I. CALL TO ORDER

Daniel Bustamante, M.D., President of the Faculty Council, called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M., and welcomed attendees. All faculty attended this meeting virtually via WebEx due to TTUHSC El Paso’s Phase IV Closed Campus status during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Having met quorum, the Faculty Council members unanimously approved the April 20, 2020 meeting minutes.
III. DEAN’S REPORT

Dr. Lange reported the following:

- There are currently no active cases of COVID-19 at TTUHSC El Paso. Over the past 6 – 8 weeks, a total of five individuals affiliated with the institution have tested positive for COVID-19.

- Four task forces were formed to develop a plan to return faculty, students, and staff to the campuses in a measured and safe manner. A plan to move the institution back from Phase IV: Closed Campuses to Phases III, II, and I, will be distributed campus-wide and discussed during a virtual town hall later this week. Clinical operations have continued through Phase III. Working safely within the constraints of the COVID-19 virus is a top priority for TTUHSC El Paso as we continue to monitor the situation.

- Dr. Lange mentioned he had been asked to comment on antibody testing and accommodations for employees aged 65 or older.
  - Only 11 of the 250 antibody tests on the market have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Antibody testing may reveal if someone has been exposed to COVID-19, but it cannot tell when the exposure occurred. Having COVID-19 antibodies also does not mean someone cannot get the virus again in the future. Some of these tests are also not specific enough to tell whether the antibodies are for COVID-19 or one of several other strains of coronavirus that cause the common cold.
  - The city of El Paso was offering a limited number of antibody tests free of charge to selected groups of people. These groups included first responders and certain frontline workers, as defined by the El Paso Department of Public Health. There are currently no plans to provide antibody testing at TTUHSC El Paso.
  - People with comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity are at a higher risk for experiencing complications, including death, after contracting COVID-19. Individuals over the age of 65 are also a high-risk group, so accommodations have been made for faculty members who fall into this category. Clinicians are encouraged to perform clinical work via telehealth, which currently accounts of about half of our current clinic visits. However, faculty who fall into this category and do not have significant comorbidities are allowed to return to in-person clinical practice, though it is not encouraged.

Q&A

Q: Can you comment on the city task force?
A: Not at this time. The task force meets tomorrow morning at 9:30 AM to discuss El Paso’s next steps and possibly make recommendations to the governor. However, I meet with our leadership and the hospitals’ CEOs to review citywide data daily. Businesses, hospitals, and our university are facing financial hardships. We will have to plan for a multimillion-dollar reduction in revenue. The city and the state are trying to balance the risk of reopening during the pandemic with the economic realities of the situation. The city of El Paso is now allowing essential businesses to allow 25% occupancy. There has been a slow and steady increase in the number of active COVID-
Dean's Report Continued...

19 cases in El Paso. Our hospital bed, ICU, and ventilator capacities have not yet been overwhelmed. We also have adequate PPE for our healthcare providers.

Q: Should everyone be tested, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic?
A: No, not at this time. Individuals who test negative today could be exposed in the future, and would need to be tested again. Strategic testing centered around individuals who either have symptoms or have been in contact with a positive case is a different matter. There is a false negative rate impacted by adequate specimen collection, an adequate test, and timing. If someone is exposed and is tested before they present with symptoms, there is a 60% to 100% false negative rate. On the day they present with symptoms, there is still a 35% false negative rate, and two days after presenting with symptoms, the false negative rate falls to 20%. This means that testing everyone may not be an adequate way to assess the risk of the population. The city can conduct rapid testing with a turnaround rate of 24 hours for 100 samples per day. Private labs have unlimited capacity for testing, but their results don't come back for two to five days. Currently, TTUHSC El Paso is working with the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) to try and test 400 to 500 samples per day with a 24-hour turnaround time. This testing will hopefully be available within the next week.

IV. FACULTY AFFAIRS UPDATE

KoKo Aung, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, PLFSOM

Dr. Aung reported the following:

• Some faculty activities in the faculty lifecycle that would normally be underway have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These processes include:
  o Annual Faculty Evaluations
  o Mid-Point Review, a mock peer review process to assess trajectory towards academic advancement
  o Annual Faculty Satisfaction Survey

These processes have been deferred during the Spring due to faculty time demands during the COVID-19 pandemic, but these activities will be phased in over the coming months.

• The faculty processes which are already underway include:
  o 2020 – 2021 Tenure and Promotion Cycle
  o Faculty Wellness Webinars, which focus on faculty wellness-related tips during the pandemic
  o Two surveys have been disseminated in collaboration with the American Medical Association (AMA) experts in physician burnout:
    ▪ AMA COVID-19 Faculty Survey (12 questions, 3 minutes to complete)
    ▪ PULSE Survey (2 questions, 10 seconds to complete)

Faculty Council Representatives are asked to encourage their departments to respond to the surveys, as the responses will be helpful to TTUHSC El Paso leadership for meeting the faculty's needs during the pandemic.
V. DEPARTMENT REPORT
Wayde Miller, M.D.
Representative, Department of Anesthesiology

Dr. Miller reported the following:

*Please see attached report

Q&A
Q: The Department of Anesthesiology encountered hospital contract issues. How has this impacted the faculty?
A: This has had a huge impact on faculty. We have lost about half of our department at the University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC). I am not qualified to comment on the faculty at the Transmountain site. The faculty at the El Paso Children’s Hospital (EPCH) are currently stable, and the contract with the hospital is essential to maintain. We also hope to reacquire the contract with the UMC.

Q: Could you comment on the future vision for the Department of Anesthesiology?
A: Dr. Lange responded that TTUHSC El Paso wants to reestablish the anesthesiology residency program. Further planning is underway.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT
Michael Parsa, M.D.
Chair, Committee on Student Grading and Promotion

Dr. Parsa reported the following:

*Please see attached report
Q&A

Q: Are there more safety nets to make sure students don’t “fall through the cracks” now that the committee is conducting virtual meetings with students and faculty?

A: Meeting virtually has not impacted this committee very much. The Office of Student Affairs collects the information on the students and the committee discusses these via WebEx. Students are also still able to join these meetings by WebEx, and aside from a few minor issues, overall this system is working well.

Q: Do you think the decrease in the number of reported issues is due to less clinical activity because of the COVID-19 pandemic, or are there really fewer issues with students at the institution?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic has only directly impacted TTUHSC El Paso for the past few months, so I do not think the decreased number is related. I think other factors have contributed to this decrease, possibly going all the way back to the Committee on Medical School Admissions. It is possible that more students who don’t have professionalism issues or are more prepared to succeed academically are being admitted to the PLFSOM. There could also be changes within Scientific Principles of Medicine (SPM).

VII. EL PASO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Richard McCallum, M.D.
Representative, El Paso County Medical Society (EPCMS)

Dr. McCallum reported the following:

- The EPCMS has been extremely busy with distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community. They have identified a resource for N95 masks, infrared thermometers, and face shields.
- An effort has been made by physicians to contact patients in their database via phone, in addition to virtual telehealth appointments, to make sure they are safe. These calls are being documented. Some medical students from the RotaCare Free Clinic have also been participating by reaching out to ensure patients are able to get prescription refills.
- The EPCMS is concerned with the degree of scrutiny associated with in-person patient visits. The EPCMS believes that part of the reason there continues to be a high number of COVID-19 patients in El Paso is because of continued travel to and from Ciudad Juarez by patients. We are not happy with the degree of questioning at patient encounters at Texas Tech clinics or entering the hospital for anyone who has traveled to/from Juarez. The EPCMS recommends implementing screening questions to determine who has had contact with individuals who are traveling often between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. Members of the EPCMS have committed to asking more rigorous screening questions at their own offices.
- The EPCMS continues to meet weekly, with occasional emergency committee meetings of executives. There is also a CME meeting every week, which is based around the TMA’s recommendations of how to open a practice.
- Please see the attached EPCMS newsletter.
EPCMS Update Continued...

Q&A

- Dr. Bustamante encouraged representatives who hold leadership positions at the hospitals to pass on Dr. McCallum’s message from the EPCMS to hospital leadership.

Q: Is the EPCMS working with the El Paso Department of Public Health (DPH)?
A: Yes. However, the DPH has had a recent loss of leadership, which has made collaboration difficult.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Bustamante, M.D.
Faculty Council President

Dr. Bustamante thanked department representatives for submitting nominations to fill vacancies on two standing committees as follows:

- Committee on Medical School Admissions nominees (3 seats):
  - Daniel Bustamante, M.D., Pathology
  - Ahmed Thabet-Hagag, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
  - Zoe Tullius, M.D., Pediatrics
- Committee on Evaluation of Educational Programs nominees (2 seats):
  - Houriya Ayoubieh, M.D., Medical Education
  - Ma. Reyna Dominique Jiao, M.D., Pediatrics

Representatives will vote on a recommendation to send these nominees to the dean for committee appointments via an e-vote, which will be sent through e-mail by the Office of Faculty Affairs following this meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Bustamante, M.D.
Faculty Council President

There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Bustamante adjourned the meeting at 12:47 P.M. He reminded the Faculty Council that the next meeting will take place Monday, June 15, 2020 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM via WebEx.
Department Report

PRESENTATION TO THE FACULTY COUNCIL
BY: WAYDE D. MILLER, MD
DATE: MAY 18, 2020

Department Breakdown

Please provide the total number of faculty members in your department and break down this number by rank. Please list new faculty members that have joined your department within the last six months.

- **Total Number of Faculty:**
  - Number of Faculty Associates: 0
  - Number of Instructors: 0
  - Number of Assistant Professors: 7
  - Number of Associate Professors: 0
  - Number of Professors: 0

- **New Faculty:**
  - Francisco Buendia, MD, Assistant Professor (10/2019)
Leadership

Please provide a list of faculty who are in leadership positions in your department, i.e.: chair, vice chair, program director, clerkship director, chiefs, etc.

- Marc A. Orlandi, MD
  *Interim Chairman / EPCH Medical Director*

Accomplishments

Please list the accomplishments of faculty members in your department including: awards, honors, regional appointments, national appointments, etc.

- Kristyn Ingram, MD – Assistant Professor
  - Member of the House of Delegates for the American Society if Anesthesiologists & Texas Society of Anesthesiologists
Scholarly Activity

Please provide a summary of department scholarly activity to include: presentations, invited talks, publications, book chapters, and abstracts produced by faculty or residents in the last year.

- Scholarly activity involves the on-going training of medical students, pediatric and emergency medicine residents during their anesthesia rotation.
- Program for SRNA student rotations with affiliated universities.

Residency Program

Please provide information regarding your department’s residency program, i.e.: recent accreditation, number of residents, and program updates. (If applicable)

- The Department of Anesthesiology does not currently offer a residency program but has future goals to establish a program to further the university’s mission.
Issues/Concerns

Please list and explain the issues and/or concerns that are specific to your department.

- Desire to expand anesthesia hospital services with currently affiliated University Medical Center.
  - With the expansion of hospital services this will introduce a need to expand the department (i.e. recruitment of high quality faculty & staff) that will fill the need of reestablishing a top quality anesthesia residency program at Texas Tech El Paso.

Questions?
Committee Composition and Terms of Service

- Nine Faculty Members - Voting Members (5 members needed for quorum)
  - Five Clinical faculty - Serving 3-5 year terms
    - 2 Associate Professor, Clerkship Director
    - 3 Assistant Professors
  - Three Medical Education faculty - Serving 3-5 year terms
    - 2 Associate Professor
    - 1 Instructor
  - One vacancy
- Five Ex-Officio - Non-Voting Members
  - 3 Office of Student Affairs
  - 1 Office of Student Services
  - 1 Office of Medical Education
Committee Charge

The GPC is a committee of the faculty appointed by the Dean with recommendations by the Faculty Council and is charged with the responsibility to review and evaluate the academic and behavioral progress of each medical student enrolled at the TTUHSC El Paso Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. It is not a policy making body but rather applies the policies that are approved through the Curriculum Education Policy Committee and the Faculty Council.
17/18 to 19/20 comparison

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*pending 5/15/2020 meeting - anticipated results not included

Upcoming actions

- We will continue to meet on a monthly basis or as needed.
TESTING UPDATES
New testing sites are open for week of May 11-May 16th. Testing locations are drive-thru and by appointment only. Citizens are asked to make an appointment 24 hours prior to the testing date either online at www.txcovidtest.org or by calling 512-883-2400. Testing is free and available to members of the community with symptoms of COVID-19 and those in high-risk groups. If residents do not call or register for an appointment, they can still show up at the site and will be instructed to either register on their phone or call the number to schedule accordingly. The dates and locations are as follow:

May 13
• Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library; 12480 Pebble Hills Blvd, El Paso
• Memorial Swimming Pool; 3251 Copper Ave., El Paso

May 14, 15 & 16
• Armijo Recreation Center and Pool; 710 E 7th Ave, El Paso
• Nations Tobin Park; 8831 Railroad Dr., El Paso
• Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library; 12480 Pebble Hills Blvd, El Paso
• Memorial Swimming Pool; 3251 Copper Ave., El Paso

For more information, visit www.epstrong.org.

Walmart Testing Sites
The City has partnered with Walmart to provide additional drive-thru COVID-19 testing at 3 El Paso sites:
• 7555 N Mesa St
• 4530 Woodrow Bean
• 1850 N Zaragoza Rd

To make an appointment, visit the eTrueNorth website DolNeedaCOVID19Test.com. Sites are open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

CITY UPDATES: PPE DECONTAMINATION
The City will begin using the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS)™ this week to begin decontaminating reusable N95 masks to help address the specialty mask shortages for healthcare providers and first responders. The system, which will be located on El Paso International Airport property, will be logistically supported by the Office of Emergency Management, and Border Regional Advisory Council (Border RAC). This process will allow an estimated 80,000 masks to be decontaminated per day. View video for an overview of the process.

An N95 mask can be reused approximately 20 times. This decontaminated service will be available to all healthcare facilities, first responders, law enforcement from the City and County of El Paso, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. The service is free to the partnering entities and not available for private residents.

For more information, visit the El Paso Strong website.
**PPE UPDATES**

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**
**Thursday, May 14, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (MT)**

**Road to Recovery: Reopening our Practices**
The El Paso County Medical Society is hosting a joint webinar with the Texas Medical Association and local medical practice administrators to discuss best practices and ways to successfully reopen a practice. Click here to join the Zoom meeting.
- Meeting ID: 929 9925 6359
- Password: 769322

**Monday, May 18, 7 p.m. (CT)**

**Tele-Town Hall: Managing Pregnant and Postpartum Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
Pick up your phone at 7 pm (CT) Monday, May 18, for the Texas Medical Association’s next Tele-Town Hall meeting on COVID-19, specifically for Texas OB/Gyns. Hear from Texas physicians who will share COVID-19-related epidemiological trends, clinical best practices, and tips for improving your practice’s financial viability, including how to effectively use telemedicine and patient outreach.

**WAIVER FOR CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS EXTENDED BY GOVERNOR ABBOTT**
Governor Abbott approved the Texas Medical Board's request to extend the previously issued waiver that suspended Title 22, Chapter 174.5 (e) (2)(A) of the Texas Administrative Code, as the measure is still necessary to protect public health by providing patients access to ensure on-going treatment of chronic pain and curbing the spread of COVID-19. The suspension is in effect until June 6, 2020.

The extended waiver continues to allow for telephone refill(s) of a valid prescription for treatment of chronic pain by a physician with an established chronic pain patient. The physician(s) remains responsible for meeting the standard of care and all other laws and rules related to the practice of medicine. The standard of care must still be maintained related to the treatment of chronic pain patients.

**TEXAS HEALTH STEPS CHECKUPS GUIDANCE EFFECTIVE MAY 7 THROUGH MAY 31**
To allow for continued provision of Texas Health Steps checkups during the period of social distancing due to COVID-19, HHSC is allowing remote delivery of certain components of medical checkups for children over 24 months of age (i.e. starting after the “24 month” checkup). Because some of these requirements (like immunizations and physical exams) require an in-person visit, providers must follow-up with their patients to ensure completion of any components within 6 months of the telemedicine visit. Click here to read the guidance.

**EMERGENCE HEALTH NETWORK RECOGNIZES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**
Emergence Health Network recognizes May as Mental Health Awareness Month and celebrates the behavioral health heroes who make a difference in the lives of El Paso residents each day, especially now during this unprecedented time as we navigate through COVID-19. Did you know:
- 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness.
- One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three-quarters by the age of 24.
- Approximately 10.2 million adults have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders.
For questions: 915-242-0555 or go to www.emergencehealthnetwork.org.

May is #MentalHealthMonth! Let’s make our mental health a priority!

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**TELEMEDICINE INFO**
 Codes and info on payors for telephone-only visits:

General telemedicine info:

**RESOURCES**

**REOPENING AMERICA INFO**
- [https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria](https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria)

**SMALL BUSINESS INFO**
For loan comparison and disbursement information:
- [https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html)
- [www.liftfund.com](http://www.liftfund.com)