

In

Inside Notes



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

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There was a great turnout to the first *Walkin' the Talk* Lecture Series, featuring *Arthur Islas MD, MPH, CAQ*, director, Sports Medicine Division, Department of Family & Community Medicine. Forty faculty, staff and students attended his talk on getting motivated to exercise and staying on track. Dr. Islas recommended finding an activity that they enjoy and to start slowly.

The next lecture is scheduled for Thursday, February 3 from noon to 1 p.m., in the Medical Education Building (MEB), Martha Cuellar-Acuna Classroom 1150. Details to follow. Everyone is invited to brown-bag-it on that day.



Have a question for the Dean?

Email him at askthedean@ttuhsc.edu.

From the Desk of the Founding Dean

New Year, New Look - With the new year we brought in a new look for our website and annual report. Check out the TTUHSC El Paso website as well as the TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine website. Our annual report is online this year which makes it much easier to share with not only staff, faculty, residents and students, but with our colleagues at other institutions as well as the community. It was sent by email this week. You will also notice several Texas Tech billboards going up around town promoting education, research and patient care.

Service Learning Symposium - Our first annual Service Learning Symposium will be held Tuesday, January 18 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the MEB. The goal of this symposium is to celebrate all of our TTUHSC El Paso students' service learning activities and innovations undertaken in the last year, and to foster student-led community service projects including those of multi-professional collaboration. They will do this through presentations of their ongoing projects. Involvement of our students in community service projects is not only a lesson in opportunity for them in the sense that they enhance their altruism but it's also an opportunity for them to give back to our patient population. We're excited by the variety and quality of the projects. I hope you'll stop by to see the student presentations.

Countdown to LCME - Our site visit is five weeks away! Over the next three weeks we will be holding meetings of each of the groups in order to review the information we have presented to our site visitors. I would encourage all faculty members to "do their homework" in anticipation of these preparatory meetings. While I am fully confident we will receive provisional accreditation, we want to receive the highest commendations and strive for the fewest citations possible. *Dr. David Steele* will be contacting people to coordinate the multiple groups involved in our mock and actual site visit.

School of Nursing Dean Commentary Published in IJAHSP

Josefina Lujan, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the TTUHSC School of Nursing, recently had a commentary accepted for publication in the Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice. Her commentary, titled "Cross-Professional Partnering to Improve Outcomes," is available at <http://ijahsp.nova.edu>.

Association for Women in Science Events

The El Paso/Las Cruces chapter of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) has two events scheduled for January on the TTUHSC Paul L. Foster School of Medicine campus. *Kimberly C. Shaw, MIM, MAAC, CIA, EA*, will present her talk "Smart Tax Filing

Medical Education Seminar Series

Under the Department of Medical Education Scholarship and Research Seminar Series, *Elmus Beale, Ph.D.*, will present “Integrating the Pre-Clinical Curriculum in the Anatomy Lab: Tankside Grand Rounds and Other Strategies,” on Tuesday, January 11, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the L. Frederick and Ginger Francis Lecture Hall, Room 1120, Medical Education Building, Paul L. Foster SOM. The event is open to faculty, residents and students.

Solutions for Smart Women” Monday, January 10 at 4:30 p.m., in the Mounsey Family Foundation Classroom, Room 1140, of the Medical Education Building.

On Wednesday, January 12, at 5 p.m., also in Room 1140, the AWIS-El Paso Mentorship Committee will celebrate the conclusion of its first mentoring cycle. AWIS members, friends, mentors, mentees and family members are welcome. Representatives of the Upper Rio Grande Workforce Solutions will be present to offer scholarships for individuals interested in pursuing a college degree in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. The scholarship award is \$1200, and applications are due January 31. TTUHSC students, faculty and staff are invited to the events. For more information on these events, contact *Michelle Del Rio*, newly elected chapter vice president at michelle61188@msn.com.

SAVE THE DATES!

Continuing Professional Education Events

January 11 – Connie Crawford, J.D. – Assistant County Attorney, El Paso County Hospital District Legal Unit, University Medical Center – “Informed Consent – A Process, Not Piece of Paper” – Texas Tech Clinic Building, A3500, noon – CME Event with Ethics – Lunch will be provided.

January 12 – Armando Meza, M.D. – Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, TTUHSC, Paul L. Foster SOM – “Improving Health Care Communication” – HSC Building, Misenhimer Auditorium A, 7:30 am – CME event.

January 19 – Mark Francis, M.D. - Professor, Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster SOM – “Update on Academic Internal Medicine” – HSC Building, Misenhimer Auditorium A, 7:30 am – CME event.

January 26 – Alberto Maud, M.D. – Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Paul L. Foster SOM – “Management of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage” – HSC Building, Misenhimer Auditorium A, 7:30 am – CME event

Above events open to all faculty, residents and students.

A Legacy Lives on Thanks to TTUHSC Family Children of Farm Workers Benefits

Children of local area farm workers as well as children from low income and no income families in Ciudad Juarez will benefit from donations of clothes and toys collected by Texas Tech HSC El Paso employees through an idea started a decade ago. Back in 2000, *Rebecca Pierce*, a research assistant with a TTUHSC project identifying issues and illnesses in migrant farm workers, and her program assistant *Lorena Medrano*, began an unofficial Christmas collection of items for farm workers and their families. The donations were collected for “El Centro de los Trabajadores Agricolas Fronterizos,” a farm worker haven in downtown El Paso. Several boxes of items containing gently used coats, blankets, toys and other personal care amenities were collected and were on their way to the center before word spread through the campus of the collection. It soon became apparent to Pierce and Medrano that one pickup truck was not going to be enough to transport everything collected. Several more pickup trucks of donations arrived at the center the week of Christmas.

Today, Medrano, a coordinator in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Office of the Associate Dean for Research, continues the low-key yearly tradition for two reasons. One, employees start asking her before December where to drop off donations and two, Pierce, the woman who began the tradition, died in a car accident in 2004. Pierce was not employed at Texas Tech at the time of her death, but her legacy of collecting donations and toys for the children and families she came to know, continues. The number of personnel at the Texas Tech El Paso campus has doubled since 2004, and these new staff, faculty and students have all embraced the spirit of giving. Medrano heads the drive every year because the farm workers look forward to the donations of warm clothes and blankets amid the colorful gift wrappings of toys for their children.

“I am very grateful to the Texas Tech employees who through the years have continued their support of donating to these families and children. We have really generous, good-hearted employees. I especially want to thank *Carol McMahon* and





Dr. Charles Miller for supporting the donation drive,” said Medrano.

“This past weekend I heard a few wishes of some of the children in Ciudad Juarez. They were asking for dolls and remote controlled cars. However, any toy or clothing item that is donated, I will find a child for it,” she said.

“Lorena has been doing this for ten years, and now employees start calling her right after Thanksgiving to ask when she will be accepting donations,” said Carol McMahon, managing director for research. “Despite the bad economy, employees in departments around the campus have been incredibly generous and anxious to help children who will not otherwise have a Christmas. Essentially, Lorena IS Santa Claus to these children!”

Medrano will continue to distribute donations and gifts until January 8 because children in Mexico, and in many Latin American countries, are still receiving gifts for “Dia de los Reyes” or Three Kings Day, celebrated January 6.

Vehicles Will Need Yearly Parking Permits on Campus Starting in September

Beginning in September, parking permits for the TTU/UMC campus will have expiration dates, and permits will need to be renewed yearly according to David Porras, TTUHSC El Paso Director of Administrative Services. Anyone who does not re-register and continues to display an expired permit will be issued a citation. Not re-registering after the citation will result in campus parking privileges being revoked. Parking on the campus without a parking permit will also be cause for a citation. After three citations, a county citation may be issued which carries a \$100 fine. If this fine is not paid; an arrest warrant will be issued by the El Paso Sheriff’s department.

Also, employees who have received a final notice on outstanding citations and have not paid will have their parking permits removed and parking privileges revoked by the TTUHSC Office of Traffic and Parking.

For more information on permits, citations, or parking, call 545-6540.

Bring Your Resolution to the El Paso Marathon’s Resolution “Gathering”

There are many resources available in the community to help people become healthier, better and more fit in the new year. The El Paso Marathon Foundation is one of them. To get people started on that path, the foundation will be hosting an insightful “gathering” Thursday, January 13, at Geske’s Fire Grill, 1506 Lee Trevino, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. designed for the potential 5K and half marathoners.

Valuable information from nutrition and training experts such as Tony Islas, M.D., M.P.H., CAQ, director of Sports Medicine Division, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, will have even the most stubborn non-runner out and about.

Dr. Islas said the marathon is a phenomenal event for El Paso and is really a great race to run. “This is the second year that we have sponsored the medical tent, which is a lot of fun,” said Dr. Islas. “I encourage everyone in the TTUHSC family to get on board and participate in the 5K walk/run or the marathon. We need to show that we’re ‘Walkin’ the Talk’ and support these types of events.”

Whether you’re a curious non-runner, assembling a team or plan on meeting a personal goal by participating in the marathon, the New Year’s Resolution “gathering” is a great way to get inspired and get training. Meet like-minded individuals, get training tips, and have a great time. The El Paso Marathon takes place Sunday, March 6. For more information on the marathon, please visit www.elpasomarathon.org.

Race for the Cure

Join in the fight against breast cancer by running in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, February 20, at 8:30 a.m. Cohen Stadium, 9700 Gateway North Boulevard. The Komen Race for the Cure® Series, the largest series of 5K runs/fitness walks in the world, raises significant funds and awareness for the fight against breast cancer, celebrates breast cancer survivorship and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease. Since its inception in 1983, the Komen Race for the Cure series has grown from one local race with 800 participants to a global series of more than 120 races.

The Komen Race for the Cure is a unique event, designed and implemented to promote positive awareness, education and early detection of breast cancer. All funds from the Komen Race for the Cure go to research, education, screening and treatment programs. To find out more and register, go to www.komenelpaso.org/komen-race-for-the-cure.