



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

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Three More Fellowships Approved for Paul L. Foster SOM
Additional physician training will benefit community

Three more fellowships were approved for the TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine by Residency Review Committees of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The ACGME is a private, nonprofit council that evaluates and accredits medical residency programs and fellowships in the United States. Fellowship training is subspecialty training beyond the three-to-five year residency training physicians complete upon graduation from medical school.

Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and associate professor, Armando Meza, M.D., said the institution was moving forward on its expansion plans to attain a nationally recognized educational level. "This is the culmination of a concerted effort to achieve this ambitious goal," he said.

The ACGME review committees approved and accredited a two-year fellowship program in rheumatology, and a three-year fellowship in cardiovascular disease. Both fellowships are in the Department of Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. A one-year sports medicine fellowship was also approved in the medical school's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Mark Francis, M.D., professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, specialist in rheumatology and director of the fellowship program said one of the prime reasons he came to Texas Tech about a year ago was the opportunity to start a fellowship program.

"There is a significant shortage of rheumatologists in El Paso and surrounding communities. There are, for instance, as many rheumatologists in El Paso as in my prior community of approximately 100,000 residents. Indeed, a prime mission of the fellowship program is to encourage our fellowship graduates to stay in El Paso and the surrounding region to improve the health of our community," said Dr. Francis.

Debabrata Mukherjee, M.D., professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and chief of cardiovascular medicine said, "This is a very significant development for our region and institution. My hope is that this will expand our qualified cardiovascular workforce, and significantly further improve quality and access to cardiovascular care in the border region," he said.

Arthur Islas, M.D., associate professor of family medicine, and director of the division of sports medicine said, "By having a primary care sports medicine fellowship here in El Paso, we will be able to produce physicians who are well trained in sports injuries and help to create a safer and more productive athletic environment for the city of El Paso," he said.

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