

Dear Texas Tech Family,

Once again, this has been a busy month, and there have been many developments in our ongoing effort to establish our own four-year medical school. There continues to be uncertainty about legislative funding, and we may not know more for several months. However, that uncertainty has strengthened my belief that we must work even harder now to prepare for the transition to the inevitable reality of the new school. I have developed a strategy to get to our goal whether or not funding is delayed. I call this plan, **“Strengthening the Base”** and I first presented it at the Regional Dean’s Update Session on Friday, October 29, 2005.

Recruitment to Key Administration Positions

The elements of **“Strengthening the Base”** include the expansion of the administration to deal with increased educational needs, provide additional support for research, develop expanded capabilities for new technology in medical education, and new emphasis on the four components of medical education: knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs.

I propose to add several new Assistant Deans. Dr. Schydlower has been busy with both students and residents, and the activities have expanded so much that it will be useful to separate student affairs and graduate medical education. Dr. Schydlower will continue to work with students as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and we will be recruiting for a new **Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education** who will assist individual departments in their re-accreditation efforts, spearhead an effort to establish at least five clinical fellowship programs within the next few years, and coordinate our expansion of residency programs into the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

We will soon be recruiting for a new **Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs** who will work closely with the administration of R.E. Thomason Hospital to establish new service lines including a comprehensive cardiovascular program. This individual will also take on responsibility to improve the efficiency and quality of our own clinic services through a reactivated, re-energized Clinic Operations Committee. The Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs will also take the lead on expanding our clinical services into other hospitals within the community.

Among these community hospitals, William Beaumont Army Medical Center has always been one of our strongest and most cooperative allies. With the future military expansion in El Paso, that hospital will become even stronger and have new opportunities for us. A new **Assistant Dean for Military and Veterans Affairs** will lead our efforts to utilize WBAMC and the VA Nursing Home as clinical training sites for some of our resident training programs, enhance our clinical clerkships, provide WBAMC with civilian resident trainees, and expand our service offerings to the troops at Fort Bliss.

Development of Clinical Research

We plan to expand and improve our research program. The new research building will be a substantial component of that expanded program, but we also will increase our efforts to recruit clinical scientists to our clinical departments. In order to do that, we will need to provide sufficient startup funds to provide the incentive that is needed to recruit the

strongest candidates. Using new resources available to me, I plan to provide some of the financial support for these startup efforts.

Expansion of Clinical Simulation Facilities

Sophisticated computer-based clinical simulation models have become an important part of clinical education for both medical students and residents. Models have supplanted the use of animals in learning experiences such as intubation and minor surgery. They have provided clinical training before the student or resident encounters a live patient. Dr. Ho has already begun to accumulate the instrumentation needed for medical student training in our new medical school. Plans for the Medical Education Building include space for two simulation suites in the Anatomy area. A laboratory for minimally invasive procedures has also been opened yet it is clear that we will also have expanding needs for the training of residents in emergency medicine, anesthesiology, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery, gastroenterology, and other procedure-intensive specialties. In the next few months we will be looking at strategies to integrate and expand these various programs. One of our long-term goals should be to establish educational programs that use current technologies with sound pedagogical principles.

A Growing West Campus

Over the last few years we have watched the transformation of our west campus from a bare field into a construction site featuring the first building in our new medical center, the Medical Science Building I. Now, plans are complete for the Medical Education Building, and groundbreaking is set. There will be two dates when our whole campus can celebrate our progress. Ground breaking for the Medical Education Building is scheduled for December 1, 2005; the Grand Opening for the Medical Science Building I will occur in mid-January, 2006. Both of these are truly landmark events. Everyone on the campus should look forward to them.

I am encouraged by the progress we have made over the last few years to realize our collective dream of a new medical school for El Paso. Many things have been put in place that have moved that dream ahead, and in spite of hesitations along the way, our progress has always been forward. I hope that you will work with me on “**Strengthening the Base**” in order to see our dream fulfilled.

Jose Manuel de la Rosa, M.D.

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