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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 | | **March 25, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
| Congratulations are in order for Dr. Norma A. Perez Raifaisen. At the National Hispanic Medical Association Virtual Conference held last weekend, she accepted the Hispanic Health Leadership Award for leading Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools! Great work Dr. Perez Raifaisen! | | | **Vaccinations to expand to all adults March 29**:  The Galveston County vaccination partnership is encouraging anyone 16 and older, regardless of medical conditions, to sign up for the Galveston County COVID-19 vaccine waitlist. The Texas Department of State Health Services announced it will expand vaccine eligibly to all adults on March 29, and Galveston County, the Galveston County Health District and UTMB want to make sure everyone who wants the vaccine is registered with the waitlist. If you know someone who has yet to be vaccinated, please encourage them to join the waitlist at [www.utmbhealth.com/waitlist](http://www.utmbhealth.com/waitlist). They do not have to reside in Galveston County to join. UTMB employees who want to schedule an appointment may visit <https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/vaccine/employees>.  **Enhanced emergency paid leave benefit expires March 31:**  UTMB enhanced its emergency paid leave benefit in April 2020 to address the needs of our workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefit provided eligible employees up to 80 hours of emergency leave paid at 100% of their base pay rate for the same qualifying reasons identified in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The FFCRA ended Dec. 31, 2020; however, UTMB’s executive leadership chose to continue the emergency paid leave benefit until March 31. Since the benefit became available, UTMB received more than 5,000 requests for assistance and granted 176,371 paid leave hours to impacted employees—totaling $4.77 million in wages. For questions or guidance regarding the expiration of the emergency paid leave benefit, please email [hremprel@utmb.edu](mailto:hremprel@utmb.edu).  **GALVESTON CAMPUS**  **John Sealy Hospital front entrance renovation**:  Beginning April 12, renovation work will begin on the front entrance vestibule of John Sealy Hospital. The front entrance will remain open during this time, as the renovation will only impact portions of the entrance at one time. This work is anticipated to last approximately one month. Barricades and signage will be in place and adjusted as needed. Please inform patients and staff of the renovation as needed.  **Harborside Drive to be closed starting March 29**:  Galveston’s Harborside Drive will be closed at 18th Street for a portion of next week and for much of April for a major drainage project. The street, which abuts UTMB’s Galveston Campus, is scheduled to be closed March 29-31 from 6:30 p.m. until 6 a.m. A second phase of the drainage project is scheduled to start April 12, and during this phase Harborside Drive will be closed day and night until completion, which is expected April 30. During both phases, traffic will be rerouted from 19th Street to the Strand to 16th Street and back to Harborside and vice versa in the opposite direction. Please be prepared for traffic delays and plan your commute accordingly during the closures. | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**  **Health Care Unmasked March 24**:  In recognition of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, this month’s Health Care Unmasked featured UTMB Drs. Pamela Daher Tobia and Stacey Gibbons as they joined host TJ Aulds to discuss colorectal cancer. Watch the episode on the i45NOW Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/i45NOW/videos/3998598933555642>.  **REMINDER**  **Volunteers Needed! Help us vaccinate Texas**:  Are you interested in serving our community? Our COVID-19 vaccination program is a long-term project that will continue to expand as larger groups of people become eligible and we get additional vaccines. Support is needed in many areas and for many roles. Medical experience, access or experience with the Epic EMR, or being bilingual are among the skills in greatest need. Shift lengths vary by location, and volunteer opportunities exist across the region among partners that include UTMB, the Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, the Galveston County Health Department and Brazoria County. Learn more and sign up at <https://utmb-health.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/>.  **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. Here are this week’s tips:   * Notice experiences of awe, wonder and beauty in your surroundings today. * Reflect on your hopes for our world today. * Show yourself some care and compassion today. You deserve it. * Put up a positive visual reminder of how you want your day to go. * Be a mentor today and help someone else discover their kindness and goodness. * Work on steps to positive social change—it takes time and perseverance. * Work on your active listening skills today—quiet your mind and be present.     **The Joint Commission Preparation Questions of the Week—Evaluating job competency:**  **Q: How does UTMB evaluate an employee’s job competency?**   * In collaboration with Human Resources, department managers create job descriptions that outline the education, knowledge, skills, abilities, experience and licensure, certification and/or registration needed to competently perform a particular job. These qualifications are used to recruit and select employees. * During orientation to the organization and assigned department, core competencies related to the job and the populations served are assessed. * Staff competence is assessed through methods such as testing, return demonstration and simulation. * Staff is provided opportunities to enhance competence through activities such as in-services and continuing education. * Ongoing staff competency is usually assessed during the annual evaluation process. * When a staff member does not meet expectations, a performance improvement plan is developed to assist the employee in resolving the identified deficiencies, and regular follow-up is conducted to monitor and document improvement. * See Nursing Service Policies:[2.05 Clinical Ladder Program](https://intranet.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/Non-IHOP/Nursing_Service/Personnel/2.05%20Clinical%20Ladder%20Policy.pdf), [4.3 Orientation of Nursing Services Personnel](http://intranet.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/16999110), and [4.3.1 Competency Assessment, Evaluation and Education](http://intranet.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/18445986) for additional information.     **Q: Do you have a copy of your job description?**   * Job descriptions should be reviewed with each new employee at the time of hire. * Each employee receives a copy of their job description and signs a copy to be placed in their department employee file. * Each time an employee changes job titles, the employees should receive a copy of the new job description as well as signed copy to be maintained in the departmental employee file. | | | **Wild appointed SHP’s assistant dean for Student Affairs**:  Dana Wild, PhD, PT, PCS, has been appointed assistant dean for Student Affairs in the School of Health Professions. An SHP faculty member since 2001, she is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and has held the Barbara Barton Professorship in Physical Therapy. She has served as *ad interim* assistant dean for Student Affairs since March 2020. Congratulations, Dr. Wild.  **McKinnon to serve as chair *ad interim* of Department of Otolaryngology**:  Brian McKinnon, MD, MBA, MPH, FACS, has agreed to serve as Chair *ad interim* for the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, effective April 1. Dr. McKinnon joined UTMB in 2019 and is associate professor and vice chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He is the holder of the J.M. Robinson Distinguished Professorship. Please join us in congratulating him and welcoming him to this new role.    **National Doctors’ Day March 30:**  National Doctors' Day is held every year on March 30 as a day to celebrate the contributions of physicians who care for those who live in the U.S. First celebrated in 1933, National Doctors’ Day was later recognized by the U.S. Congress and then President George H. Bush as a national day of appreciation for physicians across the country. UTMB plans to honor physicians on the Galveston, League City, Clear Lake and Angleton Danbury campuses, as well as our clinics on March 30. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** UTMB’s School of Medicine celebrated Match Day on March 19, as fourth-year students learned where they will be completing their residency training. A socially distanced celebration at Levin Hall allowed students and small groups of loved ones to drop in at different times throughout the day to pick up their envelopes and take celebratory photos. This year, 229 students matched into a position. Of those:   * 129 (56%) matched in Texas * 75 (33%) matched within UT System * 39 (17%) matched at UTMB * 101 (42%) matched for primary care   Congratulations to all our School of Medicine seniors. To see the complete Match Day list, visit <https://utmb.us/4si>.  **NOTES:** | |