

Campus Connection Friday, August 15, 2008

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

Becoming the Best - A Vision for UNT Health

By **Dr. Kathleen Forbes**, president of UNT Health and executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and Business Development, and

Dr. Scott Ransom, president of the UNT Health Science Center

Several months ago, we developed the mission statement for UNT Health to include "becoming Tarrant County's leading multi-specialty provider of choice." To actually accomplish that mission, we will lead UNT Health to:

1. Achieve excellence in service, quality and access for our patients
2. Assure the use of evidence-based care for every patient
3. Support whole-person care for every patient, their families, and the community

We must strive to become known as the best clinical provider in Tarrant County. If a family member visits Fort Worth and needs care, the first and only choice for that family should be to seek care at one of our outstanding facilities and be cared for by our outstanding clinicians.

Service, Quality and Access

For us to be the best, the patient's visit must be outstanding, supportive, caring, and timely. This requires that our staff and providers welcome and care for each and every patient just as they would their favorite relative.

For us to become the best, we need a simple and easy way for patients to access our clinics. The patient needs a single phone number to make a single call for any and all of their care needs. Better yet, the patient should be able to schedule a visit to any of our providers and any of our locations through the Internet. A single contact (phone or Web) will allow scheduling a visit at any clinic location and with any provider. This requires a centralized scheduling center.

For us to become the best, our patients must be able to make an appointment at their convenience and at a location of their choosing. If a child is sick with a 103-degree temperature, the visit must be available today. Certainly, a routine primary care visit should be available within a week at a convenient time for the patient. This requires extended hours of care availability from at least 7 am to 9 pm for primary care. It will also require that we have walk-in availability for patients who need us now. It also requires clinic locations that are convenient. We must develop clinic sites within 10 minutes of anywhere in Tarrant County.

For us to become the best, our physicians must be connected and the patient must be the center of our care team. Whether a patient is seen by Family Medicine or Orthopedic Surgery at the PCC or at Eagle Ranch, our physicians need immediate access to all medical records, lab

tests, radiology evaluations etc. This connectivity requires an Electronic Medical Record to support better care for our patients.

Evidence-based Care

For us to become the best, we must assure that every patient receives the evidence-based care that they deserve. If the patient should get a beta-blocker, the process should ensure that it is done 100 percent of the time. This will require us to utilize care paths, pathways, electronic reminders and other tools to assure that we do the right thing for our patients, every time.

Whole-person Care

For us to become the best, we must be concerned with whole-person care and well-being, which means being concerned about the patient's family and career needs. For example, if a mother works 8 to 5 and needs to get her 3-year-old child to the physician, the provider must be available at times that will not conflict with her livelihood.

For us to become the best, our providers must be connected to assure that all medical information is known by all members of the team to make certain that we provide comprehensive care that connects the orthopedic surgeon to the family physician to the cardiologist. For more complicated problems, our providers must coordinate diagnostic and treatment plans together and for the benefit of the patient and family.

To Be the Best

UNT Health has the potential to be not only the biggest, but also the undisputable best in providing outstanding care to the citizens of Tarrant County. A common vision of providing care that includes immediate access, first-class service, and state-of-the-art quality must be shared by all of our chairs, faculty, and staff. Please join us in creating Tarrant County's leading multi-specialty provider of choice.

Employee Appreciation Day 2008: Lunch schedule set

The 2nd Annual Employee Appreciation Day is Aug. 27 at Alumni Plaza. Faculty and staff members are invited to enjoy fun and games, along with a free lunch. Hamburgers (and veggie burgers) will be served to departments according to this lunch schedule. Hamburgers for the night crew will be served at 5:30 pm in the Atrium. Each employee will get a T-shirt with a new design to mark the event, and EBAC will provide carnival games from 11 am to 2 pm. For more information contact [Shea Patterson](#) in the Office of the President at ext. 0301.

Board of Regents meets on campus next week

The UNT System Board of Regents will meet at the Health Science Center for its quarterly meeting on August 21 – 22. Remember to put the Health Science Center's best face on during this meeting.

As always, Dr. Ransom will follow up the Board of Regents meeting with two **Town Hall meetings** to present Regents' actions to the campus. He also will answer your questions. You

can submit questions or topics to townhall@hsc.unt.edu. The Office of Marketing and Communications will pass the questions to the President's Office, anonymously if you'd like.

The next Town Hall meetings are set for **Monday, Aug. 25, 4 - 5 pm**, and **Tuesday, Aug. 26, 7 - 8 am**. Both meetings will be in **Luibel Hall**. Light refreshments will be served at both meetings.

TCOM students to enter medical profession at White Coat Ceremony

Everyone is invited to attend our annual [White Coat Ceremony](#) Friday, Sept. 12, at 2 pm at [Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium](#). Dr. Kathleen Forbes, president of UNT Health and executive vice president for Clinical Affairs and Business Development, will present the keynote address, and Amir Barzin, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine class of 2012 president, will give remarks on behalf of the new students.

The Health Science Center also plans to give its most prestigious awards – the Founders' Medal, and the Mary E. Luibel Distinguished Service Award — during the ceremony.

Incoming DO and PA students will be “cloaked” in the white coats that symbolize their careers in medicine, and they will take a professional oath acknowledging their responsibilities and willingness to assume the obligations of their new professions. A reception will follow in the Atrium.

NEWS BRIEFS

UNTHSC and Cook Children's team up to raise cancer awareness

The UNT Health Science Center's Institute for Cancer Research is teaming up with [Cook Children's Health Care System](#) to raise awareness of neuroblastoma – a rare form of cancer that affects hundreds of children each year. Along with the [Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation](#), the partnership is co-sponsoring the exhibit *Life – Through the Eyes of a Child Living with Neuroblastoma*, which features portraits of children living with the disease. The exhibit opens with an event at the [Fort Worth Community Arts Center](#) on Sept. 5, from 6 to 8:30 pm and runs for three months.

SPH Orientation next week

Next week, approximately 70 new School of Public Health (SPH) students will be on campus for orientation Aug. 20-21, including the first students in the SPH's new Master of Health Administration program. During orientation, students will meet their faculty, register for classes and get to know the campus. They join the 224 new DO and PA, and 131 GSBS first-year students already on campus.

Purchase new parking permits next week

Faculty and staff can purchase parking permits for September 2008 to August 2009 starting Aug. 18. Permits will be for sale in the Parking Office in the General Services Building during

regular business hours, or on Thursday, Aug. 21, from 9 to 11 am on the third-floor crossover between EAD and RES.

For more information, visit the [HSC Police Web site](#) or contact the Parking Office at ext. 2211.

HR UPDATE

Summer enrollment ends next week

The Employee Retirement System (ERS) summer enrollment for plan year 2009 ends on Aug. 22. During Summer Enrollment, you can enroll in or change your insurance coverage for Plan Year 2009. If you don't need to make changes, you don't have to do anything. Current benefit selections, including [TexFlex](#) account deductions, will roll over to the new plan.

If you have a question about your benefits, contact [Angelina Shelby](#), [Stella Fair](#) or [Victoria Zamora](#) in Human Resource Services (HRS) at ext. 2690. Or visit the [summer enrollment page on the ERS Web site](#).

Merit bonus program for FY 2009

Dr. Scott Ransom, UNTHSC president, has approved a merit bonus program for FY 2009 to recognize and reward our top performers. Supervisors may recommend non-faculty employees whose job performance and productivity consistently exceed normal expectations for a one-time merit bonus payment.

Full details, including guidelines, timelines and the recommendation form, can be found on the [Human Resource Services Web site](#). Merit bonus forms and current employee evaluations that document the employee's eligibility for the merit payment are due in HRS by Friday, October 3, 2008. Bonus checks will be distributed in early November. There is a separate merit bonus program for UNT Health employees.

IN THE NEWS

Koulen named Health Care Hero

Dr. Peter Koulen, professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, was named a Health Care Hero by the *Dallas Business Journal* for his research into Alzheimer's disease treatments. All Health Care Hero recipients were featured in a special 80-page section included with the Aug. 1-7, 2008, edition of the Business Journal. Health Care Hero honorees were chosen from among nominations solicited through the publications print and online outlets by a board of *Dallas Business Journal* editors.

UNT Health docs quoted on health topics

Several of our faculty physicians have served as medical experts in the media recently. In the [Star-Telegram](#), **Dr. Mark Sanders**, assistant professor of family and community medicine, commented on the viability of self-administered health screening kits. **Dr. Kollier Hinkle**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted in the [Fort Worth Business Press](#) about the importance of self-administered breast examinations.

DNA lab stays busy

The UNT Center for Human Identification was mentioned in a pair of articles that appeared in the *Southern Oregon Mail Tribune* – one [naming the center as the source of genetic testing](#) conducted to identify a child found dead 45 years ago, and the other [detailing the process Oregon's new laws](#) affecting missing persons cases.

The Center for Human Identification was also mentioned in a [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) story about a 1998 missing person's case. The detective working the case said the Center is a leader in identifying missing persons using mitochondrial DNA profiles.

George Adams, Missing Persons Program coordinator, was quoted in the [South Bend \(Ind.\) Tribune](#) about a case in which DNA testing was used to determine if a set of remains discovered in 1998 belonged to one of two missing women. The profile generated here proved the remains belonged to neither woman.

Amy Smuts, a forensic analyst who works in the DNA lab, was quoted in a story in [The Facts](#), a Brazoria County, Texas, newspaper, as a result of her testimony in a trial in that area. The lab was also mentioned in several television news broadcasts in the Wilmington, N.C., area because of its work on a missing persons case there.

SPH in the news

Former School of Public Health faculty member **Dr. Samuel F. Atkinson** (2002-2004) was named as UNT's Summer Commencement speaker on [North Texas e-News](#).

JPS growth benefits HSC

The Health Science Center was mentioned in a [Fort Worth Business Press](#) story about JPS expansion and growth. The article stated their growth allows physicians from our medical school to train at their facilities, which has the potential to set physicians up for long-term careers locally.

KUDOS

Dr. Shrawan Kumar, professor and co-director of the Physical Medicine Institute ...was inducted into the American Order of Merit representing Canada by the [American Biographical Institute](#). The Order comprises members from around the world who represent their countries through professional achievements.

Opal McIntosh, account representative for UNT Health ... will receive the 2008 Eagle Award for “Volunteer of the Year” from the [Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce](#). Each year the Eagle Award honors Dallas and Fort Worth entrepreneurs for their business achievements and volunteer service to the community.

SAVE THE DATE

August 20 – 21

SPH new student orientation

UNT Health Science Center

August 21-22

UNT System Board of Regents meeting

UNT Health Science Center

August 25

President Ransom's Town Hall meeting

4 - 5 pm

Luibel Hall

August 26

President Ransom's Town Hall meeting

7 - 8 am

Luibel Hall

August 27

Employee Appreciation Day

Alumni Plaza

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 3
Campus Pride kick-off

8 – 9:30 am
Alumni Plaza

October 25
UNTHSC Annual Gala

Celebrating the 15-Year Anniversary of the GSBS
Renaissance Worthington Hotel • Grand Ballroom

DO Dash 5k/1k

8 am
UNTHSC

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 e-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 UNTHSC 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 UNTSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to news@hsc.unt.edu.

Carl Bluemel

Electronic Media Manager
cbluemel@hsc.unt.edu
817-735-2115

Matt Havlik

Communications Coordinator II
mhavlik@hsc.unt.edu
817-735-2554

Campus Connection

University of North Texas Health Science Center

817.735.2554

3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard | EAD 834 | Fort Worth TX | 76107-2699