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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 | **December 3, 2020** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | **UTMB NEWS** |
| **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VIRTUAL HOLIDAY EVENT*** **Sock Exchange** – Purchase a crazy, fun, silly pair of socks. Fill **ONE** sock with goodies and tie up with a ribbon. ($10 Limit – Candy, Lottery Tickets, Gift Card, etc.)

Empty Socks will be drawn from a basket and you win the matching FILLED sock**! Bonus:** The matching pair of socks are yours to keep!***If you wish to participate, you will need to bring your socks to the office on Wednesday, December 9th.*** We will draw socks on that same day, but we will open them together at our virtual party! Socks will be collected by the following staff members:**Student Affairs – Zelma Bocanegra****Educational Affairs – Alma Block****PA Studies – Shirley McGraw*** **Mask Decorating Contest –** Jazz up those masks and show us your “holiday spirit!” We will have three categories: Funniest Mask, Prettiest Mask and Most Festive Mask. You will need to submit a picture of your mask by **Wednesday, December 9th** to Zelma Bocanegra. Winners will be announced at the event.
* **Tik Tok Magic** – send us your fun holiday message/dance/song to show off your “holiday spirit!” Tik Toks or Videos must be no longer than 30 seconds and be submitted by **Thursday, December 10th** to Zelma Bocanegra. We will showcase the submissions at the event.
* **Virtual Bingo –** everyone is invited to play and could win a special prize!

**We hope to see you all**\***Virtually**\***to share some laughs, play some games and win a few prizes!** | **Monthly Financial Update—Results as of Oct. 31:** For the month of October, UTMB’s adjusted margin was $5.9 million, which was $2 million favorable to planned results. Year-to-date, UTMB’s adjusted margin was a loss of $8.8 million, which was $2.5 million favorable to planned results. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to manage expenses and improve the efficiency of our work to ensure the long-term success of UTMB’s mission.**Remain ‘Security Aware’ throughout this holiday season:** UTMB’s Office of Information Security reminds everyone to practice good computer habits and to continue to be “Security Aware,” especially during this time of remote work combined with the holiday online shopping season. Your continued efforts will not only protect UTMB’s computers and network resources, but also your personal devices, home networks and information. Learn more at <https://www.utmb.edu/infosec/welcome-to-infosec/infosec-corner>. **Safeguarding patient privacy:** Protecting our patients’ privacy is not only a moral obligation but a legal one with real consequences. While HIPAA requires that we protect the health information of our patients, at times we may forget that this includes our co-workers, neighbors and family. As a reminder, remember to access records for business purposes only. Examples of inappropriate access are:* Accessing a co-worker’s Epic record for directory information such as hospital room number.
* Accessing a neighbor’s Epic record when requested to check on his test results.
* Accessing a family member’s Epic record to check on their welfare or to see when their next appointment is.

These may seem harmless, but are nevertheless unlawful and will be subject to disciplinary action. UTMB has implemented an auditing tool to monitor inappropriate access to patient records.**Vending machine services interruptions:** UTMB is currently in the process of transitioning between vending machines merchants at the Galveston, League City and Clear Lake campuses. This transition will take place over the next two weeks and may cause service disruption or delays at several of our vending locations. Normal services are expected to resume at all vending locations by Dec. 14. The SmartMarket located within the Employee Lounge of the Clinical Services Wing on the Galveston Campus will transition to a different type of market solution and is expected to reopen by the end of the month. The seating area in the Employee Lounge will remain open for employee use during the transition. Angleton Danbury Campus vending services will not be affected by this vendor transition. |
| TOPICSLEGEND |  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****Nov. 23 Town Hall/Galveston Symphony Orchestra string duet performance now online:**The video of the Nov. 23 Town Hall/Galveston Symphony Orchestra string duet performance is now available online at <https://utmb.us/4jd>.**Dr. Sharma’s latest COVID-19 Q&A session:**Dr. Gulshan Sharma, vice president and chief medical and clinical innovation officer, conducted a Question & Answer session via Microsoft Teams on Nov. 23 where he answered questions related to COVID-19 and provided a general update about the pandemic. You can watch a recording of the session at <http://intranet.utmb.edu/covid-19-internal/q-and-a>. **SAVE THE DATES****Sci Café to host virtual discussion on COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment:**The next meeting of UTMB’s Sci Café will be held via Zoom on Dec. 16 from noon to 1 p.m., and will feature a discussion with Dr. Alan Barrett, director of UTMB’s Sealy Institute for Vaccine Sciences, and Kathy Barrosso, CEO of the Galveston County Health District, on COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment. RSVP to Krista Bohn at krbohn@utmb.edu to receive the Zoom link for the virtual discussion. Attendees can submit questions in advance or chat virtually with the participants during the meeting.**New episode of Health Care Unmasked set for Dec. 16:**On the next Health Care Unmasked, Dr. Sami Gokhan Kilic, UTMB professor of obstetrics and gynecology, director of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery and chief of Minimally Invasive Gynecology and Research, will join host TJ Aulds to discuss the causes, treatment and diagnosis of urinary incontinence. The conversation is set for noon, Dec. 16, on the i45NOW Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/i45NOW/>.**Free and confidential EAP services:** All UTMB employees and their eligible family members have access to free and confidential counseling and referral services through the University of Texas Employee Assistance Program (UTEAP). Experienced UTEAP counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (844) 872-5986 to discuss your personal and/or work-related issues and explore appropriate service options. If a referral is made for specialized or extended services outside of the program, providers and other vendors will be selected based on your needs, geographic location and insurance provider. For more information about the UTEAP, please see <https://www.utmb.edu/hr/employees/health-and-wellness>. **The Joint Commission is coming! Are you ready?**UTMB’s timeline for its triennial, organization-wide certification visit from The Joint Commission (TJC) is now open through Oct. 26, 2021. This visit will be unannounced and will be performed in a tracer fashion during which TJC surveyors select patients, review medical records and “trace” areas where patients have received care. Surveyors may visit any area in the Health System and may ask questions of any staff they encounter regarding patient care, the care environment, and training and/or compliance knowledge, such as where fire extinguishers are located. Remember, what TJC sees is just as important as what they ask. They will be on the lookout for hand-hygiene compliance, patient privacy, timeouts prior to procedures, use of two patient identifiers, clean workstations, employee badge visibility and clean, uncluttered hallways and storage areas. For more information on environmental preparedness, see the [2020 Environmental Preparedness Checklist](https://liveutmb.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/collaboration/webfiles/EdWVuWOUb8ZHj9PT61F1wFEBH5GAXb5E0ONVaC-8OmV-2w?e=xOjzVB). **Patient-Centeredness Tip of the Week—Include compassionate communication in expected behaviors:**While it is important to include patients in the decision-making process, it is also important to simultaneously reduce their anxiety. If patients are fearful, uncertain, or apprehensive during the decision-making experience, their emotional/spiritual needs are not being met. Consider leading with, “You are an important part of decisions made about your treatment. We will spend as much time with you as you need to answer all of the questions you have about your treatment. What question would you like to start with?” **Drs. Fingerhut, Toliver-Kinsky latest UTMB members of the UT System Shine Academy:** Congratulations to UTMB’s newly selected members of the UT System Kenneth I. Shine, MD, Academy of Health Science Education. The mission of the Shine Academy is to serve UT System through the support and promotion of excellence in all aspects of health science education, educational scholarship and leadership. The two honorees are: Dr. Patricia Fingerhut, associate professor and chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health Professions; and Dr. Tracy Toliver-Kinsky, professor of Anesthesiology and director, Basic Biomedical Science Curriculum, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The new members will be inducted during the Innovations in Health Science Education Conference in February 2021. **School of Health Professions to add new Hybrid Doctor of Physical Therapy Program:** The School of Health Professions’ Department of Physical Therapy has been granted approval to add a new Hybrid DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) program to its accredited programs by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. This will be among the first public school hybrid DPT programs in Texas, and one of only a few in the country. This entry-level program includes a blend of online and onsite activities, with students attending one to two immersion sessions on campus each semester. This format will allow more students from rural and under-served areas to obtain their PT education from UTMB. The program will interview for its inaugural class this month, with the first cohort to begin in August 2021. | **COVID-19: Novel coronavirus updates** **Availability of COVID-19 antibodies for treatment of non-hospitalized, high-risk patients:**Two new antibody products—bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdevimab—have recently been approved by the FDA for emergency use authorization to avoid hospitalization in patients who are at a higher risk for developing severe symptoms of COVID-19. UTMB has received a limited supply of the antibody products for use in carefully selected patients who meet the qualifying criteria below. The antibody will be administered as an intravenous infusion at select locations Monday through Friday during specified times depending on availability and location. For more information, including a workflow diagram summarizing the referral process, visit <https://utmb.us/4jc>.**Continue to practice COVID safety at work, at home and in public:** * Practice frequent hand hygiene by washing thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer.
* Practice good social distancing at all times, including in elevators and conference rooms. Continue to use teleconferencing when possible.
* Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose in public areas. Public areas include lobbies, hallways, restrooms, office kitchens/breakrooms, copy rooms and elevators.
* Stay home if sick. This is particularly important if you have respiratory symptoms or if you have been in contact with someone who may have COVID-19.

**COVID-19 website:**You can find the latest information regarding UTMB’s institution-wide response online at [www.utmb.edu/covid-19](http://www.utmb.edu/covid-19). |
| **DID YOU KNOW?**UTMB recently received the 7th Annual Texas Star in Language Access award in a virtual ceremony at the 14th Annual Texas Association of Healthcare Interpreters and Translators Educational Symposium, attended by industry experts from around Texas, across the U.S. and from 19 countries. UTMB is the first known Language Access Services department in the entire country to have all its spoken-language interpreters certified by both recognized national certifying bodies. Their partnership with departments throughout UTMB has resulted in year-over-year growth of around 20 percent in demand for interpreters and written translation services.**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:  * Encourage more kindness. Pay it forward to someone today.
* Support a charity or cause that you really care about today.
* Give the gift of listening to someone wholeheartedly today without judgment.
* Leave a positive message for someone to find.
* Notice if you’re hard on yourself or others today and choose kindness instead.
* Feed yourself with healthy, good food today.
* Take a walk outdoors and encourage someone else to do the same. Enjoy nature.

 **Dr. Farr appointed Assistant Provost for Community Engagement and Education:**Norman Miles Farr, MD, MPH, has been appointed assistant provost for Community Engagement and Education. Working with a Community Engagement and Education Task Force, he will develop programmatic initiatives to meet specific objectives related to community engagement. He will partner with community stakeholders to improve the quality of life for people who live, work, visit and study in the Galveston community. Dr. Farr will also develop and maintain relationships with student-run clinics, including St. Vincent’s House. Dr. Farr was previously assistant dean for Clinical Education in the School of Medicine. He is also associate director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program and an assistant professor in Internal Medicine, Preventive Medicine & Population Health, and Pediatrics. **Comvalius-Goddard named Associate Vice President of Research Regulations and Compliance:**Sharon Comvalius-Goddard, MPH, will serve as associate vice president of Research Regulations and Compliance, effective Dec. 15. Ms. Comvalius-Goddard will join UTMB from Boston College, where she has been director of the Office for Sponsored Programs, managing all pre- and post-award activities. Prior to that, she was director of Research and Research Resources at Schepen Eye Research Institute. In her role at UTMB, Ms. Comvalius-Goddard will provide oversight for research compliance, to include the Human Research Protections Program, Institutional Animal Care and Use, Scientific Integrity, Office of Non-Clinical Regulated Studies, and IND/IDE (investigational new drug and device) studies.**NOTES:**  |