**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Annual Report: May 31, 2012**

The QEP, titled “Beyond Silos,” is continuing to make significant progress in all six health professional schools of UTHealth. Some of the most significant achievements have come from the School of Public Health. These achievements include: (1) the development and implementation of a new required ethics class for all MPH students titled “Public Health Ethics” (the basis for this course is the model ethics curriculum developed by the Association of Schools of Public Health); (2) the procurement of a health professional journal to publish the papers from last year’s interprofessional ethics conference on the

theme of “Social Justice and the Health Professions” (the theme was suggested by Dr. Stephen Linder to push beyond issues related to clinical ethics); and (3) one of the peer-reviewed articles for this special issue was written by a student at the School of Public Health (Eva Prabhakar).

There is, to be sure, progress in the other schools as well. Much of Year 2 was dedicated to implementing new courses and materials developed as a part of the QEP, as well as revising previous courses and learning activities based on various assessments. The major highlights include:

* the revision of “Ethics: Historical Lessons” at the School of Nursing (this course is the largest interprofessional course that we offer);
* the revision of “The Ethical Dimensions of the Biomedical Sciences” at the Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences (this course embodies our best assessment efforts);
* the implementation of the “Beyond Silos” course offerings at the School of Dentistry (this elective is, arguably, our most creative course);
* a new ethics course has been created at the School of Biomedical Informatics; and
* the expansion and revision of the Health and Human Spirit Program in the 3rd year clerkships at the Medical School.

A major accomplishment of Year 2 of the QEP (2011-2012) includes implementing and assessing *The Brewsters*, which is an introduction to interprofessional ethics for health professional students. *The Brewsters* consists of both narrative material and instructional materials, and it is modeled after

“choose-your-own-adventure” books so as to create an active learning experience. *The Brewsters* was offered as a requirement in each of the six health professional schools of UTHealth. Last year about 1,000 students read the book and completed the post-test associated with it. *The Brewsters* has won the 2012 UT System Innovations in Education Award, and it is likely to be implemented at other UT System health professional schools. Cambridge University Press also invited Thomas Cole to present on *The Brewsters* in Paris, so it may also be used in Europe soon. A number of posters are being given on *The Brewsters* as well.

The QEP is a student-centered project. As such, one would hope that the QEP would stimulate student interests related to ethics. It has. Three student-led ethics groups are emerging in three of our schools, a student-run literary magazine (open to all UTHealth students) is in progress, and a new (funded) rotation has been created at MD Anderson.

The basic goals for next year include revising, offering, and assessing the various courses and programs above; preparing to offer a second conference on interprofessional ethics; conducting the mid-point assessment of the QEP learning outcomes; and beginning to prepare the Impact Report for SACS.

Drafted by Nathan Carlin on May 19, 2012

Reviewed by the QEP Advisory Team on May 22, 2012 Approved by Thomas Cole on May 31, 2012