

DEAN'S CORNER
JUNE 2006

Greetings to the Texas Tech Family,

The weeks behind us and those coming up this next month are the traditional times of transition in academic medicine. Medical students have graduated to become resident physicians, and graduating residents are moving on to fellowship training or practice. It is a time for new faculty members to be joining us as well.

Medical School Graduation

Special thanks are due those faculty members who made special efforts to attend the commencement exercises in Lubbock on Saturday, May 21, 2006. I am certain that our 51 graduating students and their families appreciated the presence of them. The academic procession with the faculty in their diverse regalia is an inspiring spectacle for graduates and family alike.

Residency Training Commencement

This year's commencement exercise for graduating residents will be held at the Ysleta Cultural Arts Center at 6:30 PM on Friday, June 16, 2006. This year there will be 57 individuals completing their residency training in 9 different programs. Of the graduates, 12 will be going on to additional training in subspecialty area, 35 will be pursuing primary care practices, 23 will be in Texas, 4 in New Mexico, and 10 of our graduates will be staying in El Paso.

New Medical Students

This year's group of 64 third year medical students will be appearing on campus this month. This year, the students will begin the revised curriculum in which each clinical rotation will be eight weeks long. They will begin with an extended orientation before beginning their clinical clerkships. Over the years, the orientation has included information about performance expectations, attendance, student aid and counseling, special courses, HIPAA certification and other topics. However, if you or your department feel there is information you would like to include in this orientation, be sure to contact the Office of Medical Education to get on the schedule.

New Resident Physicians

In addition to new medical students, we will soon be joined by a new group of 65 resident physicians. These physicians will also be deeply involved in orientation to the campus for several days before they begin their rotations on the various clinical services. We welcome all of these people and look forward to working with them over the next several years.

Summer Enrichment Program

A special thanks to the faculty members who are participating as mentors in a new program for undergraduate students interested in medicine. The Hispanic Center of Excellence is sponsoring eleven students from UTEP, NMSU, Baylor, and UT Permian

Basin who are engaged in a four-week intensive study and mentoring experience on the El Paso campus. Dr. Z. Tres Camacho is leading the study groups which is intended to sharpen skills in math, science, and prepare them to take the MCAT. The students are observing on the wards and in the clinics at Thomason and Texas Tech. Chris Vejl (Dr. Hector Pacheco's mentee) comments, "This experience is awesome; just what I need to help me make the important decisions that lie ahead as I pursue a medical degree!"

Participation in Town Hall Meetings

The search for a Founding Dean is nearing completion. The search committee, chaired by Dr. Zenaido Camacho, has spent many hours reviewing the credentials of many potential candidates from all over the country. The committee has also sponsored on-site visits of several candidates to narrow the field to three finalists. Over the last several weeks, these finalists have made a second visit to our campus and presented their visions for our new medical school in three noon-time Town Hall Meetings. Many of the faculty and staff have participated in these meetings, and the auditorium has been filled at each visit. My personal thanks to all of you who have participated in these events, and especially to all of you who asked questions.

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