

A Celebration for the Decade



More than 1,000 people packed the Heritage Room at the Amarillo Civic Center in April for the annual Power of the Purse event and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health (LWBIWH).

The featured speaker was the institute's namesake whose message eloquently illustrated her passion for women's health.

The purse auction featured the Laura Bush Institute Exclusive Collection—10 bags dedicated for the anniversary celebration. The collection brought nearly \$20,000 from the top 10 bidders. Additionally, nearly 100 purses on tables at “buy it now” prices were sold. The prices ranged from \$25 to \$6,500.

A portion of the event's \$426,290 in proceeds will be used to purchase a transcranial magnetic stimulation machine (TMS) for TTUHSC at Amarillo. The TMS machine is the “first of its kind in the Texas Panhandle,” according to Tim Bowles, senior administrator for the School of Medicine



Power of the Purse event co-chairs Charlotte Rhodes and Sharon Oeschger with former first lady Laura Bush (center).

Department of Psychiatry at Amarillo. He added the machine is primarily used in the United States for treatment-resistant depression; however, TMS is effective in treating other mental health conditions as well. Evidence suggests TMS can create new neural pathways that lead to better cognitive functioning.

LWBIWH has come a long way in 10 years spearheading a unique and monumental impact on women and young girls of Texas.

“What started in early 2008 in Amarillo, now boasts outstanding programs across seven locations in Texas and messages that reach far and wide nationally,” said Angela Knapp, senior director for the LWBIWH at Amarillo. “Our message? That differences matter. Through scientific investigation, the institute is proving that sex- and gender-specific health matters in personalized health care, as the institute has raised and allocated more than \$4 million to effective research and programs across (TTUHSC).

“The first-of-its-kind sex and gender curriculum for medical students is paving the way for individualized practices for future health care providers, and effective research and community outreach events have reached women and young girls across Texas, with important messages ultimately improving their awareness in personalized care and better results for their families.”



(left to right) Jessica Sylvia, Bria Brooks, Anthony Bray, Christie Baker, Sarah Leubbert and Andrea Paris

Award-Winning Students Congratulations to TTUHSC at Abilene's Kappa Psi-Epsilon Tau chapter for receiving the prestigious 99 Hands Award. The award recognizes the best philanthropic event from the region, which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The event, Veteran's Day Health Fair, consisted of blood pressure and high glucose screenings; veteran suicide education materials were provided as well. The event was the second largest patient encounter event on the Abilene campus with a total of 217 patients reached.

Loving the New Student Center on Amarillo Campus



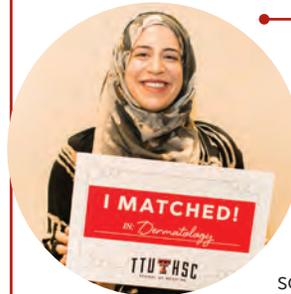
"We like this because we have this size of a space and all the booths so we can still have our small groups and talk through things. This pool table is also really nice for when we take our study breaks. This place is always open at any time, so we can come in here and it is easy."

-KELSEY OGLESBY, SECOND-YEAR PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENT

A special thank you to the Amarillo Area Foundation and the David D. and Nona S. Payne Foundation for making this new student center possible. If you are interested in how you can help impact student education, contact the Institutional Advancement team at GivingInfo@ttuhsc.edu

Matching Magic

Dreams came true in March for Suzanne Alkul, MD, and Teryn Perkins, MD, who, along with medical students nationwide, learned where they matched for their residencies. They shared their stories from Match Day.



"Match Day was so surreal! You have all these expectations and dreams in your head and, for a minute, you forget that it's already an enormous accomplishment that you have an envelope in the first place. I was so grateful to be there, and when

I opened my envelope, I was filled with pure joy. It felt like I had been holding my breath since I submitted my rank list, and I could finally breathe once I opened it! I am going to be a dermatologist—a goal I've been working toward for four years! Match Day was a dream come true."

-SUZANNE ALKUL, MD, (MEDICINE '18)

Alkul matched with TTUHSC for her preliminary year in internal medicine, which she began in July. She matched to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston for dermatology and will begin her residency July 2019.



"As I fumbled nervously to open the envelope, I looked up at my parents before I read the letter. I jumped, screamed, laughed and even broke down in tears from the pure joy of opening the envelope to read the name of my top choice for residency, Baylor College of Medicine."

-TERYN PERKINS, MD, (MEDICINE '18)

Perkins went to Houston in July for her pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine/ Texas Children's Hospital.



To see a full list of Class 2018 members who matched, visit Pulse online: ttuhsc.edu/alumni/pulse

TTUHSC RECEIVES MILITARY FRIENDLY STATUS

TTUHSC has earned Bronze-Level status from Military Friendly, a division of Victory Media, a veteran-owned business and publisher of G.I. Jobs.

Rankings are based on survey results and ratings—determined by combining an institution’s survey scores with the assessment of its ability to meet minimum thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment and loan

default rates for all veteran students. The benchmark is set by the score of the leading institution and the designated schools are listed in the Guide to Military Friendly Schools.

“The Guide to Military Friendly Schools has a wide distribution across the military community and is provided to transitioning service members and their families as they are making critical life decisions regarding their education,” said Sara Henley, TTUHSC veterans and military advisor and school certifying official. “Our Military Friendly designation will show TTUHSC’s dedication to building veteran- and military-friendly programs and ensuring student success. We are already working on things for next year that will help us achieve Gold-Level status, such as establishing a TTUHSC Student Veterans of America chapter.”



“Dr. Corwin, you’ve given so much to this program, and now it’s our turn to give back to you. You have developed and nurtured this community—friends, families and students, survivors and their caregivers—for 20 years. To honor you, we have established a scholarship in your name, which will be given to students who want to work with survivors so that your gift can be shared for years and years to come.”

**CAROLYN PERRY, MS, CCC-SLP, (HEALTH PROFESSIONS '93, '91) AND
MELISSA WHITAKER, MS, CCC-SLP, (HEALTH PROFESSIONS '04, '02)**

Scholarship Surprise

The School of Health Professions Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences surprised long-time faculty member, Melinda Corwin, PhD, (Health Professions '89, '87) with a scholarship honoring her service to the school’s SStroke/Aphasia Recovery (STAR) program. The scholarship was announced at the STAR end-of-year luncheon.



5 minutes with the faculty...

Q&A WITH SHAILESH “BOBBY” JAIN, MD | By Jo Grant Langston



Shailesh “Bobby” Jain, MD, is regional chair and associate professor in the School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry at the Permian Basin. He also supervises the residency program in adult psychiatry and the fellowship in child psychiatry.

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH INTEREST?

We are looking at the effect of antidepressants on children and adults. We are specifically looking at what makes some patients respond to the treatment, drop out of

treatment programs or show suicidal tendencies. The Food and Drug Administration has been warning us for 25 years that a correlation may exist between these drugs and suicidal tendencies. That information is part of the foundation of our work.

Suicide is an increasing problem and one that I consider to be a public health issue. We see many of these instances in West Texas, and hopefully our research will help us find warning signs in these patients taking antidepressants.

WHAT INTERESTED YOU IN PSYCHIATRY?

While I was growing up, I had friends and family experiencing mental issues, so I had a connection. I knew it was a challenging field and was one where I could make an impact. I began researching depression while working on my medical degree from Calcutta National Medical College (in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.) As I completed my residency in psychiatry at the University of Texas Medical Branch and a fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, I knew I wanted to specifically impact child psychiatry.

WHY CHILD PSYCHIATRY?

In children, we have a unique opportunity to intervene earlier in the treatment process. Children usually have fewer additional medical issues to address, so we can get to the root of the psychiatric problem earlier. I think of children as blank slates, and my hope is to clear that slate of scars and marks their issues are leaving. Treating children is challenging, and the rewards are immense.

ARE PSYCHIATRIC ISSUES IN CHILDREN A LOOMING PROBLEM IN OUR AREA?

The need is great here. We have families that are very mobile, so many times the issues a child might be having do not rise to the top as the family moves from place to place. I feel this area is more conservative than other parts of the country with parents reluctant to seek out immediate treatment for their children. What is classified as “bad behavior” may indeed be underlying psychiatric issues that are overlooked. Those problems become worse as the child moves into adolescence and adulthood.

AND YOUR BROTHER IS ALSO A PSYCHIATRIST?

Yes, Rakesh Jain, MD, practices in Austin and also is a clinical professor for TTUHSC. His research focuses on ADHD and its treatment.

HOW DO YOU RELAX AWAY FROM YOUR WORK?

This is my hobby. It is fun! What could be more fun than finding out how these drugs work? More fun than helping children get better? 

GRANT-ed!

Congratulations to these TTUHSC faculty members who have received extramural research funding this year.

Lan Guan, PhD, received a two-year R21 grant for \$420,750 and a four-year R01 award for \$1.3 million from the National Institutes of Health.

Luis Cuello, PhD, received a three-year Welch Foundation Award of \$195,000.

Vani Selvan, MD, received a three-year \$80,000 grant from the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas for the Southwest Coalition for Colorectal Cancer Screening Program.

Natalia Schlabritz-Lutsevich, MD, received a six-month \$60,917 National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovation Research Grant, Phase I.



Brendan Mackay, MD, received a one-year \$27,000 award from AxoGen, Inc.

Linda McMurry, DNP, RN, (Nursing '10, '04) received \$20,000 from March of Dimes for the 2019 Stork's Nest project.

Volker Neugebauer, MD, PhD, received a five-year \$2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health Neurological Disorders and Stroke Institute.

P. Hemachandra Reddy, PhD, received a five-year R01 grant for \$1.9 million from the National Institutes of Health Neurological Disorders and Stroke Institute.



For more information on each grant, visit the Pulse website: ttuhsc.edu/alumni/pulse



VARMA RECEIVES HIGHEST HONORS

Surendra K. Varma, MD, executive associate dean of graduate medical education and resident affairs in the School of Medicine was honored with the 2018 TMA Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor presented by the Texas Medical Association. Varma is the first TTUHSC faculty to receive this designation. He holds the Ted Hartman Endowed Chair in Medical Education and is vice chair of pediatrics.

MATTERS

of the heart

BY SUZANNA CISNEROS

Michael Song, MD, PhD, PharmD, leads initiative to open pharmacy component of The Free Clinic

At the age of 19, Michael Song, MD, PhD, PharmD, (Medicine '18; Biomedical Sciences '16) considered heading to medical school, but he took a very nontraditional path. He had acquired enough college credits to apply to medical school; however, with loving encouragement from his family and mentors, he first explored other pursuits. He received his bachelor's degree in sociology and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Texas at Austin, worked in a research lab during his undergraduate and pharmacy school years, and then worked as a clinical pharmacist at the Dallas County Hospital District for nearly eight years, before beginning medical school.

"I loved being an oncology pharmacist," Song said. "I loved working with cancer patients who would not have a place to go otherwise, but I missed the research component in my clinically focused practice. I wanted to get into cancer therapeutics research. So, I came to TTUHSC and started in the joint MD/PhD program."

In 2010, when Song began at TTUHSC, he heard about The Free Clinic and wanted to volunteer.

"Dr. Kelly Bennett (assistant director of The Free Clinic) took me aside and said, 'I hear you were a pharmacist. We could really use your help in putting a pharmacy in the clinic,'" Song said. "I couldn't think of anything more worthwhile to do."

Establishing a pharmacy at The Free Clinic was a complex process. Song went through meetings with legal teams, communicated with the State Board of Pharmacy and started everything from scratch. He wrote grants to secure funding, wrote policy and procedures for the clinic and pharmacy, worked on legal documents for pharmacy licensure, designed the physical facilities, wrote other grants to secure the starting inventory, and recruited and trained the pharmacy volunteers. The process took three years of time-consuming work.

"I had completed my first two years of medical school and was in the first year of my PhD program when we received the licensure for the pharmacy and opened its doors," Song said. "One of the biggest needs was to provide basic medications and education to keep The Free Clinic patients healthy. Now with the pharmacy in-house, we are able to do that.

"It speaks to how God works, by having the right person at the right place at the right time. The true beauty of The Free Clinic is all of the volunteers from TTUHSC and the community and their genuine care and concern for the patients."

In March, Song learned he matched at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San

Antonio to complete his residency in internal medicine. His PhD was in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, and his work focused on cancer molecular biology. Song worked in the laboratories of Patrick Reynolds, MD, PhD, director of the School of Medicine Cancer Center, and Ming Kang, PharmD, associate professor in the school's Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry, characterizing cell and xenograft models and utilizing them to study molecular mechanisms of drug resistance.

"The key component is patient care," Song said. "I very much look forward to working with each patient under my care, but I also want to continue my research work and develop new treatment modalities, which will benefit a hundred other patients who may be fighting a similar disease. I am in a unique position with my pharmacy education and experience. I had outstanding training through my PhD education. My medical experience and training put me in a good position to be a successful clinician-scientist. I hope to have the opportunities that will allow me to help a lot of patients in the future." 



To learn more about The Free Clinic, visit: ttuhsc.edu/student-services/free-clinic.



JUST *the facts*

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY BRINGS FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM TO DALLAS



Students in the School of Pharmacy four-year program obtain **2,320** clinical training hours each, which is more than any other pharmacy school in Texas and most nationwide.

An estimated **40 to 45%** of all School of Pharmacy enrollees come from the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The School of Pharmacy ranks in the **top third** of the country's 140-plus accredited pharmacy programs.



"The opening of a full four-year campus in Dallas will increase campus resources and infrastructure bringing all Metroplex components of TTUHSC together at a focused site."
- SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY DEAN QUENTIN SMITH, PHD



40 first-year students will be admitted August 2018.

Roughly 40% of all new registered pharmacists licensed to work in Texas earned their degrees outside of the state, leading TTUHSC leadership to establish the four-year program in Dallas.



University Medical Center of El Paso Stroke Program Medical Director Alberto Maud, MD, an associate professor of neurology at TTUHSC El Paso, addresses attendees at an event celebrating the hospital's designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission.

UMC, TTP El Paso Physicians Make History with Borderland's First Comprehensive Stroke Center

For the first time, El Pasoans can access the highest-level stroke treatment available without having to leave the city. Earlier this year, University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC), a teaching hospital and affiliate of TTUHSC El Paso and the only Level I Trauma Center in the region, was designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission (TJC). UMC is the first and only hospital in El Paso with this designation, with the next nearest certified hospitals located in San Antonio and Phoenix.

This designation, which takes years to accomplish, requires hospitals to demonstrate the ability to provide 24/7 neurointervention, stroke, neurocritical care and neurology coverage.

“Designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission means that our institution has the technical and medical capabilities to care for complex stroke patients,” said Salvador Cruz-Flores, MD, chair of TTUHSC El Paso’s Department of Neurology and UMC’s neurocritical care medical director.

“From a training and education standpoint, this designation exposes learners, such as residents and students, to the diagnosis and treatment of these patients,” he said. “In addition, TJC designation requires involvement in clinical research—that is, the advancement of knowledge in cerebrovascular disease, which can only benefit the community.”

UMC’s new designation will provide TTUHSC El Paso students and residents with the opportunity to train in state-of-the-art facilities, exposing them to unique cases and educational opportunities.

TTUHSC EL PASO STUDY TO FIND BEST FIT TEST FOR COLORECTAL CANCER DETECTION

Faculty at TTUHSC El Paso and a team of scientists from across the U.S. were recently awarded \$4.5 million by the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health to study the accuracy of fecal immunochemical tests (FIT tests) in detecting colon cancer. The noninvasive tool promises to detect blood in the stool—often an early sign of cancer—allowing patients to skip the colonoscopy if test results are negative.

“There are 16 FIT tests currently on the U.S. market,” said Navkiran Shokar, MD, MPH, MA, who will lead the local effort with \$1 million of the award. “But there are no data on which of these is the best—or worst—for detecting colorectal cancer.”

She added, “That could be a problem for patients who think they are all clear after getting false negative results. This is also why it is recommended to repeat the test every year.”

With the funds, Shokar will recruit 1,200 men and women between the ages of 50 and 85 who are already scheduled for a colonoscopy. Participants will be given four different FIT tests for use. After

completing a colonoscopy to definitively diagnose any colorectal cancer or polyps, the results will be compared to their four FIT test results.

With colonoscopies costing between \$1,000 and \$6,000, FIT tests can save patients more than discomfort and embarrassment. According to Shokar, a FIT test can cost as little as \$25, which she hopes will ultimately encourage regular screenings.

The American Cancer Society and the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable have challenged the U.S. to have 80 percent of adults ages 50 and older screened for colon cancer.

Shokar said, “The only way to reach this goal is to offer less invasive and less expensive tests for those who do not want to undergo a colonoscopy. FIT tests need to become mainstream for colorectal cancer screening in the U.S.”



Navkiran Shokar, MD, MPH, MA, vice chair for research in the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine and director for Cancer Prevention and Control

GGHSON Welcomes First Cohort of MSN Students

The newest degree program to be offered at TTUHSC El Paso prepares students to assume leadership roles in health care organizations. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) offered through the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing provides courses in business, finance and policy. A major goal of the MSN program is to ensure that nurses have a seat at the table in a health care system that is increasingly focused on interprofessional collaboration.

The MSN is a hybrid program; students will learn in online, classroom and community settings (as part of their practicums). Throughout the program, students will learn from faculty in TTUHSC El Paso's nursing, medical and biomedical sciences schools—an opportunity that can only be provided at a health sciences center.

The first class of MSN students is expected to graduate in 2020.



The first class of five students in the new Master of Science in Nursing program.



Medical and nursing students from TTUHSC El Paso and pharmacy students from the University of Texas at El Paso participated in training exercises that tested their ability to communicate for the good of the patient.

TTUHSC El Paso Trains Students on Health Care Teamwork, Communication

More than 150 medical, nursing and pharmacy students participated in an all-day interprofessional education session during the spring semester. The exercise brought together medical and nursing students from TTUHSC El Paso and pharmacy students from the University of Texas at El Paso to test their ability to communicate for the good of the patient.

The training took place in TTUHSC El Paso's two simulation centers: the Regional Simulation and Training Center and the Center for Advanced Teaching and Assessment in Clinical Simulation.

The exercise used a training model for improving team performance known as Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS). TeamSTEPPS provides students with the communication tools needed to navigate different clinical situations.

"If I'm a nurse or pharmacist, there will be times, depending on the situation, when I need to lead the team," said Manny Santa Cruz, DNP, RN, MBA, assistant dean of undergraduate education in the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing. "The team leader is not necessarily based on expertise. It's not based on hierarchy. It's based on the situation and who knows the information best."

First-year medical student Jourdan Harper said these lessons will help him as he progresses in his career.

"It really needs to be a team effort where everybody is on an equal playing field working together," Harper said. "All of the scenarios have put me in uncomfortable situations and shown me that I need to be able to adapt more. I need to be able to think on the fly and interact with people to get the information I need to help the patient."

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS PLFSOM'S *Philosophy of Service*



“Service learning is a tradition of not only doing volunteer work but also of reflecting on your volunteer work and thinking deeply about your own professional identity, about your personal identity, and about the population and community that you serve.”

The Paul L. Foster School of Medicine (PLFSOM) hosted its eighth annual Service Learning Symposium in February. The event showcases the school's philosophy of service education, a form of teaching that encourages meaningful community service.

“Service learning is a tradition of not only doing volunteer work but also of reflecting on your volunteer work and thinking deeply about your own professional identity, about your personal identity, and about the population and community that you serve,” said E. Lee Rosenthal, PhD, MS, MPH, a faculty member for the PLFSOM's Society, Community and the Individual course and a key event organizer.

PLFSOM students who had completed at least 100 hours of community service were honored and inducted into the school's 100-Hour Club. Several were also honored for completing 250 and 500 hours. Second-year PLFSOM student Eric Potter, who helped to conceptualize the 100-Hour Club, shared that first-, second- and third-year students together had contributed more than 12,000 service hours.

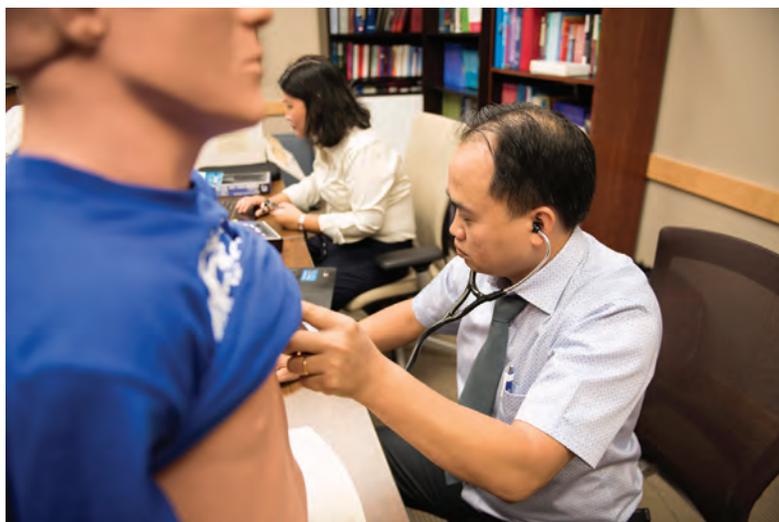
Magic Word on Match Day

“I was a nervous wreck all week; I couldn't sleep last night. When I finally got to open the envelope, my hands were shaking, so I had some trouble opening it. But then I saw the words ‘El Paso,’ and I just felt a huge relief.”

**-TAYLOR BRAMBLETT, MD, (PLFSOM '18)
BEGAN HER INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY
AT TTUHSC EL PASO IN JULY.**



To read more about Match Day at TTUHSC El Paso, visit: <https://bit.ly/2Lb46Sz>



VIETNAMESE FACULTY COMPLETE MEDICAL TRAINING AT TTUHSC EL PASO

TTUHSC El Paso graduated 52 faculty from its Collaborative Educational Program in February. The program is a partnership with two Vietnamese institutions in Ho Chi Minh City—the University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine—to advance the universities' training and education.

Faculty members from both institutions visited TTUHSC El Paso last year to train in faculty and curriculum development, standardized patient programs, medical informatics, and clinical simulation. At the end of the intensive training session, the faculty members took a test evaluating their new skills.

Hoi Ho, MD, director of TTUHSC El Paso's Collaborative Educational Program, has been recognized for his efforts in improving medical education in Vietnam.

"Dr. Ho won the outstanding faculty award for 17 consecutive years," said TTUHSC El Paso President Richard Lange, MD, MBA. "He won the faculty award for 15 years of clinical excellence. He won the President's Excellence award three times, and he received a lifetime teaching award four times. That's four lifetimes of teaching. He retired from TTUHSC El Paso because he wanted to go back to Vietnam.

"We were very proud of what he did here and what he is doing now. We want our thoughts to be worldwide thoughts, and what Dr. Ho is doing is changing Southeast Asia."

Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Welcomes Two New Department Chairs



ATTILIO ORAZI, MD

Chair, Department of Pathology
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

Attilio Orazi, MD, has been named chair of the Department of Pathology in the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. Orazi earned his medical degree from the University of Milan School of Medicine. He completed residencies in clinical hematology and pathology and a fellowship in pathology. In addition to his new role at TTUHSC El Paso, he is the associate director of the Tutorial on Neoplastic Hematopathology, the longest continuously running educational program in hematopathology in the world. His work has been published in over 250 peer-reviewed journal articles and 72 book chapters. Orazi is board certified in clinical hematology, anatomic pathology and hematopathology. Orazi will join TTUHSC El Paso in August.

TTU System Board of Regents Sees Growth at TTUHSC El Paso

The Texas Tech University (TTU) System Board of Regents held its spring meeting at TTUHSC El Paso, visiting the campus for the first time in six years. The regents had an opportunity to see the progress of construction on the Medical Sciences Building II (MSB II) and tour innovative academic and research activities across campus, including the Regional Simulation and Training Center and the Center for Advanced Teaching and Assessment in Clinical Simulation.

“It’s really exciting to see the innovations that Dr. Lange has implemented into the curriculum and the innovations this faculty has implemented in the way they are training health care professionals,” said TTU System Chancellor Robert Duncan. “It’s transformative for this region.”

After the tour, the regents’ meeting was officially called to order. Lange shared information on the university’s development and future opportunities. The MSB II will double TTUHSC El Paso’s research capacity, he said. Additionally, the university has an aggressive goal to increase the nursing school’s class size from 200 in 2017 to 600 by 2020 or 2021.

“We’re the only health sciences center in the United States on the [southern] border,” Lange said during a news conference before the meeting. “We’re in a severely underserved area. We have about a 70 percent shortage of dentists, a 50 percent shortage of physicians and a 20 percent shortage of nurses. These educational programs help to meet the needs here.”

El Paso Mayor Dee Margo said TTUHSC El Paso is a critical component to El Paso’s success and that having the board of regents in town was an opportunity to showcase the city.

At the conclusion of the regent’s visit, Chairman Rick Francis thanked TTUHSC El Paso for a “wonderful three days.”

“It’s an honor for me to be able to host and show my fellow regents this amazing campus that—through the support and commitment of our community—we’ve been able to build and nurture,” Francis said.



In March, the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents visited El Paso for the first time since 2012. Highlights of the visit included tours of TTUHSC El Paso’s Medical Sciences Building II construction site—slated for completion in 2019—and its two simulation centers.



DAN SCHULLER, MD

Chair, Department of Internal Medicine - Transmountain
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

Dan Schuller, MD, joins TTUHSC El Paso as chair of the Department of Internal Medicine - Transmountain. After earning his medical degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Detroit Medical Center with Wayne State University and a fellowship in pulmonary disease at Barnes-Jewish Hospital with Washington University. Schuller brings over 20 years of experience in academic medicine to the PLFSOM, with research in the areas of pulmonary arterial hypertension, venous thromboembolic disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, ICU outcomes and pulmonary critical care. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical care medicine. Schuller started his new role in April.