

Campus Connection Friday, June 6, 2008

Your biweekly source of news on UNTHSC people, plans and progress.

W. Paul Bowman named department chair of pediatrics

W. Paul Bowman, MD, has been named department chair of pediatrics for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) at the UNT Health Science Center. In addition to his current role as senior pediatric hematologist/oncologist and chairman of [Cook Children's Health Care System](#) Leukemia & Lymphoma program, Bowman also has been named director of academic pediatrics for Cook Children's Medical Center.

The new appointments tie together the teaching and research capabilities of the Health Science Center with the renowned patient care of Cook Children's Medical Center and Physician Network to bring leading-edge research and care to Tarrant County. Under Dr. Bowman's leadership, TCOM student physicians will take advantage of the knowledge of Cook Children's physicians who serve as faculty for the medical school.

Dr. Bowman, a native of Winnipeg, Canada, graduated from the University of Manitoba as class valedictorian before becoming a fellow in pediatric hematology-oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. In 1982, he came to what was then Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center as co-director of the hematology-oncology department and has made Fort Worth his home. He has served on numerous boards and committees in Tarrant County including the American Cancer Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Legislative Task Force on Cancer in Texas.

Annual report highlights HSC's growth

Last year we took some big steps toward our goal of becoming a top 10 health science center. In 2007 we **expanded our student body and faculty, earned more than \$25 million in research funding, drastically improved our clinical care** through UNT Health and completed a **Master Facility Plan** that will more than double the size of campus.

The recently released 2007 Annual Report outlines these important accomplishments – and many more – in administration, academic affairs, research, clinical care and community engagement. Download a pdf of the full report at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/news/documents/AnnualReport2007.pdf>.

To learn more about the Health Science Center's mission, vision and values, and our progress toward our 2008 goals, visit the Strategy 2008 page on the UNTHSC Intranet at <http://intranet.hsc.unt.edu/StrategyMap/>.

Survey results drive communication changes

In April, more than 300 employees and students took the UNTHSC Communications Survey. The results are in, and we're already using the feedback to make some changes.

In the electronic version of this issue of Campus Connection you'll notice a new layout, designed so you can scan headlines without clicking on each section to get to the news. And we've added a text-only version that you can easily print and take with you. Both of these changes are in response to specific feedback that we received on the survey.

In addition to these changes, we'll also use the feedback to improve other communication tools, such as a new UNTHSC Intranet. We'll keep you posted here and in Daily News on our efforts to improve communication at UNTHSC.

Congratulations graduates

The University of North Texas Health Science Center awarded degrees to 315 graduates – including 119 new physicians – at its 35th Annual Commencement on May 17 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu, vice president of Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan and former acting U.S. attorney general, thanked the new graduates for their dedication to the health sciences and emphasized their role in meeting the world's health care challenges in his commencement speech.

Dr. Andrew Frost, 2008 TCOM graduate and student speaker, told of the camaraderie he experienced with his fellow students, and the many good memories he made during his time at the Health Science Center in his remarks.

The Health Science Center awarded an honorary Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree to Dr. Moritsugu - a first for the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM). The degree honors his contributions to the nation's health through education, disease prevention, work with underserved populations and community outreach. The honorary D.O. bestows on Dr. Moritsugu all rights and privileges that accompany the degree, including the hood that D.O. graduates receive.

New board brings outside expertise to HSC mission

The Health Science Center has established a Board of Visitors to help us reach our goal of becoming a top 10 health science center. The board is a new advisory group of up to 40 members with diverse expertise from around the country. They will advise and consult with the president, the administration and the deans of the schools and colleges on specific projects; participate as members of school- and college-based advisory boards; assist in community relations; and generally promote the interests of the Health Science Center.

The first meeting of the Board of Visitors is July 18-19 here on campus.

Board members serve rotating terms of three years and are appointed by a selection committee through the president. Members are selected based on their individual interests, special expertise, vision, dedication to the HSC's advancement, fundraising capability and willingness to participate in the dynamic life of the Health Science Center.

2008 Board of Visitors:

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Sciences
College of Bioscience, Kansas City
University of Medicine &
Biosciences
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Broomfield, Colorado

NEWS BRIEFS

New STAR fellows named, grant winners announced at conference

More than 300 people attended last week's 3rd annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities hosted by the HSC to debate and discuss how to combat health inequities and improve health care. Keynote speaker Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III spoke directly to students on Thursday evening stating, "We in math, science and engineering are more focused on the work than the people. We have to focus on the people." Following the address, **Dr. Robert Kaman**, associate professor of Health Management and Policy, introduced the 2008 STAR Fellows, taking time to remember **Dr. Martin Farias**, a 2008 STAR Fellow and one of our alumni who passed away this spring. Dr. Kaman also announced the winners of the \$25,000 STAR Fellows grants this year – Dr. Gregory Buck, assistant professor at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, and Elissa Purnell, assistant professor at Savannah State University.

The [STAR \(Steps Toward Academic Research\) Fellowship Program](#) offers emerging faculty a year of collaborative training and interaction with our faculty and faculty from other institutions, directed toward fostering Health Disparities Research Initiatives.

STAR Fellows for 2008-2009 are:

L. Kevin Chapman, assistant professor at the University of Louisville

Noushin Firouzbakht, assistant professor at UNTHSC

Fesseha Gebremikael, assistant professor at the Alabama Agricultural/Mechanical University

Raquel Qualls-Hampton, assistant professor at UNTHSC

Wanda Lawrence, assistant professor at Winston-Salem University

Diana Beckmann-Mendez, assistant professor at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio

Richard Palmer, assistant professor at Florida International University

Sabita Persaud, assistant professor at Bowie State University

Edilberto Raynes, assistant professor at Tennessee State University

Grant Wangila, assistant professor at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Atrium Gallery features art by local women

From June 9 through July 30, UNTHSC's Atrium Gallery will exhibit "Women of Worth," a selection of the area's finest women artists. The show is sponsored by the Health Science Center and the [National League of American Pen Women, Inc.](#) For more information about the exhibit or the UNTHSC Atrium Gallery, contact [Shea Patterson-Young](#) at ext. 0301.

Dr. Simpkins co-authors report on Alzheimer's prevention therapies

Dr. James Simpkins, professor and chair of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, is co-author of “A roadmap for the prevention of dementia: The inaugural Leon Thal Symposium,” published last month in *Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association*. This new landmark study urges changes in the standard therapy of Alzheimer’s disease and dementias to focus on prevention tactics.

These new therapies call for increased focus on early detection of dementia and prevention treatments before symptoms emerge – a significant change from current therapies which address only symptoms of dementia, and not the underlying cause or prevention.

The paper is the result of the first Leon Thal Symposium in December 2007 – a gathering of 40 of the world’s most renowned experts in dementia research to develop a plan for public policy that would radically change current standards of therapy for dementia.

The assembled researchers began formulating new national strategies to discover, develop and validate new drug treatments through clinical trials. The group will reassemble in December 2008 to finalize their recommendations and form a policy that can be included in future Congressional healthcare reform.

IN THE NEWS

Foundation grants strengthen cancer research

Several projects and programs at the Health Science Center received grant money from the Cancer Research Foundation of North Texas, according to the [Star-Telegram](#). We received \$30,000 to establish the Cancer Research Foundation of North Texas Fellows Program, which will fund three student researchers. **Dr. Stephen Mathew**, research assistant professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology, **Dr. Fang Fang Zhang**, assistant professor of Epidemiology, **Dr. Paul Bowman**, chair of pediatrics, and **Dr. Porunelloor Mathew**, associate professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology, received \$10,000 for a project that examines molecular pathways found in childhood leukemia and how it differs in ethnic groups. The HSC received \$15,000 in support of **Dr. Sharad Singhal**, associate professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology’s, research which focuses on membrane transport mechanisms -- how water and other small molecules cross into or out of cells -- and how they affect drug resistance in malignancies. And **Dr. Sushma Yadav**, assistant professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology, received a \$10,000 grant for her continuing research into the role certain proteins play in the death of cancer cells.

Is the ‘boost’ worth the risk?

Need a little extra energy to get through the day? Those “health drinks with a ‘kick’” may not be as beneficial as you think. **Dr. Damon Schranz**, medical director at Central Family Medicine Clinic, was quoted in a [Star-Telegram](#) article about these drinks. Do they really give your energy the kick in the pants it needs, or is it all about high-profile hype? The same article also appeared on [Apria Healthcare Online](#), [RedOrbit](#), and in the [Myrtle Beach \(S.C.\) Sun News](#).

It may be even worse for the children

Dr. Anne Christian, assistant professor of pediatrics, was also quoted in a [Star-Telegram](#) Bud Kennedy editorial about whether or not schools should sell these high-powered “health” drinks to kids who usually “don’t know what they’re taking,” according to Dr. Christian.

More Life Festival focuses on AIDS inequities

A [Star-Telegram](#) article about the More Life Festival, designed to increase AIDS education, quoted the School of Public Health’s **Raquel Qualls-Hampton**. She said that in the U.S. in 2005, though about 13 percent of the U.S. population was African American, 49 percent of reported AIDS cases that year were from that demographic.

DNA Lab continues nationwide missing persons work

The DNA lab was named in several stories from the Austin area recently as the lab that will test human remains found in a shoe beside Lake Travis. Detectives in the case believe the shoe and its contained remains belong to the same person whose other foot was found in the same area several months ago. Law enforcement on the case have said they do not believe the remains are the result of foul play, but rather someone who was lost in the lake last year. The story appeared on [KXAN News 36](#), KTBC Fox 7 News, the [Austin-American Statesman](#), KVCT News and [KNVA-TV](#). The lab was also mentioned in a [Yakima \(Washington\) Herald](#) story about a missing man whose parents submitted reference samples in hopes of finding their son.

KUDOS

Dr. Robert T. Mallet, associate professor of Integrative Physiology

Dr. H. Fred Downey, regents professor of Integrative Physiology, and

Myoung-Gwi Ryou, doctoral student in Integrative Physiology

... made recent research discoveries that hypoxia can be remarkably beneficial to the heart.

Their findings, which were reported in the June 2008 issue of [Experimental Biology and Medicine](#), may lead to new ways to protect hearts of patients at risk of coronary disease. The research, titled “Hypoxic Conditioning Suppresses Nitric Oxide Production upon Myocardial Reperfusion,” is funded by a research grant from the National Institutes of Health [National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine](#).

Dr. Al Yurvati, professor and chair of Surgery and TCOM class of '86

... was elected chair of the [American Osteopathic Board of Surgery](#) (AOBS). The AOBS was founded in 1940 to examine and grant board certification to osteopathic surgeons. The board is made up of 20 members representing surgical specialties including general, neurological, plastic and reconstructive, urological, general vascular, cardiothoracic and surgical critical care.

Dr. Douglas Tatum, assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

... was invited by the Fort Worth Chapter of Hadassah, a volunteer women's organization, to serve as the local specialist at a program on human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. Some members of the group heard Dr. Tatum speak at a seminar on HPV sponsored by the [ForHER](#) women's health institute in February, and recognized him as the area's "go-to guy" on the subject.

Dr. Bascom Bradshaw, TCOM class of '01

... along with his wife, Tracy, published a children's picture book about the importance of pet adoption from shelters. Find out more about, "Where Do Dingoes Come From?" on their Web site, www.dingothedog.com. Dr. Bradshaw is a board-certified aerospace medicine physician and is director of health services for the U.S. Army garrison at Doha, Qatar.

HR UPDATE

Save gas with HR benefits

UNTHSC employees are eligible for several benefits that could help cut down on commuting costs.

- **Ride Share program**
The HSC sponsors a ride-share program through the Fort Worth Transit Authority that offers vanpool and carpool options. Contact the [Fort Worth Transit Authority](#) at 817-336-7433 to find out how to join or start a ride share.
- **Discounted bus and train fare**
HSC employees and students are eligible for [The "T" E-pass](#) for \$75. The pass includes unlimited rides on all of The "T", Dart Local and express bus, trolley, rail and Trinity Railway Express services for a year (plan runs Jan. 1 – Dec. 31). With the pass, you also are eligible for the [Guaranteed Ride Home Program](#) that provides a ride to your car or home in the event of an emergency.
- **Discounts on auto service**
According to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), fixing an out-of-tune car can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent, and fixing more serious problems can improve gas mileage by as much as 40 percent!

UNTHSC employees can get discounts at these mechanics:

Tune Up Masters offers a 10 percent discount for HSC employees. See the telephone directory for a location near you.

Firestone Complete Auto Care, 6233 Granbury Rd. (Hulen Square Shopping Center) offers a 10 percent discount on all purchases at this location only, including repairs, maintenance and tires. Show your HSC ID for the discount. Contact Carol Britton, store manager, at 817-346-7405.

For more information on these benefits, contact [Marco Mendoza](#), employee relations manager, at ext. 2230.

Performance evaluation training

Annual performance evaluations (FY 08) are now in progress and should be completed by Sept. 30. Based on research and survey results, changes have been made to the staff performance evaluation forms. All UNTHSC employees will complete the new forms for the 2008 performance review cycle.

Training sessions in June and July will cover the new process and evaluation forms. All faculty and staff who evaluate other UNTHSC employees are required to attend one of these training sessions:

June 10	2 – 3 pm	LIB 225
June 12	8:30 - 9:30 am	LIB 225
June 16	3 – 4 pm	LIB 225
June 18	10 – 11 am	LIB 225
June 23	11 am – noon	LIB 225
June 27	1 – 2 pm	LIB 400
July 8	9 – 10 am	LIB 225
July 10	2 – 3 pm	LIB 400
July 16	10 – 11 am	LIB 225
July 29	2 – 3 pm	LIB 400

Please contact [Cassandra Molavrh](#) at ext. 5091 by 5 pm on June 9 to reserve a seat in one of these sessions.

New background check process

A new background check process for new Health Science Center employees working in security sensitive positions will increase safety and ensure compliance with state regulations.

Soon, an outside vendor will perform the background checks, which must be completed before job offers are made. The new system will take about 72 hours and should not delay making job offers.

Departments will be responsible for the cost of background checks on their new hires. Human Resource Services is reviewing submitted bids for managing the background check process. They will select a vendor and put the new process in place this summer. More information will be available when details are finalized. Contact Human Resource Services at ext. 3690 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

June 13

Infant Mortality Community Workshop

8:30 am – noon

Sheraton Arlington Hotel

July 4

Independence Day Holiday

August 21 – 22

UNT System Board of Regents meeting

UNT Health Science Center

August 27

Employee Appreciation Day

Details to be announced

September 1

Labor Day Holiday

September 12

White Coat Ceremony

2 pm

Will Rogers Auditorium

September 26 - 27

Alumni Reunion 2008

6 am – 9 pm

Atrium and Fort Worth Hilton

October 25

UNTHSC Annual Gala

Celebrating the 15-Year Anniversary of the GSBS
Worthington Grand Ballroom

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ben G. Harris, PhD

Regents Professor of Molecular Biology and Immunology
May 26, 2008

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Campus Connection is published the first and third Fridays of each month by the Office of Marketing and Communications for UNT Health Science Center employees, students and friends. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others and print it for those who don't have access to a computer.

Our goals are to:

- Keep you informed about the Health Science Center's strategic plan, priorities and goals.
- Promote the HSC values of compassion, integrity, teamwork, innovation, pride and excellence.
- Demonstrate how the people and programs of the Health Science Center really do make a difference.
- Enable you to be a well-informed UNTHSC ambassador.

You're invited to contribute to the continuous improvement of this e-newsletter and other HSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to news@hsc.unt.edu.

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