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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 | | **April 1, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
| The Women’s Resource Group &  the Employee Advisory Council spotlighted  Dr. Woods as one of the inspirational women of UTMB during Women’s History Month  Congratulations Dr. Woods!  See her write up below!      Dr. Woods joined UTMB in 2015 and worked hard to make her way to the position of Vice Dean, Academic Affairs leading all the educational elements of UTMB’s School of Medicine (SOM). She is a positive inspiration to so many. I’ve seen Dr. Woods cleaning out refrigerators, boxing up files for an office move and passing out food and water to students who had no place to refuge. She has been a constant bright spot for employees in Academic Affairs and students in the SOM since the onset of the COVID pandemic doing so many things to bring happiness into our lives. She is a very thoughtful leader who would be the first to volunteer her time to screen hospital visitors to dropping off supplies to employees in need. Her sincere commitment and support of each of us has not waivered once. She is a phenomenal leader, and we are lucky to have her. | | | **UTMB recognized as Level IV (Comprehensive Care) Maternal Facility**:  The Texas Department of State Health Services has designated UTMB a Level IV (Comprehensive Care) Maternal Facility in Perinatal Care Region-R. This state designation is valid for a three-year period and demonstrates that UTMB meets all standards of care relating to the treatment of pregnant and postpartum patients in Texas, actively advocates for maternal system development and works to improve the availability and quality of maternal care as an active member of East Texas Gulf Coast Regional Advisory Council and Perinatal Care Region.  **Announcing a new patient privacy protection tool:**  To assist our efforts in preventing serious security and privacy incidents, we are implementing a patient privacy monitoring tool called FairWarning. This technology monitors inappropriate access by reviewing all access and activity in the EPIC electronic medical record used by UTMB. To help ensure the success of the monitoring program, we ask that you:   * Review our IHOP Privacy policies such as [IHOP – 06.02.00 – Maintaining Patient Confidentiality through the Appropriate Use and Disclosure of PHI](http://www.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/15744588). * Only access patient records for business-related reasons and avoid accessing patient records for personal reasons. * Do not share sign-on information with anyone or leave it visible for others to access records through your login.  Sign out or lock your screen when leaving your computer. * If you suspect any potential HIPAA violations contact the Office of Institutional Compliance by phone at (409) 747-8700 or email at [hotline@utmb.edu](mailto:hotline@utmb.edu) or contact the Fraud, Abuse, and Privacy Hotline at (800) 898-7679 or <https://www.mycompliancereport.com/>.   Examples of inappropriate access include an employee looking up a medical record to view a co-worker’s test results, a relative’s appointment time, a patient’s room number, etc. **Suspected inappropriate access of patient’s medical records will be investigated and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.** Thank you for your support and continued effort to protect our patients’ health information. | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **Adventure Awaits—Register now for the UT System 2021 Spring Wellness Challenge**:  Get ready to embark on an all-American tour and make physical activity a part of your daily routine with the UT System 2021 Spring Wellness Challenge. The challenge will take you on virtual trip across the country while promoting energy-boosting, stress-reducing habits to help you feel your best. The challenge begins April 12, and the goal is to earn at least 100 points by logging your steps or minutes of physical activity and daily behaviors through the Living Well online platform or mobile app. All UT SELECT medical plan members and dependents age 18 and above are encouraged to participate and help UTMB compete for the UT System traveling trophy. Sign up today at [www.utlivingwell.com](http://www.utlivingwell.com) or see [iUTMB](http://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/) for more details. Registration for the challenge ends April 16.  **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**  **Latest UTMB Thought Leader Series presentation available online:**  The latest UTMB Thought Leader Series presentation, “Going Back to the Moon: Lunar Landing,” featured a panel of experts discussing NASA’s Human Landing System (HLS), which will land the next humans on the Moon during the Artemis Program. You can watch a video replay of the March 30 presentation at <https://spacecenter.org/event/thought-leader-series/>.  **REMINDERS**  **Vaccinations expanded to all adults**:  As of Monday, March 29, everyone age 16 and older is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. The state’s Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel recommended opening vaccination to everyone who falls under the current Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorizations. All vaccines are authorized for people age 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for people 16 and older. If you know someone who has yet to be vaccinated, they can make a first-dose appointment at <https://utmb.us/4sq> or by calling (877) 389-2318 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. UTMB employees who want to schedule a first-dose appointment may visit <https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/vaccine/employees>.    **UTMB Trauma Team selected to present at international conference:**   Kudos to Diana Grimm-Mapp, BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, Kirby Thierheimer, BSN, RN, and Chelsea Burke, BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, SANE-A on recently presenting at TraumaCon 2021, the annual conference of the Society of Trauma Nurses. Their presentation, “Unidirectional Flow Process: How Implementation Can Improve Flow Through a Health System During Known Surge Events,” provided an overview of how UTMB’s Level I Trauma Center adapted its patient-flow processes to prepare for known surge events with increased trauma patient volumes. Using this short-term unidirectional flow model requires multidisciplinary collaboration in preparedness, implementation and mitigation phases to provide Best Care and reduce patient length of stay in the Emergency Department.  **Patient-Centeredness Tip of the Week—The value of actively listening to our patients**  Did you know that studies have shown that the patient normally speaks for an average of 18 seconds before the provider interrupts the patient? An [article](https://www.aafp.org/fpm/1999/0500/p23.html) by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation states that while our tendency may be to ask patients a lot of questions up front, we can get more information and save time in the long run by actively listening to the patient without interrupting. Check your “listen:talk” ratio. In one study, doctors estimated that they listened more than they talked during office visits. But their estimates were incorrect: The study showed that, while patients talked 54 percent of the time during the history taking, physicians tended to dominate the conversation during all other parts of the visit.  **REMINDER**  **AHRQ Patient Safety Culture Survey open through April 11**:  As of April 1, nearly 298 ambulatory operations employees and 328 employees in inpatient settings had completed the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) survey. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and is important to helping UTMB understand the current status of perceptions about teamwork and our culture of patient safety. To access the surveys and for more information about topics they assess, please visit <http://intranet.utmb.edu/qhs/ahrq-patient-safety-culture-surveys-2021>. A printable flyer may also be downloaded by [clicking here](https://liveutmb.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/collaboration/webfiles/ER6Tr0a9LNhDouKjhEXmmKEBynTuplCA7HpoqY-dlms43g?e=QfI33g). | | | **Nicholas and Katherine Leone Award for Administrative Excellence**:  Nominations for the 2021 Nicholas and Katherine Leone Award for Administrative Excellence are now being accepted. This award recognizes managers/supervisors who display the highest degree of professionalism and come with a $7,500 monetary prize—$2,500 for the winning manager/supervisor and $5,000 for the development and training of his or her department/unit. The deadline for nominations is April 9. See [UTMB Employee Advisory Council](https://www.utmb.edu/eac/nicholas-and-katherine-leone-award-for-administrative-excellence/2021-leone-nomination-information) website to learn more about the award or to submit a nomination.  **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:   * It’s Active April, enhancing our health to increase our resilience. Sneak a little extra activity in today. * Reflect on gratitude for your body and what it does for you today. * Get outdoors today, even if just for a short walk or stretch. * Exchange some sedentary time today for some activity—any amount counts. * Focus on hydration today and notice how it impacts how you feel and think. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** The UTMB President’s Cabinet was created in 1993 and has awarded more than $6 million to 168 community-based health care programs created by UTMB faculty, staff and students. Many of the programs first funded by the President's Cabinet have been recognized and rewarded with federal grants and garnered national and international attention. The organization is now seeking proposals for the 2021 President’s Cabinet Awards. Projects that mobilize the creativity, ingenuity and dedication of UTMB students, staff and faculty to benefit the community are especially encouraged. Applications are available online at <https://development.utmb.edu/file/pcapp.pdf> and should be turned in no later than 4:30 p.m., May 28. For information on where to submit proposals, visit [www.utmb.edu/cabinet](http://www.utmb.edu/cabinet).  **The Joint Commission Preparedness Questions of the Week—Infection control strategies**  **Q: What are ways to prevent multiple-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs)?**  A: Standard isolation precautions, hand hygiene, disinfecting patient care equipment, a clean patient care environment and active surveillance of cultures to detect bacteria are some of the ways we prevent transmission of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE), and other MDROs, as well as C. difficile. However, traditional infection control methods cannot be entirely effective without [antimicrobial stewardship](http://intranet.utmb.edu/best-care/high-value-practicing-organization/antimicrobial-stewardship). Please educate patients and their families about healthcare-associated infection prevention strategies.    **Q: How does the patient care environment play a role in preventing the spread of infection?**  A: The patient care environment must be well-designed, well-maintained and clean. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system provides a safe air supply with negative or positive pressures in relationship to adjacent areas. Before construction or above-ceiling work begins, a signed infection control risk assessment (ICRA) must be posted. Approved disinfectants and cleaning procedures are used to ensure a clean environment. Food is procured from reliable sources and is prepared, served and stored at the appropriate temperature. Refrigerators should be well monitored and repaired when the temperature is outside an acceptable range.    For more information, please visit UTMB’s The Joint Commission Preparedness webpage at <http://intranet.utmb.edu/qhs/the-joint-commission>. | |