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[**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 | | **September 17, 2020** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
|  | | | **Dr. Kan named to new distinguished university chair:**  Dr. Peter Kan, who joined UTMB in July as the inaugural chair of our new Department of Neurosurgery, has been formally named the Robert L. Moody, Sr. Distinguished University Chair. This new endowed position, made possible through a $2 million contribution from the Moody Foundation, will advance research, education, and treatment of brain injuries from trauma, stroke, and other causes. An expert in endovascular neurosurgery used to treat problems of the blood vessels from the neck to the brain, Dr. Kan’s leadership of our new department brings an advanced level of care to our wide service area. Since his arrival, he and his team have brought minimally invasive techniques for cerebral aneurysm and brain tumor embolization to our Clear Lake Hospital Campus. We are proud to be able to provide such complex care to the communities we serve. For more information, visit <https://utmb.us/4d1>.  **Dr. Shi named to new distinguished chair:**  Dr. Pei-Yong Shi, professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and vice chair for Innovation and Commercialization, has been named the inaugural holder of the John Sealy Distinguished Chair in Innovations in Molecular Biology at UTMB. This new endowed position, made possible through a $1 million contribution from The Sealy & Smith Foundation, will promote and advance UTMB’s outstanding and innovative programs in infectious diseases research. Dr. Shi joined UTMB in 2015 and is internationally recognized for his research accomplishments in virology, drug discovery, vaccine development, pathogen diagnosis and cancer therapy. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Shi and his team have worked quickly to adapt their research techniques and collaborate to meet this global challenge. They were the first to engineer a reverse genetic system of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, allowing scientists to safely make the virus in the lab and manipulate it in a petri dish. For more information, visit <https://utmb.us/4d2>.  **New Office of Student Diversity, Health, Inclusion and Equity announced:**  The new Office of Student Diversity, Health, Inclusion and Equity will focus on the recruitment, retention and advancement of a diverse group of students underrepresented in health science, who mirror the population of Galveston and Texas. It will also serve as a safe space for all UTMB students to share concerns related to diversity, equity and inclusion, without fear of retaliation. Dr. Lauree Thomas has been appointed associate dean for Student Diversity, Health, Inclusion and Equity, and will oversee the office’s initiatives to promote a more inclusive environment at UTMB. The office will be located at Marvin Graves Building, Suite 3.312, and will be ready for visitors in October. | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **Welcome aboard to Beth Fingado:**  Please welcome Beth Fingado to UTMB as vice president, System Optimization & Performance, effective Sept. 21. Ms. Fingando will work vertically throughout the system to ensure that locations, services and other patient interactions are aligned and seamlessly coordinated. She will also serve as a thought leader for UTMB, providing expertise related to outcome reliability, process improvement, change management and the use of management systems. Beth comes to UTMB from Denver Health, where she led the Strategic Support Services & Lean Systems. Prior to Denver Health, she served as the executive director in Clinical Practice Excellence at the University of New Mexico Health System.  **HEC construction recognized with national award:**  UTMB’s Health Education Center (HEC) has won a Best Project Award of Merit from a national construction news publication. The five-story, $91.6 million education center opened in 2019 and provides students with an educational experience that mimics the activities of a real hospital. The HEC’s simulated hospital includes an ambulance bay, flex study areas for students and debriefing rooms for faculty and students, as well as collaborative instruction areas. The award will be featured in the Sept. 28 issue of Engineering News-Record, and will be presented at a virtual ceremony on Oct. 23.  **ALERT**  **UTMB Police issue warning about latest telephone scam:**  UTMB Police has received information that an individual claiming to be a police officer has been contacting members of the UTMB community by phone warning them that if they do not pay $2,500 to dismiss a subpoena, a warrant for their arrest will be issued. This is a fraudulent request and follows a pattern of similar scams that UTMB Police have identified. If you receive a similar call, please contact your local FBI Office at (713) 693-5000 and the UTMB Police Department at (409) 772-1111. To learn more about this and other scams and details about how you can spot and avoid these fraudulent scenarios, visit <https://utmb.us/4d5>.  **Weekly Wellness Recap:**  Shared by the UTMB RISE (Resilience in Stressful Events) Task Force, these tips are just one way we can all work to stay emotionally healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. This week’s tips focus on using evidence from neuroscience to help build brain resilience:   * **Make connections**—Good relationships are important (family and friends). Many groups and activities are online now, so try connecting through these to find positive support and to help others. * **Avoid seeing crises as insurmountable**—We can’t change when highly stressful events occur but we can change how we interpret them and our response. Look to the future. * **Accept that change is a part of living**—Certain goals may no longer be attainable as a result of adverse situations. Accept circumstances that can’t be changed to help you focus on those you can change. * **Make goals and move toward them**—Develop realistic goals and do something regularly to move toward them. You can accomplish something every day—everything counts. * **Take decisive actions**—We tend to detach completely from our problems when we’re stressed, wishing they would just go away. Resist this. Find something you can do and do it. * **Look for opportunities for self-discovery**—People often learn something about themselves as they go through struggles, and find that they have grown as a result. Try gaining a greater sense of strength even while vulnerable. * **Nurture a positive view of yourself**—Become aware of what you are good at and take confidence in this. Be self-aware. This includes knowing your strengths. Capitalize on these. * **Keep things in perspective**—During stressful events, avoid blowing things out of proportion and, instead, keep a long-term perspective. Consider the broader context—for yourself and for others. * **Take care of yourself**—Pay attention to your own needs and feelings. Engage in activities that you enjoy and find relaxing. Exercise regularly. This helps you stay primed to deal with challenges. | | | **REMINDER**  **Virtual Town Hall on Sept. 22:**  UTMB President ad interim Dr. Ben G. Raimer will host a special livestream-only Town Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at noon. This Town Hall will provide updates on UTMB's finances, offer congratulations for several notable achievements, review plans for our facilities and focus on the latest regarding UTMB's COVID-19 response, along with other mission-specific news. For more information, visit <https://utmb.us/4d0>. To submit questions for the Town Hall, visit <https://www.utmb.edu/eac/contact-us>.  **COMING SOON**  **Department of Radiology ‘Thank You Thursdays’:**  As part of October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, UTMB’s Department of Radiology will take the mobile mammography unit on the road to one of our four campuses each week in October to offer mammogram screening to employees. More information about “Thank You Thursdays” will be provided in an upcoming edition of Weekly Relays as well as on iUTMB. Stay tuned for details.  **Flu season vaccines begin next week; Flu Free program for employees starts Sept. 29:**  Starting Monday, Sept. 21, influenza vaccines for the 2020-2021 flu season will be available in UTMB clinics and hospitals for patients. Clinicians are encouraged to immunize their patients in clinic settings and prior to hospital discharge. In addition, the institution's **Flu Free vaccination program, which offers free flu shots to UTMB employees and volunteers, will begin Tuesday, Sept. 29.** As a reminder, as a [condition of continued employment](https://www.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/IHOP/Employee/Health_and_Wellness/IHOP%20-%2003.07.07%20-%20Vaccination%20of%20Healthcare%20Workers%20to%20Protect%20Patients%20from%20Vaccine%20Preventable%20Infections.pdf), all health care workers must get an annual flu shot or formally decline the vaccination by [signing this statement](https://liveutmb.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/collaboration/webfiles/EVsu_EYZgjtOqMLAYRQBhkoBCa3EJt3iDJ7ZH9jrXmJLTQ). Please visit the [Employee Health Flu Free Vaccination webpage](https://hrdev.utmb.edu/ehc/flufree/) for details on locations and times for employee flu vaccination. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** The abdominal transplant program at the Texas Transplant Center at UTMB, the oldest in Texas, has grown into a robust multi-organ transplant program since its inception in 1967. Since 2016, volumes have steadily increased, culminating in an all-time high of 126 organs transplanted in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This included a total of 105 kidney transplants, the highest number of kidney transplants performed since 1987. The liver transplant program, reactivated in 2016, has grown while achieving some of the best outcomes in the state of Texas. These accomplishments represent the hard work of the excellent and dedicated members of the UTMB transplant team.  **Introducing the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) initiative:**  The Health System, Academic Enterprise and Institutional Support are launching a collaborative initiative to promote the appropriate transition of care for patients discharging from the acute care hospital setting to the most appropriate next site of care—this may include discharge to home and/or home health, a skilled nursing facility, an inpatient rehabilitation facility or a long-term care hospital. The program aligns with a national initiative under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to promote quality and care coordination at a lower cost by linking Medicare payments to the multiple services that a beneficiary receives during an episode of care, rather than separate payments for each individual service furnished during the course of treatment. The BPCI initiative will help optimize the patient’s length-of-stay and prevent readmission as patients continue in their post-discharge recovery. Look for informational posters in your unit to help provide information on appropriate care settings for your patients. For additional program information, contact Monica Carbajal at [mocarbaj@utmb.edu](mailto:mocarbaj@utmb.edu) or Craig Kovacevich at [cskovace@utmb.edu](mailto:cskovace@utmb.edu).  **Patient Centeredness Tip of the Week:**  The Patient Centeredness focus this week is empathy. Similar to our value of compassion, empathy is a feeling of concern for others. How would our interactions with our patients change if we knew what they were feeling and thinking? In what ways might we reduce their worry and ease their concerns? How can we show them that we see them as unique individuals and not just “another patient?” By listening carefully to our patients, anticipating their needs and speaking in a way that’s understandable to them—even if we must recite the same information routinely—we can show our patients we truly care. | |