

2015



President's Report to the Board of Regents



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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



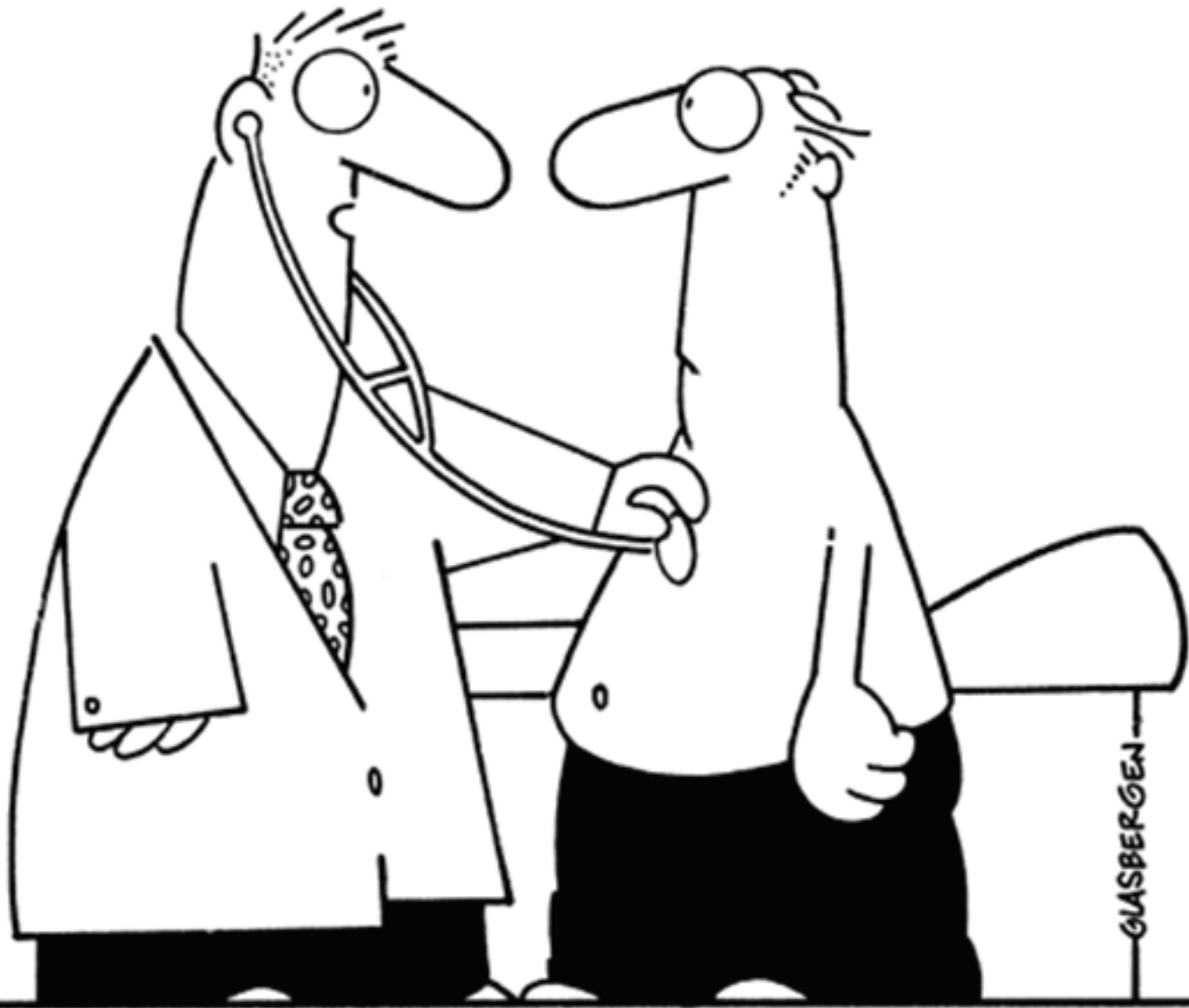
Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.
President

August 2015

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**“It’s easy to tell the difference between
good cholesterol and bad cholesterol.
Bad cholesterol has an evil laugh.”**

TTUHSC Breaks “Ground” in Abilene

Community Watches First Step Toward a Future School of Public Health

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the Abilene campus for a new building that will house the future School of Public Health and several new student amenities. With immense excitement, TTUHSC defied falling rain and held the ceremony in the School of Nursing building using a sandbox to symbolically break ground for the new school.

“It was not even a year ago that we held a press conference here announcing that we would have a future School of Public Health,” said TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D. “Now, we break ground on a facility that will one day house that school and many other opportunities for students at TTUHSC Abilene.”

Mitchell said that the success of the future School of Public Health is largely due to the overwhelming support of the Abilene community, particularly because much of the funding for the project came from donors who keep the city and the Texas Tech University System close to their hearts.

“Our support from the Abilene community was critical in a time when our assistance from the state was low,” Mitchell said. “At a time when things were going badly in higher education across the state, the city of Abilene really stepped up to support TTUHSC and our programs.”

The need for qualified public health officials has grown considerably in West Texas and throughout the U.S. since 1980. Currently, TTUHSC offers public health education through its Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and these graduate students have the opportunity to earn a Master of Public Health degree by studying in the areas of biostatistics, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, health policy management and social and behavioral sciences. With the accreditation of a separate school, TTUHSC will be able to expand this program and hopes to offer a doctoral program one day to meet the demand for public health experts.

“When people talk about public health, they are referring to what is taking care of us in the cities where we live,” said Texas Tech University System Regent Tim Lancaster. “Public health makes communities healthier.”



The future School of Public Health will be the third school located at the Abilene campus, and the campus' student body continues to grow each semester.

“Abilene has a history of innovation as a leader of business and development and we are proud of this history to be a part of the community's growth,” Mitchell said. “We now have more than 400 students on this campus, and we want their student life to be as rich as their academic life.”

School of Public Health will be the third school located at the Abilene campus

The new building will house a new student services office, an inviting outdoor meeting and study space complete with public art and the latest technology for health care education. The expansion will offer amenities for students of the future School of Public Health, as well as the schools of nursing and pharmacy.

“In about 454 days, there will be a new third-phase for the multi-phase vision of this campus completed,” said Michael Molina, Texas Tech University System vice chancellor for development. “We will deliver a class-A facility to the students, faculty and staff of TTUHSC Abilene.”

According to Lancaster, the future School of Public Health evokes the same pride that resonates in TTUHSC's original charter, which stipulated that the university should be formed in the remote area of West Texas to improve the health of the region's citizens.

“Not only is the school good for Abilene, but it is good for TTUHSC,” Lancaster said. “Expanding and improving health is TTUHSC's original mission.”

The groundbreaking marks TTUHSC's first step in the latest effort to fulfill this mission—rain or shine.



Students Participate in National Case Study Competition

Team finds great success with interprofessional teamwork

In March, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) hosted the regional 2015 CLARION Case Study Competition. Top-scoring individuals at the regional competition formed the interprofessional student team that represented Texas at the national competition at the University of Minnesota, where the CLARION Competition began in 2002. The goals of the CLARION Competition are to develop understanding and appreciation of the skills that each professional brings to the health care team and to develop positive relationships that will extend into professional careers.

“The case was scary because each of us on the team had seen similar situations”

The team consisted of Cynthia Dunlap and Karen Wright, both Doctor of Nursing Practice program students in the TTUHSC School of Nursing, Jeffrey Edwards, M.D., resident from the Baylor Scott & White School of Medicine, and Mahmoud Sabawi, Pharm.D. student at Texas A&M School of Pharmacy. The Texas team impressively placed second at nationals and all learned a great deal about interprofessional problem solving throughout the competition. Additionally, the Texas team believes the competitive environment offers a fantastic opportunity to test innovation in a comfortable place.

Each year, a specific case study is designed to challenge teams in solving particular problems. This year’s case study focused on systems-based practice as a means to improve patient safety. The scenario resounded strongly with the Texas team, which had several months to prepare for the regional and national competition. As health care professionals, they knew quite well how important the topic is.

“The case was scary because each of us on the team had seen similar situations,” Wright said. “We had a real sense of the importance of the work as it could highlight opportunities to keep people safe.”



The foundation of the CLARION competition is to reduce medical error by improving interprofessional communication. The CLARION competition brings students in health care administration, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, allied health sciences and other fields related to health care together in teams to solve CLARION case studies and develop interprofessional skills.

“We had a real sense of the importance of the work as it could highlight opportunities to keep people safe.”

Each team member was reminded of the importance of interprofessional collaboration to improving health care and patient safety. Furthermore, the positive experience as an interprofessional team demonstrated that communication and problem solving across professions is possible and necessary.

For the TTUHSC faculty who organized the CLARION Competition, Alexia Green, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, professor and dean emerita, Joyce Batcheller, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC, recurrent faculty, and Cindy Acton, DNP, R.N., NEA-BC, associate professor, all of the School of Nursing, Charles Seifert, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS, regional dean and professor in the School of Pharmacy, and Lisa Popp, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the competition was an opportunity to demonstrate the critical interprofessional skills they have cultivated over the course of their careers. Each faculty mentor worked diligently to impart interprofessional skills to the team. The event was a culmination of the efforts of the School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program faculty, Shelley Burson, the Office of the President and TTUHSC’s Department of Interprofessional Education, representatives from which all assisted with organizing and raising funds for the CLARION Competition.



*Pictured from left to right:
Karen Wright, TTUHSC - SON, DNP | Mahmoud Sabawi, Texas A&M - SOP
Cynthia Dunlap, TTUHSC - SON, DNP | Jeffrey Edwards, UTMB at Scott & White - SOM*



Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health Welcomes New Executive Director

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health National Advisory Board confirmed the appointment of Connie F. Tyne, M.S., former executive vice president of external affairs for The Cooper Institute, to the position of executive director of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health.



Tyne brings 18 years of experience including six with the Cooper Institute, a nonprofit research and education organization dedicated globally to preventive medicine, adult education and programs that promote fitness and health for adults and children. The remaining 12 years were spent as vice president and executive director of the nationally recognized Cooper Wellness program, which offers realistic and effective strategies for weight loss, fitness and stress management that are medically based, scientifically proven and cost effective. Under Tyne's leadership, the Cooper Wellness program was proclaimed "one of the top ten places to shed pounds" by USA Today and as a "top spa for weight loss" by Forbes.

Additionally, Tyne speaks to organizations and corporations nationally, has provided health tips each week on Lifetime's, "My Workout," that was affiliated with PodFitness.com and served as a member of Southern Living Magazine's Healthy Living Advisory Board for five years.

TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., said he believes Tyne's appointment will benefit TTUHSC and the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health immensely, as Tyne has many qualifications making her uniquely suited for the role.

"Connie Tyne has a passion for keeping people healthy, particularly women who have been underserved in health care," Mitchell said. "That is why she is the perfect fit to serve as executive director of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health. She has the heart and the energy for the work that is being conducted, and she has the prior experience and expertise to execute her duties with phenomenal success, just as she did within the Cooper organizations."

Because differences matter, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health improves the lives of women and girls through research supporting scientific discoveries unique to women's health and gender differences, education advancing the knowledge of health care professionals through evidence-based resources and outreach connecting with communities for healthier lives.

For more information about the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, contact Mary Croyle, executive director of the TTUHSC Office of Communications and Marketing at Mary.Croyle@ttuhsc.edu.

TTUHSC Staff Named to Leadership Texas Class of 2015

Four TTUHSC staff members named to the Leadership Texas Class of 2015, a program of the Leadership Women organization.



Ashley Hamm,
managing director,
Department of
Institutional
Advancement at
TTUHSC



Victoria Pineda, MLA,
CFRE, assistant vice
chancellor, Department
of Institutional
Advancement for
TTUHSC at El Paso



Ginger J. Raya, EdD,
clinical administrator
for TTUHSC at El Paso



Susanne A. Van
Weelden, senior
director, Research
Division for TTUHSC
at El Paso

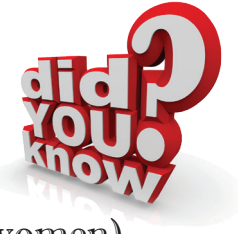


Leadership Texas provides educational and development opportunities to Texas women who seek to advance as leaders and expand their knowledge of the diverse dynamics, issues, challenges and opportunities that impact their work, personal lives and communities.



School of Medicine

*The Class of 2019 has arrived!
Here are some interesting facts about them:*



31 graduates from Texas Tech

Class size – 180 (100 men, 80 women)

33 graduates from UT Austin

Average MCAT – 32



12 graduates from Texas A&M

Nine are enrolled in the Family Medicine Accelerated Track (FMAT)



56 different schools are represented in this class

12 are enrolled in the MD/MBA program

Many “traditional rivals” will now become teammates as Red Raider doctors (Texas Tech-UT, Alabama-Auburn, Notre Dame –Michigan, Cornell-Brown, Stanford-UCLA, Texas A&M - everybody?).

Class of 2019 has accomplished musicians, including a concert master from the Duke Symphony Orchestra and member of the Going Band from Raiderland.

Class of 2019 has numerous athletes, including Varsity Crew from Vanderbilt, Varsity Water Polo from UT, Varsity Rugby, Varsity Women’s Softball from UT Dallas, a power lifting champion and an NCAA track athlete.

Many members of the Class of 2019 have peer-reviewed publications and some have patents.

More than 20 members of the Class of 2019 have been on mission trips.

One member of the Class of 2019 is a graduate of the US Naval Academy with six years as an officer.

One member of the Class of 2019 is an accomplished cyclist and biked 4,600 miles from Austin to Alaska to raise money for cancer program.



School of Nursing



TTUHSC Veteran Nursing Program Receives More Than \$1 Million Grant - Veterans to begin coursework across Texas in spring 2016

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Nursing Veteran to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) program, which will create an accelerated path for veterans with military medical experience to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing, has received a \$1,040,615 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The program, which is currently accepting applications, will begin in spring 2016 at campuses in Amarillo, the Austin/Hill Country area, and Dallas.

The HRSA Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) grant is awarded to academic, service and continuing education projects designed to enhance nursing education, improve the quality of patient care, increase nurse retention and strengthen the nursing workforce. The NEPQR program seeks to broadly advance the nursing workforce by supporting programs that create opportunities in the nursing profession.

Many veterans have extensive military medical training and experience, but until now these individuals have found it difficult to translate the knowledge gained in the military into civilian course credit hours. The TTUHSC School of Nursing, in partnership with Texas College Credits for Heroes, has created a competency based learning model that can recognize up to 13 prior learning credits toward the awarding of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

Recognition of prior learning will allow faculty to tailor the full-time, accelerated 12-month, 61-credit hour program to the veteran's learning needs.

"TTUHSC is proud to offer this innovative solution to veterans with prior medical military experience who wish to have a career in nursing, without starting over in their training," said TTUHSC

President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D. "The School of Nursing Veteran to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will train these nurses at an accelerated pace, so that they may enter the workforce and begin providing excellent care, augmenting their prior military experience with an exceptional nursing education."

By acknowledging prior medical military service as a means of fulfilling BSN requirements, TTUHSC School of Nursing offers an opportunity for veterans who wish to attain a BSN degree, but already have experience and skills that exceeds that of most traditional undergraduate nursing students. The program's ability to allow more highly qualified nurses to quickly enter the workforce is incredibly

relevant as Texas continues to face a persistent nursing shortage.

"Creating programs that allow more qualified individuals to achieve their dream of being a nurse is a major win for everyone – the students, the health care facilities that depend on talented nurses to complete their missions and especially the patients," Mitchell said.

*...until
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TTUHSC School of Nursing Announces New Global and Rural Health Graduate Certificates



The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) School of Nursing announced the new Global Health and Rural Community Health certificate programs. The online programs will begin in fall 2015 and students who complete the programs will be awarded a graduate certificate in either Global Health or Rural Community Health. Both of these programs are expected to prepare professionals with in-depth knowledge to enhance care to populations in the underserved rural and global health fields.

“Finding innovative ways to serve rural populations in health care is a challenge, but it is of the utmost importance that we find ways to meet these needs,” said

TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D. “West Texas has an undeniable global impact, and we need to take care of the rural populations that provide the food, fiber and fuel for the world. Similarly, by training health care professionals to meet the needs of medically underserved populations around the world, TTUHSC School of Nursing is proving to be critically important, not only regionally, but globally as well.”

Each certification program is an interprofessional, online graduate-level program that includes a 12 hour program with 67.5 hours of clinical experience in the principle area of interest (either rural or global health). The three courses are consecutive, building over three semesters (fall, spring and summer) and culminating in either a Global Health Certificate or a Rural Community Health Certificate based on an individualized plan of study.



School of Allied Health Sciences

Twice in a Lifetime Opportunity - TTUHSC School of Allied Health Sciences Receives Second Fulbright Appointment in South Africa



An appointment with the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, has long been considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the nation's best researchers. However, one Fulbright scholar, Rajinder Koul, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, professor and chair of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and associate dean of research for the School of Allied Health Sciences, will be going to Pretoria, South Africa in July for his second appointment and knows well how important the program is for international collaboration in health care.

"My goal is to strengthen and further foster the relationship between TTUHSC and the University of Pretoria, South Africa," said Koul. "Specifically, I am looking to develop research programs between the University of Pretoria and TTUHSC that have potential to result in peer-reviewed publications and research grant submissions to funding agencies in South Africa and the United States."

During the 35-day assignment, which will begin in July, Koul will work one-on-one with speech, language and hearing sciences graduate students on their research and provide feedback on their dissertations pertaining to developmental and acquired impairments such as aphasia, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and traumatic brain injury.

"I will develop this by conducting seminars, meeting with doctoral students and providing dissertation feedback, consulting with administrators and faculty and reviewing core curriculum," Koul said.

Koul has pursued two primary lines of research at the TTUHSC School of Allied Health Sciences, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences department. He hopes to share his research with University of Pretoria faculty and students.

"One line of research investigated intervention in persons with chronic, severe aphasia and the variables that influence outcomes of such interventions," Koul said. "The other focuses on understanding factors that influence symbol learning in persons with developmental disabilities.

Koul believes that collaboration through the Fulbright program will benefit speech, language and hearing sciences graduate students at the University of Pretoria as well as their future patients.

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“It is critical that South Africans with little or no functional speech become competent and empowered communicators,” Koul said. “In order to do so, they may need greater access to expertise and technology from academic and research institutions in the United States.”

This type of collaboration is completely relevant to the Fulbright Program’s founding expectation, “to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

In the interest of promoting compassion, peace and understanding, few elements are as important as communication, making Koul, who has dedicated his life to improving people’s ability to communicate worldwide, a natural partner in this mission.



Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Research Benefits All Disciplines - Tedd Mitchell, MD



Why research? It's elementary my dear Watson ...

This spring, TTUHSC celebrated a milestone in our Student Research. Not only did we have a record number of students participate, but we also had, for the first time, representation of all TTUHSC schools. In the past, student research had primarily been the domain of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). In a way this made sense because it is the GSBS students who strive to become the laboratory scientists of tomorrow. However, as our university grows in size and complexity, providing research opportunities to as many students as possible in all TTUHSC schools is a worthwhile goal.

For our budding GSBS scientists, Student Research Week is a celebration of much hard work and is a stepping stone along their paths to become the scientific leaders of industry and academia. However, given our historical emphasis on strong educational and clinical programs, I've been asked why I believe research is necessary for those whose career paths will be clinical and not research oriented. To quote one of my favorite literary characters, the answer is "elementary."

"My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what other people don't know."
-Sherlock Holmes in "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

Participation in research trains a person in observational curiosity, inductive and

deductive reasoning, patience and persistence. Such skills are immensely important not only for those in laboratories, but also for those whose professions will require them to decipher, digest and interpret large amounts of ever-changing data for the betterment of their patients. The rigors of research hone these skills, which is why all student clinicians benefit

from partaking in such scholarly activity.

This is why I am so excited to see the increased participation in research amongst our students. We're creating a new generation of health care professionals, armed with knowledge of technology coupled with the reasoning skills of a master detective. While they are thrilled to be participating and presenting their findings, in reality we're providing them with the intellectual tools necessary to succeed in professions that require they "know what other people don't know." Makes me proud to be part of this great university.



Investigations and Discoveries

Seeking to Improve the Infant Mortality Rate – **School of Medicine**



There are certain conditions that make premature births more possible such as carrying multiples, too much amniotic fluid, and previous premature delivery and infections. Gary Ventolini, MD, is investigating how infections start and what factors are involved by studying the good bacteria, lactobacilli, in the vagina. Ventolini and his team are the first in the world to conduct this type of research.

Lactobacillus produce lactic acid, hydrogen peroxide and other products in vitro including biofilms, which are very complex biological structures that bacteria produce to defend themselves. Since the labor process starts as an inflammatory reaction, biofilm from lactobacilli would prevent preterm labor by stabilizing the vaginal flora. The goal is to culture these lactobacillus and make them produce biofilm in mass quantities to prevent pre-term labor.

Preventing pre-term labor via biofilm production reduces the rate of infant mortality indirectly. Ventolini is acquiring the license to use microfermenters — small test tubes to culture the lactobacilli and measure how much biofilm is produced — from the French government and hopes to begin using the microfermenter process soon. This technology will make the measurements more accurate and help determine next steps in improving vaginal immunity.

Gary Ventolini, MD, is the regional dean for the School of Medicine at the Permian Basin and professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Ancient Remedy May Cure MRSA – Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



Antibiotics are no longer as effective against bacteria, which evolve to protect themselves. A medicinal recipe taken from a 1,000-year-old manuscript is generating buzz concerning what historical knowledge and ancient remedies can do to resolve this antibiotic dilemma.

Kendra Rumbaugh, PhD, has been working with the University of Nottingham in England to expand the benefits of a particular traditional remedy. The recipe is meant for eye styes, which could cause severe damage and possible fatalities in ancient times. The University of Nottingham concocted the recipe and after testing, determined that the remedy killed MRSA — drug-resistant staph infections — and at higher rates than one of the last-result antibiotics currently used.

The University of Nottingham then turned to Rumbaugh, whose lab at TTUHSC frequently conducts efficacy studies of new antimicrobial compounds and works with many academic and industry partners, for additional testing of the remedy. Next steps include purifying ingredients and determining which ingredients have the antibacterial activity.

Kendra Rumbaugh, PhD, is an associate professor in the School of Medicine Department of Surgery and runs the Rumbaugh Lab.



Antihistamines, Muscle Relaxants Linked with Emergency Visits and Mortality in Elder Veterans – **School of Pharmacy**



The Health Care Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS) quality measures put forth by the National Committee on Quality Assurance measures performance of important dimensions of health care and service. However, the quality measure regarding high risk medication use in the elderly may not be supported by evidence.

Carlos A. Alvarez, PharmD, MSCS, BCPS, conducted a large, national, retrospective cohort study to determine if the quality measure for high-risk medications in elderly individuals is associated with clinical outcomes such as emergency room visits and mortality.

Alvarez and his team looked at the two most common drugs prescribed to elderly Veterans Affairs patients in the HEDIS measure set, which consisted of antihistamines and skeletal muscle relaxants. They followed patients for several years that were prescribed first-generation antihistamines, such as diphenhydramine, and muscle relaxants including carisoprodol, cyclobenzaprine, and methocarbamol. These patients were matched against another group of patients who weren't prescribed these medications.

They found that first-generation antihistamines were associated with death and hospitalizations, as well as fracture-related injuries. Muscle relaxants were associated with increased hospitalizations and fractures as well, but were also associated with reduced mortality, which was statistically significant.

Alvarez theorized that some of the individuals who were prescribed muscle relaxants were having more frequent follow ups; therefore, visiting their doctor more frequently than those patients not prescribed muscle relaxants. More frequent contact with the health care system by elderly patients taking muscle relaxants might allow opportunities for physicians to diagnose other health issues before they become life threatening.

Carlos Alvarez, PharmD, MSCS, BCPS, is an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Institutional Compliance Annual Summary Report 2014

Summary Annual Report 2014

- This annual report summary of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Institutional Compliance Program is presented to provide an overview of the activities of the Compliance Office. The basic elements of an effective compliance program, as outlined in the Federal Sentencing Guidelines (FSG), §8B2.1(b)(2)(A), various model compliance programs and government imposed Corporate Integrity Agreements (CIA) provide the framework for the Compliance Department and this summary report.

[2]

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENT

Compliance Standards and Procedures

- Institutional Compliance Operating Policies. During CY 2014, nine Compliance Operating Policies or forms were created or subject to routine review.
- HIPAA Privacy and Security Policies. Seven policies were revised in 2014 and sent to the HIPAA Privacy and Security Committee for review and approval.

[3]

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENT



Background and Sanction Check Process

- **Sanction Checks.** As a health care provider and research entity, TTUHSC must have policies in place to avoid hiring or contracting with any individual or entity that has been sanctioned or barred by a federal or state government agency. [HSC OP 52.11, Sanction Check Process](#) satisfies this requirement. The primary sanction authorities relevant to TTUHSC are:
 - Department of Health and Human Services (Medicare) Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE), which contains only the exclusion actions taken by the OIG;
 - Government Services Administration, Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) and System for Award Management (SAM), which contain debarment actions taken by various Federal agencies, including actions taken by the OIG; and
 - Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (Medicaid) Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE).
- **Initial Sanction Checks.** All new TTUHSC employees, students, trainees, residents, contractors (only those who receive payment from TTUHSC) and most vendors undergo a sanction check prior to hire or contract.
- **Monthly Sanction Checks.** During CY 2014, TTUHSC contracted with Streamline Verify to conduct monthly exclusion screening checks of all employees, students, trainees, residents, contractors and applicable vendors.
- During CY 2014, there were no identified individuals or entities listed as sanctioned or barred.

[4]

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENT

Compliance Hotline and Resources

- **Compliance Hotline.** The Office of Audit Services (OAS) refers cases reported through the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Compliance Hotline to the appropriate individuals at TTUHSC with oversight authority for the issue in question. The Institutional Compliance Office has primary responsibility for addressing concerns related to billing, privacy non-compliance, as well as compliance concerns not otherwise addressed by other regulatory oversight areas.
- **2014 Ethics Point Reports:**
 - 3 total calls: 2 HIPAA compliance reports and 1 billing compliance report

[5]

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Education, Training and Awareness Activities

- Institutional Compliance.
 - Compliance Orientation. All new employees must complete general compliance orientation within 30 days of hire.
 - Compliance Newsletter. During 2014, the Institutional Compliance Office published two newsletters providing guidance on a variety of compliance/regulatory areas.
- Billing Compliance.
 - All Schools of Medicine faculty and residents receive initial and annual billing compliance training, with a focus on billing risks related to their specialty.
 - New Provider Training: 100% completion rate
 - Annual Provider Training: 99% completion rate

[6]

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Education, Training and Awareness Activities

- Privacy Compliance. The HIPAA Privacy and Security training modules were required for all new and existing TTUHSC and TTUHSC-EP faculty and staff.
 - New employees: an 86% completion rate was achieved across all campuses.
 - Existing employees: an 85% completion rate was achieved across all campuses.

[7]

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Routine Monitoring and Risk-Based Auditing

- **Billing Compliance Monitoring and Auditing Activity.** Providers are subject to routine monitoring each year. The following table represents the number of providers and cases reviewed in 2014.

Campus	# Departments	# Providers	# Cases
Lubbock	15	318	2107*
Amarillo	6	79	399*
El Paso	13	258	2581
Permian Basin	6	27	270

- Common errors identified during the CY 2014 monitoring period:
 - Downcoding
 - Upcoding
 - Wrong Diagnosis
- In addition to routine monitoring, the Office of Institutional Compliance conducted a total of 13 reviews involving potential risk to TTUHSC.

[8]

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Routine Monitoring and Risk-Based Auditing

HIPAA Privacy Investigations. Several HIPAA Privacy issues were reported and addressed during CY 2014. There were a total of 72 reported and documented investigations (see below), mostly involving misdirected faxes, non-encrypted PHI emailed to a public domain, inappropriate access to electronic PHI, releasing PHI to the wrong individual and/or unauthorized access to PHI. An impermissible use or disclosure of PHI is presumed to be a breach, unless the covered entity demonstrates that there is a low probability that the PHI has been compromised.

Campus	Investigations	Violations	Reportable Breaches
Lubbock	27	8	2
El Paso	26	7	1
Amarillo	14	9	2
Permian Basin	5	0	0

[9]

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Office of Institutional Compliance Staff

Restructure of the Compliance Department to include:

- Hiring a Managing Director who oversees TTUHSC billing and privacy compliance.
- Hiring a Lubbock Regional Privacy Director

In addition, the Compliance Executive Administrative Assistant and the Odessa Billing and Privacy Compliance Director retired.

Although there are many new members on the Compliance team, those individuals have made significant contributions to the Office of Institutional Compliance and have achieved compliance certifications in a very short period of time.

[10]

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2014 Compliance Certifications

- John Geist - certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security.
- Sherri Johnston - certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance.
- Corlis Norman - certified as a Compliance Auditor.

[11]

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@TeddLMitchell



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