

The Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs

Annual Report FY2014

utmb Health



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As we close out a successful year at UTMB Health and look forward to another, I want to thank you for all you have done on behalf of the institution. For UTMB Health, 2014 was a banner year filled with a number of outstanding accomplishments by faculty, students and staff.

The university is educating record numbers of students. Enrollment in UTMB's four schools grew to more than 3,200 students as UTMB continued its legacy of training the best and brightest health care workforce for the future. In 2014, UTMB graduated more than 1,100 doctors, nurses, other health professionals and biomedical scientists,

all educated to work as part of an interdisciplinary team in a problem-based learning environment. UTMB graduates reflect the populations they serve; in fact, the School of Medicine remains one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation.

UTMB researchers and physicians continue to play significant roles in addressing health concerns of global scope. The university's expertise in infectious diseases such as Chikungunya and Ebola came to prominence in 2014. Under the guidance of internationally renowned experts in UTMB's Galveston National Lab, the university was recently named by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as one of 35 U.S. Ebola treatment centers. It is one of two such centers in Texas.

UTMB is moving ahead with revitalization and expansion projects to make certain its facilities support future growth and to ensure that its students, patients, faculty, and employees benefit from a dynamic, state-of-the-art, healing environment. The cornerstone of UTMB's future growth in Galveston is construction of the new \$438 million Jennie Sealy Hospital, designed to promote a team-based approach to care, provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for future health care professionals, and offer a modern facility for patients and their families. Set to open for patients in March 2016, the hospital will advance medical training and patient health for the region.

Other signs of renewal and growth include the ongoing modernization of John Sealy Hospital in Galveston and the expansion of the Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes in League City to a short-stay, inpatient facility.

About 70 UTMB clinics at about 30 sites in the Houston/Galveston region improve access to needed care for the rapidly growing area and offer real-world educational opportunities for students. That patient care network is growing with the addition of four new clinics in Galveston and on the mainland. Also, the newly-formed UTMB Health Angleton Danbury Campus offers Brazoria County patients access to high-quality care in a community hospital close to their homes as well as educational opportunities for students.

This publication highlights many of the outstanding achievements made by the Office of Health Policy & Legislative Affairs (HPLA) during the past year. I have selected a few that I believe best illustrate the dedication of our HPLA professionals to fulfilling the university's mission of improving the health of the people of Texas and world. I am proud to be a part of this effort and on behalf of HPLA, please accept my thanks for your role in our success.



Sincerely,

Ben G. Raimer, MD FAAP Senior Vice President

Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs

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### **Federal Relations**

The Office of Federal Relations (OFR) works with federal officials, congressional members and their staff to secure support and educate them on UTMB Health needs and priorities. Led by Mr. Douglas Matthews, the area works closely with UT System to position UTMB toward optimization of grant opportunities funded by the federal government.

#### FY2014 Highlights:

- OFR attends monthly meetings of the UTMB's Facilities FEMA Hurricane Ike Recovery Team which is overseeing \$800 million in federal funding reimbursements including providing updates to Congressional Offices of UTMB Facilities and Business Department's coordination efforts.
- OFR has assisted with difficult H-1 Visa renewal cases of UTMB employees by engaging the Congressional Office Staff.



- OFR participates in the monthly telephone briefings by the UT System OFR and coordinates the UT System OFR Staff annual campus visit.
- OFR has monitored and provided information on new federal grant funding opportunities and grant announcements.
- OFR monitors federal announcements of nominations to National Advisory Committees/Boards positions for UTMB Health staff.
- OFR represents UTMB at the annual meeting UT System Federal Relations Conference in Washington, DC.
- OFR provides Quarterly Reports to the UT System OFR of UTMB Lobbying or contact with Federal Officials in accordance with UT System Disclosure Policy.
- OFR assisted with coordination of U.S. Senator John Cornyn's campus visit and worked closely with his Southeast Texas Regional Director.
- OFR works closely with UTMB Galveston National Laboratory staff to assist them with federal funding opportunities.
- OFR coordinated eight campus visits of federal congressional staff.
- OFR works closely with local nonprofit organizations such as Old Central Cultural Center, Galveston Sustainable Community Alliance and Odyssey Academy Charter School Board.
- OFR and Community Relations coordinated the Galveston Juneteenth Celebration at Ashton Villa and Juneteenth Banquet with former State Representative Al Edwards.
- Attended Texas Legislative Black Caucus Annual Conference in Austin.
- Attended the Association of Medical Colleges Government Relations meeting in Washington, DC.
- Attended State Juneteenth Advisory Committee Meetings in Austin.

# **Legislative Affairs**

Legislative Affairs (LA) staff work with elected state officials, their staff, and state agencies on UTMB issues related to UTMB's clinical, research and academic services. HPLA Austin staff, Laura Smith, JD and Lauren Sheer, have provided leadership for UTMB's ongoing educational programs during the legislative session as well as the interim with members, key committees such as the Legislative Budget Board, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance Committee, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and numerous other departments and agencies.

### FY2014 Highlights

- Legislative Affairs coordinated site visits for State
   Legislators and staff to highlight UTMB's education, health
   care, research, and correctional health care programs and
   Hurricane Ike recovery and rebuilding
- They provided ongoing communication with members and staff on UTMB's health, education, and research activities, Hurricane Ike recovery progress, UTMB's role in the 1115 Medicaid waiver, correctional managed health care, and other issues related to UTMB
- LA coordinated and helped prepare UTMB officials' testimony for interim hearings related to Ebola and infectious disease control, the 1115 Medicaid Waiver, health professions shortages and Correctional Managed Health Care
- They resolved constituent issues referred by legislative offices
- Legislative Affairs participated in Higher Education Coordinating Board Meetings, Formula Advisory Committees, and Governmental Relations workgroup meetings
- They monitored and provided comment on Sunset Review of health and human service agencies
- LA provided interagency and intergovernmental coordination in UTMB's work on the Texas' Medicaid 1115 waiver
- LA prepared for the 84th Legislative Session, including appropriations request, legislative appropriations request hearing presentations, and materials related to UTMB legislative issues
- Legislative Affairs presented at conferences and meetings held by outside organizations, including the Southern Legislative Conference and Teaching Hospitals of Texas
- LA represented UTMB in organizations handling higher education, hospital, and health care issues
- Legislative Affairs maintained ongoing coordination with UT System Governmental Affairs and Health Affairs offices

# **County Affairs**

The Office of County Affairs (CA) works to improve relationships with regional county government officials and county healthcare administrators, helping to strengthen UTMB's presence throughout the region. Under the director of Mr. Charles Worthen, the office maintains relationships with local county governments (county judges, county commissioners, law enforcement, district attorneys, and hospital districts).

#### FY2014 Highlights

- CA served as a bridge for UTMB Health and county government relationship activities throughout the region.
- CA volunteered to serve on several boards and work on community projects throughout the region in order to showcase UTMB Health and improve the health and well-being of citizens within those communities.
- The Office of County Affairs coordinated and attended multiple meetings with county government officials.
- The Office of County Affairs participated in a number of community activities throughout our region. These volunteer activities showcase UTMB Health's willingness to assist within the communities in which we serve and continue to build relationships within those communities.
  - Galveston County Economic Alliance Board of Directors/Attended 4 Quarterly Board meetings
  - o Ball High Mentor Program Volunteer/20 meetings with BHS Student
  - o 1894 Grand Opera House Board of Directors/ Attended 12 Monthly Board Meetings and 5 Program Committee meetings



- o Children's Advocacy of Galveston County Board of Directors/Attended 9 Board of Directors meetings
- o 50 Club of Galveston County Board of Directors/Attended 10 Board of Directors meetings
- o Oceans of Opportunity Job Fair Committee/Attended 5 committee meetings and the Oceans of Opportunity Job Fair
- The Office of County Affairs has organized and led legislative site visits to the UTMB
  Health campus. These site visits host legislative staff members from Federal and State
  governmental offices, including Federal Senate and House of Representatives staff,
  Governor's Office, Lieutenant Governor's Office, Legislative Budget Board as well as
  individual Senator and Representative offices in order to showcase the great work
  currently being done at the University and our progress since Hurricane Ike.
- The Office of County Affairs has been a leader in building relationships in order to assist the office of County Contracts to acquire indigent healthcare contracts throughout the region.
- In order to stay involved with county governments, The Office of County Affairs has continued to attend meetings of Commissioners Court not only in Galveston County but throughout the region. These meetings allow UTMB Health and the Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs stay on top of issues that might affect the way UTMB Health and the individual regional county governments work together.

# **County Contracts**

Counties and hospital districts across the state have access to primary, specialty and tertiary care for their eligible indigent residents by contracting with UTMB. Dedicated UTMB staff coordinates the patient's care, obtain treatment authorizations and provide the referring physician information about the patient's treatment.

### FY2014 Highlights

- County Contracts provided over \$7.9 million in services to county indigent residents including a total of 2,583 referrals for specialty care
- They facilitated the successful negotiations of 23 contracts between UTMB Health and local county and hospital district indigent health care programs
- They executed 14, one-time agreements between UTMB and non-contracted county partners which includes 2 requests for cancer services
- County Contracts hosted the annual Legislative Updates and Contract Discussion meeting on June 11, 2014 with representatives from several counties and hospital districts
- They attended the Texas Indigent Health Care Association Annual Conference

# **Center to Eliminate Health Disparities**

The Center to Eliminate Health Disparities (CEHD) seeks to eliminate health disparities through education, research, training, interventions related to the causes of health inequities in society. CEHD identifies and promotes models and best practices that reduce disparities through health systems change and through the transformation of the environments where people live, learn, work, play, pray and travel. CEHD develops new, innovative approaches to reduce health inequities; implements them in cooperation

with a variety of stakeholders from multiple sectors; and offers technical assistance to assist implementing those approaches. The Center, now under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Smith, has had a remarkable year.

# FY2014 Highlights

### Education and training

- CEHD staff educated students by developing curricula and lecturing in a wide variety of classes. For example:
  - o CEHD organized a 3-hour Practice of Medicine 1 lecture on Health Policy to roughly 120 1st year medical students.
  - o Dr. Smith helped develop the curriculum and codirected a 2-week SOM Minimester course titled "Beyond Medicine: Social Health and Human Rights" for 24 2nd year medical students.
  - o CEHD organized a 3-hour workshop on health policy for SCOPE (Student Continuity of Practice Experience) program with 3rd year medical students. Dr. Smith lectured on the structure of the US health system, and Center staff implemented a learning activity about the Medicaid coverage gap.
- Holding the directorship for the Health Economics and Policy Theme within the School of Medicine Curriculum, CEHD began reviewing and adapting PBL cases to integrate policy theme materials for the TIME program.

- CEHD supported the Health Policy Lecture Series through identification of innovative speakers and work with the UTMB student AMA/TMA leadership team.
- The Center hosted at St. Vincent's House an Upstream Physicians Workshop to train medical students and clinic directors to improve diagnosis and treatment by understanding how the social determinants shape the kinds of health conditions patients present in primary care.

### Advancing Health Systems Change

- Through the REAL (racial, ethnic and language) Data project, the CEHD began developing an information infrastructure to supports research and development of interventions to address health disparities in UTMB's clinical and hospital patient population. The project, supported through the Texas 1115 Medicaid Waver, will allow stratification of patient outcomes, diagnoses and quality measures along lines of race, ethnicity, language and socio-economic /insurance status to identify and prioritize health disparities. For FY2014, CEHD staff on the REAL Data project have successfully:
  - o Completed October and April reporting of 24 tests of ideas about racial/ethnic disparities in the UTMB patient population for approved DSRIP payment.
  - o Secured and analyzed data on outpatient quality metrics from patient-centered medical home clinics by race/ethnic stratifiers.
  - o Secured download capability for UTMB inpatient quality and safety data reported through the University Healthcare Consortium, and analyzed core measures, readmissions and length-of-stay disparities by race/ethnic stratifiers for health system inpatient population.
  - o For CEHD's successful reporting of its REAL Data project efforts to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, UTMB received a Delivery System Reform Incentive payment of \$932,659.
- CEHD made substantive progress on its Social Media and Health project, which
  also is funded through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver. The project seeks to coordinate a
  social media initiative that incorporates targeted patient reminders and wellness tips
  to support patient compliance, improve patient satisfaction, and promote the health
  of patients and other members in the community. For FY2014, CEHD staff have
  successfully:
  - o Created a website to serve as a hub for all project activities.
  - o Created one year's worth of health tips for three initial text message campaigns (Healthy Lifestyle, Diabetes Management and Breastfeeding).
  - o Successfully went through approval process for project to integrate with Epic to deliver appointment reminders, preventive care reminders, and recall reminders.
  - o Successfully networked and built relations with various departments.
  - o For CEHD's successful reporting of its Social Media and Health project efforts to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, UTMB received a Delivery System Reform Incentive payment of \$860,208.

# **Community Transformation**

- The center completed a Pew Foundation-sponsored Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Galveston's neighborhoods, aimed at informing the placement of scattered site public housing in Galveston as well as supporting local neighborhoods to prioritize community investments.
- The Center reported on the results of the HIA at a workshop at the Galveston City Council and to community members at the Galveston Alliance of Island Neighborhoods.

- Dr. Nolen made multiple presentations about her ground-breaking work on disaster recovery in Galveston utilizing a health in all policies approach. These included:
  - o "A Health in All Policies Approach to Disaster Recovery: Lessons from Galveston," presented to the Institute of Medicine Committee on Post-disaster Recovery of a Community's Public Health, Medical and Social Services
  - "Recovery of social services: pre-disaster planning and recovery," presented at the Community Resilience and Health – Opportunities Analysis Workshop for the Gulf Research Program
- CEHD staff also served the local community on the City of Galveston's Families,
   Children and Youth Board, the Board of the local United Way chapter, the Galveston
   Independent School District's School Health Advisory Committee; at the regional level
   the Gulf Coast Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the Coordinating Committee for
   the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Sustainable Communities.

#### Global Health

- CEHD was the co-sponsor of the Global Health Education Symposium held in Galveston in October 2013.
- Dr. Nolen presented "The Bifocal Lens: An alternative trajectory for community campus partnerships in global health," at the Houston Connect Conference.
- Dr. Nolen collaborated on a project, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to identify promising primary care practice models and approaches from international experience with better outcomes at lower costs than in the US that have potential applications in the US.

### **Health Outcomes**

The Division of Health Outcomes, led by Kathy Tiernan, works to improve the health of the community, advance educational success and most certainly enhance value add for our customers by providing outstanding performances.

### FY2014 Highlights

Ms. Tiernan worked with the Office
of Healthcare Transformation to
facilitate project revisions, the
development of new projects, and
provide for external providers'
clarity for the mandatory reporting
of progress toward accomplishing



- process milestones/metrics to the HSSC.
- Health Outcomes designed, developed, and analyzed impact of the 2013 Woman's Conference.
- Ms. Tiernan was re-appointed as Chairperson of the City of Galveston Families, Children and Youth Board (FCYB) where she presided over City Infrastructure, Health, Education, Renaissance Zone, Community Pool Task Forces.
- Ms. Tiernan served as Director of UTMB's High School Summer Research Program (HSSRP) where she provided an enriched research science experience for selected high school students.
- She assisted RHP 2 with the design, development and implementation of a Region 2 Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative.
- Started the process of maximizing departmental customer service by creating a mechanism for feedback that can provide useful and actionable feedback.

# The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, OLLI at UTMB Health

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, OLLI at UTMB Health, provides year-round college level courses and educational experiences for a diverse population of those 55 and over from Galveston County and far beyond. One of 119 OLLIs in the United States funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation, OLLI began as UTMB's Academy for Lifelong Learning in 2002. Team OLLI continues to expand both the quality and quantity of the Institute's programs.

#### FY2014 Highlights

- Hosted the acclaimed Rescue in the Philippines, produced by Galvestonian Dr. Barbara Sasser, a historical documentary of how 1,300 Jews escaped certain death by immigrating to the Philippines. Hundreds of community members, local school students, and others viewed the film at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House.
- Collaborating with Blocker Burn Unit, received President's Cabinet Award for Burn Survivors' Journeys: Real Stories of Challenges, Strength, and Triumph, an anthology of burn survivor stories.
- OLLI hosted the National Senior Health and Fitness Day, Healing through Humanism Film Series and the World Laughter Tour, nationally known continuing education certification for nurses, therapists, administrators, and social workers, which was attended by participants from across Texas and other states.
- Medical students, OLLI Director, and Dr. Barbara Thompson's peer reviewed research on medical student education was presented at UT Innovations in Health Sciences Education Conference in Austin in February.
- Month-long geriatric elective in partnership with Family Medicine has been expanded
  to include Internal Medicine, Family Medicine Resident Physicians, and student
  electives in Complementary/Integrative Medicine, and other health professions.
- For the second year, hosted the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council FeatherFest (and new Fledgling Fest) which broke attendance records attracting visitors from across the US, Canada, Mexico, and the UK.
- OLLI's expansive, diverse curriculum in spring and fall continues to attract members
  from Galveston County and beyond as well as part-time residents from across the US,
  Canada, and Mexico. Yoga (including chair yoga), tai chi, Pilates, water aerobics and
  water tai chi, ballroom dance and more compliment dozens of interesting classroom
  topics in literature, languages, and the arts, computers and social media, migratory
  birding, meditation, and Citizens Police Academy, and dozens more each semester.
- Experts from many fields presented the finest and most varied range of topics ever
  in OLLI's free summer school seminars on Galveston history and the environment
  including CSI of oil spills, hurricane and flood protection, kayaking at the State Park,
  ethics and the afterlife, home brewing, photography, utilizing iPhones, several lectures
  by UTMB faculty, and much, much more.
- Listed among 101 Things to Love about Galveston in The Daily News for the fourth year
- OLLI sponsored a second successful Walk Across Texas project when OLLI and community teams walked over 25,000 miles; some then participated in UTMB Causeway FunD Run/Walk.

- Collaborated with UTMB researchers across campus including PCORI, Sealy Center
  for Vaccine Development, and others. Participated in the National Student Research
  Forum, mentored faculty in the Academy of Master Teachers CODE project, served on
  School of Nursing recruitment team, and gave presentations to community groups and
  health fairs.
- OLLI staff and volunteers provided American Red Cross certified CPR/AED and First Aid training to the public every month.

# **Community Relations**

Community Relations (CR), directed by Becky Trout, is responsible for educating the public regarding health policy, medical care and individual health. Staff members work with individuals and organizations to assist UTMB in better serving the communities it serves.

### FY2014 Highlights

- CR and CEHD again jointly coordinated the Healthy Health Policy Lecture Series
  featuring health experts from throughout the country. Topics ranged from health
  in all policies, the role of academic medicine in the social determinants of health,
  enrollment in the new insurance plans offered under the Affordable Care Act. New to
  the series was a partnership with the UTMB Center For Rehabilitation Research Using
  Large Datasets which is helping to grow the series and bring in new topics of interest.
- Collaborated with the Galveston Independent School District and other local education and industry partners to help secure a \$4 million Career-Connect Grant from the U. S. Department of Labor to help train future professionals in hard-to-fill health care and information technology professions. The grant provide high school students with career skills by mixing academic and work-based learning experiences, allowing them to earn up to 33 hours in college credit prior to high school graduation.
- CR coordinated UTMB's successful 2015 State Employee Charitable Campaign which raised more than \$523,500 nearly 5 percent more than it fundraising goal.
- CR produced adapted is popular Project Medical Education program to focus on the Graduate Medical Education process, inviting members of the Texas Legislative Budget Board to campus to experience a day in the life of a graduate medical student.

• CR reached thousands of patients and potential patients by coordinating/assisting with UTMB Health's participation in a variety of special events and community activities,

including Celebrating Women:
Mind, Body and Spirit, Grand Kids
Festival, Juneteenth Emancipation
Proclamation Reading and Prayer
Breakfast, Oceans of Opportunities
Job Fair, Children's Mardi Gras
Parade, Earth Day and a number of
community health fairs and healthrelated walks/runs including those
benefiting heart disease, Alzheimer's,
diabetes and breast cancer.



# Communications

The Communications Division sets and guides the strategy for all of the internal and external communication messages for the Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs. Mr. Ryan Micks serves as Director of HPLA Communications and produces over 600 educational and informational pieces per year for use in multiple programs across UTMB Health.

#### FY2014 Highlights



- Mr. Micks created and distributed the HPLA Quarterly Newsletter to keep both employees and external stake holders well apprised of UTMB's legislative priorities.
- He maintained the interactive map on the HPLA departmental website which details UTMB's overall impact across the state defined by Congressional District, State House District and State Senate District
- He provided legislative updates to several groups including campus executives and community leaders.
- Mr. Micks directed a Project Graduate Medical Education program, an initiative
  patterned after the Association of American Medical Colleges Project Medical
  Education, in which UTMB educated friends of the university about the process of
  medical education, the benefits it provides, its complex funding mechanisms, and the
  essential role of government in providing financial support.
- The Communications Division of HPLA serves as the clearing house for requests regarding UTMB's economic/health impact for regions across the state.
- The Division operates and maintains the Health Policy and Legislative Affairs website and the Senior Vice President's Blog.
- The area developed multiple presentations for the Senior Vice President of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs to use before many local, state and national audiences.
- Mr. Micks serves on the Greater Houston Partnership's Health Care Policy Advisory Committee, the Board of The United Way of Galveston and represents the university at numerous other community organizations.

# Knowledge Management & Data Resources

Knowledge Management & Data Resources (KM&DR) serves as an institutional resource for locating and sharing relevant information on the drivers, trends, changes and practices in the healthcare, education, and research environments. Under the direction of Cissy Yoes, KM&DR assists groups and teams throughout the university in making sense of emerging issues and looking ahead to the future. KM&DR works across boundaries within the university to promote cross-functional planning and strategic growth. Ms. Yoes is a futurist with several decades of experience in strategic planning, situational analysis and forecasting.



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