

Campus Connection Friday, Feb. 6, 2009

People, plans and progress at Fort Worth's Medical School *and more*

State budget adjustment won't affect current jobs or our mission

A message from President Scott Ransom

As we have reported previously, the Health Science Center is achieving great success in meeting and often exceeding its strategic goals over the past couple of years. We have realized record-breaking growth and new levels of quality in our student body, our academic programs, our research, our patient care delivery and our physical plant. This success has been accomplished thanks to your hard work and dedication.

We are living in challenging financial times, as you are keenly aware. Our leadership here and at the UNT System level have been working to determine what effect these challenges will have on our organizations, but it has not been clear what the State would need to do. Now that the State Legislature is in session, we have been monitoring the situation closely and on a daily basis.

On Monday afternoon all health science centers and higher education institutions received a letter from Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Speaker Joe Straus directing us to plan for a 2 1/2 percent cut to our current state budget retroactive to Sept. 1 (see attached letter). For us this represents \$1.3 million. The UNT System has responded to the State leadership in writing regarding our proposed approach to this potential retroactive cut.

Any reductions must protect the needs of our students and the quality of our academic, research, patient care and community engagement missions. We, through several specific steps, will be able to meet this state mandate without staff or faculty layoffs or reducing current salaries.

These steps must be taken immediately:

1. Freeze hiring on all current open positions. Any position to be considered must have the approval of the appropriate Executive Vice President and the President prior to any employment offer or position posting.
2. Reduce travel regardless of whether it is funded on state or local funds. Employee travel must have the appropriate Dean or VP approval before arrangements are completed.
3. Critically evaluate other non-personnel-related saving opportunities to maintain a stable budget, such as utilities. Your ideas for these kinds of cost-saving opportunities are welcome.

The operational procedures for implementing these budget reduction steps will be communicated by the division of Finance and Administration. We are fortunate that the impact

to our organization to date has been minimal compared to those in other states. As we tighten our belts, I ask for your support as we move to adjust our budget to adapt to our new financial world.

Take a survey, help UNTHSC and support a good cause

The Health Science Center's five-year strategy places a high priority on creating a culture of excellence and growing the capabilities of our faculty and staff. To track our progress toward this goal, UNTHSC is conducting the Denison Organizational Culture Survey this month. The results of this survey will be used to guide improvements across campus.

All benefits-eligible employees received an e-mail from the Office of the President on Feb. 2 with a link to the online survey. Your honest opinion is valued and appreciated. All responses are anonymous (UNTHSC doesn't have access to individual responses or raw data.) If you need assistance with the survey or need a paper copy, contact the Office of Strategy and Measurement at ext. 2612.

This year, for each department with a 75 percent response rate by Feb. 20, a donation will be made to its charity of choice (\$50 minimum, or \$1 per participant per department).

This is the second year that UNTHSC has participated in the Denison Organizational Culture Survey. Results from last year's survey helped develop Human Resource Services' professional development and training program, and provided a foundation for the performance improvement initiatives in the Health Science Center's five-year strategic plan. The results also led to the creation of the Health Science Center's Leadership Development Institute.

If you have any questions about the Denison Organizational Cultural Survey, contact Doug Mains in the Office of Strategy and Measurement at dmains@hsc.unt.edu or at x0473.

Be a part of the Cowtown

UNTHSC founded and has always been a strong supporter of [the Cowtown](#). This year we're the title sponsor and we want everyone to be a part of one of Fort Worth's biggest annual events. But, you don't have to be able to run the marathon to get involved. There are several opportunities for faculty, staff and students to participate.

Volunteer

The Cowtown is one of the largest multi-event road races in the country, and it takes hundreds of volunteers to make it all run smoothly. You can help out with everything

from registration to cheering runners to cleaning up after the race. To register, visit the [Cowtown volunteer Web page](#) or contact [Tera Galindo](#) at ext. 2033.

Attend the Health Fair

The mission of the Cowtown is to promote health and fitness in our community. This year, UNT Health is sponsoring a free Health Fair on Friday, Feb. 27 from 4 to 8 pm in the medical tent at 4th and Main Streets at Sundance Square. Get free health screenings and information from UNT Health faculty and staff and UNTHSC students. Non-medical volunteers are needed to help with the fair. Contact [Randy Sachs](#), clinical marketing director, at ext. 0343 if you want to volunteer. The Health Fair is open to the public.

Participate in a race

The Cowtown is more than just a marathon. The event also includes a half-marathon, 10K, 5K, Kids 5K and 50K ultra-marathon. Register at the [Cowtown Web site](#).

Attend the Expo

The Cowtown Health and Fitness Expo is Friday, Feb. 27 from 11:30 am to 8 pm and Saturday, Feb. 28 from 6 am to 2:30 pm at 4th and Main Streets at Sundance Square. Check out the latest health and fitness gear or learn more about local businesses, Cowtown sponsors and non-profit organizations. And, don't forget to stop by the UNTHSC booth. The Health and Fitness Expo is open to the public.

Lewis Library launches UNTHSC Scholarly Repository

Each year UNTHSC faculty, staff and students produce thousands of scholarly documents—everything from journal articles to theses to PowerPoint presentations. With the new [UNTHSC Scholarly Repository](#), the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library is organizing and preserving those documents, and making them accessible to the academic community and the world.

The repository can hold a range of digital material including Grand Rounds presentations, theses and dissertations, lectures, conference papers, published and unpublished articles, manuscripts, poster presentations, data sets, photographs, audio and video files, and more.

Entries in the repository are given permanent URLs, or Web addresses, and indexed by the [Google](#) and [Google Scholar](#) search engines so they can be found using basic Internet searches or by searching the repository. Owners of deposited works retain full copyright and can sign up to receive monthly reports on how often their material is downloaded and viewed.

The initial UNTHSC student theses and dissertations housed electronically in the repository begin with Fall 2008 graduates of the School of Public Health.

The UNTHSC Scholarly Repository is an effort of the Lewis Library's Digital Projects Department. Jamie Furrh, digital projects librarian, says the aim of the repository is to preserve UNTHSC scholarship, and to help faculty and students achieve wider circulation to gain recognition for their work.

Want to learn more? Contact [Jamie Furrh](#) at ext. 2070, or stop by the Library's booth at Research Appreciation Day.

NEWS BRIEFS

MD Degree Study update

At their first meeting on Jan. 29, the MD Study Group finalized an [MD Degree Assessment](#) that provides background on and outlines the key issues of the study. The assessment was created with the input of the 635 responses to the MD Degree Survey, the perspectives of various focus groups and individual correspondence. The assessment was distributed to Health Science Center leadership, faculty, staff, students, alumni, the UNTHSC Board of Visitors, the UNT System Board of Regents, the Study Group and Study Group Staff. The study group meets again on Feb. 19.

Visit the [MD Study Group Web site](#) for frequent updates on the group's activities.

GSBS hosts science expo on Feb. 7

The UNT Health Science Center and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will host the Science Exposition in Research Vocation and Education (SERVE), an open house and science fair in conjunction with area high schools, on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon.

SERVE schedule:

9 – 10 am Science fair for local high school students

10 – 11 am Campus-wide open house includes tours of the labs and facilities

11 am – 12 noon Pizza and a panel discussion featuring local cancer researchers on "Why Fund Cancer Research?"

Students from junior high through undergraduate study, as well as the general public, are invited to learn more about the Health Science Center's diverse research programs as well as new science discoveries here in Fort Worth. For more information on SERVE, contact [Amber Ondricek](#) in Cell Biology and Genetics.

Latest North Texas Health and Science magazine breaks down 5-year strategy

The latest issue of North Texas Health and Science magazine connects UNTHSC's five-year strategy to some of the people who are bringing it to life. Faculty, staff and students give insight

on how the strategy is working for them, and how they are helping make it a reality. *NTHS* is packed with more on the people and programs that make UNTHSC tick.

UNTHSC promotes health pregnancy with workshop

The [Center for Community Health](#), [School of Public Health](#) and [ForHER](#) at the [UNT Health Science Center](#) are joining with other community organizations to present a workshop on preconception and interconception health. [“Before, Between and Beyond Pregnancy”](#) will be held at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens on Friday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Infant mortality and low birth-weight rates are at least twice as high for African American women compared with Caucasian women. In North Texas, the most disparate rates of infant mortality are in specific areas. This workshop will focus on preconception and interconception health with the goal of reducing poor pregnancy outcomes.

[Dr. Hani Atrash](#) from the National Center on Birth Defects at the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention will provide the keynote address. Other speakers include [Dr. Jamboor Vishwanatha](#), Dr. Anita Kurian, [Tamara Wrenn](#), Ronzetta Robinson, Carol Brady and [Dr. Ralph Anderson](#). A question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Elwyn Grimes is included.

To register, go to <http://www.RegisterWithUNT.com>

Submit questions for the next Town Hall Meeting

The next President’s Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for Feb. 16 at noon and Feb. 17 at 7 am, both in Luibel Hall. Send questions or discussion topics to townhall@hsc.unt.edu, and we’ll pass them along—anonymously if you’d like—to the President’s Office. We can’t guarantee that Dr. Ransom or the Leadership Team will address every e-mailed question during the Town Hall meeting, but we’ll try to get to as many as possible.

Texas Legal Protection Plan Open Enrollment Feb. 1 - 27

The Texas Legal Protection Plan, Inc., provides a quality prepaid legal services plan to UNTHSC employees and students. It is designed to eliminate the financial barrier that keeps many people from seeking the services of an attorney. New employees must enroll within 30 days of their hire date. However, employees and students can enroll or make changes to their existing coverage during open enrollment from Feb. 1 through Feb. 27. Any enrollments or coverage changes made during open enrollment will be effective on March 1. Payments of \$10.82 per month for individual coverage or \$15.16 per month for family coverage must be made by bank draft. Brochures and applications are available in Human Resource Services.

Under the Plan, the following services are available one time per year per family, with the exception of Preventive Legal Services, which can be used in any increments up to a total of four (4) hours per plan year.

- Personal non-business bankruptcy court proceedings
- Divorce, separation and annulment
- Court adoption proceeding
- Defense of insanity or infirmity proceeding
- Juvenile court proceeding (family coverage)
- Habeas corpus court proceeding
- Defense of misdemeanor charge
- Defense of civil action
- Defense of felony charge
- Defense of driving while intoxicated
- Defense of misdemeanor traffic charge (that could lead to license suspension or revocation)
- Consumer Protection
- Name Change
- Estate Planning (wills)
- Preventive legal service (up to 4 hours)
- Legal hotline services (unlimited toll-free telephone advice and consultation from a legal access law firm)

Beginning on the effective date of coverage, you are entitled to the immediate usage of the plan, with the exception of the divorce, separation and annulment benefit which has a six-month waiting period.

IN THE NEWS

UNTHSC researchers in the news

This week, a press release sent by UNTHSC Marketing and Communications resulted in articles in 92 outlets from Honolulu to Philadelphia regarding our recent research. The release featured research news generated by Michael Forster, PhD, Abha Sharma, PhD, Rajendra Sharma, PhD, Pankaj Chaudhary, Sanjay Awasthi, MD, Yogesh Awasthi, PhD, Shigehiko Ogoh, PhD, Adnan Dibas, PhD, and Peter Raven, PhD. At least 10 additional outlets ran similar stories based on Forster's work with a University of Southern California researcher to discover eating less may not increase life expectancy in lean people. The results of the study were published in the *Journal of Nutrition*.

Dr. Ransom's latest column in the *Business Press*

In addition to [President Scott Ransom's monthly column](#), an article about the [Primary Care Research Institute study](#) appeared in the *Fort Worth Business Press* on Jan. 19.

Dr. Brenner quoted by *Dallas Morning News*

Harvey Brenner, PhD, was quoted in a [Dallas Morning News](#) article Feb. 2 related to the increase in suicide hotline calls in an economic downturn.

KUDOS

A. Scott Winter, MD, associate professor and director of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, earned the [Irma Bland Award](#) for Excellence in Teaching Residents from the [American Psychiatric Association](#) (APA). The award is given annually to APA members who have made outstanding and sustaining contributions to resident education in psychiatry.

Thomas Yorio, PhD, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, was named to the inaugural class of [Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology](#) (ARVO) fellows. ARVO's mission is to facilitate the advancement of vision research and the prevention and cure of disorders of the visual system worldwide. Dr. Yorio, whose research is focused on visual sciences, was named a fellow at ARVO's highest level. The Health Science Center is home to the North Texas Eye Research Institute.

Andrew Wade, public service officer, was chosen by a committee of [Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators](#) (TACUPA) members to receive the Frank I. Cornwall Memorial Scholarship and the TACUPA General Scholarship. Officer Wade received these awards at the 2008 TACUPA Conference Banquet in Houston in December.

Joyce Hood, MPH (SPH '07), RN, COHN-S, was named a Healthcare Hero by the *Fort Worth Business Press*. Hood, director of occupational health services at Cook Children's Health Care System, is pursuing her Doctor of Public Health at UNTHSC. Each year the Business Press awards Healthcare Heroes for excellence in the medical community.

Raheela Hafeez, MD, and **Nusrath Habiba, MD**, both assistant professors of pediatrics, recently passed examinations to become certified by the [American Board of Pediatrics](#).

Andy Crim, executive director of Professional and Continuing Education, was recently appointed by Governor Rick Perry as a member of the [Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities](#). The Council is a 27-member board dedicated to ensuring that all Texas with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to be independent, productive and valued members of their communities.

UNTHSC faculty and staff members with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service at the

5 Years	10 Years	20 Years
<p>Denise B. Armstrong Catherine L. Boney Terry Burnett Amy L. Chambers Donna S. Christian Heather Ann Cline, MPA Susan Courtney Conroy, DO Lee A. Cunningham Ana Shella Dalton Min Ding Bruce D. Dubin, JD, DO Barbara T. Frankovich Suzanne D. Gonzalez, PhD Christina B. Hay Joseph Helal, MS, RPh Scott Joseph Herbst Kathleen L. Holzaepfel, LCSW-G, CMC Katy Lee Kemp, M.Ed Zeida Rojas Kon, MPH Jill E. Kurchner, MS Edward M. Langston Meagan Lindsay Tina K. Machu, PhD Larry Darnell Mackey Jr., RALAT Teresa Madera, CPMSM Michael D. McLane Everett S. Nixon, PhD Eswar Shankar, PhD Charlesetta T. Robertson Guillermo Robles, DO James T. Ross IV John Schetz, PhD Wolfram Siede, PhD Gary D. Smith, EdD Lydia R. St John Karen D. Stanley Howard L. Trice Nubia Isabel Vecino, MD, MHA, CRC Carrie Ann Yager Manongdo Liang-Jun Yan</p>	<p>David G. Aldrich Alakananda Basu, PhD Susan Bitner, RT, CDT Joan F. Carroll, PhD Esperanza P. Davis, CPC Bettina Tracey Downey Sandra Kay Frost, LVN Gloria Jean Fuller, CEH Myoung H. Kim, PhD Cathy J. Lee, RN, BSN, OCN Cynthia Lee Susan S. Libby Leslie D. McGee Linda DeeAnn McKinney Gloria Jean Minyard Amy Elaine Moss, DO Sheila K. Mote Maya Namboodiri, DO Alton D. Neyland, FACHE Donna J. Nowlin Cindy Salazar Judy E. Steudeman, RN Wendy Stoecker Jeanine M. Tankxley Kathryn F. Taylor Jerra S. Tillman Cathy J. Torres, LSW, MHSM, CMC Denise Maldonado Valtierra Stuart F. Williams Esmeralda Zepeda</p>	<p>John R. Bowling, DO Bettie L. Castlebury Claudia K. Coggin, PhD, CHES Linda F. Cunningham, MD Joel A. Daboub, MBA Patricia A. Gibson Stephen R. Grant, PhD Loma S. Hooten Cynthia Ann Jimenez-Williams, RN, BSN, CCRC Mary F. Kelly Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA Wanda Darlene Long Phyllis A. Medearis Shubhra Nandi Walter L. Nettles Deanna L. Ranker Alicia Reyes Hilda Rivera Vincent H. Robinson Lynette Starwalt Sandra G. Toombs Mary E. Walsingham</p>
	<p>15 Years Chiana K. Diggs Ladislav Dory, PhD Teresa J. Dunn Susan F. Franks, PhD Michael L. Glover Karen D. Johnson Rebel L. Jones Pamela M. McFadden Mary Helen Pena, Sr. MA John V. Planz, PhD John K. Podgore, DO, MPH Rustin E. Reeves, PhD Carolyn W. Rodgers Lisa L. Ruiz Sherry K. Tanner Randy E. Thomas</p>	<p>25 Years Rodney A. Barton, MS Patrick R. Cammarata, PhD Joelle Cumming Joanne H. Davis, RN Hope Molina Lane C. Nestman Bernard R. Rubin, DO, MPH Hector Saenz Raol Salinas James Sims, PhD Monte E. Troutman, DO</p>
		<p>30 Years Bobby R. Carter, MLS Craig S. Elam, MLS, AHIP Thomas J. Fairchild, PhD Shirley A. Green Charles D. Hooper, RPH Tim Mason, MLS Peggy M. Sims Robert J. Wordinger, PhD</p>
		<p>35 Years John E. Aschenbrenner, PhD Robert L. Kaman, JD, PhD</p>

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Name: Al Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86), FACOS, FICS, FAHA

Title: Professor and Chairman of Surgery

Department: UNTHSC TCOM Department of Surgery

How long have you worked here, and what did you do before joining UNTHSC?

I have worked full time at the UNT Health Science Center since 2003. Prior to that, I was in private practice in Fort Worth since 1996 and was an adjunct clinical faculty member at UNTHSC.

What are your job duties at UNTHSC?

I have four jobs at the Health Science Center: First, I am a teacher of medical and grad students, and chair of the [Department of Surgery](#). Second, I have a clinical surgical practice in thoracic and vascular surgery. Third, I am a researcher with Dr. Bob Mallet in Integrative Physiology. Fourth, I am active at a national level as Chairman of the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.

What are your duties as medical director for the upcoming Cowtown marathon?

I am responsible for coordinating all medical services for the marathon—we are running 12 aid stations and a medical tent. I will also handle medical queries or interviews related to medical issues or prevention of injuries.

Tell us something about your job that your fellow employees and students may not know.

I hold a visiting professorship at the [University of Strathclyde](#) in Glasgow, Scotland, (the first DO in the 225-year history of the university) in the [Bioengineering Department](#).

What was your proudest moment at the Health Science Center?

My proudest achievement was becoming the chairman of the Department of Surgery at **MY** school (I graduated from TCOM in 1986). I am the first doctor in my family, and I made a commitment back in 1982 when I was accepted to TCOM to give back to the school for the opportunity afforded me.

What do you like to do when you aren't at the Health Science Center?

In my "spare" time (which is usually at 4:30 in the morning) I am at the gym, as I am involved in all-natural drug-tested competitive bodybuilding through the International Natural Bodybuilding Association, Amateur Bodybuilding Association, International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Foundation. I currently hold first place in the Lone Star State Natural

Grand Masters Division (age 50 and over). This fall I surpassed my bench-pressing goal and benched 405 pounds.

SAVE THE DATE

February 13 – 14

UNT System Board of Regents meeting

UNT Dallas Campus

February 19

Fort Worth Chamber West Area Council Lunch

10:30 am

Atrium

February 26

Cowtown Marathon Kick-off Reception

5:30 pm

Atrium

February 27

Before, Between and Beyond Pregnancy

Understanding Preconception and Interconception Health

9 am – 2pm

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens – Oak Hall Room

February 28

Cowtown Marathon

Sundance Square, Fort Worth

March 6

Research Appreciation Day

8:30 am – Poster Presentations

Fort Worth Community Arts Center

12:15 pm – Luncheon, Keynote and Oral Presentations

Alcon Auditorium, UNTHSC Center for BioHealth

<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/RAD/>

April 2-3

North Texas Health Forum

Colonial Country Club

April 6 – 12

National Public Health Week

Multiple events throughout the week

April 7 (tentative)

President's Invitational Golf Tournament

11 am

Ridglea Country Club

<http://www.hsc.unt.edu/invitational/>

April 24

9th Annual TCOM Alumni Association Specialty Round Table

5 pm

Atrium

SPH Student Awards Banquet

6 pm

Hilton, Fort Worth

May 1 – 2

PA 10-Year Reunion

UNTHSC

May 16

Commencement

2 pm

Fort Worth Convention Center

Arena and Ballroom

Watch the Daily News and Campus Connection for more information on these events and more.

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 UNTHSC Family communications by sending story ideas, news, suggestions and questions to [.news@hsc.unt.edu](mailto: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