Ben

[**Weekly Relays User Guide**](https://ispace.utmb.edu/xythoswfs/webview/_xy-12470404_1)

**TOPICS LEGEND**

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| C:\Users\krhensle\Desktop\SMALL LOGO (2).jpg | | WEEKLY RELAYS | | **Jan. 26, 2017** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
| **OCE**  The Ambulatory Community Selective has a new course director in Dr. Michael Nguyen from the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Nguyen has long served as one of the busiest departmental directors and was also an ACS committee member so he comes to the role with considerable knowledge and experience. He takes over the responsibility from Dr. Trish Beach in the Department of Pediatrics. Welcome Dr. Nguyen!  **ORME Austin**  Valerie Lugo, Coordinator I, will start work with OCE Austin on February 6, 2017.  **OSSA**  The Bilingual Health Track (BHT) faculty have developed two new Spanish language cases, Cases 5 and 6. This has enabled the expansion of PBL HABLE for year two students with the addition of EER PLB HABLE II. Congratulations and thank you to the BHT faculty.  **OEA**  On January 27 and 28, a group of faculty and administrators from the new medical school at UTRGV (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) visited us to learn more about our curriculum structure and to observe our SCOPE program in action. They were very appreciative of everyone who took the time to meet with them, and we look forward to future collaborations with their school.  SCOPE hosted its first faculty development event on January 28—a half-day symposium focused on helping clinical preceptors become more effective educators in the outpatient setting. In addition to our UTMB faculty and community preceptors, we had attendees from MD Anderson and UTRGV. | | | **Legislative update:**  Dr. David Callender, UTMB president, testified before the Senate Finance Committee on Jan. 26 to present the university’s priorities for the 85th Texas Legislature. His testimony is just one of many steps UTMB will take in the coming months to provide the Legislature information throughout the session. Dr. Callender outlined the following priorities for the committee:   * Restore a proposed 4 percent reduction in funding * Convert our future health care funding to a hospital-specific formula, consistent with other health-related institutions in Texas * Increase our Formula Funding for education of the health care workforce, and the infrastructure and research needed to support that mission * Enhance our programs of excellence in infectious diseases   As you may have read, the state’s budget planning for the next biennium (FY18 and 19) will be challenging. In fact, [Senate Bill 1](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/documents/appropriations_bills/85/introduced_senate/introsenatebill_2018-19.pdf) (<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/documents/appropriations_bills/85/introduced_senate/introsenatebill_2018-19.pdf>) essentially eliminates all Special Items, which, if fully enacted, would cut $42.9 million in funding for UTMB over the biennium. But, it is important for everyone to remember that the state budget is very early in the process.  It won’t be final until both the Senate and House work through their respective committees to agree on one budget to send on to Governor Abbott for his signature. The regular legislative session runs through May, but the governor can call one or more special sessions if needed. For emerging and detailed information, please refer to [Ben’s Blog](https://utmb.us/19), updated regularly by Dr. Ben Raimer, senior vice president for Health Policy and Legislative Affairs at UTMB.  **Town Hall, Feb. 2:**  Please plan to attend the President’s Town Hall on Feb. 2 at noon in Levin Hall Auditorium. Dr. Callender will provide updates on the John Sealy Hospital fire on the Galveston Campus, discuss The Road Ahead—along with the Clinical, Research and Education strategic plans—and share information about UTMB’s legislative priorities for the 85th session of the Texas Legislature. He’ll also help introduce the new Innovations In Mind fundraising campaign. For information and remote viewing options, please visit <https://www.utmb.edu/townhall/>.  **Best Care update:**  UTMB’s FY17 first-quarter results show that we have performed better than our goal for patient-centered care; effectiveness, which is monitored using our readmissions rate (includes patients age 18 and older who were readmitted within 30 days of their last stay at UTMB); mortality rate; and safety-related measures; however, we missed our target for efficiency, which we monitor by observing inpatient length of stay. Overall, we are tracking in the right direction to achieve Best Care. But, we still have significant work ahead, as our performance targets for subsequent quarters become more challenging. As we work to improve our results, so are other academic medical centers. We must stay focused! For more details, including brief descriptions for each measure, please visit <http://intranet.utmb.edu/best-care/.> | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **UTMB NEWS** (continued)  **Best Care Lunch & Learn:**  The next Best Care Lunch & Learn will be held Jan. 31 in Levin Hall Dining Room on the Galveston Campus. The topic is “Reducing Preventable Readmissions and Improving Patient Safety” with Dr. Mark Kirschbaum, vice president and chief quality, safety and clinical information officer. Sessions are streamed live online and are video recorded. More information can be found at [http://intranet.utmb.edu/best-care](http://intranet.utmb.edu/best-care/default.asp).  **Voluntary self-identification of disability and veteran status:**  As a federal contractor, UTMB is required to regularly invite employees to voluntarily self-identify as an individual with disabilities and/or as a protected veteran. You may add or update your disability and/or veteran status at any time under the Personal Information section in [Employee Self Service](http://www.utmb.edu/hcm/hcm_redirect.asp?strApplication=employee%20self%20service). See [iUTMB](http://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/) for more details.  **Free educational support sessions for caregivers and families:**  UTMB’s Health Resource Center, located on the 2nd Floor of Jennie Sealy Hospital, is now offering free educational and support “Time Out” sessions for caregivers and families every Wednesday at 2 p.m. The sessions are open to everyone and offer participants a chance to network and find resources, learn self-care and relaxation tips, plan for their loved one’s hospital discharge, explore health-related topics and more. Contact Savanna Parks at 409-266-7542 or email [sjparks@utmb.edu](mailto:sjparks@utmb.edu) for details.  **Creating a welcoming environment:**  Please remember to help create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our patients and visitors by using the back-of-house corridors connecting the Clinical Services Wing to Jennie Sealy Hospital when transporting carts and supplies. Staff should also use the staff elevators to ensure the elevators designated for patients and visitors are always accessible. Please do not transport carts using the public elevators. | | | **Joint Commission standards:**  Standards developed by The Joint Commission address organization quality, safety-of-care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone who provides patient care, treatment and services and who has concerns regarding quality of care or safety, should contact UTMB Health System Administration at 409-266-9915 or via the Patient Safety Net. If you feel that your concerns cannot be resolved through the hospital, you may contact The Joint Commission’s Office of Quality Monitoring. UTMB honors this commitment by taking no disciplinary, punitive or retaliatory actions against employees or physicians if/when they report safety or quality of care concerns to The Joint Commission.    **CMC—Computer Learning Portal (CTP) tips:**  For individuals who have issues with courses listed on the CLP, please contact Sherry Williford at [sdwillif@utmb.edu](x-webdoc://A6E31268-7A7F-4DEA-9537-4FF38E43F18C/sdwillif@utmb.edu).  **CMC—Annual compliance training due March 31:**  Please ensure that you have accessed and completed UTMB’s annual compliance training and the acknowledgement of standard of conduct training on the UTMB web page by March 31. For any issues with the training, please contact Phaedra Goffney at [pgoffney@UTMB.edu](mailto:pgoffney@UTMB.edu). | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?**  UTMB Catering Services, part of University Conferences and Events (UCE), assists with menu planning, room setup for any on-campus event, event staffing and coordinating equipment and furniture rentals that can be delivered to most locations on UTMB campuses. With five full-time employees and a complement of additional contract catering staff, the department caters 160 to 180 events a month—or 2,000 a year. For more information about UTMB’s Catering Services, please visit <https://www.utmb.edu/events/catering.aspx>. You can also read more about catering services in this month’s issue of Impact at <https://utmb.us/1b>. | |