**Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Annual Report: May 31, 2015**

The 2014-2015 academic year is the fifth year of UTHealth’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a requirement for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The major goals for this year included:

* implementing program changes based on the mid-point assessment;
* conducting the final/end-point assessment; and
* preparing the final draft of the Impact Report for SACSCOC.

All of these goals have been achieved. The mid-point assessment helped to identify areas for further growth and to guide efforts in “closing the loop” (i.e., making changes based on information gained via assessment). The final/end-point assessment has been conducted; analysis is underway. Drafts of the Impact Report have been written as well. It is expected that a draft will be circulated for comment by October 1, 2015, or sooner.

A few accomplishments of the QEP this year are particularly noteworthy. One area involves speakers brought to campus. This year the McGovern Center celebrated its 10th anniversary, which included bringing to campus speakers with an international reputation such as Dr. Danielle Ofri and Dr. Carl Elliott, who both regularly write for periodicals such as the *New York Times*. To kick-off the celebration, Dr. Raymond Greenberg, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of The University of Texas System, delivered a talk on the ethics of epidemics, specifically with regard to Ebola, in which he addressed interprofessional teamwork. Another speaker with an international reputation that the McGovern Center and the School of Biomedical Informatics brought to campus is Dr. Kenneth Goodman. Dr. Goodman is the premier bioethicist with regard to biomedical informatics, and he was brought to campus specifically to enhance ethics education at the School of Biomedical Informatics and the School of Public Health. Megan Cole, an actor who played the lead role in the Broadway play *Wit*, also came to campus to lead interprofessional, experiential teaching with medical and nursing students.

Another area involves the postdoctoral fellows of the McGovern Center. They have been doing remarkable work. Dr. Claire Clark procured a tenure-track job at the University of Kentucky Medical School and Dr. Woods Nash edited a special issue of the *Journal of Medical Humanities*. He also has published in journals such as *The Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* as well as *Academic Medicine*.

Faculty associated with the QEP have made significant contributions as well. Dr. Jeffrey Spike began editing a special section of *The American Journal of Bioethics*, the bioethics journal with the highest impact factor. Dr. Nathan Carlin and Dr. Cathy Rozmus had proposals accepted for the national meeting of SACSCOC, based on the QEP. And Dr. Jeffrey Spike and Dr. Susan Benedict offered a new interprofessional course on death and dying.

The primary goals for next year include:

* submitting the Impact Report to SACSCOC;
* presenting on the QEP at the annual SACSCOC meeting;
* ensuring the long-term sustainability of key current QEP efforts; and
* determining new areas for growth based on the success of the QEP.

Regarding the latter, potential goals include hosting the International Health Humanities conference in Houston, Texas, in 2017, as well as launching a new clinical humanities program at the School of Dentistry.

*Drafted by Dr. Nathan Carlin on April 24, 2015 Approved by Dr. Thomas Cole on April 28, 2015 Approved by the Academic Council on June 8, 2015*