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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 | | **Sept. 14, 2017** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
| **OSAA**   * Applications for Match opened last Friday. Advisors should be in close communication with their students. Please let Dr. McKee know if you have any questions or concerns. * Congratulations to Theresa Silva for completing the Foundational Management Training Program. She will be recognized at the Cohort 11 Graduation and Reception on Thursday September 28th. | | | **Best Care: UTMB recognized as a five-star academic health center with national quality leadership award:**  Thanks to each of your efforts as part of our ongoing Best Care initiative—focused on delivering the best care to every patient, every time—UTMB was among 12 U.S. academic health centers to receive the 2017 Vizient Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award on Sept. 14. **Based on the final results of our Vizient survey, UTMB now ranks ninth among 107 participating organizations and has achieved 5-star performance.** Read more at <https://utmb.us/254>.  **Dr. Nancy Barone appointed interim dean of the UTMB School of Nursing:**  Dr. Nancy A. Barone has been appointed interim dean for our School of Nursing, **effective Oct. 2**. Dr. Barone is a nurse executive and educator with extensive leadership experience in a variety of health care settings including in her most recent role as interim associate dean for Clinical Affairs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. Dr. Barone also previously served as vice president and chief operating officer for the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Ohio, and was president and chief executive officer for St. Luke Hospitals, Inc., in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.  **Important annual enrollment follow-up:**  Employees are encouraged to review their benefits summary and their first earnings statement of the 2017–2018 benefits plan year through [Employee Self Service](http://www.utmb.edu/hcm/hcm_redirect.asp?strApplication=employee%20self%20service) to confirm their deductions are correct. Deductions will first appear in paychecks dated **Sept. 15, 2017**, for employees who are paid biweekly and **Oct. 2, 2017**, for employees who are paid monthly. If you have any concerns with your benefits deductions, please contact Benefits Services at [beneserv@utmb.edu](mailto:beneserv@utmb.edu) or (409) 772-2630. Evidence of an administrative or a clerical error must be presented within 31 days of receipt of the first earnings statement of the new plan year.  **ACTION ITEM: Accessibility survey for web developers and managers:**  As a place of healing, health education and scientific discovery, UTMB has a responsibility to ensure that all users can access the content it offers online. If you are involved in web development or manage or contribute online content—including videos, forms, PDFs, presentations, images and other documents—you are invited to complete a 5-question survey about web accessibility: <https://utmb.us/25u>. A task force has been working for several months assessing our online presence, assembling resources and tools and developing a communication plan. The group has outlined a strategy to enhance the accessibility of all types of content available via the university’s websites. For more information, please contact Matt Havard at [mahavard@utmb.edu](mailto:mahavard@utmb.edu) or Pep Valdes at [pvaldes@utmb.edu](mailto:pvaldes@utmb.edu). | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY**  **Assistance for affected employees:**  At last count, more than 1,100 UTMB employees have self-reported significant personal property losses because of Hurricane Harvey. Two weeks ago, our university established the UTMB Employee Recovery Fund, and thus far, our employees have generously donated more than $13,500 to the fund. UTMB has not yet, however, received any significant corporate or vendor donations, although several have expressed interest in donating to the employee fund. We remain hopeful that larger gifts will come in to assist our co-workers in need. In the meantime, UTMB employees who would like to apply for assistance should visit <https://www.utmb.edu/harvey-recovery> and select “Apply for Employee Assistance” to access the application form. This link will be launched by **noon, Sept. 15**; we ask that employees seeking financial assistance apply by **Oct. 6**. Anyone still wanting to contribute to the fund to help UTMB employees should visit the same link and select “Make a Donation.” UTMB will distribute 100 percent of the funds raised to employees in need.  **UTMB parking citation forgiveness, Sept. 11-30:**  In support of the Galveston County Food Bank community relief efforts, UTMB Parking Operations will dismiss any single unpaid **UTMB parking citation**and associated late fee with a donation of at least $5 worth of non-perishable food or other needed items. Donations can be made in person at the Galveston Campus Parking Office in the Rebecca Sealy Building, Room 2.756, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.   * Canned goods should have self-opening lids; no glass containers can be accepted * No cash, credit card or check donations can be accepted * For a list of the most requested items, see the [Galveston County Food Bank’s requested items list](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a919a8_22f33b93e6ec4af8b2d77363aefe22c9.pdf) * This program does not apply to the city of Galveston parking citations   Please contact the Parking Office at (409) 266-PARK (7275) with questions.    **Clinical Trials Studio:**  The Institute for Translational Sciences (ITS) recently launched a Clinical Trials Studio, which is a multidisciplinary team of accomplished clinical trialists, statisticians, ethicists, coordinators and health informatics representatives that seeks to help UTMB investigators begin and conduct their clinical trials. It assists researchers at any career level and provides feedback on trials at any stage of development. It can help with: designing and managing clinical trials, building strong translational research skills and teams, completing regulatory requirements and utilizing NCATS, UT System and ITS resources. To request a consultation with the studio or for more information, please contact Liz Ruiz at [ebruiz@utmb.edu](mailto:ebruiz@utmb.edu).  **Call for 2018 Piper Professor nominations:**  The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation is accepting nominations for an outstanding teaching professor award. This foundation honors 10 professors for their dedication to the teaching profession and for their outstanding academic, scientific and scholarly achievement. Honorees will be named “Piper Professors of 2018” and awarded cash honoraria of $5,000. The purpose of the award is “to give recognition to the teaching profession rather than to research, publication, administration, or other related activity, although, these criteria will also be considered by the Selection Committee.” Full-time UTMB faculty members from all schools are eligible. Self-nominations are allowed. Prospective applicant packets will be peer-reviewed and recommended nominees forwarded to Dr. David L. Callender and Dr. Danny O. Jacobs for consideration. Each institution may submit one nomination. Complete application packets must be submitted to Academy of Master Teachers Coordinator D’Anne DeWitt at [vddewitt@utmb.edu](mailto:vddewitt@utmb.edu) by **Oct. 6**. Go to: <http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/funding/programs/ppnominationform.php> for the nomination form and detailed instructions.  **Congratulations:**  Dr. Sharron Forest, assistant professor in our School of Nursing, was selected as the 2017-2018 recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Novice Faculty Teaching Award, which recognizes excellence and innovation in the teaching of nursing by novice faculty at AACN member schools. Two honorees are chosen annually for this national award, one each in two categories: didactic teaching and clinical teaching. Dr. Forest won the Novice Faculty Excellence in Didactic Teaching Award. | | | **LEAGUE CITY CAMPUS**  **Interstate 45 construction continues—complete northbound closure:**  From **Sept. 15** at 9 p.m. through **Sept. 18** at 5 a.m., the Texas Department of Transportation will completely close the northbound lanes of Interstate 45 between FM 517 and FM 518.   * Please consider the northbound frontage road and Highway 3 as alternate routes * During the closure, the northbound entrance ramps at FM 517, FM 646 and SH 96 will be closed   **Pilot Award applications open**  The 2018 round of ITS Pilot Funding, which will focus on Clinical Trials in Precision Medicine/Outcomes Research, is now accepting letters of interest. UTMB investigators at the level of assistant professor or higher may submit one Precision Medicine/Outcomes Research application per funding cycle. Funding priority will be given to projects aligned with existing [ITS Multidisciplinary Translational Teams](https://its.utmb.edu/mtts/mtts.html). In addition to funding, these awards include support by the ITS Clinical Trials Studio, which offers expertise in design, regulatory compliance, informatics, recruitment and dissemination. A two-page letter of intent is due to Liz Ruiz at [ebruiz@utmb.edu](mailto:ebruiz@utmb.edu) by **5 p.m. Nov. 6**. Finalists will be invited to make a 15-minute presentation to the ITS Clinical Trials Studio in December. Specific instructions and additional eligibility information can be found [online](https://its.utmb.edu/documents/RFA_CTs_July%202017.pdf). | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** Each year, up to four faculty members are selected for the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine’s Excellence in Clinical Teaching Awards. This award recognizes the fundamental concept, exemplified by Sir William Osler, that the development of outstanding physicians occurs primarily in clinical settings (ambulatory or inpatient). Each recipient of the award receives $5,000 for support of his or her professional development and/or teaching programs. The 2017 recipients of the awards were Dr. Rafic Berbarie, Dr. Megan Berman, Dr. Anita Mercado and Dr. Victor Sierpina. Nominations for the 2018 awards are currently being accepted through **5 p.m. Sept. 29**. For more information, including selection criteria, visit [iUTMB](https://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/article9394.aspx). | |