

## **DEAN'S CORNER**

January 2006

Dear Texas Tech Family:

As we begin a busy new year, I take the opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy new year. I encourage you to make and keep your resolutions, to renew the vigor of your commitment to both work and family.

### **Progress on Building the Four Year Medical School**

During the month of December, we had the pleasure of breaking ground on our second building for our "western campus." We were joined by over 200 well-wishers who took pride in participating in our community-wide event. It is heartwarming to see how many well-wishers we have in our community and how involved our El Paso family has become with their "medical school". I feel confident in saying that the entire community is looking forward to our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the end of January.

### **Departmental Reviews**

A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken by the committees appointed to undertake the first set of departmental reviews. Pathology, OB, and Pediatrics have come under close scrutiny as we progress onto the next stage of the departmental reviews. Each of the departments has completed their self study and the committees are moving forward to undertake the internal evaluation for each of the departments. Invitations have gone out to external consultants to participate in the external review stage of the departmental evaluations during the upcoming months. Finally, the next set of departments to be evaluated has been chosen and has begun the process of beginning their self studies. The departments are Radiology, Emergency Medicine, and Family Medicine/Community Service.

### **Community Events**

The Christmas season gave us the perfect opportunity to give back to our community. The department of Pediatrics sponsored their annual "party" for kids with special needs. Over 600 people attended the party at the Airport Hilton where a special appearance by Santa Claus was the highlight of the afternoon. Several ancillary departments such as the Faculty Spouses Organization, the Dean's support staff, as well as the Children's Miracle Network staffed booths designed to entertain and please these children with special healthcare and developmental needs. Several clinical departments hosted holiday events for their faculty, staff and/or patients. The sense of camaraderie build by these events is tremendous and serves to further our unity and sense of purpose. I'd like to thank each of the departments and chairs for sponsoring these events.

### **The El Paso Mayor's Lyceum**

Mayor John Cook has established a citizen advisory group he has labeled as the "El Paso Lyceum." This group arose from the Economic Summit the mayor called approximately 90 days after taking office. The Lyceum consists of several "cabinets" dealing with

topics of possible future economic development within the city of El Paso. I have been asked to chair the cabinet dealing with medical affairs. Of particular interest to the mayor is the development of our four year medical school, Thomason's new campus, and possible economic initiatives within our area. We are visiting the possibility of a joint venture with the city in establishing a medical technology park surrounding our campus, as well as advising the Mayor and City Council on several medical issues. The medical cabinet has already passed a resolution supporting Thomason Hospital's bond issue as well as recommending that the City Council establish a task force with the City Planning and Development Office to investigate the development of a "Medical Center of the Americas Research Technology Park" in our area. I'll continue to update our Texas Tech-El Paso family on these events.

### **Upcoming Events**

We look forward to January, to our Annual Faculty Recognition Banquet, as well as our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our Medical Science Building. I truly believe this will be a "happy" new year as we continue to move forward in educating El Paso's future physicians. Please feel free to contact me at [JManuel.delarosa@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:JManuel.delarosa@ttuhsc.edu)

*Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D.*

Regional Dean  
TTUHSC -El Paso  
(915) 545-6510  
(915) 545-6521