

## ***Campus Connection*** Friday, March 20, 2009

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

#### **33 UNT Health physicians are 'Top Docs'**

Thirty-three UNT Health physicians were named Top Docs by [Worth, Texas magazine](#) in its April 2009 edition, on newsstands now. To create the list, the magazine asked nearly 3,000 area members of the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and the Tarrant County Medical Society to name the best doctors in Fort Worth.

Here are the UNT Health physicians that made the list:

Cardio/Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery <b>Albert Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86)</b>	Hematology <b>Kathleen Crowley, MD</b> <b>H. Lance Mandell, MD *</b>	Orthopedic Surgery <b>Russ Wagner, MD</b>
Cardiology <b>Jennifer Naiser, DO (TCOM '00)</b> <b>Martin Weiss, DO</b>	Infectious Diseases <b>Barbara Atkinson, DO</b>	Palliative Care <b>Alvin Mathe, DO (TCOM '89)</b>
Gastroenterology <b>Monte Troutman, DO</b>	Internal Medicine <b>Giti Azmabalami, DO (TCOM '03)</b>	Podiatry <b>Brian Carpenter, DPM</b> <b>Alan Garrett, DPM</b> <b>Travis Motley, DPM</b>
Geriatrics <b>Janice Knebl, DO</b> <b>Amy Moss, DO (TCOM '95)</b>	Neurology <b>William McIntosh, DO</b>	Psychiatry <b>Marija Djokovic, MD</b> <b>Elma Granado, MD</b> <b>Prema Manjunath, MD</b> <b>Carol Nati, MD</b> <b>Alan Podawiltz, DO</b> <b>Scott Winter, MD</b>
Gynecological Oncology <b>Ralph Anderson, MD</b>	Oncology <b>William Jordan, DO *</b> <b>Shadan Mansoor, MD *</b> <b>Ray Page, DO, PhD * (TCOM '91)</b> <b>Vinaya Potluri, MD *</b> <b>Michael Ross, MD *</b> <b>Henry Xiong, MD, PhD *</b> <b>Robyn Young, MD *</b>	
Gynecology/Obstetrics <b>Khoi Chu, MD</b> <b>Lynn Speaks, DO (TCOM '98)</b>		Rheumatology <b>Bernard Rubin, DO</b>

*\*Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders*

For more information about UNT Health, the physicians practice of UNT Health Science Center, visit the [Health Web site](#).

#### **Regents to hold public meeting on MD school study**

The UNT System Board of Regents is holding a special meeting on March 26, from 2 to 4 pm in Luibel Hall, to hear invited presentations and public comment on the study of adding a parallel MD degree at UNTHSC. The meeting is open to Health Science Center faculty, staff and students as well as the public. If you are interested in speaking during the public comment portion of the meeting, you must register in

advance according to rules set out by the Regents. Click here for the meeting's agenda and instructions for participating in the meeting.

### **SPH hosts North Texas Health Forum on childhood asthma**

The School of Public Health (SPH) will host its second annual North Texas Health Forum on April 2 and 3 with sessions at the Colonial Country Club and the Health Science Center. This year's forum will focus on prevention and control of asthma in children and features a keynote address by [Clark, PhD](#), the Myron E. Wegman Distinguished University Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan. A student session with Dr. Clark, a presentation by Richard Kurz, PhD, dean of the SPH, and a panel discussion are also on the agenda. The forum is free and open to the public and offers continuing medical education credits to health and social services professionals. For the full schedule of events and to register, visit the [Web site](#). The forum kicks off SPH's National Public Health Week events.

### **SPH hosts community health fair for National Public Health Week**

On April 7, the School of Public Health will also host a health fair from 4 to 6 pm at Alumni Plaza. The fair will include healthy cooking demonstrations, health screenings, information booths and more. [Legends Radio](#), 92.1 FM, will do live call-ins from Alumni Plaza during the fair. The event is free and open to the public and is part of [Public Health Week](#), which runs April 6-12. This year's National Public Health Week theme is *Building the Foundation for a Healthy America*, and it kicks off the American Public Health Association's annual awareness campaign. Learn more about National Public Health Week at [Web site](#). And watch Daily News and Campus Connection for more on SPH's health fair.

### **Budowle joins DNA lab team**

Bruce Budowle, PhD, has been named executive director of the UNT Center for Human Identification. He brings to the Center renowned expertise in the areas of counterterrorism—primarily in identification of victims of mass disasters—and microbial forensics. Prior to joining the Health Science Center he was senior scientist for the FBI in Washington, D.C. Dr. Budowle was a principal advisor in efforts to identify the victims from the World Trade Center attack in 2001 and helped establish a mitochondrial DNA sequencing program to enable high-throughput sequencing of remains. Dr. Budowle has a PhD in genetics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., and a bachelor's degree in biology from King College in Bristol, Tenn.

### **Carlson named executive administrative director for PCC**

Robert M. Carlson joined UNT Health as administrative executive director at the Patient Care Center (PCC) on March 2. Carlson will oversee all PCC clinic operations and medical staff coordination. Carlson, who most recently served as executive director of the Tulane Clinic Operations in New Orleans, has more than 30 years of healthcare management and operations experience. He holds a Master of Education with Emphasis in Public Health from the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio.

## **NEW BRIEFS**

### **SPH hosts first Research Collaborative event**

On Jan. 30, healthcare organizations from across the Metroplex met on campus for the School of Public Health's (SPH) first regional Research Collaborative. Participants discussed their current research interests and activities, and explored possible research collaborations.

For continuing updates on the Research Collaborative and a list of participating organizations, click on the [Research](#) link on the [Web page](#).

### **Research Office plans Chalk and Talk on stimulus package**

The Office of Research will host a Chalk and Talk seminar and social on the newly enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on Wednesday, March 25, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in EAD 706. The ARRA, also known as the stimulus package, includes \$10.4 billion in healthcare funds to be used through September 2010. Please RSVP to [Contreras](#). For more information on Chalk and Talk and other events, visit the [Office Web page](#).

### **TCOM seeks input on dean search**

The TCOM Dean Search Committee is accepting nominations for the position from UNTHSC faculty, staff, and students. Please send your nominations with your nominee's contact information to [@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:@hsc.unt.edu). If you have questions regarding the search, please contact committee co-chairs [. Scott Stoll](#) or [. Richard Kurz](#).

### **Sponsorship opportunities still available for President's Invitational**

The annual President's Invitational Tournament is April 7 at Ridglea Country Club. The golf tournament, organized by the Office of Institutional Advancement, supports the UNTHSC Foundation and raises critical funds to expand educational support at the Health Science Center. This year's tournament is the first outside charity event to be played at [Championship Course](#) (South course).

For more information or to help the tournament, visit the [Invitational Tournament Web page](#), or contact [Smith](#) or [Pendell](#) in Institutional Advancement.

### **Rep. Michael Burgess to speak at commencement**

Commencement exercises for all UNT Health Science Center schools are scheduled for May 16 at 3 pm at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, MD, of Lewisville, will give the commencement address. Before being elected to Congress in 2002, Rep. Burgess worked as a physician

in Denton County for 21 years and served as chief of staff and chief of obstetrics at the Lewisville Medical Center. Rep. Burgess represents the 26th Congressional District of Texas, which includes most of Denton County and parts of Tarrant, Cooke and Dallas counties.

For more commencement details, visit the [of the Registrar Web page](#).

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Brenner announces new findings**

The [Morning News](#) ran a story in its March 13 edition about new findings by Harvey Brenner, PhD, professor of social and behavioral sciences, on the effects of the nation's economy on mortality rates. These new findings were announced at the recent Health Industry Council meeting. A press release sent out by the Health Science Center's media team appeared in 181 additional news outlets, including [Money News](#), [.com](#), [Money](#) and [! Politics](#). The March 8 edition of the [News](#) listed the Health Science Center's Center for Community Health as a contributor to a program designed to arrange eye exams and free glasses to low income children in Dallas.

### **Business Press spotlights Match Day**

March 16's [Worth Business Press](#) included a story about Match Day, featuring Mike Budd, PhD, director of Clinical Education, Student Doctor Mike Sprys, and Scott Smith, DO, (TCOM '08). The same edition included [Scott Ransom's latest column](#), an [about the ongoing study of possibly starting an MD school](#) here that featured comments by Don Peska, DO, professor and associate dean for Educational Programs and chair of the MD Study Group Staff, and [health brief about the upcoming North Texas Health Forum](#), set for April 2-3. The [week's edition](#) of the *Business Press* included a health care brief about Dr. Brenner's presentation at the Health Industry Council.

### **Study about possible MD school**

Friday's [Telegram](#) included a letter to the editor from Joane Goforth Baumer, MD, chair, Family Practice Residency Programs, and Steve Simmons, DO, Pain Medicine Program director, JPS Health Network, expressing disappointment in the AOA's decision to withhold Osteopathic Research Center funding. The next day's edition included an article about the TCOM Alumni Association's support of actions by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association, as voiced by David Garza, DO (TCOM '89). (A link to this article is not available.) The *Star Telegram's* online version of [!](#) added a photo of Albert Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86), professor and chair of surgery, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, and Kathleen Forbes, MD, executive vice president of Clinical Affairs and Business Development and president of UNT Health, at the Cowtown Kickoff hosted by the Health Science Center.

### **Medicaid dollars stir debate**

March 13's [Business Journal](#) featured the School of Public Health's Kristine Lykens, PhD, assistant professor of Health Management and Policy, in an article about the state's debate over whether Medicaid funds given to Texas will be used to cover the state's uninsured and under insured, or if the money will be used for more urgent needs.

## ***NEED TO KNOW***

### **TRS benefits presentation**

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) will hold a benefits presentation meeting on Thursday, March 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Fort Worth ISD Board Room located at 2903 Shotts St. The presentation will focus mainly on retirement benefits. Plenty of spaces are left, so register at the [Web site](#).

For further details, please contact the Human Resource Services or the TRS of Texas at 800-223-8778.

### **Benefits summer enrollment starts in July**

The Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) summer enrollment period for Plan Year 2010 will be July 6 through July 31, 2009. During this period, you can enroll in and/or change your benefits coverage. However, just as in past years, no action is required on your part if you are not changing your benefits. Your existing benefits, including TexFlex, will roll over to the new plan year if you do not make any changes.

UNT Health Science Center will again host the annual Summer Enrollment Fair in Fort Worth on July 9. More details regarding summer enrollment will be sent to you via e-mail, Campus Connection and from ERS in the coming weeks.

### **Get ePro training**

Purchasing is conducting ePro Helpdesk Labs through next week to give ePro coordinators and approvers an opportunity to receive hands-on assistance with entering and approving requisitions in the upgraded system – No reservation is needed! [here](#) for dates, times, and locations of the remaining lab sessions.

On the [Web page](#) you can also find updated ePro online tools including: Quick Steps for Entering and Approving Requisitions, Frequently Used Category Codes, General Tips for ePro, and more.

## ***KUDOS***

This year UNTHSC students, residents and postdoctoral fellows from all schools presented 181 oral and poster research projects at Research Appreciation Day. [here](#) for a full list of RAD winners.

Several **UNTHSC faculty and staff** were honored for their efforts during last month's Cowtown Marathon at a reception on March 11.

UNTHSC faculty and staff honored:

**Robert Kaman, JD, PhD**, professor, associate dean and director of outreach for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – Cowtown board member and chair of solutions area

**Jean Tips**, vice president of Marketing and Communications – Cowtown board member

**Donna Spencer**, clinical medicine coordinator for Family Medicine—assistant to Cowtown medical director

**Shirley Green**, library associate – Cowtown chair of awards

**Angelina Shelby**, Human Resource Services benefits representative – Cowtown co-chair of course monitors and timers

**Linda Shook**, assistant to the director of Biomedical Communications – Cowtown co-chair of T-shirts

**Ruth Washington**, senior administrative assistant in Human Resource Services – Cowtown co-chair of T-shirts

Special Awards:

**Nicki McGee, MPH**, health promotions manager, received the Mary Lynne Caruso Award for coordinating and running packet pickup at the Health and Fitness Expo.

**Albert Yurvati, DO (TCOM '86)**, professor and chair of Surgery, received the Beverly Weiss Award for serving as this year's medical director.

**Marco Mendoza**, assistant director of employee relations, received the Truman Award for coordinating the course monitors and timers for all six events.

**Carl E. Everett, DO**, UNTHSC founder, and **Clay W. Gilbert, DO**, retired physician and longtime UNTHSC supporter, were recently honored for their philanthropic support of the Health Science Center. Both received the Doctor of Philanthropy award, the Health Science Center's highest level of philanthropic support.

**Sejong Bae, PhD, MS**, associate professor of Biostatistics, has been elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), a scientific association made up of internationally recognized leaders in the field of statistics. Dr. Bae was selected for his leadership excellence in the development of statistical methods and their applications.

## ***EMPLOYEE PROFILE***

Meharvan "Sonny" Singh, PhD

Associate Professor

Pharmacology and Neuroscience

### **How long have you worked at UNTHSC?**

I have been at UNTHSC for about 7 ½ years.

### **What does your position at UNTHSC entail?**

In my current position here at UNTHSC, I conduct and provide oversight to a research program dedicated to increasing our understanding of how hormones influence the brain, particularly within the context of neuroprotection, aging and Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, I provide didactic instruction to both professional (i.e., medical students and PA students) as well as graduate students (MS and PhD students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Science). I am also heavily invested in training/mentoring graduate students in biomedical research.

I am also the graduate advisor/coordinator for the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, director for translational research and education for the Institute on Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research (IAADR), and director of research for the Center FOR HER, and in addition, have the privilege of serving on various other institutional committees.

Like my fellow colleagues here at UNTHSC, I also represent our institution through service on external committees and organizations. These include serving on the Board of Directors for the North Central Texas Alzheimer's Association and serving as a peer reviewer for various scientific journals, and for both federal and non-federal granting agencies (such as the NIH and the Alzheimer's Association).

**Is there anything about your department that your fellow faculty, staff and students may not know?**

Our department has the distinction of having three funded NIH Program Project Grants. Very few programs across the country can say the same.

**The Health Science Center's values are compassion, integrity, excellence, pride, innovation and teamwork. Can you give an example of how your department or your coworkers demonstrate one of these values?**

Our department is very collaborative. In fact, it is one of the major factors that drew me to UNTHSC. The unselfish teamwork that our extraordinarily talented faculty exhibits on a day-to-day basis is precisely what underlies much of our program's success. I have personally benefited from having such talented faculty around me, evidenced by our collaborative publications and funded grants.

**What's the best thing about working at the Health Science Center?**

For me, the best thing about working at UNTHSC is the faculty here that I have the privilege of calling my colleagues. We have faculty that are truly leaders in their field and who have genuine interests in collaboration. I thoroughly enjoy having the ability to walk into my colleague's office to "bounce" an idea off of them to gauge its merit. It is such interactions that make the hard work we put in worthwhile.

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

I love the game of golf. It is such an important part of my life that I managed to find a way to partner my love for golf with UNTHSC. I'm proud to say that a golf tournament that my wife and I initiated, "The Sonny Singh Open," intended originally to get friends together for some fun/frustration out on the course, is in its sixth year. Through this event, we are pleased to be able to support the Rachel Dauphin Memorial Scholarship fund at UNTHSC.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

Professionally, I am proud to be associated with UNTHSC and look forward to contributing towards its future successes. Personally, I am overjoyed to share with you that as of five weeks ago, my wife and I became the proud parents of our first child, Jaania K. Singh.

***SAVE THE DATE***

**April 2-3**

**North Texas Health Forum**

Colonial Country Club

**April 6 – 12**

**National Public Health Week**

Multiple events throughout the week

**April 7**

**President's Invitational Golf Tournament**

11 am

Ridglea Country Club

[.hsc.unt.edu/invitational](http://hsc.unt.edu/invitational)

**SPH Health Fair**

4 - 6 pm

Alumni Plaza

**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**

3 pm

Fort Worth Convention Center

Arena and Ballroom

**May 28 – 29**

**Texas Conference on Health Disparities ( [page](#) )**

*Targeting Health Disparities Through Prevention*

Luibel Hall

[.registerwithunt.com](http://registerwithunt.com)

*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 [@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:@hsc.unt.edu).

**Carl Bluemel**

Electronic Media Manager

[@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:@hsc.unt.edu)

817-735-2115

**Matt Havlik**

Communications Coordinator II

[@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:@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