Chairman’s Message

April 9th marked a milestone for UTMB with the opening of the new Jennie Sealy Hospital. The first surgical cases were done that day in the new operating suites and a full elective schedule was carried out on April 11th. The opening of the new hospital coincides with the 125th anniversary of UTMB’s School of Medicine and the Department of Surgery. Our surgical programs continue to grow at a fast pace as many of our newly recruited faculty are expanding their clinical practices. In March, the Department of Surgery achieved a new record, completing over 800 cases for the first time in a month, keeping us on target to perform over 9,000 cases for the year. We also restarted the liver transplant program in April and performed three liver transplants during the month.

Not to be lost in the momentum of clinical expansion, our Department continued to excel academically. We are now ranked 26th in NIH funding among Departments of Surgery in the United States and are the only Department of Surgery in Texas to be recognized among the top 30.

April will also mark the completion of the first phase of renovations to the Department of Surgery offices and administrative space. Phase one included new General Surgery resident work space that will more than double the area previously allocated to our trainees. In addition, all the administrative offices were redone to help give the department a more modern look and allow us to utilize space more effectively. On the horizon, the new League City hospital will be opening in June to help expand the scope of procedures that we currently perform on that campus. In addition, we are developing relationships in both Angleton-Danbury and Beaumont to grow our surgical footprint in these two regions.

The Department of Surgery will be expanding the number of visiting professors this year. Through generous philanthropic support, several new endowments have been created to help host these individuals during their visit to Galveston. The first of these professorships will be the inaugural Courtney M. Townsend, Jr. lectureship, which will be given by L.D. Britt in May. Dr. Britt is the current chairman of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School and has been president of every major surgical society including the American College of Surgeons.

The UTMB Surgery Department is making tremendous strides as it continues to lead the way in solidifying UTMB’s future. I am excited about the momentum we are building and look forward to the continued success of the department.

Sincerely,
Douglas Tyler
John Woods Harris Distinguished Chair
Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery
University of Texas Medical Branch
On Feb. 26, 2016, more than 700 state and local dignitaries, UTMB employees, students, friends and volunteers gathered in the spacious second floor concourse of the new Jennie Sealy Hospital to witness the formal dedication of the university’s $438 million state-of-the-art facility.

The new hospital was made possible by contributions both large and small—from The Sealy and Smith Foundation’s $170 million gift, to 4,000 UTMB staff who raised more than $11 million in employee support as part of the “Family Campaign.”

Following the dedication, attendees were able to tour many floors of the new hospital, including patient rooms and the 20 operating suites and intraoperative MRI room (one of only three in Texas). Among the most popular items on the tour: awe-inspiring views of Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico from patient rooms in the two 12-story towers, and a huge collection of coastal-themed art on display throughout the hospital, much of it commissioned from local artists.

A special employee tour was hosted the evening before the formal dedication, and on Saturday, Feb. 27, the hospital welcomed the community for a day of public tours. The first patients were seen in the hospital in April.

The new Jennie Sealy Hospital reinforces the commitment of UTMB Health to provide the best possible care for our patients and the best environment for our physicians and nurses to care for patients in a setting that nurtures and enriches the learning experience for all of our students.

The facility features 310 patient rooms, including 60 dedicated ICU beds, a 28-bed day surgery unit and 20 state-of-the-art operating suites (see Jennie Sealy Facts Sheet for more details). It also connects to UTMB’s new Clinical Services Wing, which contains the pharmacy, laboratory space, support services (environmental services, materials management, linen) and a kitchen and faculty/staff dining area.

For more information, please see the accompanying fact sheet and photo gallery on the following pages.
The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health) will see the first patient at the new Jennie Sealy Hospital in spring 2016. This new facility will offer advanced health care services to patients in a soothing, healing environment that supports state-of-the-art training for future health professionals. Patient rooms have beautiful views of the Gulf of Mexico or Galveston Bay. All patient rooms have been designed to provide a team-based, patient- and family-centered approach to patient care.

**Hospital Fast Facts**
- $438 million investment
- 765,000 square feet with 12 floors
- 25 foot elevation above sea level
- 310 total patient rooms (295 square feet each room)
- 60 ICU Rooms
- 18 full nurse stations on patient floors (8-11)
- 220 decentralized nurse stations on patient floors (8-11)
- 16 physician work rooms
- 10 family waiting areas
- 20 operating suites and intraoperative MRI capability
- 28 day surgery rooms

**Patient Rooms**
- Universally sized rooms to accommodate all levels of care
- Hand-washing sink in each room
- Private patient restrooms (ADA-compliant)
- Dedicated family refrigerator in each room
- Two televisions in each room for patient and family
- Locking drawer for valuables in each room

**Sota bed in each room for an overnight guest**
- Patient lifts
- Distinct zones for staff, patients and families

**Future Expansion**
- 55,340 square feet shelled on level 6—diagnostics
- 55,340 square feet shelled on level 12—future patient rooms

**Hospital Design**
- Evidence-based design principles applied
- Abundant natural light in patient rooms and corridors
- Two family/physician consultation rooms per floor
- Two family shower rooms per floor
- Dedicated private physician/resident team areas
- Two on-call physician sleep rooms with showers per floor
- Four isolation rooms per floor
- Two conference rooms for multi-disciplinary teaching and patient care conferences per floor
- Dedicated bariatric patient rooms (with patient lifts and bariatric-capacity restrooms)

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John Sealy Annex Renovations

After several months, renovations to the General Surgery administrative offices and residents offices have been completed. The remodeling includes better use of space in the administrative office and a major expansion of the resident space, which now contains individual cubicles and lounge space. Below are some photos of the remodeled space.
Brown Receives Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award

Kimberly Brown, M.D., Oncology Surgery, has been selected as one the 2016 recipients of the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Awards. Established by UTMB’s John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine, these awards recognize faculty who excel in teaching students and residents in clinical settings, thus modeling the ideals of compassionate, scientifically sound, patient-centered care exemplified by Sir William Osler.

The Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award will be presented at a banquet to be held on Friday, July 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, in Galveston.

Herndon Elected to Academy of Master Clinicians

David N. Herndon, M.D., Jesse H. Jones Distinguished Chair in Burn Surgery, Professor of Surgery & Pediatrics, and Chief of Staff and Director of Research, Shriners Hospitals for Children, has been elected to the Academy of Master Clinicians. This is the highest honor that UTMB bestows on our clinicians. The induction ceremony, presided over by Drs. David Callendar and Danny Jacobs, was held on Monday, April 18, 2016, 5:00 p.m. in the Levin Hall South Auditorium followed by a reception.

This year, the inaugural induction lecture entitled, “Patient Care and Professionalism”, was given by Catherine DeAngelis, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics Emerita at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, on Monday, April 18, 2016, 4:00 p.m., in the Levin Hall South Auditorium.

Phillips to Receive ASPS Honorary Citation

Linda G. Phillips, M.D. has been selected to receive the 2016 American Society of Plastic Surgeons Honorary Citation, which will be presented at this year’s Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California during the Annual ASPS/PSF Board of Directors Dinner in September. Established in 1945, the ASPS Honorary Citation Award is presented to a senior ASPS member in recognition of their contributions to the specialty through clinical contributions, humanitarian actions enhancing the specialty, or demonstrated leadership within plastic surgery.

Surgeons Named Texas Monthly Rising Stars

Texas Monthly recently announced the recipients of its 2016 Super Doctors: Rising Stars award. The recipients will be featured in the July issue of the magazine. Physicians were selected based upon a peer review and scoring process conducted by the magazine. Several Department of Surgery faculty members including Aakash H. Gajjar, M.D. (Colorectal Surgery), Ravi S. Radhakrishnan, M.D., M.B.A. (Pediatric Surgery), and Andrew Yuan Zhang, M.D. (Plastic Surgery) were named to the list.
New Faculty

Abe DeAnda, Jr., M.D., FACS, FAHA
Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Clinical Interests: Aortic surgery; bloodless cardiac surgery; coronary revascularization; valve repair/replacement

Research Interests: The initiation, development, and progression of aortic dissections; the identification and treatment of coagulopathies during and following cardiac surgery

Jeffrey Fair, M.D.
Chief, Transplant Surgery

Clinical Interests: Liver, kidney and pancreas transplantation; hepatobiliary surgery; pediatric liver and kidney transplantation and treatment of portal hypertension

Research Interests: Stem cell therapy to restore function and as gene therapy for liver based genetic defects and the study of the best developmental cell types to achieve this overall goal

Kanika Bowen-Jallow, M.D., M.M.S.
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Special Interests: Pediatric healthcare disparities; pediatric surgery outcomes research

Nikita E. Tihonov, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery

Special Interests: Endovascular surgery, aortic aneurysm repair, carotid surgery, varicose veins, peripheral arterial disease, vascular access
New Faculty

Anthony J. Senagore, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.
GI, MIS, Colorectal, and Surgical Oncology

Interests: Laparoscopic colorectal surgery; Crohn’s disease; ulcerative colitis; diverticulitis; hemorrhoids; anorectal disorders

Stephen B. Williams, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Urology

Interests: Urologic oncology focusing on bladder, prostate and testicular cancer; comparative effectiveness research and health policy decision making; health services research

Briefs

Kelly Olino, M.D., Surgical Oncology, recently passed the Complex General Surgical Oncology certifying exam.

The Department of Surgery has recently restarted the liver transplant program, and has done three liver transplants.

Guerrero Receives W. Harry Archer Award

Dr. Cesar Guerrero, Assistant Professor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, received the W. Harry Archer Award from the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Dr. Guerrero received his award on April 10 at the ACOMS 37th Annual Scientific Conference and Exhibition: Treating the Growing Patient at the Ritz-Carlton, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Guerrero gave two presentations:

1) Zygoma Implants in the Growing Patient; and 2) Innovations and Innovations in Maxillofacial Reconstruction during Growth, which was the Kurt H. Thoma Memorial Lecture.

Shout Outs

The following mentions of our Surgery faculty and staff appeared in recent issues of UTMB Health System Friday Focus.

Dr. Aakash Gajjar is an excellent physician. He spent as much time as I needed for him to explain, visit and listen. I could not have received any better care! Exceptional! (Surgery)

I just wanted you to know that I am so grateful we hire the best and yes, they are my co-workers. In my opinion, our employees saved my life last week. I could barely walk, I had no pulse in my foot. The quick acting staff realized my symptoms were caused blocked artery, resulting in a stent. The staff in John Sealy 7C, Vascular Surgery, OR, and Day Surgery are exceptional. They go above and beyond for their patients.
Resident Notes

Paul Johnson Wins AACR Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award

Paul Johnson, M.D., research fellow in Dr. Mark Hellmich’s lab, won the Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award at the American Association for Cancer Research meeting held January 7-10 at the Hard Rock Hotel in San Diego, California. The meeting division Johnson was in was titled “The Function of Tumor Microenvironment in Cancer Progression.” The title of his poster was: “Cystathionine-γ-lyase Protects Against Colitis-Associated-Carcinogenesis in Rodent Model.”

Jennifer Perone Wins Outstanding Resident Research Award at the AAS

Congratulations Jennifer Perone, M.D. for being awarded the 2016 Association for Academic Surgery Award for Outstanding Resident Research-Education at the 11th Annual Academic Surgical Congress Meeting of the AAS held February 2-4 in Jacksonville, Florida. The title of her work was: “Who Did the Case? Resident and Faculty Perceptions on Resident Operative Participation.”

At the Association for Surgical Education’s annual meeting in April, Perone’s paper “It Depends on Your Perspective: Resident Satisfaction with Operative Experience” was chosen as a paper of distinction. The paper was coauthored with Deepak Adhikari and Kimberly Brown.

Jamie Bohanon Wins Second Place at ACS South Texas Meeting

Congratulations Jamie Bohanon, M.D. for being awarded second place for Resident Oral Papers at the American College of Surgeons South Texas annual meeting held February 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas. The title of his work was: “Sociodemographic Factors Adversely Affect Neonatal Sepsis Survival.”
Congratulations Jennifer Perone, M.D., John Zatarain, M.D., Paul Wurzer, M.D., Ashley Guillory, Ph.D., and Guillermo Foncerrada, M.D. for being awarded first place in their respective categories at the Fourth Annual Clinical & Translational Research Forum held by the Institute for Translational Sciences. Below are the winning poster awards.

**T0 Fellow**  
Jennifer Perone, MD  
Department of Surgery  
“The Use of Intratumoral Chemotherapy to Augment Systemic Immune Co-receptor Blockade”

**T1 Fellow**  
John Zatarain, MD  
Department of Surgery  
“H2S Inhibition of Cystathionine-β-Synthase (CBS) Using Novel Prodrug Decreases Colorectal Cancer Metastatic and Patient Derived Tumor Xenograft Growth”

**T2 Fellow**  
Paul Wurzer, MD  
Department of Surgery  
“A Non-Selective Beta Adrenergic Receptor Antagonist Decreases Cardiac Stress in Severely Burned Children”

**T3 Fellow**  
Ashley Guillory, PhD  
Department of Surgery  
“Effect of Dosing Regimen on Plasma Propranolol Concentration in Severely Burned Adults”

**T4 Fellow**  
Guillermo Foncerrada, MD  
Department of Surgery-Burns  
“Functional Exercise Capacity in Children with Electrical Burns vs. Flame Burns”
Plastic Surgery Chief Residents Postgraduate Positions

Shelby Lies, M.D.
Hand Fellowship
UT Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

Surjit Rai, M.D.
Private Practice
Cosmetic Surgical Center
Dallas, Texas

Erick Sanchez, M.D.
Private Practice
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

General Surgery Chief Residents Postgraduate Positions

Joliette Barnum, M.D.
Critical Care Fellowship
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Ro-Jon Grogans, M.D.
Palestine Regional Medical Center
Palestine, Texas

Wissam Halabi, M.D.
Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship
Baylor University Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Whitney Jenson, M.D.
Critical Care Fellowship
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Jennifer Kresta, M.D.
Southeast Texas Surgical Associates
Beaumont, Texas
Urology Chief Resident Postgraduate Position

Daniel Ballow, M.D.
Baptist Medical Group-Urology
Pensacola, Florida

Oral Surgery Chief Resident Postgraduate Position

Jeffrey Garcia, D.D.S.
Private Practice
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Shriners Hospital Fellows Postgraduate Positions

Mohammed Ismail Aly, MBBCH
Senior Registrar, Plastics and Burns Surgery, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Northern Deanery, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Joshua Carson, M.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Florida
Division of Acute Care Surgery

Derek Culnan, M.D.
Undecided
Match Day 2016

New General Surgery PGY-1s

Kevin Hancock
UTMB

Keyan Mobli
UT-Houston

Sam Moore
Texas Tech University

Laticia Stewart
Meharry Medical College

Sarah Tambra
Texas Tech University

Stacia Pfost (Prelim)
UTMB
New Plastic Surgery PGY-1s

Pablo Padilla
UTMB

Klara Sputova
University of Miami

Ellen Tran
UTMB

Victor Zhu
Yale University

New Neurosurgery PGY-1

Thomas S. Frank
University of Texas Medical School at Houston

New Vascular Surgery PGY-1

Tammam Obeid
Royal College of Surgeons-Ireland, Medical University of Bahrain
New Oral Surgery PGY-1

Chris Thompson
The University of Texas School of Dentistry, Houston

New Urology PGY-1

Preston Kerr
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine
Staff Notes

New Staff

Danielle Lipscomb
Administrative Coordinator, Transplant

Maria Pinnock, N.P.
Nurse Practitioner, Urology

Jossette Chimes
Residency Coordinator, General & Vascular Surgery

Gigi Jaurigue
Administrative Assistant, Pediatric Surgery
Karen Martin, who has worked in the Department of Surgery for more than 25 years, retired in March. During her years in the Publications Office she worked on manuscripts, graphics, and most recently the last few editions of Dr. Courtney M. Townsend’s Sabiston Textbook of Surgery, The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice. Since its first publication in 1936, Sabiston Textbook of Surgery has been regarded as the preeminent source for definitive guidance in all areas of general surgery.

Steve Schuenke, a medical illustrator and photographer in the Publications Office was named Photographer of the Year by the Bay Area Photo Club. He competed against other photographers from the Houston/Galveston area, completing specific photo assignments each month that are judged and scored by a panel of peers. Schuenke has nearly 29 years of experience as a graphic artist and photographer at UTMB. His photography has been exhibited at The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake and Freeman Library in Clear Lake.

UTMB honored the ongoing commitment of our faculty and staff at the 2016 Employee Service Day ceremony on Wednesday, April 13 in the Levin Hall Main Auditorium. The event was open to all members of the community, and recognized 1,664 employees who achieved significant service milestones, 628 GEM card recipients and the winner of the 2016 Nicholas and Katherine Leone Award for Administrative Excellence.

Department of Surgery members who were honored include:

**5 Years**
- Janet Aleman
- Olga Bachilo
- Daniel Ballow
- Joliette Barnum
- Fredrick Bohanon
- Kimberly Brown
- Zulfqar Cheema
- Eric Cole
- Whitney Jenson

**10 Years**
- Jennifer Kresta
- Craig Porter
- Ravi Radhakrishnan
- Sharad Sharma
- Susan Tarry
- Heather Brien
- Sara Demola
- Carlos Jimenez
- Linda Sousse

**15 Years**
- Barbara Parish
- Bobbi Tucker

**20 Years**
- Mark Hellmich
- Deborah Turney

**25 Years**
- DeAnna Greer
Plastic Surgery ASAPS Visiting Professor – February 1-2, 2016

Jennifer L. Walden, M.D., a cosmetic plastic surgeon based in Austin, Texas was the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Visiting Professor February 1-2 in the Division of Plastic Surgery. Walden was a former resident in the division. She gave three presentations: Individualizing Facelift: Blending Technique with Laser and Light-based Treatments to Improve Results; Social Media: What’s Best for Me and My Practice; and Traveling Professor Aesthetic Society Update. She also got a tour of Jennie Sealy Hospital.