presented an abstract, "Changes in Ambulatory Efficiency in Persons With Acquired Brain Injury After a Rehabilitation Intervention," at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association. The abstract and presentation won the award for best research given annually by the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Section of the association.

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Southern Nursing Research Society,
Baltimore, Md.

Drs. Mary Ann Best and Steven V. Owen (School of Nursing) presented "Measuring School Nurses' Sense of Efficacy to Deal with Violence in Their Schools."

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Barbara Camune (School of Nursing) presented the poster "Birth Injury: A Comparison of Physicians' and Midwives' Management, Documentation, and Outcomes."

•

Dr. Robin D. Froman (School of Nursing) presented "Exploratory Factor Analysis," a two-hour post-conference educational session for SNRS members. Froman also has been appointed to serve on the editorial board of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research.

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Dr. Kay Sandor (School of Nursing) presented a poster entitled "Spirituality and Clinical Care: Exploring Spiritual Development in Nursing and Medical Students."

EVENTS

Exhibit to exemplify "Spirit"

Moody Medical Library will once again host the work of local artist, Dr. Miriam Brysk during the month of March. This exhibit, "Spirit," is influenced not only by her survival of the Nazi Holocaust as a child, but by a deeper awakening to the meaning of life.

She describes this awakening as "an attempt to hear the notes of the music of the soul, a knowing that is simply awareness, an expression of form and color that is unencumbered and free."

Brysk has accomplished this in the series of digital paintings done during the last two years, as she made her transition into retirement after a 21-year academic career as Professor of dermatology at UTMB. They were composed de novo using a combination of graphic programs such as Adobe Photo Shop, Corel Painter and Deneba Canvas transferred as tif images.

She has also worked in various other media, including acrylics on both canvas and plywood and watercolor and has exhibited at the library several times. Her watercolor show,

GRANTS

March of Dimes awards UTMB group

At a volunteer appreciation banquet in November 2000, Jennifer M. Lee accepted a 2001 March of Dimes community grant for \$3,450 on behalf of the UTMB Perinatal Bereavement Committee. The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the March of Dimes, whose mission is to prevent birth defects and infant mortality, provides service to 14 counties and annually awards start-up money to community organizations and institutions that initiate programs addressing documented perinatal needs.

At UTMB, approximately 4,500 babies are delivered each year, with roughly 250 of those deliveries ending in perinatal loss. It is these patients and their families that this grant money will benefit. The multidisciplinary Perinatal Bereavement Committee was formed in 1999 to create a healing environment by providing compassionate and comprehensive medical and psychosocial services for patients losing a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or medically necessary termination.

Money from the grant will help expand existing bereavement services in the OB areas, provide appropriate grief literature and support information, provide ongoing staff training, and initiate a medical follow-up protocol. Members of the Perinatal Bereavement Committee include staff from Nursing, Pastoral Care, Social Work, Genetics, Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Neonatology. Service on the committee is voluntary. For more information about the committee, please contact Lee at ext. 78234 or by campus mail route 0587

"Birth and Renewal" marked a transformation from the past, an attempt to live life as a victor and not a victim.

A reception will be held Tuesday, March 6, 5-7 p.m. in the lobby. "Spirit" will be on view during regular library hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-midnight.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

- When: Second Tuesday. Noon-1 p.m.
- Where: Trinity Episcopal Church, 22nd and Winnie.
- Contact: Ramona B. Mason, (409) 948-0368 or (409) 948-8862, or Elicia Dunn, ext.71629.

- When: First Wednesday. Noon-1 p.m.
- Where: Suite 2.222, Primary Care Pavillion.
- Contact: Leah Fanuiel, ext. 22169 or Linda Coleman, ext. 79136.

- When: Third Wednesday. 12:15-1:15 p.m.
- Where: Danforth Gardens, Texas City.
- Contact: Ramona B. Mason, (409) 948-0368 or (409) 948-8862, or Theresa Webb at (409) 949-9499.

- When: Fourth Monday. 7:30-9 p.m.
- Where: St. John West Classroom at St. John Hospital in Nassau Bay.
- Contact: Nancy Malley, (218) 212-5894 or St. John Hospital, (218) 333-5503.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

- Purpose: For family and friends who are coping with the death of a loved one. The group offers emotional support and an opportunity to talk about the dying process.
- When: Second and fourth Thursdays. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Where: Primary Care Pavilion, Entrance B, Suite 124.
- Contact: Sandra Linton, ext. 20054, or Ramona B. Mason, (409) 948-0368 or (409) 948-8862.

BETTER BREATHERS SUPPORT GROUP

- Purpose: Fellowship and support for people who are breathing impaired and their families. Health care professionals and others share information on how to manage the symptoms and consequences of lung disease.
- When: First Tuesday, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Where: Galveston County Senior Citizen's Center, 2201 Ave. L, Galveston.
- When: Second Tuesday. 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Where: Family Health Care Center, 9300 Emmett Lowry Expressway, Texas City.

- Contact: Sue Johnson or Jerri Worthen in Pulmonary Care Services. ext. 22809

CARDIAC SUPPORT GROUP

- Purpose: To provide information and support for cardiac patients and their families and friends.
- When: Third Monday of every month.
- Where: Edgewater Retirement Center, Moody House Auditorium.
- Contact: Michelle M. Bennett, ext. 72377.

CARING FOR THE OLDER ADULT SUPPORT GROUP

- Purpose: To maintain emotional and physical well-being through support and access to resources.
- When: Second Tuesday. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Where: Primary Care Pavilion, Entrance B, Suite 124.
- Contact: Sandra Linton, ext. 20054, or Lisa Bellard, ext. 23412.

EATING DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

- Purpose: A weekly confidential support group for people who have eating disorders.
- When: Tuesdays. 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Where: Bethel Hall Conference Room.
- Contact: Employee Assistance Program, ext. 22485, or fax ext. 74289.
E-mail: Annette Martinez at ahmartin@utmb.edu

UTMB celebrates three decades of OED excellence

By Alicia Simmons

On Feb. 15, faculty, friends and staff gathered to celebrate three decades of excellence in the UTMB Office of Educational Development. Dr. Stanley Lemon, dean of medicine, kicked off the festivities with a welcome, followed by a proclamation read by Dr. Walter Meyer, the Kempner Professor for Child Psychiatry and director of the General Clinical Research Center.

During the ceremony, Harold Levine and Drs. Linda Perkowski, Andrew Payer and Gwendie Camp, past and present OED directors, were recognized with commemorative plaques. Meanwhile, those in attendance also



reflected on the significant contributions made by two former directors, the late Dr. Abdul Sajid and John Markus.

Formerly the Office of Research in Medical Education, OED was born in a response to medical education reforms in the 1970s. Its primary function was to assist in reform of medical education and to continue professional development activities for faculty. Since its inception in 1971, OED faculty have played a vital role at UTMB, assisting in curriculum design and evaluation, evaluating students and faculty, and developing new instructional materials.

Dr. Emil Petrusa, a former medical educator in internal medicine and OED at UTMB, delivered the keynote address. Petrusa, now associate dean for medical education and director of the Office of Medical Education, Research and Development at Duke University, spoke on "Scholarship from Innovation in Medical Education."

Describing the university's learning environment in the 1970s and the 1980s, Petrusa said, "People with experience in assisting in curriculum development and evaluating the new curriculum and other educational areas teamed with faculty in basic science and clinicians to make enormous changes in the way physicians were trained."



Above, from left: Dr. Gwendie Camp, current OED director, was honored at the anniversary program, along with former directors: Drs. Andrew Payer and Linda Perkowski and Harold Levine.

Left: Former UTMB faculty members Drs. Emil Petrusa, now at Duke University, and Peter Bowman, now at University of Houston-Clear Lake, returned to campus for OED's celebration and open house.

This collaboration, Petrusa explained, gave birth to such innovations as the all-standardized patient Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). An OSCE, which was modified at UTMB using standardized patients, includes a series of stations where students are evaluated on clinical skills, including physical examination, clinical problem-solving and interviewing skills. Internal medicine and family medicine clerkships, the Practice of Medicine course and the multidisciplinary ambulatory clerkship currently use this exam format.



Dr. Emil Petrusa presented the keynote address at OED's 30th anniversary celebration. He spoke on "Scholarship from Innovation in Medical Education."

Development Board

Members gather to discuss fund-raising strategies

By Christian Messa

Members of the UTMB Development Board gathered on campus in late January to discuss fund-raising strategies and successes, as well as to elect new officers. Part of the Jan. 26-27 Development Board Weekend activities included a reception at the Galveston Railroad Museum and the Sealy Society Recognition Dinner at the Lone Star Flight Museum.

Physicians, attorneys, educators, community volunteers and UTMB alumni sit on the 90-member Development Board for three-year terms. Board members familiarize themselves with the university's priority program areas to offer advice and guidance for attaining goals in those areas. They also serve as advocates, volunteers and patrons for the university.

More than 300 people attended the Sealy Society Recognition Dinner on Jan. 27 to honor major UTMB contributors. About 50 individuals and organizations were recognized for their generous investments in the people and programs of UTMB.

As a prelude to the dinner, six UTMB faculty members and a student were honored with President's Cabinet Awards for their efforts to develop progressive projects related to creating an enhanced healing environment.

The programs addressed such health concerns as caring for the medically underserved patients in the Rio Grande Valley and improving immunization rates in Galveston County. Winning grant proposals were selected by a President's Cabinet committee headed by Mrs. Harris L. "Peaches" Kempner of Galveston.

Dennis Miller of Galveston assumed the seat as chair of the President's Cabinet, an organization of UTMB alumni, faculty, staff and supporters, including community and business leaders, that helps advance the mission of the university. Cabinet membership results from unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more for individuals and \$5,000 or more for corporations.

President's Cabinet awards provide "seed money" grants for innovative programs. Such funding also helps organizers secure additional grants from foun-



Physicians, attorneys, educators, community volunteers and UTMB alumni sit on the 90-member Development Board for three-year terms.

dations and other philanthropic organizations to further develop and maintain their initiatives.

Established in 1995, the Sealy Society recognizes corporations, foundations and individuals who have helped improve the public's health through their generous gifts to UTMB. All contributors who give \$1,000 or more over the course of a year to any program, including the President's Cabinet, become members of the society.

During the Development Board Weekend, members learned about such university successes as a record \$35.3 million in gifts and pledges through fund-raising initiatives during the 2000 fiscal year—a 95 percent increase in yearly giving since 1998.

Key volunteers on the board also were recognized for their efforts in helping obtain significant gifts that contributed to the total: Dr. R. Fred Gregory, who assisted in securing a \$1.5 million contribution from the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation to establish the Nelda C. and H.J.

Lutcher Stark Center for Excellence in Diabetes Care, and Dr. Lloyd Gregory Jr. and Risher Randall, whose initiative inspired a \$1 million gift from the Robert A. Welch Foundation to establish the Robert A. Welch Distinguished University Chair in Chemistry, the second Welch chair at UTMB.

Development Board member George Sealy and former Development Board member Michael C. Doherty were honored on behalf of the Sealy & Smith Foundation, which earmarked more than \$23 million for UTMB in 2000. Both are members of the Sealy & Smith Foundation's board of directors.

UTMB Development Board members elected Harris L. "Shrub" Kempner Jr., president of Kempner Capital Management Inc., to the position of chair and Dr. B. Henry Estess Jr., UTMB School of Medicine Class of 1964, to serve as the new vice chair. The board also recognized Dr. Joseph T. Painter, outgoing chairman and a 1949 UTMB graduate, for restructuring the focus of the board during his two-year tenure.

Major gift from UTMB alumnus caps cognitive rehabilitation fund-raising goal

Christian Messa

A UTMB alumnus and his wife recently pledged a major gift that completes the \$1.25 million fund-raising campaign to boost UTMB research in the rehabilitation of stroke and brain injury survivors.

Dr. Herman L. Koester and his wife, Catherine, were recognized for their contribution to the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative during the recent Sealy Society Recognition Dinner at the Lone Star Flight Museum. In addition to the Koesters, other key contributors to the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative were Moody Endowment Inc., Houston Endowment Inc., Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, Dian Graves Owen Foundation, Kempner Capital Management Inc., Fred C. and Patricia W. Burns and Gulf Coast Medical Foundation.

With the initiative goal reached, UTMB faculty will begin to significantly expand cognitive rehabilitation research in the School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS). Such research will continue to advance the study of brain injury, which scientists expect will lead to the development of more effective treatment. According to the Brain Injury Association, more than 2 million people in the United States suffer traumatic brain injuries each year.

Through this successful initiative in cognitive rehabilitation, three endowed faculty positions have been established to help recruit outstanding faculty in that field to UTMB. The financial backing from the endowments will enable faculty appointed to the positions to conduct studies on such issues as how brain injury restricts normal mental, physical and social activities, as well as the merits of increased oxygen pressure, or hyperbaric, treatment.

The Koesters understand firsthand the effects a brain injury may have on a loved one. Their daughter, Cathy, suffered a cerebral aneurysm in 1997. She was treated at UTMB and made a miraculous recovery. Roughly 50 percent of those who suffer such an injury do not survive. Cathy's recovery continued at the Transitional Learning Center, a Galveston facility internationally known for innovative rehabilitation programs that help those with brain injuries

relearn daily living skills. Part of the Koesters' gift will establish an endowment in honor of their daughter, the Catherine E. Koester Professorship in Cognitive Rehabilitation.

Koester said his daughter's recovery underscored the importance of continuing research on brain injury and developing even better treatment. "We considered it to be very fortunate she did so well, and that's why we got involved," he said.

Dr. Charles H. Christiansen, SAHS dean, thanked the Koesters for such strong support of brain-injury research at the school.

"This gift demonstrates the exceptional generosity and commitment of Dr. and Mrs. Koester to the field of cognitive rehabilitation," Christiansen said. "Their personal interest in this campaign has played a key part in its success."

Dr. John D. Stobo, UTMB president, noted that the gifts from the Koesters and others to the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative will significantly elevate the brain injury research status of the academic health science center.

"The Koesters' contribution will help empower the university to unlock the secrets behind traumatic brain injury, laying the groundwork for physicians to perhaps one day fully restore the mental capabilities of all patients afflicted with such injuries," he said.

Patricia W. Burns and Dr. Harry K. Davis, UTMB Development Board members, said they were pleased the Koesters provided the final contribution needed to complete the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative. Burns, who recovered from a stroke several years ago, served as honorary co-chair of the initiative.

The Koesters have been staunch supporters of UTMB, contributing to such programs as the Alumni Life Members Fund, the Annual Fund for the School of Medicine, the Alumni Association Homecoming, the UTMB Medical Student Scholarship Fund and the American Medical Education Foundation. The Koester family has long been associated with the university. Dr. Koester is a 1955 graduate, and his grandfather graduated with the pharmacology class of 1895.

UTMB partners with epilepsy foundation in East Texas

By John Tyler

Vidor resident Dennis Carpenter suddenly began having epileptic seizures a year ago. When a seizure-related fall in an Arkansas gift shop over the Thanksgiving holidays sent him to the hospital requiring stitches, he knew he would need to locate a specialist once he returned home. "I hadn't realized I had a problem to that point—and that event served as a wake-up call for me," he said.

However, because he lives in a medically underserved area of Texas, the closest help was at UTMB—hundreds of miles away. Fortunately for Carpenter and more than 120 others in the Beaumont area to date, UTMB has partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas (EFSET) to care for patients through a telemedicine link at Lamar University.

The Epilepsy Telemedicine Clinic kicked off its services in March of last year, and now epilepsy sufferers in the area are benefiting from UTMB specialists without the inconvenience of a 200-mile trip to Galveston. This trip can be particularly difficult for those suffering from the disorder. Epilepsy, characterized by a recurring disturbance of the electrical activity in the brain, results in seizures when these abnormal electrical activities send mixed messages to the body.

The distance between Carpenter's home and UTMB ceased to be a problem. "I was lucky enough to find out about the telemedicine clinic in the local newspaper," Carpenter said. "I can't tell you how incredibly convenient this has been for me. Being able to talk to the doctor in Galveston by just sitting in front of a monitor nine miles from my home in Beaumont is great."

Jocelyn Frank, a registered nurse with EFSET who helps facilitate telemedicine consults on the Beaumont end, said she frequently hears about how patients are benefiting from the project. "This has been a godsend for most of them," she said. "They express how much of a relief this is to them and their family members, who would normally have to take off work to drive them to Galveston."

Although Carpenter has needed to come to Galveston to have initial tests run, his fol-



Drs. Karen Rasmussen and Jeanette Hartshorn (seated) consult with an epilepsy patient in Beaumont via telemedicine link. The Epilepsy Telemedicine Clinic allows the specialists to "see" patients from the medically underserved East Texas area. The program is a collaboration between UTMB's School of Medicine and School of Nursing, as well as the Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas.

low-up exams with UTMB doctors are provided by means of teleconferencing.

Dr. Karen Rasmussen, associate professor of neurology at UTMB, said the care of epilepsy patients "lends itself beautifully to the use of telemedicine. Most often, a routine check-up for an epilepsy patient doesn't require an extensive hands-on exam," she said. "You really only need the

provider-patient interaction, along with the patient history. If we ever feel there is a particular patient we need to see in person, we can easily arrange for that to happen."

Using a two-way interactive audio and video link, telemedicine allows doctors to bridge the gap between UTMB and distant locations. UTMB is internationally known for its work in telemedicine. The university

has been inducted into the Smithsonian Institution's Permanent Research Collection of Information Technology, as well as named to the telemedicine "Hall of Fame" by *Telehealth Magazine*.

According to Dr. Jeanette Hartshorn, director of distance education at the university's Center for Telehealth and Distance Education and a clinical nurse specialist in the Department of Neurology, the Epilepsy Foundation had wanted to start a clinic in Beaumont for some time and had never looked into telemedicine as an option.

"They had never heard of it," Hartshorn said. "And when we showed it to them, it seemed like an obvious fit. The Texas Department of Health had been spending money to have doctors travel and put them up overnight. This eliminates a lot of costs for them."

Both Rasmussen and Hartshorn, who also serves as an associate dean in UTMB's School of Nursing, donate their time to the telemedicine project. Dr. Stanley Lemon, UTMB's dean of medicine, lauded the program for its collaborative nature. "This is a wonderful example of how positive interactions between the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing can benefit both schools, and our patients as well."

EFSET has provided UTMB with a full-time assistant, Lisa Simpson, who coordinates efforts between the foundation office in Houston, the clinic in Beaumont and the specialists at the university. After seeing the power of telemedicine and the success in Beaumont, EFSET now hopes to expand the program into the underserved Fort Bend County and the Lufkin/Nacogdoches area.

"This project really is creating loyalty to UTMB in the Beaumont area, and will in other locations as it expands," Hartshorn said. "These patients are incredibly loyal. They just think UTMB is wonderful."

Carpenter has had such a good experience at the clinic he has referred others, and has written a glowing letter to the editor of the Vidor newspaper. "Everybody at both the Epilepsy Foundation and UTMB has been incredibly good to me," he said. "Every time I talk with them I can tell they are truly concerned about my health."

Wilson made 'vision a reality'

Doris H. White

As Vice President for Research Dorothea Wilson prepares to relocate to Chapel Hill, North N.C. passion about her work with UTMB's research community. "Scientists," she says, "are the heroes of today and will one day be recognized worldwide as the heroes of tomorrow."

Such passion for and devotion to the world of science have served her well as she has presided over a major restructuring of UTMB's research programs. She is also keenly aware of how her contributions to research at UTMB fit into the larger picture of where the institution is heading.

"I'm very proud of what we've been able to accomplish in the three years I've served as vice president for research," she says. We spent the first year working with faculty to develop plans and to identify the characteristics we were looking for in the directors of our various research services and then hiring those people. So our plans have only been in place for two years, and our success is just now becoming obvious."

Many of her colleagues agree. As Dr. Cheryl Chanaud, director of clinical trials, says, "Dorothea had envisioned a unique plan for the Research Services Department and, following two years of implementation, her model system is proving to be highly successful. We fully anticipate that other universities will begin to implement programs similar to UTMB's. She had remarkable insight and the energy and persistence to make the vision a reality. It has been a wonderful joy and privilege to work for Dorothea. Her passion and optimism always inspired us, and we will miss her greatly."

In transforming vision to reality, Wilson has presided over the consolidation of six areas of research under one umbrella to create what Wilson calls "economy of scale." She says that each of the components work together to enhance and complement one another and that all together the faculty and staff from the various areas "form a wonderful team."

She credits President John D. Stobo as having the foresight to create the new structure and says she is "most grateful to him for his enormous support and commitment to the research enterprise."

Following are the six areas grouped together under the Office of the Vice President for Research:

- **Sponsored Programs:** This area has enhanced services available to faculty and spearheaded a multidisciplinary approach to research. Systems have been established to help faculty locate research

"I believe you can develop an institutionwide plan for research and that in the future such plans will become the norm. Because of the identification of its strengths, UTMB has the opportunity to maintain a leadership role in research planning."

Dorothea Wilson



funding, to identify research collaborations and to write successful grant proposals. Funding from NIH grants now stands at a level triple that of 10 years ago. Work also began a few weeks ago to replace the office's outdated computer system with an Electronic Grants Organization program designed to improve services to faculty and national reporting.

- **Technology Management:** Between 1995 and 1998, this office generated \$85,000 per year in licensing revenues. During 1999, the Technology Management took a major step forward and generated \$420,000 in revenues (tripling its income). In 2000 TMO produced \$954,000 in licensing revenues, and has added over \$8 million to support research over the next 3-5 years.
- **Clinical Trials:** This office has increased revenue and minimized deficit accounts; conducted education and training programs for investigators, research nurses and study coordinators; and focused on such regulatory initiatives as developing and implementing a quality assurance program and risk assessment methodology. Community outreach has also been a focus, with presentations given at community hospitals, participation in health fairs and establishment of a toll-free information number for research patients.
- **Institutional Research Development:** This office has assisted 25 projects worth more than \$150 million in external funding. Members have worked with more than 50 faculty, including 10 from other institutions to prepare and submit these large grant applications.
- **Institutional Review Board/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee:** The IRB/IACUC Office is responsible for the protection of all research subjects. Wilson said that "the importance and competence of

this office and the faculty committees it supports were well recognized during a recent federal audit and the successful completion of that audit."

- **Animal Resource Center:** Wilson established an Animal Resource Center Advisory Committee to deal with issues involving animals in research and to develop a plan outlining immediate, intermediate and long-term needs. The first phase of that plan to meet immediate needs has been implemented.

These offices are served by three supporting areas, which provide assistance across each area of research. They are:

- **Research Facilitation and Compliance:** Institutions from around the country are now establishing this type of office, which at UTMB, has handled three external audits and one internal audit, in addition to many other compliance and legal issues surrounding research.
- **Research Education:** The goal of this office is to educate UTMB faculty and staff about grant writing, rules and regulations governing research, and issues that impact research. More than 170 classes, workshops, etc have been held to date, and they have been well received.
- **Information Services:** This office provides computer programming across research service lines.

Such an integrated approach has allowed UTMB to focus on identified multidisciplinary strengths such as aging, clinical oncology and gastrointestinal health. Wilson says that this kind of strategic planning is the wave of the future: "The five-year plans developed by the research task forces at UTMB offer an excellent model for research planning. I believe you can develop an institutionwide plan for research and that in the future such plans will become the norm. Because of the identification of its strengths, UTMB has the opportunity to maintain a leadership role in research planning."

Stobo says that Wilson has been instrumental in the development of the research infrastructure necessary for the research enterprise at UTMB to move forward. "Dorothea has been a passionate and tireless advocate for the research community of UTMB. She has worked with scientists here to create opportunities and establish priorities with multidisciplinary approaches to important scientific issues. She has also provided the tools necessary for individuals and programs to more effectively coordinate their research agendas. Such progress could not have happened without Dorothea."

See WILSON on page 8

WILSON, from page 7

Many of Wilson's colleagues note the supportive role she has played in faculty development, her gift for establishing collaborative relationships and her ability to draw disparate elements together into "the larger picture."



Perachio

Dr. Adrian Perachio, who will follow in Wilson's footsteps as vice president for research effective March 5, says that Wilson "has been my mentor for nearly a decade. During that time, she awakened my interests in making contributions to UTMB above those of an individual faculty member and scientist. Following her is both a great honor and a daunting challenge. Her positive impact will be felt for years to come."

While serving the world of science, Wilson has had a varied career. Before serving as vice president for research at UTMB, she was the assistant vice president for research and senior associate for research from 1991

to 1996.

Prior to coming to Galveston, she was an executive assistant to the directors of the Federation of American Society for Biological Chemistry and American Society for Cell Biology in Bethesda, Md., becoming executive director of the latter in 1984. In that role and also in her first position at UTMB, she fought to give individual scientists a voice on Capitol Hill in Washington and is credited with playing a major role in increased funding for medical research.

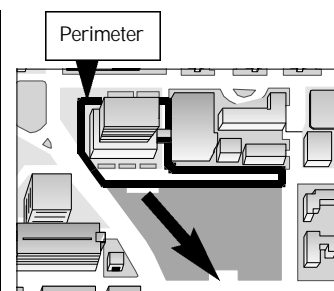
But she is quick to acknowledge the contributions of many in the UTMB research community for the successes currently being enjoyed here. She credits her good friend and colleague Rosemary Simpson "with the great attention to detail that is necessary to make dreams come true and ideas reality." She and Simpson have worked together for almost 20 years and will continue their friendship in North Carolina, where Simpson has accepted a new position at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Wilson adds that leaving UTMB and her associates here will not be easy. "I will

especially miss interacting with my associate vice presidents for research, Adrian Perachio and Allan Brasier," she says. "Each has brought extensive knowledge and experience to this office, and their advice and support have been outstanding."

She is confident, however, that with Perachio at the helm, the Office of the Vice President for Research will be in good hands. "Adrian is one of those unique individuals who will bring both scientific and administrative experience to his new role, and he will build on what is already in place. I cannot imagine anyone more qualified to fill the position."

Wilson will be heading for the Tar Heel State on March 2 and says she is looking forward to rekindling old passions such as drawing and playing the piano before she embarks on the next phase of her career. But whatever she does, her friends and colleagues at UTMB are confident she will embrace her new life with the same zest and grace she has exhibited throughout her time at UTMB.



Exit will move

Sealy and Smith reminder

After 36 years of gracing the UTMB campus, the Sealy and Smith Professional Building closed its doors to tenants in December. Demolition will begin in March.

Once the contract is signed, Phase I will begin. The initial phase includes interior demolition and asbestos abatement.

Before Phase I begins, the contractor will fence off the perimeter of the building, said Ken Cary, UTMB project manager. A parking garage adjacent to the building will remain open.

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