A LASTING LEGACY

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston

is now

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
Message from the Dean

2
Introducing our New Name:
McGovern Medical School

6
Reaching for the Stars

12
War on Cancer

14
Leading Brain Health

22
Top of the Class

24
Wellness, Resiliency

34
Faculty Accolades

42
Departments

68
Lives Remembered

74
Philanthropy

82
By the Numbers

Credits

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

What’s in a name?

Our institution was the fortunate recipient of a game-changing, name-changing gift this year. The John P. McGovern Foundation awarded us the largest gift in both the history of the foundation and the history of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Dr. John McGovern was a pediatrician, an allergist, an immunologist, and an educator who helped to shape the Texas Medical Center. A Duke-trained pediatrician who came to Houston in 1956 from Tulane, his career exemplified the highest standards of personal and professional integrity, as well as many notable medical accomplishments. Dr. McGovern held faculty appointments at each of our UTHealth schools and was instrumental in the development of our Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. McGovern and his wife, Kathrine, have been extraordinary friends of Houston. As someone who is relatively new to this wonderful city, I am reminded almost daily of their enormous vision and generosity. In my first year in Houston, I visited the beautiful McGovern Centennial Gardens, the newest area of Hermann Park, and paddled a boat across McGovern Lake after visiting McGovern Children’s Zoo, where young and old play in the Kathrine McGovern Water Park. And that’s just one city block. A highlight for any physician in this city is the McGovern Health Museum. In fact, you can’t go far in Houston without finding a medical or community organization that exists and thrives thanks to Dr. and Mrs. McGovern.

Our school was renamed to honor the lives and legacies of John and Kathrine McGovern and to recognize this gift, which will enhance medical education, provide our first full-ride scholarship, help recruit and retain outstanding faculty, and support scientific discovery and innovation. The new endowment provides amazing opportunities that will enrich future generations of students as well as the broader medical and scientific community. As leaders of the school, we have an obligation to be excellent stewards of this gift.

With our new name, we are transformed—with a renewed resolve to be a true destination school – where the best students want to learn, where outstanding faculty and staff want to work, and where patients know they can come for the highest quality care. We are proud to be McGovern Medical School, with students, residents, alumni, faculty, and staff committed to the McGovern ideals of excellence, humanism, and compassion.

I send out a weekly communication to the McGovern Medical School community called Study Break. To sign up for my weekly update and find out what is going on at our medical school, please go to go.uth.edu/studybreak.

Barbara J. Stoll, M.D.
Dean, McGovern Medical School
H. Wayne Hightower
Distinguished Professor
It has been a year of celebration, historic change, growth, and impact since the John P. McGovern Foundation made a transformational $75 million gift to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and its medical school.

From the renaming of the school to the John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School to the establishment of endowments, this gift – the largest in UTHealth’s history – is bolstering medical training, providing full scholarships, and supporting scientific discovery and innovation.

“We have an obligation to be good stewards of this transformational gift, which not only renamed our school but is changing our educational offerings, translating into our first full-ride scholarship, providing funding for research, and allowing the recruitment and retention of the best and brightest minds to prepare each of our students for a successful career,” says Dean Barbara J. Stoll, M.D.

The late John P. McGovern, M.D., was a pediatrician, allergist, immunologist and educator who helped shape the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in its formative years. Almost 55 years after establishing his foundation, now led by his wife Kathrine McGovern, Dr. McGovern’s vision continues to transform the TMC through numerous gifts supporting the art and science of medicine.

“I know my late husband would be so proud to see the McGovern name linked to such a forward-thinking institution devoted
to teaching generations of future physicians to be humanistic and compassionate caregivers,” Mrs. McGovern, president of the John P. McGovern Foundation, said during the historic announcement on Nov. 23, 2015, in Webber Plaza.

This past year saw the first graduates of McGovern Medical School as well as the first class entering as McGovern Medical School students. Incoming students were outfitted with white coats embroidered with the new McGovern Medical School logo, and McGovern Societies were implemented as part of a wellness and resilience program for first-year students. Signage reflecting the new school name was installed this fall, and the school celebrated its first McGovern Day during a festive ceremony Dec. 6.

The largest gift in the foundation’s history will, in part, be used to provide a series of scholarships to be awarded annually. The medical school’s first full scholarships will recognize McGovern Scholars’ superior scholastic achievements, high standards of personal conduct, and empathy, and compassion for patients and their families. These scholarships will offset student debt burden and also will allow UTHealth to attract qualified students who would not be able to attend medical school without financial support.

The gift will enhance programs at UTHealth’s McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, which was established in
2004 with another generous donation from the John P. McGovern Foundation.

Dr. McGovern embraced the philosophy of Sir William Osler, M.D., whose approach included patient-centered, compassionate care, and appreciation of medical history and the humanities. Dr. McGovern co-founded the American Osler Society in 1969. With its focus on ethics and humanities, the McGovern Center’s mission is to address the dehumanizing forces in health care today. The center serves all six of the university’s schools.

In addition to the endowed scholarship fund, six John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Distinguished Chairs have been established – the first of which was awarded to Holger Eltzschig, M.D., Ph.D., an internationally recognized expert in perioperative organ protection who serves on the faculty in of the Department of Anesthesiology and was recently honored with The University of Texas System Faculty Translational STARs Award.

The John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Distinguished Faculty Awards and the John P. Kathrine McGovern Research Endowment also have been established.

“This extraordinary gift to UTHouston will reach far more than that of one great institution,” says William H. McRaven, chancellor of the UT System. “It will impact the future health of Texans and beyond. Anyone educated, mentored, or treated by a McGovern scholar or professor will benefit from the highest principles of compassion and ethics inherent to the late Dr. McGovern himself. The UT System is honored that the John P. McGovern Foundation board elected to have UTHouston’s medical school bear the McGovern name. With this great honor comes profound responsibility, and I know that the leadership and faculty of UTHouston could not be happier or more deserving of this opportunity.”

With this gift, Dr. McGovern’s legacy of giving, as well as medical excellence and dedication to education and research, will have a long-lasting impact.

Dr. McGovern, a 1945 graduate of Duke University Medical School, taught at George Washington University Medical School and Tulane Medical School before deciding to move to Houston where a vibrant, young Texas Medical Center was taking shape.

In 1956, he joined the faculty of The University of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, now The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, a partnership between UTHouston and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. McGovern went on to hold clinical faculty appointments at each of UTHouston’s five other schools – the only faculty member to hold such a distinction.

He purchased a private practice from a retiring physician and established the McGovern Allergy Clinic. In 1958, he hired a talented office manager, Kathrine Dunbar Galbreath, a native Houstonian who would become his wife three years later. The patient-centered Houston practice grew to become the largest privately owned allergy...
In 1961, the same year he and Katherine wed, he started a foundation, the Texas Allergy Research Foundation, which was renamed the John P. McGovern Foundation in 1979. “What one earns, he spends; what he wins, he loses; and what he gives, he keeps forever,” Dr. McGovern was quoted as saying in *John P. McGovern: A Lifetime of Stories* by Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., the John P. McGovern, M.D., Professor of Oslerian Medicine at McGovern Medical School.

During his career in medicine, Dr. McGovern held 17 professorships, received 29 honorary doctorates, authored 252 professional publications, including 26 books – all while serving as president or chief elected officer of 15 professional societies of medicine. He died in 2007, leaving a legacy that his wife carries on today through her work heading the John P. McGovern Foundation.

“The McGovern name is synonymous with service, knowledge and compassion – values that are embedded in the very foundation of our university,” says UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D.

“We celebrate the tremendous legacy of Dr. John P. McGovern and his wife Kathrine, for this transformational gift will impact each and every one of our students and faculty for years to come.”

McGovern Medical School’s announcement ceremony, watch the video: go.uth.edu/mcgoverngift
With brain drains funneling talent to the East and West coasts, recruiting and retaining researchers has become a high-stakes competition. Institutions and even state and local governments are raising the bar to attract and keep sought-after scientists.

The UT System Board of Regents created the Faculty Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARs) Program in 2004 to help UT institutions attract and retain the best-qualified faculty. Awards range from $250,000 to more than $1 million to purchase equipment and renovate facilities and require institutional support. Priority is given to recruitment or retention of individuals with national reputations and the promise of election to national honorific societies.

“Competing for these dollars has been a renewed focus for us this year, and I am delighted with the results and support of the UT System, which are strengthening our research capabilities,” says Dean Barbara J. Stoll, M.D. McGovern Medical School has been the recipient of five UT System STAR awards this year.
The “Number One” physician scientist in the field of perioperative medicine is now a member of the McGovern Medical School faculty thanks, in part, to support from the UT System STAR awards program.

Dr. Holger Eltzschig, an internationally recognized expert in perioperative organ protection, has joined the faculty of the Department of Anesthesiology as professor of anesthesiology and is the recipient of a UT System Faculty Translational STARs Award.

Dr. Eltzschig was recruited from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where he was professor of anesthesiology, director of the Organ Protection Program, and chief of anesthesia service for oncologic surgery. A clinician-investigator, Dr. Eltzschig’s work involves basic, translational, and clinical research focused on many aspects of perioperative organ protection. He has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health with 3-6 concurrent R01 grants (or their equivalents) since moving to the United States in 2007. At the same time, he continues to be an active clinician working in the operating room.

A native of Germany, Dr. Eltzschig received his medical degree from the Eberhard-Karls University and clinical training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where he completed a surgical internship, anesthesiology residency, and fellowship in cardiac anesthesia and intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography. He pursued a research fellowship on basic mechanisms of hypoxia-elicited changes in gene expression and function at Harvard Medical School. His findings there established the basis of his numerous translational studies related to perioperative organ injury protection.

At UTHHealth, Dr. Eltzschig’s laboratory uses a variety of methods to study perioperative organ injury, including cell culture, hypoxia exposure, basic immunologic approaches, and a wide range of animal models of organ injury, including acute and chronic lung injury models, intestinal inflammation, hepatic injury, acute kidney injury, and myocardial injury. He pursues diverse but integrated approaches to answer crucial questions.

Key to Dr. Eltzschig’s work is a large biobank of genetic knockout mice he has established with tissue-specific deletions of hypoxia-inducible transcription factor and adenosine signaling events. Plans are in the works to establish a multidiscipline Perioperative Research Center that Dr. Eltzschig will direct.
Dr. Cesar Arias, associate professor of internal medicine, infectious diseases, and leading translational physician-scientist in antibiotic resistance, is the recipient of a UT System Faculty Translational STARs Retention Award.

Dr. Arias joined the Division of Infectious Diseases faculty in 2008. He received his medical degree from the El Bosque University in Bogota, Colombia; a MSc in clinical microbiology from the University of London; and a doctorate in molecular biology and microbial biochemistry at Cambridge University. He moved to Houston to complete his clinical training with a residency in internal medicine at McGovern Medical School and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the Medical School and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Arias is the primary investigator of the National Institutes of Health-funded Laboratory for Antimicrobial Research and is the recent recipient of a competitive NIH R21/R33 award for the development of new antimicrobials, among others. Dr. Arias has developed a robust mentoring program for more than 25 trainees in both Texas and Latin America and established an International Center for Microbial Genomics at El Bosque University in Bogota. He also collaborates with several institutions in South America with strong research links with Cali, Colombia (CIDEM, Centro Internacional de Entrenamiento e Investigaciones Medicas) and Clinica Alemana in Santiago, Chile. His mentoring activities will be supported by a K24 Award from the NIH/NIAID.

Dr. Arias has received numerous awards, including the Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Microbiology; the Young Investigator Award from the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy; the Oswald Avery Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America; and the Sebastian Bago award from the International Society for Infectious Diseases. He was inducted as member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2015.
Dr. Ann-Marie Krachler, is a new faculty member recruited to the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics as a Rising STAR. Dr. Krachler, whose discovery of a family of adhesins has provided novel targets for new therapeutics to treat drug-resistant infections, joined McGovern Medical School Sept. 1, 2016.

Dr. Krachler comes to McGovern Medical School from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, where she was an independent research fellow at the Institute of Microbiology and Infection. She has published prolifically over the past few years and is the recipient of the Early Career Researcher Award from the Biochemical Society.

“Dr. Krachler’s research areas complement and expand the host-pathogen signaling emphasis of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genet-

ics,” says Theresa Koehler, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. “There are clear possibilities for collaborative efforts with MMG faculty. In addition, her work on emergence of drug-resistant subpopulations during infection and membrane fusion studies will complement the work of faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.”

Dr. Krachler received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of York and earned her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in chemical engineering from Vienna University of Technology, Austria. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at UT Southwestern, where she made a seminal discovery of a multivalent gram-negative outer membrane protein, “MAM 7,” which mediates contact between the pathogen and host cells via protein-lipid interactions. In contrast to most other bacterial adhesins, MAMs are found in many different bacterial species and are constitutively expressed.

UT System STAR Award funds will purchase a high-end epifluorescence microscope to allow high resolution live imaging of zebra fish, which Dr. Krachler uses in her lab on a daily basis.
Dr. Jordan Lake, a new faculty member recruited to the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, effective Sept. 1, 2016, has been recognized as a Rising STAR.

Dr. Lake comes to McGovern Medical School from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she is a clinician researcher focused on understanding the link between chronic inflammation and immune activation and the potentially devastating end-organ damage that occurs in individuals with HIV infection. She also has a targeted interest in optimizing HIV care in underserved communities.

“The Division of Infectious Diseases is very proud to now have both a Rising STAR, Dr. Lake, and a STAR, Dr. Cesar Arias, among our faculty,” says Barbara Murray, M.D., J. Ralph Meadows Professor and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases. “Dr. Lake's unique research expertise fills a major void in our current research portfolio and helps to expand our HIV clinical research program in this critically important area.”

Dr. Lake completed her medical degree and internal medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine. She completed both a fellowship in infectious diseases and a master's of science degree in clinical research at UCLA. She is the recipient of numerous competitive grants and awards, including a NIMH-funded T32 training program for Post-doctoral Training in Global HIV Prevention Research, a NIA-funded Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center Career Development Award, an NIAID K23 award for Inflammation, Fibrosis and End-Organ Disease in HIV-Infected Adults, and a Gilead Sciences Research Scholars Program in HIV Award.

STARs Award funding will purchase a Fibroscan machine for Dr. Lake to conduct studies to treat and prevent non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and adipose tissue fibrosis as well as provide for the expansion of the current HIV clinical program into South Texas.
Dr. Fabricio Do Monte is new faculty member recruited to the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy whose research vision is to elucidate the neuronal mechanisms responsible for balancing fear and reward responses.

Recognized as a Rising STAR by the UT System, Dr. Do Monte joined McGovern Medical School Sept. 1, 2016.

Dr. Do Monte comes to McGovern Medical School from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, where he was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Gregory J. Quirk in the Department of Psychiatry. His research is focused on fear learning and conditioning and fear memories.

“Dr. Do Monte’s research interests on the neural mechanisms of innate fear and reward and their interactions will lead to more effective therapies for anxiety disorders and substance abuse,” says John Byrne, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, associate dean for research and holder of the June and Virgil Waggoner Chair. “His young career is off to an exceptional start.”

The author of several high-impact publications, Dr. Do Monte is the recipient of a highly competitive NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00).

Dr. Do Monte received his bachelor’s degree in veterinary medicine from Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina in Brazil and his master’s and Ph.D. degrees (general pharmacology and neuropharmacology) from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil.
If you want to cure a disease, it is important to know how the disease works. With that mind, discovery scientists at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) are using stem cells to identify the Achilles’ heel of the deadliest forms of cancer.

While it is generally agreed that most cancers arise from tissue-specific stem cells normally engaged in the regenerative growth of organs, an emerging concept in cancer biology is that cancers too rely on a subpopulation of tumor cells for their growth, expansion and spread to distant organs.

If the “cancer stem cell” hypothesis is true, future generations of cancer drugs will specifically target the minority population of cancer cells rather than the bulk of tumor cells that have a limited lifespan.

This innovative research strategy is the focus of several of the researchers recruited with the support of the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) in 2016.

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth was awarded $3.7 million from CPRIT to recruit stem cell investigator Wa Xian, Ph.D., $2 million to recruit computational biologist Leng Han, Ph.D., and $2 million to recruit stem cell biologist Dung-Fang Lee, Ph.D.

“The CPRIT program has been tremendously important to help us recruit some of the most outstanding young scientists in cancer research who will help us to continue to build excellence in this and related research areas in the future,” says George Stancel, Ph.D., executive vice president for academic and research affairs and holder of the Roger J. Bulger, M.D., Distinguished Professorship at UTHealth.

“These are the type of young investigators who will develop into our future institutional leaders in this area, and the CPRIT support is critically important to help us recruit them to UTHealth.”

Dr. Xian has developed technology that specifically captures cancer stem cells from some of the most lethal cancers, including high-grade ovarian cancer and other epithelial malignancies. Dr. Han's investigations center on stem cell biology and cancer.
Dr. Leng Han

genetic errors that cause uncontrolled cell growth.

“Dr. Xian brings a cutting-edge approach to tissue-specific stem cells that can be used to develop cell therapies and further the understanding of disease,” says Brian Davis, Ph.D., director of the Center for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine at McGovern Medical School’s Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases.

While oncologists can kill the vast majority of ovarian cancer stem cells with chemotherapy, a rogue fraction of these cancer stem cells survive these treatments and frequently lead the development of recurrent disease in these patients in the following 6-24 months, says Dr. Xian, who previously worked at the University of Connecticut.

“In my lab, we are generating patient-specific libraries of cancer stem cells to identify and target this particularly nasty subset with new therapeutics designed to preclude the onset of recurrent disease,” says Dr. Xian, assistant professor at McGovern Medical School.

Whereas Dr. Xian’s research is concentrated on ovarian cancer, Dr. Han is working on the molecular mechanisms shared by 20 different types of cancer including pancreatic and breast.

“We already have huge volumes of data on DNA and RNA sequences from cancer patients,” says Dr. Han, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

“The challenge is to interpret this vast amount of sequence information, and I’m developing computational pipelines to address this challenge. When we get a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms of cancer, we can develop better diagnostic and therapeutic strategies,” Dr. Han adds.

“Dr. Han’s extensive experience with next generation sequence data from large cancer data resources has prepared him for this research,” says Rodney Kellems, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Lee was the first to use stem cells to model a genetic disorder called Li-Fraumeni syndrome, which affects children and young adults and increases their risk of brain tumors and bone cancer.

By comparing models created from the cells of someone with the disease and a family member without it, he was able to identify molecular mechanisms associated with the condition.

“This gives us the information we need to develop drug targets,” Dr. Lee says. “We will be testing lots of compounds to see which are the most effective in treating this condition that affects an estimated 1 in 20,000 people.”

Dr. Lee’s assistant professor appointment is in the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology. The department’s mission is to investigate the cell biology, physiology, and pharmacology of cell regulation and communication.

“We are extremely excited to have Dr. Lee join the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology. He is an outstanding, accomplished scientist and his unique expertise in creating stem cell models will aid the research programs of many of our existing faculty,” says John F. Hancock, M.B, B.Chir., Ph.D., department chair and John S. Dunn Distinguished University Chair in Physiology and Medicine.

Dr. Dung-Fang Lee
In step with quantum leaps
Leading the brain health revolution

When UT System Chancellor William McRaven revealed his vision in 2015, one of the quantum leaps he outlined was to expand “research into brain health by investing more into the existing, revolutionary programs at several UT institutions…tying efforts together to accelerate discoveries and treatments for diseases of the brain.”

To that end, the UT System committed $20 million for brain research this past year, with McGovern researchers garnering $1 million of those grants – tying with UT Austin scientists in number of awards.

“These grants will be a major boost to the neuroscience programs at UTHealth investigating fundamental brain mechanisms,” says John Byrne, Ph.D., director of the UTHealth Neuroscience Research Center and June and Virgil Waggoner Chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. “The grants will foster collaborations, which will lead us closer to understanding the brain.”

The brain is our most complex biological structure, and we are still unlocking its mysteries. Brain illnesses and injuries are common, affecting all areas of one’s life. McGovern Medical School’s scientists and clinicians are dedicated to deciphering the brain’s secrets in pursuit of improved health.
McGovern Medical School has recognized strengths in fundamental neurosciences as well as clinical and translational research into neurologic disorders. Our robust clinical departments include the Department of Neurology, led by Louise McCullough, M.D., Ph.D.; the Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery, led by Dong Kim, M.D.; and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, led by Jair Soares, M.D., Ph.D.; with the basic sciences represented by the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, led by Dr. Byrne. Within these departments, faculty are addressing such areas as the fundamental science of learning and memory, normal and abnormal cellular mechanisms, as well as basic, translational, and clinical aspects of stroke, neurotrauma, movement disorders, epilepsy, and dementia.
Scientists in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences are working on the basic biology of brain disorders and translating that information into relevant clinical applications.

“In our department, scientists and clinicians are working on how to translate these discoveries into new treatments,” says Dr. Soares, holder of the Pat R. Rutherford, Jr. Chair.

A UTHealth Brain Collection for Research in Psychiatric Disorders has been created to study brain disorders and create healthy changes for future generations. Donated brain tissue is obtained postmortem from individuals with mental illness as well as from individuals without psychiatric disorders.

“Brain tissue provides a crucial resource for understanding the biological causes of mental illness and other psychological challenges, such as substance abuse,” Dr. Soares says.

“Yet, study of the human brain is difficult due to lack of access to brain tissue. Donation of brain tissue is a true gift to future generations.”

The Department of Psychiatry’s Center of Excellence on Mood Disorders searches for the causes and the developments of new treatments for severe mental illnesses, such as bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder. The collaborative research team includes neuroimaging, neurophysiology, cognitive neuroscience, genetics, clinical psychopharmacology, and interventions research.

The department offers a number of general and specialized outpatient and inpatient clinical services for patients, from Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders Clinic to the Developmental Neuropsychology Clinic.

“Mental health services are always in demand, and our faculty offer expert and specialized care to the community,” Dr. Soares says.
McGovern Medical School is a proven leader in stroke, the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States. The Department of Neurology was one of the primary sites in the 1990s for the early treatment of stroke to reduce clot formation with tissue plasminogen activator (tPA, the only FDA-approved treatment for ischemic stroke). In 2013, our inpatient program at Memorial Hermann became the first Joint Commission-certified Comprehensive Stroke Center in the state. The program is home to the nation’s first mobile stroke unit, which allows specialized access via computed tomography (CT) scanner to evaluate if a stroke is being caused by a blood clot, thereby determining the best therapy.

A new multidisciplinary Stroke Institute, led by Sean Savitz, M.D., professor of neurology and Frank M. Yatsu, M.D., Chair in Neurology, is a collaboration among all six UT Health schools. The Stroke Institute encompasses the full spectrum of stroke research, from developing novel strategies for stroke prevention to developing precision medicine treatments using “big data” and genomic approaches. Telemedicine initiatives also are growing in collaboration with the Texas Lone-Star network.

Dr. McCullough, the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Distinguished Chair, is a nationally recognized stroke neurologist. A physician-scientist, she was recruited to McGovern Medical School in 2015 to lead our Department of Neurology. Her research, focused on sex-based differences in stroke and age-related inflammation, adds to our strong research portfolio.

“We are finding risks, symptoms, and outcomes differ in stroke for women compared to men, and we also see that women respond differently to treatments,” says Dr. McCullough, co-director of the Mischer Neuroscience Institute, a joint program of McGovern Medical School and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. “We need to do more research to understand the best way to treat women and men suffering from stroke.”

Beyond stroke

This pioneering spirit extends beyond stroke research, touching many of the school’s 23 departments, which are taking McGovern brain research to new heights.

“WE ARE FINDING RISKS, SYMPTOMS, AND OUTCOMES DIFFER IN STROKE FOR WOMEN COMPARED TO MEN, AND WE ALSO SEE THAT WOMEN RESPOND DIFFERENTLY TO TREATMENTS.”

Louise McCullough, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Neurology
Discoveries by Claudio Soto, Ph.D., professor of neurology, have led to the first test to detect prions in human biological fluids. His team reported the presence of the prion protein in the urine of patients with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2014, with a follow-up paper in *Science Translational Medicine*. The development of a blood test for humans, supported by the National Institutes of Health, is in late stages of validation for regulatory approval in Europe and the United States.

“Prion diseases are rare, but because of their incurability, lethality, and potential to spread from animals to humans, we need to better understand them from how they replicate to the development of efficient detection methods,” Dr. Soto says.

Through his work with prions, Dr. Soto recently discovered a way to develop a biochemical test for the diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease, which recently was published in *JAMA Neurology*. Currently there are no lab or blood tests to help in the diagnosis of this disease.

Parkinson’s disease is also being tackled by a collaborative team using stem cells as a therapy. Led by Mya Schiess, M.D., professor of neurology and Adriana Blood Chair, the group is a collaboration with researchers from the Department of Pathology, including Diane Bick, Ph.D.; Roger Bick, MMedEd, FSB, FAHA; Marylee Kott, M.D.; and Brian Poindexter, MSc, and Anne Sereno, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. In addition, using eye tracking paradigms, Drs. Sereno and Schiess have identified promising behavioral measures that could serve as key behavioral biomarkers for early differential diagnosis of idiopathic Parkinson’s and typical Parkinsonism.

**The value of research**

McGovern neurosurgeons at the Mischer Neuroscience Institute offer patients all available advanced modalities of treatment for complex brain lesions – expert microsurgery, Gamma Knife radio surgery, and interventional neuroradiology/endovascular surgery.

“We have the comprehensive team of experts that patients rely on,” says Dr. Kim, who also directs the Mischer Neuroscience Institute.
Dr. Kim led the research team that recently discovered a specific genetic cause of brain aneurysm, which kills 12,000 each year in the United States when a blood vessel in the brain bulges or balloons. Although many genetic factors had been linked to familial brain aneurysms, no single disease-causing gene variant had been identified until Dr. Kim’s research, which was published in *Stroke*.

Physician-scientist, Daniel Kim, M.D., professor in the Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery, is leading researchers at the Mischer Neuroscience Institute to develop the first advance microsurgical robot, which is the only device able to navigate the brain’s narrow blood vessels.

In another first, Pramod Dash, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy, was the first to discover how long-term memories are formed. Now he is working on the biomarkers for traumatic brain injury as it relates to concussions. “Traumatic brain injury is not a unitary event,” he says. “Rather it is a progressive disease that can rob the quality of life of the affected person as well as their loved ones.”

As many current assessments of mild traumatic brain injury are not yet amenable for widespread use, requiring either expensive equipment, trained personnel to operate, or real-time specialized software, Dr. Sereno has developed a quick, portable, tablet-based task that in collaboration with James McCarthy, M.D., chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, and Elizabeth Jones, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine, was able to accurately diagnose mild traumatic brain injury within 6 hours of injury in the emergency room as well as detect more subtle cognitive changes after subconcussive blows, such as occur when heading a soccer ball.

Brain research is not a sprint just about being first but a marathon focused on long-term outcomes – understanding mechanisms to result in treatments and diagnosis.

Nitin Tandon, M.D., professor of neurosurgery, recently received a $3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to detect abnormalities related to electrical activity of the brain in patients with epilepsy. “If we know how the system normally works, we can evaluate patients with epilepsy to understand how their brain works differently and how we might find better therapies for them,” Dr. Tandon says.

“Traumatic brain injury is not a unitary event. Rather it is a progressive disease that can rob the quality of life of the affected person as well as their loved ones.”

Dong Kim, M.D.  
Chair, Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery
A focus on Alzheimer’s

Paul Schulz, M.D., professor of neurology and director of the UT Physicians Memory Disorders and Dementia Clinic, is collaborating with neuroscientists across UTHealth to develop methods and sophisticated technologies to diagnose and treat Alzheimer’s disease and its risk factors.

Dr. Schulz evaluates patients who have cognitive, behavioral, or mood disorders, because all three can be caused by early dementia. McGovern Medical School brings together a team of world-class clinicians, researchers, and educators whose insights and research findings are transforming the field of neuroscience. They incorporate diverse approaches such as molecular, biochemical, transgenic, and electrophysiological techniques. In addition to new therapeutic approaches, his group is investigating genetic and environmental risk factors for dementia.

“We see exciting potential for the development of life-changing treatments,” Dr. Schulz says. “Our goal is to improve the quality of life for patients living with dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and other memory disorders.”

Drs. Soto and Dash also are focusing on technology to diagnose patients with Alzheimer’s and to bring forth treatments.

“We are using positron emission tomography (PET) agents that bind to beta-amyloid plaques in the brain to diagnose Alzheimer’s with greater specificity and sensitivity,” explains Dr. Soto, director of the George and Cynthia Mitchell Center for Alzheimer’s disease and Related Brain Disorders at UTH Health. “We provide patients with the assurance that they do not have Alzheimer’s, or we can diagnose them with the disease much sooner than we could in the past. The ability to investigate treatments much earlier in the disease process may lead to much greater effectiveness.”

“Through brain imaging to detect amyloid and tau aggregates, we are able to identify people at risk for developing Alzheimer’s 10 to 20 years before their first symptom. We can test the effectiveness of treatments on potentially delaying, or perhaps eventually preventing, the disorder,” adds Dr. Dash, the Nina and Michael Zilkha Distinguished Chair in Neurodegenerative Disease Research.
Strengths in collaboration

“The era of collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches are enhancing our understanding of brain function both in health and disease,” Dr. McCullough says. “McGovern Medical School is uniquely positioned to take advantage of these neuroscience strengths.”

Several ongoing research projects cross over traditional department boundaries, ultimately aimed at improving treatments and benefiting patients.

Erin Furr Stimming, M.D., associate professor of neurology, and Antonio Teixeira, M.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, have joined forces to look at Huntington’s disease using cells derived from patients. Their work recently was funded by a grant from the Huntington’s Disease Society of America.

Venugopal Venna, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, and Breno Diniz, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, are studying social factors and depression in stroke recovery of patients.

Extensive collaborations also exist between the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy and the clinical neuroscience departments. Yin Liu, Ph.D., associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy, works with Alex Choi, M.D., assistant professor of neurosurgery, on systematic modeling of inflammation after subarachnoid hemorrhage; Tony Wright, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy, collaborates with Richard Meisch, M.D., Ph.D., in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, on the effects of alcohol and opioids on cognition; and Dr. Sereno, professor of neurobiology and anatomy, and George Williams, M.D., associate professor of anesthesiology are investigating sensorimotor and executive function slowing in physicians after overnight shifts.

The cross-collaboration extends beyond McGovern Medical School borders, with Andrey Tesvetkov, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy, investigating the phenomenon of chemo fog with colleagues from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Dr. McCullough collaborating with faculty at Baylor College of Medicine about how the microbiome affects stroke recovery.

“The Chancellor’s Brain Initiative is both very important and very exciting. McGovern Medical School is proud to be a leader in the neurosciences and in the care of patients with complex neurologic disorders. We hope to continue to play an important role in making quantum leaps in brain research and care,” Dean Barbara J. Stoll, M.D., says.
Reading, writing, arithmetic. These are what we expect of schoolchildren. But these expectations are required earlier than ever – before students enter kindergarten and those who are not prepared are left behind academically.

With a mission to create a quality learning environment for all children through classroom curriculum, teacher mentoring, clinical programs and applied research, the McGovern Medical School’s Children’s Learning Institute (CLI) was started in 1996 as the Department of Developmental Pediatrics with a staff of 25 people. Today it brings in more research dollars than any institute in the medical school and is a national leader in childhood education.

In 2003, Texas Gov. Rick Perry designated the institute as the Texas State Center for Early Childhood Development, which led the institute to develop state initiatives in early childhood education and assessments targeting the state’s at-risk populations. The institute is also home to three clinics, the Center for Autism and Related Conditions, the Dan Duncan Children’s Neurodevelopmental Clinic and the Center for Neuroscience.

Since its creation, more than 20 faculty and 200 staff under the direction of nationally recognized early childhood expert Susan
Landry, Ph.D. combine data and studies from the fields of psychology, neurodevelopment, child development, and education to provide learning solutions and evidence-based interventions.

CLI’s research and programs are supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Health, the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Educational Science, and the Texas Education Agency, among others.

CLI recently received $9.8 million from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the Blood Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health, for six research projects to address issues in education affecting students from a variety of backgrounds across Texas.

• Carolyn Denton, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, is the principal investigator with co-principal investigator Tricia Zucker, Ph.D., on a three-year study to develop an intensive reading intervention for students in grades 2 and 3 at risk for, or identified as, having serious reading difficulties or disabilities.

• Dr. Denton is co-principal investigator of a four-year project to evaluate the effects of Reading Rules, which is for first-grade students at risk for reading difficulties. The study, which is led by principal investigator Emily Solari, Ph.D., of the University of California at Davis, will include 960 first-grade children in Houston and Davis, Calif., who are at risk for reading difficulties.

• Jason Anthony, Ph.D., Ed.S., professor of pediatrics, is a principal investigator of a four-year, $1.6 million project that will add STEM assessments to the School Readiness Curriculum Based Measurement System, which was recently developed to assess young children’s language and literacy skills in Spanish and English. Teachers and researchers will be able to use the expanded this system to assess 3- to 5-year-olds’ language, literacy, math, and science skills in both English and Spanish.

• In a four-year, $1.55 million project funded by the IES, Maria Carlo, Ph.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, will conduct a series of studies to inform instructional strategies intended to help English language learners learn the meaning of new words.

• Dr. Zucker, associate professor of pediatrics, is the principal investigator on a three-year, $1.5 million project funded by IES that will develop Teaching Together!, a curriculum that will provide targeted language and literacy instruction to preschoolers who are not responding to universal instruction.

• The Children’s Learning Institute also received a $231,000 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for a study called ENRICH (Encouraging Nurturing Responsiveness to Improve Child Health), that will help combat the child obesity epidemic in Texas. This two-year project, led by principal investigators Dr. Landry and Shreela Sharma, Ph.D., of the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at the UTHealth School of Public Health, will conduct a pilot test a home-based program targeting a diverse population to improve parenting skills for obesity prevention and control among toddlers 2 to 3 years old.

“For a variety of reasons, many students in Texas are at risk for falling behind where they need to be in order to succeed,” says Dr. Landry, who holds the Albert and Margaret Alkek Chair in Early Childhood Development and Michael Matthew Knight Memorial Professorship in Pediatrics. “However, there is a growing consensus that high quality educational experiences can lay a strong foundation for school success for children of all backgrounds.”
Medical school evokes images of all-night study sessions, ginormous human atlas textbooks, short white coats, and the familiar smell of formaldehyde leaking from the gross anatomy lab. But for many medical school students, the four years of medical school is a time fraught with anxiety, depression, and substance abuse.

The number of college students seeking help for mental health issues at university counseling centers has steadily increased over the past five years, and research from the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that one in four students has a diagnosable mental illness.

When it comes to the medical profession, the numbers are even more grim. Rates of depression among medical students are 15 to 30 percent higher than the general population. And female physician suicide rates are 250-400 percent higher than females in other professions in the United States.

Last year, McGovern Medical School faculty and staff noted a marked difference within the medical student population – an increase in anxiety about specialty choice and matching to good programs, poor coping skills, earlier burnout, and an increase in worry and stress.

The Office of Admissions and Student Affairs administered a student survey to find some answers. More than 460 students responded, with 57 percent reporting distressing anxiety, 14 percent reporting panic attacks, and 19 percent reporting suicidal ideation or suicide plan.

“While we understand these numbers are average for medical school students, they are nonetheless alarming, and we immediately created a plan to support our students in these areas,” explains LaTanya Love, M.D., associate dean for Admissions and Student Affairs.

Wellness, A Resiliency New Day
Affairs and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Student Wellness and Resilience Program was born out of the survey results, and features six components:
- McGovern Societies Master Advisory Program
- Occupational Development
- Professionalism and Leadership
- Personal Health and Self-Care
- Interpersonal Growth
- Cultural and Environmental Proficiency

Starting with the entering class of 2016, all first-year students are initiated into an enhanced Master Advisory Program (now known as the McGovern Societies) as members of one of 30 societies named for a prominent benefactor of McGovern Medical School (see listing, p. 21). The societies, comprised of 8-10 first-year students and additional second- and fourth-year mentors, meet regularly and are led by a clinical faculty member.

Sasha Adams, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, is the leader of the James H. “Red” Duke, Jr., MD Medical Society.

She said that the society is helping her better connect to the students and her colleagues.

“I am getting a little insight into their style of learning and way of life that is very different than how I was during medical school and since!” she says. “Given that this is the age group that I’m mostly responsible for teaching, it actually helps me a lot to understand them better.”

Meeting frequently throughout the four years of medical school to address academic resources and successful learning styles, student stress, professionalism, and leadership, the goal of the society is to create relationships that will continue beyond medical school.

“I have had nothing but great experiences with the McGovern Societies,” says first-year student Grant Garwood. “Having Dr. Adams as a society leader has already been extremely beneficial to my medical school career. She has helped me manage my stress level and has helped me connect with doctors in the field I want to pursue.”
“I graduated from UT Austin, and we did not have a similar society. It would have been very helpful if there was anything like our McGovern Societies.”

Students learned of their societies and met their leaders during a society reveal and leader induction ceremony Aug. 3. All society leaders read their assigned students medical school admissions essays to gain better familiarity with their students and understand their motivation to enter the medical profession. Some of the leaders had even interviewed their assigned students during their medical school admissions process.

“Once they decide on their specialty they will transition to a specialty adviser, but we want them to know that their McGovern

Gold Humanism Honor Society chapter opens

A new chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) has opened its doors at McGovern Medical School.

The second honor society of the school, in addition to Alpha Omega Alpha, the GHHS honors medical students, residents, fellows, role-model physician teachers, and others who demonstrate excellence in humanistic clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service.

The mission of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) is “to recognize individuals who are exemplars of humanistic patient care and who can serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine.”

“Formally recognizing faculty, residents, and students who exceed expectation in the realm of professionalism and altruism in medicine will further cultivate the culture of humanism at our school, thereby continuing to enhance our ability to graduate physicians who appreciate the impact that these attributes have on patient outcomes,” says Dana McDowelle, Ph.D., director of the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions.

McGovern Medical School joins 137 medical schools with an undergraduate medical education chapter of GHHS.

The McGovern Medical School chapter will be advised by Drs. Sheela Lahoti, Mark Hormann and Soham Roy.

In her letter of support for the new
First-year medical students are inducted into one of 30 named societies:

Anita Borges Study
Anna Steinberger, PhD
Anne and Bill Stewart
Barbara and Gerald Hines
Becky and Ralph S. O’Connor
Crawford & Hattie Jackson Foundation
Denton A. Cooley, MD
Dr. Frank and Lynne Arnett
Dr. Marnie Rose
Evelyn H. Griffin
Georgiana and Robert Ladd
Hailey and David Higgins
Herbert and Margaret DuPont
Isabella and Cheves Smythe, MD
James H. “Red” Duke, Jr., MD
John H. Freeman
John S. Dunn Foundation
Laura Andrassy
Leah Lewis Stone and Jim Stone
Linda and James McIngvale
Michelle and Lorne Bain
Mrs. June Waggoner
Nancy and Clive Runnells
Nicole and Evan H. Katz
Richard S. Ruiz, MD
Rick McCord
Robert A. “Pete” Seale
Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence
Vincent Florence Guinee, MD
William DeFebebach, JD

Each McGovern Society is led by a Patricia Lee, MD ’81 and Stephen Tyring, MD, PhD Faculty Affiliate; Keith and Alice Mosing Society Leader; and Underwood Family Peer Mentors.
Following a national search, Dean Barbara J. Stoll has announced the appointment of James J. McCarthy, M.D., as the new permanent chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

An associate professor of emergency medicine, Dr. McCarthy assumed his new role Nov. 16, 2015. He is also chief of emergency medical services at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

“Dr. McCarthy has served this school in leadership roles for the past 14 years and has the experience, skills, and personal qualities needed to support and grow this dynamic and important department,” Dean Stoll said.

Dr. McCarthy received his medical degree from Loyola University, Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He completed his emergency medicine residency at the University of Chicago. He joined McGovern Medical School faculty in 2001 and served as medical director of emergency services for Memorial Hermann-TMC from 2005 to 2013.

Dr. McCarthy was named physician of the year by Memorial Hermann-TMC in 2006 and is the recipient of numerous Dean’s Excellence and Clinical Excellence awards. He served as Faculty Senate president in 2008-9.

His clinical research interests include traumatic brain injury, infectious disease, and myocardial infarction.

Kevin A. Morano, Ph.D., has been named associate vice president for faculty affairs and development at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). In this role, Dr. Morano will build a new Office of Faculty Affairs and Development, leading efforts to coordinate and meet faculty needs across the campus.

This new role is an expansion of the service Dr. Morano provides as associate dean for faculty affairs at McGovern Medical School. He will now be working with the deans and associate deans of all six of UTHealth’s schools to develop strategies to meet goals and address needs in the area of faculty affairs.

“Dr. Morano is a fantastic leader and longtime champion for our faculty, and we are fortunate he has accepted this new
appointment, which became effective July 1, 2016,” said Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer at UTHealth and a dean of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

In addition to Dr. Morano’s service as associate vice president for faculty affairs and development at UTHealth and associate dean for faculty affairs at the medical school, he will continue to run his research laboratory.

Dr. Morano earned his Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of California, Davis, and upon completion of his postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, he joined the UTHealth faculty in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Now a full professor, he has served as associate dean for faculty affairs at McGovern Medical School since 2015 and is a longtime member of the Graduate School, where he has served as president of the graduate faculty.

Since joining the UTHealth faculty, Dr. Morano has earned accolades for outstanding teaching, mentoring, and research, including the John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award for the Graduate School in 2007 and 2013, and The University of Texas System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2014. He was named a Minnie Stevens Piper Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2015. Dr. Morano is also a member of The University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education and was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2013.

BLACKBURN NAMED CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER OF UTHEALTH

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D., a nationally recognized lung disease researcher and academic leader, has been appointed executive vice president and chief academic officer of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). The appointment was effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Dr. Blackburn’s duties include enhancing collaboration among researchers at the university’s schools of medicine, nursing, public health, biomedical informatics, biomedical sciences, and dentistry, as well as providing strategic leadership for the university’s research efforts. In this role, he will also work alongside George Stancel, Ph.D., executive vice president for academic and research affairs, on the organization, management, and oversight of UTHealth’s research portfolio.

“Dr. Blackburn is a distinguished scientist and educator dedicated to enhancing and expanding the research and academic enterprise,” said UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D. “His demonstrated effectiveness as dean of one of the most innovative graduate programs in the country, and his success as an investigator will benefit all of UTHealth and complement our already strong research programs.”
Dean Barbara J. Stoll announced the appointment of Bela Patel, M.D., F.C.C.P., as vice dean for healthcare quality of McGovern Medical School Feb. 22, 2016.

That day Memorial Hermann also announced her appointment as Regional Chief Medical Officer for Memorial Hermann-TMC campus, including the Memorial Hermann Orthopedic & Spine Hospital (MHOSH).

In her new position for the medical school, Dr. Patel will oversee quality outcomes and safety initiatives. She will collaborate with all of the clinical departments on their healthcare quality and safety measures and initiatives, and all departmental vice chairs for quality will report to her. Dr. Patel also will work with our hospital partners, Memorial Hermann-TMC and Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital to ensure all guidelines are followed and that quality is optimized. She also will work with the Office of Educational Programs to enhance the quality improvement and patient safety curriculum for undergraduate and graduate programs.
Dr. Patel will continue in her role as division director for Critical Care Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine and executive medical director of Critical Care for Memorial Hermann-TMC. She previously served as assistant dean of Healthcare Quality for adults as well as assistant chief medical officer.

Dr. Patel earned her medical degree from McGovern Medical School, where she also completed her internal medicine residency and fellowship. She is board certified in pulmonary medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine; in critical care medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine; in sleep medicine, American Board of Sleep Medicine; and in medical quality by the American Board of Medical Quality. She is nationally recognized for her body of work in improving healthcare delivery and patient safety.

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**Fowler, Fitch elected distinguished alumni**

Two outstanding alumni of McGovern Medical School were honored in a special ceremony Oct. 21, 2016.

Grant Fowler, M.D., ’84, and Jane Fitch M.D., ’88, are the 2016 winners of the Distinguished Alumnus Award of McGovern Medical School and were the featured guests of honor at the Distinguished Alumnus Award ceremony.

Established in 1987, the purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions of alumni in the areas of medical science and education, or the prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as continued interests in McGovern Medical School and its students.

Dr. Fitch is professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. Following graduation from McGovern Medical School, she completed a transitional internship at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Houston and completed a residency in anesthesiology at the University of Washington, Seattle,
becoming chief resident. After residency, she pursued a fellowship in cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesiology at the University of Washington, Seattle, where she also served as a clinical instructor. She then joined Yale University School of Medicine as an assistant professor, fellowship director, and associate operating room manager for Yale-New Haven Hospital. In 1998, Dr. Fitch returned to Houston, where she served at Baylor College of Medicine as associate professor, division chief, and vice chair until 2001, when she was recruited to the University of Oklahoma as professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

“Her contributions to the clinical care of patients and service to her department, medical school, and community have been exemplary and continue to make her a most deserving candidate for the Distinguished Alumnus Award,” wrote one of her nominators.

Dr. Fitch has served in numerous national leadership roles in her specialty, including being only the second woman to serve as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in 2014, an organization of 53,000, started in 1905. She is the 2016 recipient of ASA’s Excellence in Government Award. Dr. Fitch also is completing her term as immediate past president of the Society of Academic Anesthesiology Associations and the Association of Academic Anesthesiology Chairs. She has been active in international anesthesiology and was made an honorary member of the Romanian Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care. Dr. Fitch began her career in healthcare as an intensive care unit nurse, followed by a nurse anesthetist.

Grant Fowler, M.D., is vice chairman of McGovern Medical School’s Department of Family and Community Medicine, overseeing medical education at the medical student and resident levels.

“I cannot overstate how much of an asset Dr. Fowler is at our institution,” wrote one of his nominators. “He has educated many residents, including me, over the years, and his impact on the trainees is everlasting.”

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Fowler is additionally certified in geriatrics and sports medicine as well as in lipidology. He completed his family medicine residency at Memorial Southwest, UT Medical School at Houston and additionally completed a certificate of management from the University of Houston Clear Lake. He joined the faculty at McGovern Medical School in 1987 as an instructor.

Dr. Fowler is past president of the Harris County Academy of Family Physicians and served in a national leadership position on the board of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors. He frequently presents medical information and advice through public speaking and media opportunities.

His numerous honors include 2017 Texas Academy of Family Physicians Exemplary Teaching Award and induction into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society as an alumnus in 2015.

Do you know of a deserving alumnus for the Distinguished Alumni Award? Nominations are currently being accepted until June 1 for the 2017 award. Nomination forms, criteria, and the nomination process information may be found online: med.uth.edu/alumni/award

For more details or questions, please contact Alumni Relations, 713.500.5065 or ms.alumni@uth.tmc.edu
McGovern Medical School’s chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) was named national chapter of the year at the organization’s national conference in Austin. With more than 150 chapters in the country, this is a remarkable honor.

Community outreach, such as high school initiatives, a STEM conference, the pre-medical conference, and a mentoring in medicine program, helped to put the spotlight on the chapter. More than 120 undergraduate students from across Texas attended the pre-medical conference in February; the mentoring in medicine project is in collaboration with Houston’s Chapter of 100 Black Men.

“It is a great honor to represent our school on a national level within one of the nation’s first and largest organizations for minority medical students,” said outgoing SNMA president and second-year medical student Brandon Esianor. “The key to our success this year is largely due to the strength of our executive board and the dedication of our members. I have honestly never been surrounded by a group of more driven individuals, and I will forever cherish my time as this amazing chapter’s president.”

SNMA is a national organization whose mission is to support current and future underrepresented minority medical students, address the needs of underserved communities, and increase the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.
Joseph L. Alcorn, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, was honored at the 10th annual Men of Distinction luncheon for his extensive research in pediatric medicine.

Roberto Arduino, M.D., professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, was recognized by Argentine Society for Infectious Diseases for his outstanding contributions and commitment to the Argentine infectious disease society.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed Nicholas Beckmann, M.D., assistant professor of radiology, to an advisory board charged with overseeing medical radiologic technologists in Texas. Dr. Beckmann’s term runs through 2021.

McGovern Medical School recipients of the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award are Ian Butler, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology; David Marshak, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy; and Hope Northrup, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Pediatric Medical Genetics. With a monetary award of $25,000, the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Awards are among the largest in the nation for rewarding outstanding faculty performance.

John Byrne, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, was appointed permanent member of the NIH Learning and Memory Study Section and was recognized for his 20th anniversary of service as editor-in-chief of Learning and Memory.

Nathan Carlin, Ph.D., associate professor in the Health and Human Spirit Program, received the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Award from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Penn.

Arthur L. Day, M.D., professor of neurosurgery and vice chair, program director, and director of clinical education in neurosurgery at the Memorial Hermann Mischer Neuroscience Institute at the Texas Medical Center, received the prestigious Harvey Cushing Medal, the highest honor awarded by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, at the annual meeting in April 2015. Dr. Day was selected as recipient of the honor for his many years of outstanding leadership, dedication and contributions to the field of neurosurgery.

Carmel Dyer, M.D., associate dean for Harris County Programs and professor of geriatric and palliative medicine, was a member of the panel that developed the new CDC guide for elder abuse definition and surveillance. She also was invited to serve on the Elder Maltreatment and Follow-Up Technical Expert Panel for the CMS Physician Quality Reporting System.
Charles Ericsson M.D., professor of internal medicine and Dr. and Mrs. Carl V. Vartian Professor in Infectious Diseases, is serving on the Infectious Diseases Society of America’s panel to write new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Lyme disease. He also is co-chair of the International Society of Travel Medicine.

Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center (TMC) honored three McGovern Medical School faculty members with the Distinguished Physician Award at the Annual Medical Staff Meeting held in December 2015. Recognized for their significant contributions while spending the majority of their career at Memorial Hermann-TMC were Stephen Fletcher, M.D., associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery; Philip Johnson, M.D., professor and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine; and Jerry Wolinsky, M.D., Opal C. Rankin Professor in Neurology.

Grant Fowler M.D., professor and vice chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, is the recipient of the 2017 Texas Academy of Family Physician Exemplary Teaching Award.

Gerard Francisco, M.D., chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and chief Medical officer at TIRR Memorial Hermann, received The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation’s Distinguished Member Award at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Boston. He also is the 2016 recipient of the Sidney Licht Award from the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM). Unanimously selected for the prestigious honor, Dr. Francisco is just the fifth American to receive the award in the 34 years since it was originally established by the International Rehabilitation Medicine Association (the forerunner of the ISPRM) to “honor physiatrists who have made consistent contributions to the advancement of international physical and rehabilitation medicine.”

Daniel Freet, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, is the 2016 recipient of the Benjy F. Brooks, M.D. Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award. Established in 1991 by the Alumni Association, the Benjy Brooks award is presented by McGovern Medical School’s Women in Surgery to recognize individuals “who complement and enhance the education program by serving as role models for students.”

The recipient of the 2016 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation is Francisco Fuentes, M.D., professor of internal medicine and holder of the Theodore R. and Maureen O’Driscoll Levy Endowed Professorship in Cardiology Research. The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award annually honors faculty who are exemplary in their compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of care to patients and their families, who administer scientifically excellent clinical care, and who serve as role models to students.
Rukma Govindu, M.D.,
assistant professor of internal
medicine, is the winner of
the 2016 John P. McGovern
Award as the exceptional
clinical teacher. The John P.
McGovern Award is given
annually to the outstanding clinical faculty
member as chosen by the senior class.

Ruth Heidelberger, Ph.D.,
professor of the Department
of Neurobiology and Anat-
omy and co-director of the
M.D./Ph.D. Program, was
elected to a three-year term as
one of 12 executive council members of the
Biophysical Society.

Nneka Ifejika, M.D.,
M.P.H., associate professor
of neurology and physical
medicine and rehabilitation,
was elected a fellow of the
Stroke Council of the Ameri-
can Heart Association.

Memorial Hermann-Texas
Medical Center (TMC) and
Children’s Memorial Her-
mann Hospital selected two
McGovern Medical School
faculty members as the
2015 Physicians of the Year:
Saleem Khan, M.D., chief of
Emergency General Surgery,
affiliated with Memorial Her-
mann-Texas Medical Center,
and KuoJen Tsao, M.D., the
Children’s Fund, Inc. Distinguished Pro-
fessor in Pediatric Surgery and co-director
of The Fetal Center at Children’s Memorial
Hermann Hospital.

Michael Lorenz, Ph.D.,
professor of microbiology and
molecular genetics, was elect-
ed President of the Medical
Microbiology Society of the
Americas.

Memorial Hermann Texas
Trauma Institute named Jo-
seph Love, D.O., associate
professor of surgery, as the
new medical director of Me-
morial Hermann Life Flight™.

Amber Luong, M.D., associ-
ate professor of otolaryngology, is chair and founder of
Women in Rhinology for the
American Rhinologic Society.

William Margolin, Ph.D.,
professor of microbiology and
molecular genetics, was elect-
ed as a Fellow in the American
Academy of Microbiology.

Jamie McCarthy, M.D., chair
of the Department of Emer-
gency Medicine, received the
Physician Leadership Award
from Memorial Hermann Sys-
tem. The Physician Leadership
Award was established in 2013 to recognize
physicians who demonstrate significant
leadership responsibilities and actions in the
progress of the System’s Vision and Brand
Promise: We advance health.

Dianna Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Di-
vision of Medical Genetics, President George H.W. Bush
Chair of Cardiovascular Medi-
cine, and vice-chair of the De-
partment of Internal Medicine,
is the first woman to receive the Visiting
Professorship Award from the Fondation
Cardiologique Princesse Liliane in Belgium. The Princess Lilian Foundation bestows the renowned visiting professorship every two years to foster interactions between Belgian researchers and internationally established experts.

Luis Ostrosky, M.D., professor of internal medicine, was appointed senior editor of the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy and to the editorial board of Revista de Investigacion Clinical (Clinical and Translational Investigation). He also was appointed as a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America Task force on guidelines and as a voting member of the Clinical Laboratory Standard Institute Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Subcommittee.

Donald Parks, M.D., professor of surgery, received the Chairman’s Medal from the University of Toronto’s Division of Plastic Surgery, which is given to alumni for special accomplishments.

John D. Reveille, M.D., and Heinrich Taegtmeyer, M.D., D.Phil., received the UTHealth President’s Scholar Awards for Research. Dr. Reveille is the director of the Frank C. Arnett, M.D., Center for Autoimmunity and Immunobiology, division director of rheumatology, and vice chair for research in the Department of Internal Medicine. He also holds the Linda and Ronny Finger Foundation Distinguished Chair in Neuroimmunologic Disorders. Dr. Taegtmeyer is professor of medicine, co-director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, and holds a cross-appointment at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. He also is on staff at the Texas Heart Institute and is co-director of the Metabolomics Core Laboratory at Baylor College of Medicine.

Christophe Ribelayga, Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology and visual science, is the winner of the first Ron Konopka Memorial Junior Faculty Award from the Texas Society for Circadian Biology and Medicine.

Richard Smalling, M.D., Ph.D., professor of internal medicine, James D. Woods Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, and holder of the Jay Brent Sterling Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine, has been named to the new class of Master Interventionalists of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, the professional medical society for adult and pediatric invasive/interventional cardiologists. Dr. Smalling also is director of Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine at Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute-Texas Medical Center.

Erin Furr Stimming, M.D., associate professor of neurology, is the recipient of the 2016 Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award. Established in 2001 and made possible by a gift from the DuPonts, the award recognizes and preserves the essence and quality of the master clinical teacher, reflecting McGovern Medical School’s top priority of quality clinical medical education.
Dean Barbara J. Stoll, M.D., was awarded the 2016 John Howland Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Pediatric Society.

Angela Stotts, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, is the recipient of the 2015 UTHHealth Distinguished Professional Woman Award.

Fabio Triolo, D.d.R., M.Phil., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatric surgery, was one of 14 Italian scientists and physicians selected by the Italian Ministry of International Affairs to meet and update Sergio Mattarella, president of Italy, on research activities involving Italians in Texas.

KuoJen Tsao, M.D., associate professor of pediatric surgery, was named Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital Physician of the Year; elected Secretary/Treasurer of the North American Fetal Therapy Network; and named Chair of the American Pediatric Surgical Association Quality and Safety Committee.

Pamela Wenzel, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatric surgery, was named an American Society of Hematology Scholar for her research on blood stem cells, her second time to receive the honor.

Han Zhang, M.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy, is the 2016 recipient of the John H. Freeman Award for Faculty Teaching. Chosen by the senior class, this is the fifth time Dr. Zhang has received the award, which is given annually to recognize the McGovern Medical School’s outstanding basic science faculty member.

Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, M.D., assistant professor of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, was named to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s transition team’s Public Health Committee. She also was admitted to the incoming class of the highly competitive Program for Academic Leadership of the Association of Academic Physiatrists.
Match Day 2016’s excitement, watch the video: go.uth.edu/2016matchday
2016 Residency Match Results and Data

Graduating Seniors

237

Where They’re Going

Texas .......... 116
California ....... 14
New York ........ 8
Tennessee ...... 7
Illinois ......... 6
Massachusetts .. 6
Ohio .......... 6
Louisiana ....... 5
Alabama ......... 4
Arizona .......... 4
Washington D.C. .. 4
Colorado .......... 3
Kentucky ........ 3
Michigan ........ 3
Washington ....... 3
Georgia ........ 2
Indiana ........ 2
Maryland ....... 2
Missouri ........ 2
New Mexico ...... 2
Oklahoma .......... 2
Pennsylvania ...... 2
Virginia .......... 2
Arkansas ........ 1
Connecticut ...... 1
Florida .......... 1
Hawaii .......... 1
Kansas .......... 1
Mississippi ...... 1
Nevada .......... 1
New Hampshire ... 1
North Carolina ... 1
Rhode Island ..... 1
Utah .......... 1
West Virginia ..... 1
Wisconsin ....... 1

116 leaving Texas 51%
121 staying in Texas 49%
58 matched to UTHealth 24%
ANESTHESIOLOGY

The Department of Anesthesiology is highly committed to achieve and demonstrate excellence in the clinical care of patients and in academics both through innovative research and by offering a stellar educational program. Our diverse faculty provide clinical expertise at multiple clinical sites in both ambulatory and inpatient settings, including Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Memorial Hermann Ambulatory Surgery Center, the Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute, as well as Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital. Anesthesiology is a technology driven field, and we have been able to apply the latest technological advances in the care we provide for our patients.

Anesthesiology faculty members are respected for their dedication to clinical training, education, and research. This past year, we had the highest acceptance of scientific abstracts and presentations at the American Society of Anesthesiologists meeting in the history of this department. The number of research publications generated by the department has increased as well.

Clinical research is being performed in areas of airway management, coagulation abnormalities, as well as cardiac, pediatric, obstetric, regional, and trauma anesthesia. Additionally, we have basic science faculty dedicated to research related to the development of pharmacological strategies to improve endothelial dysfunction in animal models of inflammation and hypertension. Our research team is also assessing the mechanisms of chronic edema and chronic inflammation during prolonged heart failure. Lastly, our team is currently testing a new medical technology “Low Intensity Laser Ablation” to create lesions in target issues that produce pain.

Faculty .....................................................90
Residents ..................................................72
Interns ......................................................14
Fellows .....................................................10
Research ...............................................$238,763

BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

As a basic science department in a research intensive medical school, the major mission of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) is to conduct innovative and important multidisciplinary biomedical research. The research activities of the BMB faculty are built on the premise that Biochemistry is the Molecular Basis of Life. This premise is evident in the research programs of each of our faculty members who share a common goal of understanding the molecular mechanisms responsible for biological function. BMB is host to a diverse array of research programs ranging from atomic resolution studies of molecular machines, mouse models of human disease, and translational studies with our clinical colleagues. Basic biomedical research is conducted in cell biology, structural biology, biophysics, genetics, microbiology, neurobiology, and circadian biology. Preclinical and translational research is carried out in areas of pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, hematology, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome, burn injury, pain, sickle cell disease, bioinformatics, and cancer.

The fundamental mechanistic approaches taken by our faculty provide real meaning to the term “molecular medicine.”

BMB faculty members

Carin A. Hagberg, M.D.

Rodney E. Kellems, Ph.D.
constitute a well-funded community of curiosity driven scientists conducting significant and innovative research on many frontiers. We enjoy our diversity and thrive on the interdisciplinary research opportunities that our diversity provides. Because our research is not restricted by arbitrary thematic boundaries, we are free to take our research activities in new directions when opportunities arise or when our curiosity drives us there. Because we have no thematic boundaries we are able to recruit faculty members in emerging areas of research that appear to have promising future potential. The research findings of our faculty are routinely published in journals of the highest esteem including Cell, Science, Nature, Nature Medicine, and the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

**CARDIOThorACIC AND VASCULAR SURGERY**

Our faculty care for patients at Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute and are world leaders in the treatment of heart and blood vessel problems, including heart valves, heart blood supply, and blood circulation throughout the body.

Our innovative techniques have resulted in critical advancements in the repair of ballooning blood vessels – preventing rupture and significantly improving outcomes. Surgeons of the department have been leaders in the field of aortic surgery for three decades, developing and perfecting all aspects of aortic disease management. Procedures involve clinical investigation with the goal of optimizing techniques of repairs of the ascending, transverse, arch, and thoracoabdominal aorta. Refinement in techniques are being investigated to provide multiorgan protection. Also, we have first-class thoracic surgeons dedicated to thoracic diseases, benign and malignant esophageal, lung, and mediastinal disease. Our surgeons operate all over the world and maintain collaborative clinical and training programs in England, Germany, and China.

Our department maintains an active portfolio of clinical research, with 32 clinical trials currently underway, many of which involve national leadership roles for department faculty. Several of our faculty also collaborate actively with the educational and research programs of McGovern Medical School’s Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine in teaching and mentorship programs as well as in the administration of the NIH-funded K12 program in connection with the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. We sponsor three ACGME accredited fellowship programs – two in vascular surgery and one in cardiothoracic surgery, and we maintain other educational programs and mini-fellowship in aortic disease. Several of our faculty have major leadership roles in UTHealth and Memorial Hermann Hospital healthcare quality initiatives, where substantial improvements in clinical outcomes have been demonstrated in cardiovascular and aortic surgery. We are active in national quality initiatives, including the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Society for Vascular Surgery, and UHC quality initiatives.

Faculty ..................................................... 19
Residents .................................................... 9
Fellows ....................................................... 2
Research ................................................. $361,381
DERMATOLOGY

Dermatology is an integrated department between McGovern Medical School and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Activities also involve Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and Harris Health System.

The department was ranked as one of the top eight dermatology clinical centers of excellence in the nation according to Medical Economics and Dermatology Times. The combined research funding is at $2.5 million per year, particularly emphasizing pediatric dermatology, cutaneous lymphoma, skin cancer, dermatopathology, and skin molecular virology.

There are 24 salaried faculty, 21 dermatology residents, a surgical dermatology fellow, a dermatopathology fellow, and a clinical research fellow. The training programs are extremely competitive. We are one of the larger dermatology programs in the nation.

Senior faculty have held major national offices, such as president of the American Board of Dermatology, president of the American Society of Dermatopathology, president of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, and president of The Women’s Dermatologic Society.

Electives for medical students are popular among students from our own school and outside institutions.

Dermatology operates a very busy clinical dermatopathology and immunofluorescence laboratory for processing patient biopsies.

Faculty ....................................................10*
Residents .................................................21*
Fellows ......................................................3*
Research ...............................................$442,964*

*excludes MD Anderson

DIAGNOSTIC AND INTERVENTIONAL IMAGING

The Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging supports a broad spectrum of healthcare needs and provides the educational and research initiatives of a radiology department at the forefront of modern medicine.

This is made possible through our affiliation with our teaching hospitals, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital. Our department interprets more than 585,000 radiological procedures per year.

Providing sub-specialized quality service to our patients and their referring physicians is actively maintained through a high-profile performance improvement program.

Teaching is fundamental to our mission, and we are proud of the well-recognized qualifications of our faculty.

Our training programs not only capitalize on the educational opportunities at our affiliated teaching hospitals but also benefit by sharing residency and fellowship training programs with other internationally recognized radiology departments, including MD Anderson Cancer Center and Texas Children’s Hospital. Together we offer a premier educational environment staffed by an internationally recognized faculty.

World-class research in MRI, PET, nuclear medicine, and ultrasound are hallmarks of our department, with many of our basic science faculty and clinical faculty achieving international status as leaders in their fields.

Faculty ....................................................68
Residents ..................................................51
EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The Department of Emergency Medicine is proud of its commitment to outstanding clinical care, educational excellence, and academic rigor.

The heart of any clinical department will always be the care it provides the patients who entrust their health and life to our doctors. We continue to strive for clinical excellence with our quality assurance process and push to deliver state-of-the-art care in a compassionate and patient-centric delivery model. We provide clinical emergency expertise at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Memorial Herman Sugar Land Pediatric, and Memorial Hermann Memorial City Pediatric Emergency centers. Over the past year we’ve expanded our care model to provide hospitalist coverage at Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center and pediatric hospitalist coverage at Memorial City.

Education of the next generation of leaders in emergency medicine and acute care will continue to be a core pillar of our mission. With our 18 new residents arriving each July, we have become one of the largest Emergency Medicine training programs in the country. With our strong hospital partners and core faculty, we offer an unparalleled training experience – unmatched in Texas and on par with the best in the nation. We currently support fellowships in Emergency Medical Services, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Quality/Administration, Informatics, Ultrasound, and Global Health.

In an effort to promote collaboration among our faculty and our colleagues at UTHealth, we focus our department’s research on the clinical strengths of our emergency departments. To that end, our primary research foci include: the acute care of the injured heart, brain, and vascular system; public health and prevention research; research involving the medical or traumatic presentation of shock; and research involving health informatics and emergency medicine processes.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

We have a diverse faculty and staff committed to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, and community service. Our faculty are involved in a wide range of activities, including medical student education and family medicine residency training. Departmental faculty are involved in all four years of medical education and serve as role models for future physicians.

We deliver high quality comprehensive family care, including screening and prevention of disease and ambulatory procedures, such as flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy, exercise stress testing and exercise prescription, vasectomy and skin procedures at multiple sites in both ambulatory and inpatient settings that include multiple UT Physicians and Harris Health.
System locations. Our faculty and residents provide low-risk maternity care, care for newborns and children, as well as adult medical care covering a wide spectrum of common diseases. Several of our faculty have special expertise in geriatrics and sports medicine. Faculty and residents provide inpatient management of patients at both Memorial Hermann-TMC and LBJ General Hospital.

One of our residency program’s strengths is its training of physicians to care for urban underserved populations. We also emphasize the bio-psycho-social approach to medical care. Our residents also are trained to use the transtheoretical model of behavior change to encourage their patients to make healthy lifestyle changes.

Our Harris Health System Community Health Program coordinates medical services, educational activities, research, community outreach, and health profession interdisciplinary endeavors at 10 community health centers.

The UTP Community Based Clinics offer excellent patient care in 13 clinics throughout the Houston area provided by faculty and staff physicians.

The department maintains an active research portfolio of externally funded research programs focusing on the impact of tobacco and substance abuse on health behavioral change research.

Faculty ..................................................... 84
Staff Physicians ........................................ 17
Residents .................................................. 36
Fellows ....................................................... 1
Research .................................................... $847,352

**INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY**

The Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology (IBP) is interested in the cell biology, physiology, and pharmacology of cell regulation and communication.

Our major research themes include the molecular mechanisms and spatiotemporal dynamics of membrane signaling; intracellular and metabolic signaling; the biology and physiology of cell-cell interactions; and the use of computational, structural, and systems approaches to decipher signaling networks.

These efforts are aimed at understanding how normal and abnormal cell function translates into whole animal physiology and pathophysiology, and exploring the molecular pharmacology of existing and novel therapeutics.

In this context, IBP has research programs in cancer cell biology, cardiovascular biology, tissue regeneration, and plasticity (especially in nerve and muscle), and neuronal signaling in injury, inflammation, and pain.

IBP faculty teach physiology and pharmacology to medical students.

We run an active graduate studies program in cell and regulatory biology, and we participate in the university centers for membrane biology and clinical and translation sciences within McGovern Medical School and in several training grants, including those in pharmacological sciences and computational cancer biology.

Faculty ..................................................... 33
Fellows ....................................................... 28
Research .................................................... $14,697,677
INTERNAL MEDICINE

The Department of Internal Medicine strives to improve the quality of health care through excellence in the education of students, residents, physicians, and the public; the advancement of biomedical knowledge through discovery, integration, and translation to the clinical setting; and the provision of state-of-the-art comprehensive, compassionate, and accessible patient care.

The department has undergone exponential growth over the last few years in basic and clinical research as well as clinical patient care to become one of the largest academic departments of medicine in the country.

The scope of our department is best illustrated through our 15 divisions: Cardiovascular Medicine; Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences; Critical Care; Endocrinology and Diabetes; Gastroenterology and Hepatology; General Internal Medicine; Geriatric and Palliative Medicine; Hematology; Hyperbaric Medicine; Infectious Diseases; Medical Genetics; Oncology; Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine; Renal Diseases and Hypertension; and Rheumatology.

The department’s clinical services span the continuum of primary care to subspecialty care. Excellent clinical care is provided at UT Physicians-Texas Medical Center, Bellaire, Sienna, Cinco Ranch, Greens, Heights, Dashwood, Victory, Hermann Medical Plaza, Park Plaza clinics, and Bayshore; Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center; Memorial Hermann Northeast; Memorial Hermann Southeast; Memorial Hermann Southwest; TIRR Memorial Hermann; and Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital.

Faculty ................................................... 206

Staff.......................................................... 16

Residents............................................... 160

Fellows................................................... 130

Research................................................. $19,238,161

MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

The faculty of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics are highly committed to excellence in research and education. The nationally recognized discovery research program of the department has five areas of excellence: cell cycle and development, gene regulation, host-pathogen interactions, microbial stress response, and molecular machines. Investigations include a wide variety of disease-causing and environmental bacteria, fungi, and parasites.

In addition to its strong research program, the department provides didactic and experiential training to medical students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. The department is home to the Graduate Program in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, a model program of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Many departmental faculty participate in the Molecular Basis of Infectious Diseases T32 Training Grant funded by the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease.

During the past year, faculty have been recipients of prestigious teaching and research honors. Dr. William Margolin was elected as a Fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology. Dr. Michael Lorenz was named UT Regents Outstanding Teacher and elected president of the Medical Microbiology Society of the Americas. Dr. Anne-Marie Krachler, previously at the Uni-
versity of Birmingham in the UK, joined the department as an associate professor, earning a Rising Star Award from the UT System.

Faculty ..................................................... 16
Graduate Students................................. 26
Fellows ..................................................... 17
Research ............................................. $6,316,804

NEUROBIOLOGY AND ANATOMY

Neuroscience is considered to be one of the last frontiers of the biomedical sciences. The Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy is committed to being at the forefront of these discoveries.

One of the largest neuroscience departments in North America, the department’s missions include biomedical research in cellular and molecular neuroscience, computational neuroscience, and systems and cognitive neuroscience. We have strengths in the areas of learning and memory, and vision. Our faculty teach neuroscience, gross anatomy, and developmental anatomy to graduate students and medical students.

The department manages the Neuroscience Research Center, the W.M. Keck Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, the Willed Body Program and Human Structure Facility, and several of the core research facilities at McGovern Medical School.

This year our faculty received several prestigious research awards. Three faculty (Drs. John Byrne, David Marshak and Neal Waxham) received three of the 45 seed awards to the 14 UT System components from the UT System Neuroscience and Neurotechnology Research Institute. In addition, two faculty members, Drs. Valentin Dragoi and Roger Janz, received highly-competitive BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovation Neurotechnologies) Initiative awards from the NIH. The department was successful in recruiting an outstanding new faculty member Dr. Fabricio Do Monte whose research focuses on the understanding of fear memories. Dr. Do Monte is the recipient of an NIH K99 award and successfully competed for a Rising STARS award from the UT System. The teaching accomplishments of the department were highlighted by Dr. David Marshak’s receipt of the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award and Dr. Han Zhang’s receipt of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award (received for the fifth time). The department’s online open access textbook, Neuroscience Online Electronic Textbook, had more than 3.2 million page views during FY16.

Faculty ..................................................... 25
Fellows ..................................................... 13
Research ..................................................... $6,951,007

NEUROLOGY

Central to the mission of the Department of Neurology at McGovern Medical School is to provide the best clinical care in an environment that emphasizes collegiality and academic excellence. We strive to provide a comprehensive learning environment for students of clinical neurosciences at the medical student, resident, and fellowship level that provides a foundation of knowledge that can be used throughout their careers.

Our specialty programs focus on the clinical applications of the latest neurological research. The Stroke
Program translates new therapies from our laboratories to the bedside and is a national leader in treatment and clinical research of acute stroke.

The Multiple Sclerosis Research Group focuses on fundamental and applied research approaches in neuroimmunology and advanced magnetic resonance imaging to better understand the pathogenesis and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

The Neuromuscular Program provides the latest state-of-the-art clinical care to patients with neuromuscular disorders. Our providers have unique expertise in single fiber EMG and the treatment of chronic inflammatory neuropathies. The Texas Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and its Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center offer a comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic program for pediatric and adult epilepsy patients and their physicians. It is one of the largest surgical epilepsy programs in the country.

The movement disorders program (UT MOVE) provides comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic programs for patients with Parkinson's disease and similar disorders. We offer numerous clinical trials and have the only Huntington's Center of Excellence in Texas.

Our program in cognitive disorders and dementia includes a multidisciplinary clinical diagnostic and treatment program and groundbreaking research. Our diagnostic neurology team of expert clinicians is always available for evaluating and treating new patients referred for any sort of neurological condition.

Faculty ..................................................... 55  
Residents and Fellows ...................... 36  
Research ......................................... $16,019,870

THE VIVIAN L. SMITH DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

We are currently the largest neurosurgery group in Houston in terms of numbers of faculty, NIH grants received, and total research expenditure. We are the #1 neurosurgery program in terms of market share. We also have robust educational programs, including residents and fellows.

Our clinical program has grown significantly in the past few years, more than quadrupling in size. At the same time, our quality outcomes have improved. Our mortality rates are well below the benchmark of our peers in the University Health System Consortium (UHC). In addition, complication rates at the Mischer Neuroscience Institute are below national standards as compared to UHC and Healthgrades benchmarks.

We are proud of our educational activities. Currently, about a quarter of McGovern medical students rotate through neurosurgery during the third year, a dramatic increase from prior years. The Neurosurgery Residency Training Program was begun in July 2008. In April 2016, we were given an unconditional 10-year certification after review, and our resident complement was recently approved to increase to 3 per year (for a total of 18). Most neurosurgery residencies nationally support 1 resident per year. We have three fellowships, in cerebrovascular and skull-base surgery, neuro-critical care, and endovascular neurosurgery.

Research is a high priority for us. We have 11 Ph.D. faculty, and many clinicians are involved in research projects. We currently run more than 30 clinical trials in various areas of neurosurgery.

Dong H. Kim, M.D.
OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY, & REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES

Our department has undergone substantial growth over the last few years, with expansion of both general obstetrics and gynecology and subspecialty practices across the Greater Houston area, as well as an increased academic footprint within the Texas Medical Center.

Subspecialty services include Gynecology Oncology, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Fetal Intervention.

Our physicians provide services and care across the Memorial Hermann Health System as well as at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, and Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.

Our faculty offer special expertise to women across their life, including minimally invasive and robotic surgery. Our gynecology sub-specialists are experts in gynecologic oncology and urology. Our high-risk pregnancy specialists care for women with underlying medical complications, multiple gestations, and fetal abnormalities. The department also includes The Fetal Center, where our fetal medicine physicians perform fetal surgery, including selective laser photocoagulation of placenta vessels in treatment of twin-twin transfusion syndrome and in utero repair for spinal bifida, as well as treat fetal medical conditions requiring intrauterine transfusion.

The educational program includes medical student rotations for third- and fourth-year students, OB/GYN residency program, and fellowships in maternal fetal medicine and fetal intervention.

Research within the department is a combination of basic and translational sciences and patient-oriented research.

RUÍZ, M.D.
DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISUAL SCIENCE

The Ruiz, M.D., Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science provides a full complement of inpatient and outpatient clinical services through its primary teaching facilities: the Cizik Eye Clinic, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Settegast Community Health Center, Baytown Community Clinic, and Acres Home Community Health Center. Our physicians also provide outpatient care at UT Physicians Cinco Ranch and the Bayshore Multispecialty clinics.

The ophthalmic subspecialties represented in the Cizik Eye Clinic include ophthalmic plastic, reconstructive, and orbital surgery; corneal and external disease, refractive surgery, glaucoma, retina, vitreous, and uveitis; pediatric ophthalmology; and neuro-ophthalmology.

All of the physicians at the Cizik Eye Clinic are faculty members in the department,
are board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, and are on the medical staffs of numerous facilities, most notably that of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

In addition to clinical care, ophthalmology and visual science faculty are at the forefront of research into anatomy and physiology of the eye as well as the causes and treatments of ocular disease. The department is known as a leading center for the design and development of clinical trials in ophthalmology.

The Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science is involved in the education of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students as well as residents and fellows in a variety of fields of medicine.

Faculty ..................................................... 32
Residents .................................................. 12
Fellows ....................................................... 2
Research ................................................ 2,556,542

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery will continue to grow as the dominant provider of orthopedic care in the entire region. The establishment of a regional network of high quality, multi-specialty, orthopaedic and related providers, along with strategically located sub-specialists has fostered this growth and development. Anchored at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, the department will be a national leader in translational research, physician training, and clinical outcomes; provide unrivaled access to care; relentlessly ensure high value diagnostic and procedural outcomes; and deliver exceptional patient experiences in a sustainable and efficient manner.

To accomplish this goal, we engage our students, residents, and faculty in providing both medical care and health education to members of our community; we stimulate and foster scholarly research in both basic and applied medical science as we continue to create and evaluate new knowledge, particularly as it relates to the cause, prevention, and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions; we provide the best possible educational experience for both students and faculty as we empower them to effectively apply their orthopaedic knowledge; and we will seek to develop in our students, faculty, and staff those qualities that will be critical to leadership as we meet the challenges of healthcare in the 21st century – integrity, professionalism, scholarship, collegiality, creativity, and compassion.

Our research mission is to apply basic science and implement it into the clinical setting to better serve patients. Our faculty continue to focus on funding for their research and making advances in the field of musculoskeletal medicine and orthopaedic surgery. Our research facilities include the Huard Lab where the focus is to understand basic stem cell biology and translate that knowledge to the clinic and aid in the healing and regeneration of a variety of tissues. Our most recent addition to the research team is Dr. Scott Tashman, who will be developing and directing the new Biodynamics Laboratory for dynamic, 3D imaging of musculoskeletal function. Dr. Tashman’s primary areas of expertise are in vivo, dynamic assessment of joint function, orthopaedic biomechanics, and musculoskeletal modeling. We continue to expand our research focus on translational work essential to all orthopaedic advancements.

Our department comprises 105 faculty with training and experience in joint replacement, spine, trauma, sports medicine, reconstructive shoulder, hand and upper
extremity, foot and ankle, internal medicine and primary care/sports medicine, pain management, concussion, and pediatrics.

Faculty ................................................... 105
Residents .................................................. 24
Fellows ....................................................... 8
Research ........................................ $1,667,133

OTORHINO-LARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery focuses on the care of patients with complex diseases and disorders of the ears, nose, and throat and neck and related structures. The department's full-time faculty members provide world-class patient care and participate in a variety of academic activities for education and research. Their knowledge and expertise has earned them regional, national, and international recognition.

The Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery's mission is to provide the best possible care for our patients. Patient care is provided at Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, Memorial Hermann-Southeast and Memorial Hermann-Pearland.

Specialized programs within the department include the Texas Sinus Institute, the Texas Skull Base Physicians, the Texas Voice Performance Institute, and the Texas Center for Facial Plastic Surgery. In addition, the department has established programs for pediatric ENT, otology, ENT sleep disorders, and head and neck surgery.

The department sponsors a robust educational program, which includes an otolaryngology residency training program as well as two clinical fellowships (rhinology and facial plastic surgery). The department's CME programs include Lone Star Rhinology, Otorhinolaryngology Frontiers, Texas Hill Country ENT Symposium, and departmental grand rounds. In addition, the department publishes ORL Progress Notes.

The department conducts clinical trials work for advanced therapeutics in the treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis, and its basic science program is focusing on the mechanisms that drive chronic rhinosinusitis, with a focus on allergic fungal rhinosinusitis. In addition, the department's faculty members participate in many other projects in all areas of otorhinolaryngology.

Faculty ..................................................... 15
Residents .................................................. 10
Research ................................................. $282,358

PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

The goal of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is to combine the traditional values of academic pathology – excellence in service, teaching, and research – with innovative approaches to the new challenges of medicine and science. We strive to become a model of excellence in the changing world of medicine.

The department includes 56 full-time clinical and research faculty as well as many joint appointment, part-time, and adjunct facult-
Clinical and basic research are major aspects of the department’s programs. Almost all faculty are engaged in research with the aim of discovering new knowledge and/or developing ways to apply new knowledge to improve diagnosis and management of disease.

Centers and facilities include the Imaging Core Lab, the Chemical Immunology Research Center, the Treponema Molecular Genetics Server, the Electron Microscopy Laboratory, and Research Training in the Molecular Basis of Infectious Disease.

The Outreach Laboratory is fully accredited and staffed by pathologists with subspecialty expertise in many areas. Our goal is to provide the specialized expertise of McGovern Medical School pathologists to practicing physicians in an efficient, cost-effective, and user-friendly manner.

The department directs a fully accredited residency training program, is extensively involved in the McGovern Medical School curriculum, and plays an active role in the training of graduate students in the affiliated Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Our teaching hospitals provide a diverse patient population and exposure to a wide spectrum of human disease.

Faculty ..................................................... 56
Residents.................................................. 25
Research................................................. $3,015,514

PEDiATRIC SURGERY

The Department of Pediatric Surgery was established in 2007.

The Department has seven divisions: General & Thoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Plastic & Craniofacial Surgery, Urology, Cardiovascular Surgery, Acute Care Practitioners, and Regenerative Medicine. Our divisions are composed of outstanding clinicians and researchers whose skills and expertise cover all major areas of pediatric surgery and different fields of scientific investigation.

We provide educational opportunities for students and residents in many areas. Residents in most of the core surgical training programs receive their pediatric training in one of the divisions. There is also an AC-GME training program in pediatric surgery. The goal of the pediatric surgery residency training program is to prepare residents to become safe, qualified, and board-certified pediatric surgeons and to be the teachers, researchers, and future leaders in the field of pediatric surgery.

The UTHouston pediatric surgical team partners with the Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital (CMHH), the Children’s Cancer Hospital at MD Anderson, Harris-Health/LBJ Hospital, and Woman’s Hospital.

We offer emergency and continued care for pediatric trauma patients from our Level 1 pediatric trauma facility based at CMHH. Our research programs include multiple Phase I and Phase II clinical trials and research in cellular therapies, gut function, and hospital safety. We have other research programs in pediatric brain tumors, advanced neural imaging and new techniques for management of cleft lip and palate.

Faculty ..................................................... 27
General Pediatric Surgical Fellows .......... 1
Research ................................................. $2,165,349
PEDIATRICS

The mission of Department of Pediatrics is to provide the highest quality of medical care; to advance the knowledge in biomedical and behavioral sciences through the expansion of our research programs; and to provide excellence and innovation in the training of students, residents, fellows, and physicians.

As one of the sites of the National Institutes of Health Multicenter Neonatal Intensive Care Network grants, our faculty have contributed to a variety of major advances in the care of newborn infants. The department also has a Pediatric Research Center whose investigators are involved in clinical, basic, and translational research.

The department’s specialized centers include the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine, which promotes high-quality clinical research to increase the public’s healthy years of life. The goal of our Children’s Learning Institute is to be the pre-eminent source for proven clinical and educational programs covering early childhood through late teens. The department also directs the Forensic Assessment Center whose mission is to correct the disparities in Texas in the availability of quality medical assessment for suspected child abuse and neglect victims and to improve the outcomes for all Texas child abuse victims.

Fellowships are offered in the disciplines of Adolescent Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology, Infectious Diseases, Interventional Pediatric Cardiology, Critical Care, Gastroenterology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Pulmonology, and Endocrinology.

First-rate inpatient care is provided at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Shriners Hospital.

Faculty ................................................... 193
Residents ................................................ 107
Fellows ..................................................... 57
Postdocs ..................................................... 9
Research ................................................. $38,296,615

PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) is dedicated to providing outstanding healthcare in the areas of musculoskeletal and pain medicine, electrodiagnosis, and rehabilitation of persons with spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and other neurologic and medical conditions, in Houston and the surrounding community.

We are dedicated to the training, education, and research in these areas in cooperation with TIRR Memorial Hermann and the Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Network, the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, and Shriners Hospital for Children.

The department is also committed to providing the highest quality of graduate and postgraduate training for future physiatrists, and disability and rehabilitation management for medical students.

The PM&R department operates the NeuroRecovery Research Center based at TIRR Memorial Hermann. The faculty

Eric C. Eichenwald, M.D.

Gerard E. Francisco, M.D.
direct various laboratories in this center, including the UTHealth Motor Recovery Laboratory, the Center for Wearable Exoskeletons, Rehabilitation Robotics, Neuromodulation and Neural Interfaces, Neuromyoelectric engineering, and Neurorehabilitation.

They are dedicated to discovering novel methods of enhancing functional recovery from neurological and physical disorders, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, and traumatic brain injury and their rapid clinical translation.

Faculty members are recognized leaders in international and national PM&R and multi-specialty organizations, and have been strong advocates for persons with disabilities.

Faculty ..................................................... 28
Residents .................................................. 11
Fellows ....................................................... 3
Research ..................................... $1,347,924

PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is dedicated to the mission of education, research, and patient care. Each year we train students, residents, and fellows of today to become the mental healthcare leaders of tomorrow – whether in public or private sectors, in solo or group practice, as researchers, educators, or clinicians. Our training totals more than 1,650 students and 175,000 hours of education annually, including specialties in psychiatry, psychology, and many other areas.

Our faculty and staff—at the forefront of the exploration of the causes and treatments of mental illnesses—generate over $5 million annually in grant supported research. Specific areas of research include mood and anxiety disorders, early psychosis, trauma and grief, childhood disorders and addiction, with new programs in Translational Psychiatry, Integrated Clinical Neuroscience and Treatment, Early Diagnosis & Intervention, Biochemical Markers, Psychiatric Genetics, PTSD, and Geriatric Psychiatry. Our faculty members’ wide variety of expertise covers the full spectrum of behavioral disorders, supporting research they pursue in conjunction with their clinical and educational contributions to the department.

We have the highest commitment to providing care to individuals suffering from behavioral disorders in our community. The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences provides innovative approaches to treating patients in public and private hospitals, as well as a network of affiliated outpatient clinics. We offer outpatient services at 22 community clinics throughout Houston, in addition to specialty psychiatry clinics located at the Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences Building in the Texas Medical Center.

Now celebrating its 30th year of service excellence to the community, UTHealth HCPC (Harris County Psychiatric Center) offers newly renovated units, including Mood Disorders, Geriatric Psychiatry and Child & Adolescent, with additional renovations underway. We also have specialized inpatient programs on Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Dual Diagnosis. Our outpatient ECT Clinic is now fully operational and recently added a clinical research study of ketamine. The department also provides consultation/liaison services at Memorial Hermann Hospital-TMC and TIRR locations and LBJ Hospital. Our skills and technological innovation are balanced with compassion, highest commitment and respect for the patients we serve.

Faculty ..................................................... 97
Residents .................................................. 42
Fellows ....................................................... 6
Interns ........................................................ 5
Post-Doctoral Research Fellows .............. 17
Research .................................................... $2,931,329

S U R G E R Y

The Department of Surgery and its divisions are committed to excellence in patient care, innovative research, and mentoring the next generation of surgeons.

Our divisions include Acute Care Surgery, General Surgery, Immunology and Organ Transplantation, Minimally Invasive and Elective General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urology and LBJ General Hospital Division of Surgery.

Our location within the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical center in the world, gives our surgeons, researchers, and residents unique opportunities for collaboration and clinical experience.

Our department offers residency programs in General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urology, and Colon and Rectal Surgery. Fellowships are offered in Surgical Critical Care, Trauma Research, Female Urology and Urodynamics, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Renal Transplantation, and Plastic and Burns.

The Department of Surgery and its divisions are involved in collaborative research efforts throughout the Texas Medical Center, including the Center for Translational Injury Research, the Trauma Research Center, and Nutritional Research.

Excellent clinical services are provided at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Triumph Hospital, Park Plaza, Spring Branch Medical Center, TIRR Memorial Hermann, UT Physicians at Bellaire, Christus St. Catherine’s, Healthsouth, Pedi Woodlands Clinic, Smith Tower, Texas Liver Center, Twelve Oaks Medical Center, Ambulatory Surgery Center, and Bayshore Medical Center.

Faculty ..................................................... 75
Residents .................................................. 81
Fellows ..................................................... 15
Research ................................................... $8,100,357

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR MANY FACES?

On billboards, buses, in print and on TV, UTHealth has embarked upon a branding campaign to raise awareness of its people and programs that are making a difference.
JOINT COMMISSION RECOGNIZES HCPC AS TOP PERFORMER

The University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center, the mental health hospital partner of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), was recognized by The Joint Commission as a Top Performer in Key Quality Measures for 2015.

“This Joint Commission award, based on measurable quality data, is a tremendous achievement. We are very proud of the faculty and staff at UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to providing the highest quality care to all patients,” Dean Barbara J. Stoll says.

To be a 2015 Top Performer, hospitals had to meet three performance criteria based on 2014 accountability measure data, including:

• Achieve a cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures;
• Achieve performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure with at least 30 denominator cases; and
• Have at least one core measure set that had a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and within that measure set, achieve a performance rate of 95 percent or above on all applicable individual accountability measures.

“UTHealth HCPC is committed to being a high reliability health care organization, which is demonstrated by our leadership’s commitment to achieving zero patient harm, a fully functional culture of safety, and the widespread deployment of process improvement tools,” says Stephen Glazier, chief operating officer of UTHealth HCPC.

This is the first time UTHealth HCPC has received this award, which recognized its hospital-based inpatient psychiatry services. UTHealth HCPC was one of 10 hospitals or critical access hospitals to receive this award in Texas.

“I am pleased that the work of our staff and care providers is being recognized by The Joint Commission,” says Jair Soares, M.D., professor, Pat. R. Rutherford Jr. Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and executive director of UTHealth HCPC. “We are a unique facility, and our goal is to make the best of our resources and treat each patient to the best of our ability.”

The Joint Commission is a nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs throughout the country.
Everyone knows smartphones can be used as calendars, calculators, radios, and cameras. But, did you know they can also be used as microscopes that have the potential to save lives?

They are called smartphone microscopes, and dermatologists at McGovern Medical School think these devices could improve the detection of skin cancer in developing countries.

“Doctors in some remote areas don’t have access to the high-powered microscopes we use to evaluate skin samples,” says Richard Jahan-Tigh, M.D., assistant professor of dermatology. “Doctors there could conceivably use their smartphones to photograph growths and forward them for examination.”

**SKIN CANCER DETECTION – THERE’S AN APP FOR THAT**

A smartphone microscope can be made with a 3 mm ball lens, a tiny piece of plastic to hold the ball lens over the smartphone lens and tape to grip everything in place. A ball lens costs about $14 at an electronics store and is typically used for laser optics.

Here is how a smartphone microscope works: A doctor or technician holds a smartphone microscope over a skin sample that has been placed on a slide and waits for the sample to come into focus. The doctor then either reads the sample, if he or she is a pathologist, or takes a photo and emails it to a pathologist for interpretation.

Researchers examined 1,021 slides of specimens, which had a total of 136 basal cell carcinomas, 94 squamous cell carcinomas, and 15 melanomas. The smartphone microscope was used to pick up 95.6 percent of the basal cell carcinomas and 89 percent of squamous cell carcinomas.

Dr. Jahan-Tigh says additional studies are needed to enhance the detection rate.

Dr. Jahan-Tigh used a smartphone microscope to evaluate the specimens and the conventional microscope was operated by a traditional light microscope, and while the smartphone microscope wasn’t as accurate, it resulted in the detection of about 90 percent of the non-melanoma skin cancers,” says Dr. Jahan-Tigh, the paper’s lead author. “With the smartphone microscope, the detection rate for melanomas was 60 percent.”

The incidence of both non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers has been increasing in recent decades, the World Health Organization reports. Between 2 and 3 million non-melanoma skin cancers and 132,000 melanoma skin cancers occur globally each year.

“This is a good first step to show that smartphone microscopy has a future in dermatology and pathology,” Dr. Jahan-Tigh says.

When it comes to the diagnosis of cancer, smartphone microscopes are reasonably accurate, according to a study conducted by Dr. Jahan-Tigh and colleagues at McGovern Medical School and Harvard Medical School. Findings appear in the **ARCHIVES of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.**

“We did a head-to-head comparison with
Here is another use for that iPad. Students in the gross anatomy lab at the McGovern Medical School are using the tablets to look up anatomical drawings while examining bodies.

This is a big improvement over the books that the gloved students used to thumb through. Computers on rolling tables were a little better but not much.

The problem is that the cadavers are preserved with a chemical called phenol, which can get on book pages and washable computer keyboards.

To solve that problem, lab officials wrapped the iPads in clear plastic bags, which protect the tablets while allowing the students to call up information on the touch screen. The iPads also are guarded by waterproof and shockproof cases.

“The iPads give the students the benefits of an eBook: ease of use and rapid search,” says Len Cleary, Ph.D., director of the gross anatomy course and professor of neurobiology and anatomy. “They also provide access to online resources including videos, UTH Share and Canvas.”

So what do the students think?

“The iPad is a good source of reference material,” says Sovik De Sirkar, a now second-year medical student who graduated from The University of Texas at Austin. “I’m going to be a physician, so this is information that I need to know.”

Find out how iPads are being used in gross anatomy labs, watch the video: go.uth.edu/ipads
UTHealth selected as Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Care Center

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) has teamed up with 39 other health sites across the country to combat a life-threatening lung disease called pulmonary fibrosis.

UTHealth recently was selected as a member of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation’s (PFF) Care Center Network. As part of the network, UTHealth will have access to resources for patients, caregivers, physicians, and scientists and will collaborate with other sites across the country.

UTHealth is the only member institution in the Texas Medical Center and one of only three in the Lone Star State.

“We are grateful that the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation has acknowledged the quality of our programs and the expertise of our medical staff in treating patients with fibrotic lung disease,” says Richard J. Castriotta, M.D., medical director of the newly designated PFF Care Center at UTHealth.

Pulmonary fibrosis is a scarring of the lungs from lung disease that worsens over time. It reduces the amount of oxygen in the bloodstream and is associated with shortness of breath. It may be caused by some 200 different lung diseases.

These are called “interstitial lung diseases” because they affect the basic lung tissue itself, rather than just the airways as in asthma and bronchitis. Since this scarring or fibrosis makes the lungs smaller and stiffer, they are called “restrictive lung diseases” rather than the better known “obstructive” lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, and asthma.

“This is a very exciting time to be caring for people with interstitial lung disease/pulmonary fibrosis, because of recent advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and overall management of these patients,” Dr. Castriotta says.

“The newly approved drugs offer the possibility of effective treatment for the first time, and there are a large number of other new medications under development and in the pipeline for future use,” he says. “Newly focused attention on these diseases holds promising hope for relief for countless people who suffer from shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, unrelenting cough, and the prospect of early death.”

In addition, advances in high-resolution chest imaging have made it possible to make a diagnosis without a biopsy, and surgical advances now enable minimally invasive lung biopsy when needed, Dr. Castriotta says. Surgical and post-operative management advances have made lung transplants available to older and sicker people, who would not have been considered for transplant in the past.

“Pulmonary fibrosis is a fatal illness and lung transplantation is the only treatment option available at this time to extend life expectancy of patients. Being part of the PFF Center will provide an opportunity to improve care,” says Soma Jyothula, M.D., who is a director at the center and assistant professor at McGovern Medical School as well as medical director of the Lung Transplant Center at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is the most common form of pulmonary fibrosis. This affects an estimated one in 200 adults over 65 years of age in the United States and claims as many as 40,000 lives a year.

Life expectancy after diagnosis of IPF is
The comprehensive Huntington’s disease program at McGovern Medical School has been named one of the HDSA Centers of Excellence for 2016 by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA).

The new HDSA Center of Excellence at UTHealth/UT MOVE is one of just 39 across the country and the only one in Texas to receive the prestigious designation. UT MOVE is the UTHealth Movement Disorders & Neurodegenerative Diseases Program in the Department of Neurology.

“HDSA Centers of Excellence represent an elite team approach to providing the comprehensive and expert Huntington’s disease care to families, while simultaneously committing to the clinical science that will bring treatments for HD forward,” says Louise Vetter, president and CEO of HDSA. “We are proud to recognize the excellence in HD care made possible by Dr. Erin Furr Stimming and the team at UTHealth.”

Huntington’s disease (HD) is a fatal inherited disorder that causes degeneration of brain cells, according to the National Institutes of Health. Symptoms of the disease, which gets progressively worse, include uncontrolled movements; abnormal body postures; and changes in behavior, emotion, judgment, and cognition. The disease typically begins in the prime of a person’s life, between the ages of 30 and 50. Eventually, HD affects the ability to reason, walk, and speak. More than 30,000 Americans have HD. Every child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of carrying the altered gene, placing 200,000 Americans at risk. There is no cure.

“It’s a complex, devastating disease,” says Erin Furr Stimming, M.D., associate professor of neurology and director of the center, which received $15,000 as part of the designation. “The funding will allow us to continue our clinical efforts, enhance education, patient support, and raise awareness about HD. We are honored to be recognized by this organization, and we are grateful for their support.”

Dr. Furr Stimming, a movement disorder neurologist associated with Mischer Neuroscience Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, began building the UTHealth team three years ago.

The UT Physicians clinic (832-325-7080) includes a psychiatrist, genetic counselor, social worker, occupational therapist, physical therapist, and speech therapist.

UT Physicians is the clinical practice of McGovern Medical School at UTHealth.
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

LBJ HOSPITAL: EXPANDING CARE

When Harris Health’s Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital opened its doors June 2, 1989, replacing the old Jefferson Davis Hospital, patients were waiting to be seen. By 3 p.m. that day, the hospital was 75 percent full, according to the late James Hefner, M.D., LBJ Hospital’s first chief of staff.

Located Houston’s highest population of those living below the poverty line, the demand for LBJ’s services has not decreased over the past 25 years.

In order to continuously meet this high demand and simultaneously provide quality healthcare, the physician faculty and residents from McGovern Medical School, partnering with the administration and nursing staff from Harris Health System, have expanded their touchpoints in the community.

TAILORED PATIENT EXPERIENCE SET APART

The Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) provides a location for the medical team from McGovern Medical School and Harris Health to provide individually tailored, same-day surgery to any Harris County patient that meets the criteria. The ACS is led by Glorimar Medina-Rivera, M.D., the medical director and assistant professor of anesthesiology.

“It took great vision to bring a surgery center to this population,” Dr. Medina says. “Only 1 percent of surgery centers across the nation are focused on indigent populations.”

Dr. Medina and the medical team have implemented multiple innovations in order to improve patient experience and outcomes, including efficiently and safely decreasing the overall time it takes a patient from check-in until leaving the post-anesthesia care unit after surgery – from 8 hours to 4. Further, they have taken a multimodal approach to pain management, encompassing patient selectivity as it relates to medication choice and counseling on the effects of medications and dealing with pain post-surgery.

“Everyone who touches the patient has a service-first mentality; a patient-focused mentality,” Dr. Medina says. “We all share the same vision.”

The Ambulatory Surgery Center consistently receives high marks in patient satisfaction and for the past few months has rated at the highest level in the nation.

“The new facility and efficient and friendly staff have made the operative experience enjoyable for all involved, including the surgeons,” adds Shao-Chun Rose Chang-Jackson, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences for McGovern Medical School.

The ACS is located on the third floor of the Outpatient Center on the same campus as LBJ Hospital. Opened in March 2014, the 83,000-square-foot outpatient center was built to reduce patient wait times and improve access to non-hospital specialty services.

NEWEST LOCATION, NEWEST PATIENTS

The Cleveland E. Odom Pediatric and Adolescent Health Center opened on June 24, 2016, as the newest health care resource
for the children of Harris County.

Dr. Jose Garcia, chief of pediatrics at LBJ Hospital and professor and vice-chair of pediatrics at McGovern Medical School, summed up the importance of the newest Harris Health clinic. “This is an opportunity to provide high-quality, evidence-based care while working in collaboration with our partners,” Dr. Garcia says.

The new health center has 16 dedicated rooms and is staffed by physician faculty and residents from McGovern Medical School and nurses from Harris Health System. The clinic is located a block away from LBJ Hospital. The goal of the clinic, according to Dr. Garcia, is to provide for over 20,000 patient visits a year.

Dr. Garcia concluded his comments at the clinic grand opening by stating the importance of legacy. Not only is Cleveland E. Odom’s legacy of service memorialized with the dedication of the new clinic, but the legacy of care provided by the clinicians and nurses to the mothers, babies, and children of Harris County is highlighted.

“For the nearly one-third of Houston babies born at LBJ and the affiliated clinics,” Dr. Garcia says, “our team is providing high-quality care and will continue to do so.”

MORE THAN BUILDINGS

For the physician faculty and residents caring for patients, every day, the hospital and clinics are more than just buildings. They are opportunities to provide care that improves the quality of life for a population that might not otherwise receive such care.

“Our staff is doing an amazing job, but it is not about that. The work we are doing is not about our own recognition,” Dr. Garcia says. “It is about taking care of our most vulnerable patients.”
Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, one of McGovern Medical School’s primary teaching hospitals, has been selected as one of 13 nonprofit academic medical centers to receive the Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Award, formerly named the UHC (University Healthcare Consortium) Quality Leadership Award.

Presented by UHC, an alliance of the nation’s leading nonprofit academic medical centers, the award is given to members that demonstrate superior performance as measured by the UHC Quality and Accountability Study.

“It is a great honor to be recognized again by UHC as a high-performing academic medical center that provides safe and high-quality care to all patients,” says Craig Cordola, regional president of Memorial Hermann Health System. “This prestigious recognition reflects the dedication and compassion from our talented staff, affiliated physicians and our partners at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. They should be applauded not only for helping Memorial Hermann-TMC achieve this honor, but more importantly, for their tireless dedication to providing quality patient care.”

Conducted annually since 2005, UHC’s Quality and Accountability Study was designed to help academic medical centers identify structures and processes associated with high performance in quality and safety across a broad spectrum of patient care activity.

The Institute of Medicine’s six domains of care – safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient centeredness – are used as a guide in structuring the study criteria.

“This recognition is a tremendous accomplishment for our hospital partner and our physicians. The most important beneficiaries of this award-winning work are our patients. Congratulations,” Dean Barbara J. Stoll says.

The award winners were announced Oct. 1, 2015 at the UHC Annual Conference in Orlando, which was attended by nearly 2,000 people, including health care professionals from more than 200 UHC member organizations.

“I’m incredibly proud of our staff and affiliated physicians as they are the true recipients of this award,” says Brian Dean, CEO and Sr. Vice President of Memorial Hermann-TMC.
Like many people with an often debilitating neurological condition called multiple sclerosis (MS), Kelly Davis, 45, of Pearland, has to use a walker to get around. Even short walks require a lot of effort.

Davis was thrilled when she learned that McGovern physical medicine and rehabilitation researchers were studying a way to help MS patients walk.

“I may have been one of the first to sign up,” Davis says, after receiving the green light from her neurologist, Philip Blum, M.D., of Patient Centered Neurology and Memorial Hermann Health System. “This large robotic...
device called an exoskeleton is teaching my body how to walk again. It’s like we’re learning to dance together.”

Davis was among those invited to a Jan. 28, 2016 open house celebrating the relocation of the NeuroRecovery Research Center at TIRR Memorial Hermann to its new state-of-the-art facility.

“This is a collaborative project with clinicians, scientists and engineers from UTHealth, Rice University, and the University of Houston,” says Gerard Francisco, M.D., director of the NeuroRecovery Research Center at TIRR Memorial Hermann and professor and chair of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The laboratories operated by UTHealth at the facility include:

• Neuromodulation – Investigates the efficacy and efficiency of non-invasive brain and spinal stimulation on upper limb recovery function in patients with brain and spinal cord injury.
• Neurorehabilitation – Studies pathophysiology of spasticity and the effects of non-invasive stimulation on neuropathic pain and recovery of sensory and motor function.
• Neuro-Myo Engineering for Rehabilitation – Explores noninvasive electrodiagnosis and examination of neuromuscular diseases, and investigates motor unit alterations after neurologic injuries.
• Motor Recovery Laboratory – Examines the effects of stimulation on neuromuscular plasticity and functional recovery and neuromuscular mechanisms of motor control and learning.

• Robot-Assisted Rehabilitation – Studies and develops upper limb wearable exoskeleton for robot-assisted rehabilitation for patients with stroke and spinal cord injury.
• Neural Interfaces Laboratory – Researches the interfaces connecting between human body and machine and develops its clinical application in physical rehabilitation using non-invasive technologies.
• Center for Wearable Exoskeletons – Though support from Memorial Hermann Foundation, this center investigates novel applications of wearable robots for persons with spinal cord injuries and stroke.

“Each laboratory has its own research focus and can collaborate with other labs in the center,” says Dr. Francisco, the chief medical officer at TIRR Memorial Hermann. “The center creates a new research environment that integrates advanced technologies, novel rehabilitation techniques and research methodologies in a rehabilitation hospital.”

As many as 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neurological disorders, according to a 2007 report by the World Health Organization, which can limit their ability to speak, recall information or get around.

“Many people with MS lose the ability to walk and this has a big impact on their professional and personal lives,” Dr. Chang says. “To help people with MS get back on their feet, we’re using a wearable robotic exoskeleton created for people with spinal cord injuries.”

Other patient studies include a project to increase the mobility of stroke and spinal cord injury sufferers.

Founded in 1959, TIRR Memorial Hermann is a national leader in interdisciplinary rehabilitation services, education and patient care. Its patients include former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords who went through a rigorous rehabilitation program following a shooting.

To contact the NeuroRecovery Research Center at TIRR Memorial Hermann, please call 713.799.5000.
NEW ENDOWMENTS

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Louise McCullough - Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Distinguished Chair
Dr. Philip Orlander - Edward Randall, III Chair in Internal Medicine
Dr. Nils P. Johnson - Weatherhead Distinguished Chair of Heart Disease
Dr. Sheng Zhang - Becker Family Foundation Professorship in Diabetes Research
Dr. Carolyn Denton - Meg and Dick Weekley Chair in Childhood Reading and Learning
Dr. Qingshun Tong - Cullen Chair in Molecular Medicine
Dr. Linda Ewing-Cobbs - Harriet and Joe Foster Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience
Dr. Peter Doris - Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Distinguished University Chair in Metabolic and Inflammatory Disease Research
Dr. Erik B. Wilson - Lynn and Oscar Wyatt Chair in Metabolic Research
Dean Barbara J. Stoll - H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professorship in the Medical Sciences
Dr. Pedro Mancias - Adriana Blood Professorship in Neurology
Dr. Lillian Kao - John B. Holmes Professorship in the Clinical Sciences

NEW ENDOWMENTS

Nicole and Evan Katz Pediatric Dermatology Endowed Research Fund
Atilla Ertan, MD Chair in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Graham Distinguished University Chair
Barry and Sherry Wallace Fund for Cardiovascular Research
Dr. Damon Wells, Jr. Endowed Fund for Cardiovascular Research in the Weatherhead PET Imaging Center
Dr. Filemon K. Tan Educational Endowment for Junior Faculty
John P. and Katherine G. McGovern Distinguished Chairs (six)
Carolyn J. and Robert J. Allison, Jr. Family Foundation Fellowship in Obesity and Metabolics
George Gatoura, MD and Georgia Gatoura Foulard, MD Scholarship
Georgiana Bolton Ladd Scholarship
The Lingle/Whiteley Scholarship
John P. and Katherine G. McGovern Scholarship Fund
Sue McRaney Indigent Care Endowment Fund
Raye White Basic and Laboratory Science Research Fund in Ophthalmology
Fayez Sarofim Basic and Laboratory Science Research Fund in Ophthalmology
Juan Jose Ruiz, MD Ophthalmology Excellence Fund
Distinguished Chair for Orthopedic Research
Clare A. Glassell Family Pediatric Surgery Research Fund
Dr. Marnie Rose Professorship in Pediatric Neurosurgery
Harriet and Joe Foster Distinguished Professorship
Pediatric Nephrology Educational and Research Fund
James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. M.D. Memorial Scholarship
Lucy C. Kormeier, MD Scholarship Fund
Alexander Butkevich, MD Scholarship
Pierce Runnells Memorial Research Fund
James H. “Red” Duke, Jr., M.D., renowned surgeon, medical educator and Texas icon, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015, surrounded by family and friends. He was age 86.

Dr. Duke, the John B. Holmes Professor of Clinical Sciences at UTHealth, was a dedicated physician known for his extraordinary patient care and efforts to train medical students and surgeons, and educate the public about health issues.

“He was a constant presence at our university and we will miss his guidance, his wit, and, most importantly, his example. From all of us at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston – thank you Dr. Red Duke.”

As one of UTHealth’s first faculty members at the medical school, Dr. Duke established the trauma service at the primary teaching hospital now called Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. In 1976, he was instrumental in developing Life Flight*, the state’s first lifesaving air ambulance service. For almost four decades, he served as medical director of Life Flight, a signature program of Memorial Hermann Texas Trauma Institute.

A founding member of the American Trauma Society, Dr. Duke spent much of his medical career developing an infrastructure to provide better care for injured patients while also focusing on programs to prevent injuries. He played a critical role in the development of the EMS and trauma system in the state of Texas. His tireless pursuits also resulted in serious consideration for the position of U.S. Surgeon General in 1989.

As a result of the nationally syndicated television news program, Texas Health Reports, which educated millions about topics ranging from kidney stones to injury prevention to proper nutrition, he became one of the most recognized personalities in his field.

His trademark bottle-brush mustache, military issued wire-rimmed glasses, Texas twang, and colorful stories accented with cowboy hat and folksy humor made Dr. Duke a one-of-a-kind folk hero with the personality of an old-fashioned country doctor and the extraordinary talent of modern-day surgeon.

When the father of four wasn’t with his family, in the operating room, at his patients’ bedside, or starring on a television program, he was an ardent conservationist, serving as past president of the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Boone and Crocket Club, and founder of the Texas Bighorn Society, which has been successful in reintroducing bighorn sheep to West Texas.

Born in Ennis, Texas, on Nov. 16, 1928, his family moved to Hillsboro, where the enterprising young Dr. Duke picked cotton, dug ditches, and became the lone agent for the Saturday Evening Post and the Dallas Morning News while earning Eagle Scout rank. There he acquired his nickname, “Red,” for his curly red locks. Hunting and fishing
in the surrounding countryside, he would often run across another red-head from nearby Abbott, Texas, who would become a legendary country singer and his lifelong friend, Willie Nelson.

Graduating from Hillsboro High School, Dr. Duke attended Texas A&M University and graduated in 1950 with a bachelor of Science degree. At A&M, he achieved school-wide popularity and distinction as head yell leader and began a tradition as the first Aggie to recite “The Last Corps Trip” poem at the school’s bonfire. With his undergraduate degree in hand, he served for two years as an Army tank commander in Germany during the Korean War before enrolling in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He received a divinity degree in 1955.

During seminary, a book about Albert Schweitzer, M.D., inspired Dr. Duke to pursue a career in academic medicine. He thought that caring for patients and conducting scientific research while training the next generations of physicians would be the best ways he could serve his community.

Dr. Duke earned his medical degree in 1960 at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He completed his residency in general surgery at Dallas’ Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he helped save the life of wounded Texas Gov. John Connally in 1963 on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Before accepting an appointment in Houston, Dr. Duke served on the faculty at UT Southwestern and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, where he pursued additional graduate studies in chemical engineering, biochemistry, and computer sciences at Columbia University.

In 1970, he moved with his family to Jalalabad, Afghanistan, to serve as a visiting professor and later chairman of surgery at Nangarhar University School of Medicine. In 1972, he returned to Texas to join the faculty of the newly created University of Texas Medical School at Houston, now McGovern Medical School. In this role, he brought Level I trauma care to Memorial Hermann and Houston and a reputation as a compassionate surgeon, innovator, and educator.

Richard Andrassy, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery said, “Dr. Duke was a friend, mentor, and larger-than-life figure for thousands of us who were fortunate to be his students, residents, or colleagues. He has passed down the wisdom that ‘the most important part of being a doctor is being a doctor.’ His hands-on care – from applying brown sugar to wounds to sitting at the bedside and holding the hand of his patients – would be a lost art if not for Dr. Duke.”

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests that memorial contributions be directed to the James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. MD Endowed Scholarship Fund, UTHealth Office of Development, P.O. Box 1321, Houston, TX 77251-1321 or to the Memorial Hermann Life Flight Fund.


Eugene (Gene) Jacobson, M.D., first chair of McGovern Medical School’s Department of Physiology, died Aug. 5, 2015.

Hired by Dean Cheves Smythe in 1971, Dr. Jacobson specialized in the cardiovascular field and led the department for five years.

“Gene was instrumental in developing standards on which the Medical School evolved, contributing inordinately to curriculum development, to teaching methodologies, to biomedical research, and to faculty development,” said Gil Castro, Ph.D., who was recruited to the Department of Physiology by Dr. Jacobson and who served numerous leadership roles at UTHealth. “Gene was a supreme and efficient integrator, collabor-
rator, communicator, and faculty advocate. He championed faculty development while being firmly devoted to requirements for building the administrative infrastructure needed to sustain a medical school that was grappling to establish a strong presence within the famed Texas Medical Center.”

GERALD DODD, M.D.

Gerald Dodd, Jr., M.D., the first chair of McGovern Medical School’s Department of Radiology, died Sept. 25, 2015. He was 92.

He received his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and interned at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital in Darby, Penn. He completed his residency in radiology at Thomas Jefferson Medical College.

He also served as the first chair of the Division of Diagnostic Radiology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, which he led for 25 years.

He is survived by six children, 13 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

ALAN ROBISON, PH.D.

G. Alan Robison, Ph.D., 80, died May 25, 2015, in Houston.

In 1957, he graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor’s of science in pharmaceutical chemistry, where he was awarded the E.L. Woods Memorial Prize by the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Pharmacy for submission of the best undergraduate thesis in Canadian schools of pharmacy. He received his doctor of philosophy in pharmacology from Tulane University in 1962, and he later performed postdoctoral research at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. He then joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University as an assistant professor of pharmacology.

Dr. Robison was the principal author of “Cyclic AMP,” a groundbreaking work published in 1971 by the Academic Press in New York, along with Dr. Robert W. Butcher and Dr. Earl W. Sutherland, Jr., who won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for related work.

In 1972, Dr. Robison moved to Houston to become the first chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at McGovern Medical School, a position he held for nearly 20 years.

He was also a distinguished professor of pharmacology and an award was established in his name for student excellence in pharmacology.

He was honored in 1979 by the National Academy of Sciences with the inaugural James Murray Luck Award for Excellence in Scientific Reviewing.

He also chaired numerous scientific conferences and symposia in the United States and abroad and served on dozens of scientific journal editorial boards and advisory committees.

Dr. Robison was preceded in death by his daughter, Amelia N’Orlean “Missy” (Westfield). He is survived by his former wife, Jill; his son, James Darcy; his granddaughter, Jennifer Marie (Palmer); his great-granddaughters, Amelia Noëlle (Palmer) and Clara Juliette (Palmer); his sisters, Kathleen (Wesley) and children, Gregg, Karen and Dianne; Barbara (Hoyt) and children, Michael, Christopher and Megan; and Linda (Harris) and daughter Kassidy.
TERRY CROW, PH.D.

Terry J. Crow, Ph.D., professor emeritus in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the McGovern Medical School, died Dec. 4, 2015, following a protracted battle with prostate cancer. He was 72.

Dr. Crow was born and raised in Twin Falls, Idaho. He obtained his B.S. from the University of Oregon, and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Riverside, where he worked under the supervision of Louis Petrinovich. He completed his first postdoctoral training with Charles Woody at the University of California at Los Angeles, and his second with Daniel Alkon at the National Institutes of Health. In 1980, he was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Crow was recruited in 1988 from Pittsburgh to join the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at McGovern Medical School. He made significant and substantial contributions to the research activities and academic mission of the medical school for the past 27 years. He established a research program using the marine mollusk *Hermissenda crassicornis* as a model system to examine cellular mechanisms of associative learning, research that received both national and international recognition. He and his colleagues made seminal contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of enhanced intrinsic cellular excitability produced by Pavlovian conditioning.

After moving his laboratory to Houston, Dr. Crow and his colleagues focused on a biophysical approach to investigating learning mechanisms. As a result of his research, he received the prestigious Merit Award from the NIH in 1990, an award given to a small percentage of funded investigators with a solid history of continuous funding. His was an outstanding record, with 34 years of continuous funding from the NIH. Dr. Crow was also the recipient of an NIH Research Scientist Development Award.

During his tenure at the medical school, Dr. Crow served as director of the Medical Neuroscience course. He was considered to be an outstanding teacher and lecturer. He was recognized as the best lecturer in Medical Neuroscience twice by medical students and was the recipient of the Dean’s Teaching Award for 18 years. His commitment to the academic mission of the medical school was supported by his contributions to the initial Problem-Based Learning working group, membership on the Faculty Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee, and membership on the Medical School Six-Year Review Committee from 1999 to 2012.

Dr. Crow is survived by his loving wife, son, daughter, and grandson.

BETTY MURPHY

Helen Elizabeth (Betty) Murphy, the medical school’s first registrar, died in Waco June 12, 2016. She was 89.

Known as “Mom Murphy” by medical school students, she joined the medical school staff in 1975 and retired in 1988.

Despite her retirement from the school, Murphy made an indelible mark on the institution and the people within it. Since 1992, the Betty Murphy Award has been granted to the student in the entering class who best exemplifies her attributes, namely caring for others and kindness.

Edson Cheung, M.D., ’81, R’87, was so touched by Murphy that he endowed a
student scholarship in her name. “She was a big influence on me going to school,” said Dr. Cheung, a cardiac surgeon at Baylor University Medical Center Dallas. “To me, Mrs. Murphy was like a den mother of a college dormitory – very protective, very loyal.”

Known for her dedication to the students, before the entering class started school, Murphy would stay up at night memorizing the students’ names, and even the names of their spouses and children. “It was my job,” she had said.

“Betty Murphy, a strong outspoken and caring person, knew every student by name and was familiar with their joys and woes,” remembered John Ribble, M.D., dean emeritus. “She was their champion and worked diligently for their welfare. Few others have by personal contact contributed as much as Betty to the life and spirit of the School. She influenced the lives of hundreds of students, faculty, and staff. Betty was one of a kind!”

“Betty Murphy fit her name,” recalled Sondra Ives, who retired as the director of the Office Alumni Affairs. “She was red-headed, had a delightful sense of humor, and never met a stranger. She kept a cookie jar in her office for the students, but I will admit I took my share of them. She had a kind heart and a listening ear. My life is enriched for having known her.”

“I have known Betty since she came to the school in 1975 and when she left she would wander in my place from time to time and reminisce about the good old days and the people we were fond of,” said Henny Van Dijk, who retired as the director of the Graphic Communications Group. “She had a wicked sense of humor, and I have included her image and quote from Bryant Boutwell’s book (and my image). Her note said: ‘note the “advanced” media technology - chalk in color!’ Boy, she was something.”

“This is the end of an era,” said Joel Dunnington, M.D., ’81. “I recall we were supposed to start medical school three days after the flood in 1976, and she was great at calming people down, helping out. Even recently she would come to medical school reunions. She was a pretty remarkable lady.”

“She was the mother to all the students in the early years of the school,” recalled John Green, M.D., ’79. “You could go to her with your problems, and she would hold your hand and tell you everything would get better. Occasionally she had the connections to fix problems outside the system when you couldn’t go to the faculty or dean with your problems as it would make you look weak.”

Dr. Green recently visited Murphy and recorded a video of her reflections and memories of the medical school: https://go.uth.edu/bettymurphy

She is survived by her sister Genevieve Sewell of Phoenix; daughter Mary Loots and husband Rick of Rogers, Ark.; son Patrick Murphy and wife Janet of Waco; and son Michael Murphy and wife Sue of Houston; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanton Patrick Murphy, and daughter Kathleen.

Donations to the Betty Murphy Student Scholarship may be sent to UTHealth, Office of Development, P.O. Box 1321, Houston, TX 77251-1321.

FRANK MOODY, M.D.

Frank G. Moody, M.D., 88, McGovern Medical School’s second chair of the Department of Surgery, died Aug. 12, 2016, from complications of pneumonia while vacationing in Sweden.

Internationally recognized for his research and surgical treatment of diseases of the digestive system with special emphasis on peptic ulcer, gallstones, inflammation of the intestine, and the treatment of morbid obesity, Dr. Moody was recruited to the medical school to lead the Department of Surgery in 1982 by former dean Ernst Knobil, Ph.D.
He served as the Denton A. Cooley Professor and Chairman until he retired from the position in 1994, and he remained an active member of the faculty and the medical school community.

A native of New Hampshire, Dr. Moody graduated from Cornell University Medical College and completed post-graduate training at Cornell’s New York Hospital. He was an advanced research fellow at the American Heart Association; fellow, Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. Although he originally intended to become a psychiatrist, his interests in medical school soon turned to academic surgery with a commitment to research and teaching that lasted a lifetime.

Prior to joining UTHealth, Dr. Moody held faculty appointments at the University of California in San Francisco (1963-66), the University of Alabama (1966-71), and the University of Utah where he chaired the surgery department from 1971-82.

Over the years he took great pride in the fact that he had trained dozens of outstanding academic surgeons with more than a few becoming chairs of surgical departments around the county. When asked about his many accomplishments he always shared credit with his parents and key academic mentors including Drs. Richard Durbin and Bert Dunphy (San Francisco) and Dr. John Kirklin at the University of Alabama.

In retirement he found more time to spend with family and pursue his love of mountain hiking and skiing at his homes in Utah and Sweden that he shared with his partner, Inger. Never one to fully retire, he commuted between Utah and Houston on a regular basis to continue his research interests at UTHealth’s Trauma Research Center.

Research along with the opportunity to work with medical students during their third and fourth year of training supplanted any idea of full retirement. He had recently penned his autobiography, *Frank Reflections*, and was honored by the American Surgical Association with the 2016 Medallion for Advancement of Surgical Care.

Dr. Moody is survived by his three children by first marriage to his late wife Barbara Schmelzer – Anne, Frank, and Jane. His second wife, Maria (Maja) Charlotta Stolpe, was a beloved partner for more than 40 years and died at the age of 89 in 2004. His third partner, Inger, had been a constant support and companion during the final decade of his life that was filled with travel, his research, and his lifelong passion for skiing and mountain hiking.
Lynn Wyatt had seen a thing or two in her life, but never anything like this.

Mrs. Wyatt reigns among Houston’s most notable figures in society, culture, and philanthropy; she counts movie stars, royalty, and famous singers as her friends. Yet, she stood agape in wonder as a lab-grown animal model heart lay beating on a table.

“I couldn’t believe I was seeing it with my own eyes,” Mrs. Wyatt says about the organ created in 2008 by Dr. Doris Taylor of the Texas Heart Institute. “It showed how much incredible potential we have in medical research.”

For decades, Mrs. Wyatt has dedicated herself to supporting a vast array of Houston institutions, committing her time and resources to the Houston Ballet, serving...
as vice president of the Houston Grand Opera, a life trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, cultural ambassador for The Rothko Chapel, and partnering with the Star of Hope Mission for the Homeless for 27 years—just to name a few.

Inspired by her experience at the Texas Heart Institute, Mrs. Wyatt and her husband—oil magnate Oscar Wyatt—recently embraced the game-changing research of UTHealth’s community of experts. Atilla Ertan, M.D., professor of gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at McGovern Medical School, has been a personal gastroenterologist and friend of the Wyatts for nearly three decades, performing several procedures to help Mr. Wyatt.

“They are like family to me,” Dr. Ertan says of the Wyatts. “I am so grateful for their generosity, friendship, and crucial support of my academic life.”

In 2015, the Wyatts donated $500,000—matched one-to-one by UTHealth’s Game Changers Initiative for a total $1 million investment—to establish the Atilla Ertan, M.D. Chair in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at McGovern Medical School. The chair will support the research and educational pursuits of an exceptional member of the Department of Internal Medicine.

“Dr. Ertan’s friendship with Oscar really helped me appreciate his work,” Mrs. Wyatt says. “During our meetings before his procedures on my husband, he was so patient in explaining everything. We just wanted to express how grateful we are to him, and we are excited about what the holder of this chair will do to make life better for others.”

In addition, the Wyatts gave $500,000—also matched one-to-one by the UTHealth Game Changers Initiative—to establish the Lynn and Oscar Wyatt Chair in Metabolic Research for McGovern Medical School. Erik Wilson, M.D., professor and vice chair of surgery at McGovern Medical School—who operated on Mr. Wyatt—holds this chair.

“Dr. Wilson is so caring and precise in what he does. He was so generous with his time and even made numerous house calls,” Mrs. Wyatt says. “I don’t know many doctors who do that.”

The Wyatt Chair will provide new resources for Dr. Wilson’s research in metabolic diseases, such as diabetes.

“I was overwhelmed to receive this honor,” Dr. Wilson says. “Gifts like this are vital long-term investments in health care. The funding allows us to be very creative with our ideas to solve problems.”

Mrs. Wyatt, who describes philanthropy as her “work,” speaks enthusiastically about the power of research to bring about a better future. Dr. Ertan knows that to realize that future, the vision of philanthropists like the Wyatts is increasingly important, especially as government funding becomes harder to obtain.

“Their commitment will help us continue our successful postgraduate education program and make advances in research that translate into better quality of life for our patients,” Dr. Ertan says.

For Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt, making a difference in the city they love has been their lifelong passion, and it will continue to be.

“Oscar and I receive great pleasure in helping others benefit from some of the world’s most important causes. And, we are especially proud to be Houstonians.”

Dr. Atilla Ertan, Lynn Wyatt and Oscar Wyatt, with Turkish Consul General Cemalettin Aydin, far right, and his wife, Burcu.
Special thanks to those benefactors who generously gave $1,000 or more in fiscal year 2016 (September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016) to advance research, education, and patient care at McGovern Medical School. We are grateful to partner with you to expand knowledge for better care and breakthrough cures.

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Gina and Peter Razeghi, MD, FACC
Linda Rector
Carolyn and Edgar Reeves
Vicki Regan, MD '87 and Thomas Leibowitz
Annie Rhoads
Anne and John Ribble, MD
Kathryn and Matthew Riesmeyer
Mark Robbins, MD
Robert L. and Jean Clarke Family Foundation
Kathleen and Dick Rogers
Regina Rogers
Yvonne and Richard Ruiz, MD
Clive Runnells III
Runnells Peters Feedyards, LLC
Sexual Medicine Society of North America
Carol Smith
Nancy and Arthur Smith
Eileen and Edward Soderstrom II
Kelly Somoza
Sonnie Schepps Robinson Foundation
Bryan Struck, MD ’95
Mike S. Stude
Hina Syed and Faraz Khan, MD ’96
Reena Thomas, MD ’88 and
John Thomas, MD ’88
Jeffrey Thompson, MD, FACEP ’01
Tippit Dental Group
Yen Tran and Thai Hoang, MD ’98
Judy Ann Tuggle
United Healthcare
United Way of Central New Mexico
David Van Buren, MD
Claudia and David Vassar
Chantee Vavasseur, MD ’89
Vitaflo USA, LLC
Tiphanie and Adam Vogel, MD
Vynckier Enclosure Systems, Inc.
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

Dr. and Mrs. Darrell S. Wheeler
Anne Whitlock and Mike Skelly
William and Marie Wise Family Foundation
Winter Course in Infectious Diseases
Gerlind and Jerry Wolinsky, MD
Reed and Janet Wood
The Woodell Family Foundation, Inc.
Lanette Woodward
Shao Zhou, MD and Yuping Zhang

The information contained in this listing pertains to new outright gifts, new pledges and pledge payments made in fiscal year 2016 (September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2016). Donors who contributed $1,000 or more during that time period are recognized in this listing. Although great care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this list, unintentional errors might occur. Please bring any discrepancies to our attention by contacting Kimberly Karol, Director of Stewardship and Development Communications, at 713-500-3005 or kimberly.b.karol@uth.tmc.edu. Thank you for supporting McGovern Medical School. Together, we are transforming health care.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI

We are grateful to our generous alumni who have stepped forward to support education, research and patient care at McGovern Medical School. Your contributions make it possible for our students to take your lead in providing excellent health care and furthering life-changing discoveries. Last year, alumni support rose to 7 percent in the 2016 fiscal year—a record for the school. With your sustained investment, we will continue to rise among the ranks as one of the best medical schools in the country. We are proud of your accomplishments and are confident that our ongoing partnership will empower us to do more, to teach more, and to heal more. Thank you!

To learn more how to stay connected to McGovern Medical School, please visit: med.uth.edu/alumni.
**2016 DATA**

- Total Full-Time Basic Science Faculty: 150
- Total Full-Time Clinical Faculty: 1,178
- Total M.D. Graduates: 7,415
- Total Medical Students: 968

**FALL 2016 ENTERING CLASS**

- Texas Residents: 227
- Out of State Students: 13
- Male: 114
- Female: 126
- Oldest member of the class: 36
- Youngest member of the class: 20
EMPLOYMENT FY 2016

New Hires

<table>
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Retirees

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PATIENT CARE

UT Physicians Arrived Patients

- FY14: 608,165
- FY15: 792,645
- FY16: 922,044

UT Harris County Psychiatric Center Admissions

- FY14: 8,431
- FY15: 8,808
- FY16: 9,583
RESEARCH

Medical School Research Expenditures

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Grant Proposals

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Contract and Grant Awards

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DISCOVERIES

Invention Disclosures

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New US Patent Applications

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Licenses/Options Executed

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Licenses and Options Generating Income

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US Patents Issued

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Startup Companies Formed

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For information on supporting programs at McGovern Medical School, contact 713.500.5125.

Visit our online version of Year in Review, featuring videos and photos: go.uth.edu/yearinreview
40 YEARS OF RETREAT

Water balloons, tug-o-war, skits, Camp Allen. For 40 years now, those words conjure up one great medical school tradition – Retreat. The Student Retreat is a rite of passage for all who walk the halls of the Medical School Building.

This year’s 40th occasion was a special one, with many alumni, faculty, and Student Retreat originals in attendance, celebrating in the fun that is Retreat. The father of Retreat, Dr. Henry Strobel, was honored at Retreat and a special fundraising initiative is underway to fully fund retreat for future generations.

Wish you were here!