Finding the Silver Lining

AFTER THE STORM
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**Credits**

Year in Review is published by McGovern Medical School

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

In my last annual report message, I wrote about a name – our name change to McGovern Medical School. This year we focused on another name we won’t ever forget – Harvey.

Being a transplant to Houston from Atlanta 3 years ago, my only experience with hurricanes had been what I had seen on television. That’s all changed. Along with the rest of the Gulf Coast, I now have an entirely new respect for Mother Nature and perspective on the devastation such a storm can cause.

Thanks to lessons learned from previous storms and thanks to the experience and preparation of our leaders and employees, McGovern Medical School fared relatively well, with staff riding out the storm to protect patients, animals, and our facilities. Harvey certainly tested Houston, but the McGovern response to this disaster was incredible.

This storm brought out the best in people during the worst of times. We are proud of the remarkable care provided by our doctors, nurses, and other healthcare personnel and hospital staff. Our closest hospital partners – Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, TIRR Memorial Hermann, and UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center – were true partners during this crisis, working for the best interests of the community. Our students and residents, always eager to help others, were involved in volunteer activities at George R. Brown Convention Center, at our hospitals, and elsewhere. They all made us proud.

We are surrounded by people who remind us every day of the nobility of medicine and of the privilege of caring for the sick. My heartfelt thank you to this community does not convey the respect, really awe, I have for our colleagues.

Thanks to all of those who worked tirelessly for others and to those of you who offered support to your neighbors during this disaster.

On a much more positive note, I recently had the honor to meet one of our outstanding alumni – Serena Auñón-Chancellor, M.D., ’01. Dr. Auñón-Chancellor, a NASA astronaut since 2009, recently launched on her first trip to the International Space Station in June 2018. To honor our school, she graciously asked to take a McGovern white coat with her on the journey.

Just another example of how our McGovern graduates know no limits!

Barbara J. Stoll, M.D.
Dean, McGovern Medical School
H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor

Take a tour of McGovern Medical School, watch the video: go.uth.edu/SchoolTour
Houston is no stranger to flooding rains. In fact, most alumni of McGovern Medical School, when asked if they remember the flood, would answer, “which one?”

But Harvey was different. The city is still healing. Structurally. Emotionally.

Due to past remediation efforts, the medical school’s buildings were spared major damage. Ride-out teams protected the school, and executive leadership made the call day after day to keep faculty, staff, and students out of harm’s way.

Here are some of our stories.

$125 billion in damages

56,000 911 calls in the first 15 hours of the storm

82 deaths

132 mph wind gusts in Port Aransas

792,000 FEMA applications
51.88 in. of rain - just east of Houston in Chambers County

1 trillion gallons over 4 days

300,000-500,000 vehicles destroyed

136,000 homes damaged in Harris County

countless numbers of UTHouston faculty, staff, residents, and students coming to the rescue

View looking out the medical school doors looking toward Fannin Street during Harvey.
As Houston and the surrounding region was hammered by Harvey, teams at UTHealth and McGovern Medical School were prepared and in place, protecting the university and its assets. Due to mitigation efforts following 2001’s Tropical Storm Allison, including aquarium glass, earthen berms, a new pump system, and flood gates, the medical school was storm ready.

The University of Texas Police at Houston (UT Police) began working 12-hour shifts on Saturday, Aug. 26, to ensure the safety of UTHealth’s facilities and the ride-out crews who stayed behind, including those from the Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care; the Office of Facilities, Planning and Engineering; Information Technology; Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management; and Auxiliary Enterprises.

"UT Police personnel prepared going into this, like the professionals and Samaritans they are," said Chief of Police and Chief Security Officer William Adcox. "We had everything staged and ready to deploy."

Once they got into the thick of it, they worked...
their prioritized list, commandeering high-water rescue vehicles to bring in doctors, nurses—those specialized health professionals who must be on site.

Officers kept critical supply lines open, or personally went through high waters to ferry blood and other medical supplies, and transported 70 employees of UTHealth and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center from flooded areas, bringing relief and assistance to hospital patients and staff.

“Some of our folks even went through high water to bring insulin for a critically ill patient at UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center, all the while working in tandem with the Emergency Operations Center,” Adcox said.

UT Police Department Public Safety Officer Bob Luehr was a round-the-clock witness to historic Hurricane Harvey as it tested the flood doors and other FEMA-mandated measures installed on and around the Medical School Building following Tropical Storm Allison of 2001.

Luehr started his shift on Friday, Aug. 25, as the storm approached, and stayed in the building through Thursday, Aug. 31, working 12-hour days and sleeping first on a couch in the Leather Lounge and then on a cot under the medical school’s main stairwell. He split the time keeping watch over Harvey with William Dorsey, UTPD public safety officer, who worked the night shift.

At the height of the storm, Luehr documented 3 feet of water rising up to the Medical School Building’s front doors on Fannin with his cell phone camera and saw it rushing by on Ross Sterling. “I’ve never seen it like that,” he said.

Luehr patrolled the building during the storm as it was on controlled-access status. He was shocked as the post-Allison submarine door facing Webber Plaza side started to breech, bringing 400 gallons of rainwater into the Leather Lounge.

“James Dawn was the savior of this place – he like to run himself to death in this building and in other buildings, too. He did a wonderful job,” Luehr said.

Once the water started to appear on the ground floor, Dawn, senior digital control technician with Facilities Operations, brought in a load of sandbags and built up a wall both inside and outside the building’s interior glass walls. He also helped bring in cadavers from Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center to store in the gross anatomy morgue because the hospital had run out of space.

“The only good part about being here all that time was that you could push the elevator button and it was right there – you never had to wait,” Luehr said.

Adcox said, “I couldn’t be prouder of my staff across the board. Many didn’t leave for days, unable to check on their own homes, sleeping here, working ‘round the clock. The leadership team is frankly astounding, and willing to do whatever it takes to help their fellow citizens by putting their own lives in the backseat while helping others. It is simply humbling.”

Amrou Sarraj, M.D., associate professor of neurology, wades through the waters of Harvey to reach his patients.

Security officer Bob Luehr kept watch over the medical school during Hurricane Harvey, watch the video: go.uth.edu/Harvey4
The torrential rains, loss of electricity, and flooded roadways did not deter some determined McGovern Medical School clinical faculty, residents, and staff who ensured patients’ needs were met during Hurricane Harvey.

DEDICATED TO PATIENTS

UT Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC), operated by the medical school’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, remained operational and full of patients throughout Hurricane Harvey. The Nurse Staffing Office worked around the clock, guaranteeing enough staff were available to care for 200 patients over three shifts on a continuous cycle.

A nine-member dietary team committed to being at the hospital from the start, preparing healthy meals for both patients and staff. With no clear roads, Salih Selek, M.D., an attending physician in HCPC’s Mood Disorders Unit and director of the Refractory Mood Disorders Program, walked for more than an hour through rain-drenched streets the morning of Monday, Aug. 28. His determination was to aid the attending physicians and other medical staff who had been at HCPC since the emergency status began at 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25. He was later joined by other attending physicians, nine of 13 residents, and staff who trickled in throughout the day on Monday.

“The HCPC ride-out team demonstrated great dedication, patience, strength, and resilience,” said HCPC COO Stephen Glazier, who spent the duration of Hurricane Harvey with the hospital’s staff and patients. “While we will look back on Harvey with mixed feelings, I believe that we will remember it as an event that made us a tighter, stronger team and an even better hospital.”

HEEDING THE CALL

It was a similar story down the street in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. Inspired by the television images of heroic Houstonians rescuing neighbors during Hurricane Harvey, McGovern Medical School faculty members were not going to let rising water keep them from taking care of...
their patients at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, the school’s primary teaching hospital in the medical center.

Some residents and fellows at the hospital worked as many as 48 hours straight when floodwaters closed the streets to the Texas Medical Center.

The doctors on call during the storm included neurologist Amrou Sarraj, M.D., and anesthesiologist Evan Pivalizza, M.D., both of whom waded through floodwaters to get to the hospital.

“I walked about a mile though the water and sometimes it got chest high,” said Dr. Sarraj, who was accompanied on the walk by his neighbor and cardiologist Salman Arain, M.D. Dr. Sarraj is on the faculty of the Memorial Hermann Mischer Neuroscience Institute and is associate professor of neurology at the medical school.

When he saw that all of the roads around his home and to the Texas Medical Center were flooded, professor of anesthesiology Dr. Pivalizza decided to walk the 3.4 miles from West University Place, which took just under an hour.

“I put on shorts, a T-shirt, rain jacket, wrapped some items in plastic in a backpack and off I went with my wife praying hard,” said Dr. Pivalizza, who got some strange looks from neighbors as he walked by. “I wasn’t dawdling, but had to negotiate waist-deep water at each intersection.”

The physicians both agree that being able to reach their patients made the rain-soaked journey worth any risk. “Our sick patients needed us to be there,” said Dr. Sarraj, who specializes in the care of stroke patients.

“We were just doing our job,” Dr. Pivalizza said.

Dr. Sarraj added, “Desperate times call for desperate measures. Seeing all the great work by first responders, firefighters, police departments, rescue crews, good Samaritans, and the volunteers everywhere shows how Houstonians come together in tough times. What we did was just a small piece of the great sacrifices that everyone made.”

LBJ HOSPITAL: A REFUGE

On the north side of Houston, McGovern Medical School’s other major teaching hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital, was prepared with ride-out team members ready to work three to four days of the storm.

“The departments had good planning so they had ample staff to cover shifts to treat any traumas that came in and to allow people to take shift breaks,” explained Tien Ko, M.D., F.A.C.S., professor of surgery and chief of staff at LBJ.

But all that changed Sunday morning when the hospital became a refuge for flood evacuees.

“We never expected to have evacuees,” said Alan Vierling, LBJ’s executive vice president and administrator. “We had about 180 people overall. They came in by dump truck, high-water rescue vehicles, they walked in, some of them were pulling things behind them on a raft. But when they got here, we didn’t care.”

LBJ and UTHealth staff immediately turned the hospital into an evacuation center, “literally under five minutes,” Vierling said. “And we didn’t lose track of a single person. Everybody got arm-banded, everyone got reported, everybody got dry, everybody got fed, everybody got a place to stay.”

“We had daily conference calls to update everybody on the status at the hospital, so I think the whole thing was pretty well-coordinated,” Dr. Ko said. “And we had Dr. Askenasy.”

Erik P. Askenasy, M.D., a 2005 graduate of McGovern Medical School and an assistant professor of surgery, was on duty when a man with a head injury arrived. A CT scan revealed an intracranial hemorrhage that required immediate neurosurgery, something never before performed at LBJ.

The successful surgery was performed by Dr. Askenasy, a colorectal surgeon, with assistance from chief surgery resident David Roife, M.D.

“Obviously the physicians and residents did great,” Dr. Ko said. “Our folks did great, morale was high, people really worked as a team to take care of patients.”
Throughout the week Hurricane Harvey struck Houston, doctors and other professionals at McGovern Medical School were hard at work helping their neighbors. Many stories of our "Heroes of Harvey" were highlighted across news sites and social media, but one professor saw the potential for using these stories to teach our medical students as part of the medical school curriculum.

Anson John Koshy, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the McGovern Center of Humanities and Ethics, created a course held in early December for students in the Medical Humanities Scholarly Concentration that invited UTHealth employees to teach future physicians about how life circumstances impact patients. Dr. Koshy says he wanted to highlight co-workers and colleagues who were devastated by the storm but still came to work, aiming to give medical students a one-on-one experience with professionalism at its best and to help teach active listening and underscore the importance of mindfulness and being present in the moment.

“What I commonly heard is that people may not have even been aware of the extent of what others were going through after surviving the hurricane,” Dr. Koshy says. “That was the start of what the McGovern Center could do.”

The McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics is a part of UTHealth, offering curriculum

Julie Lucas explains Hurricane Harvey preparations, watch the video: go.uth.edu/Harvey1

Photos and interviews collected by students as part of their Harvey project.
and research examining the moral, spiritual, and cultural aspects of the biomedical science and health care professions.

Part of the course offered by Dr. Koshy was guided by the philosophies in Dr. Ronald M. Epstein’s book “Attending: Medicine, Mindfulness, and Humanity,” which focuses on sharpening the mindfulness of doctors who are encouraged to deliver accurate diagnoses and build stronger physician-patient connections.

“A big part of the book emphasizes that doctors can just be with patients in their suffering and not turn away,” Dr. Koshy says. “What if you can’t fix it? How do you try to reduce suffering? Even if I can’t fix the problem, I can still be here and be present to listen and give comfort.”

Students supplemented their required readings with a project that involved having a conversation with a UTHealth employee who was impacted by the storm. Following a session co-taught with Houston photographer Robyn Arouty, students both photographed and interviewed participants about their experiences before, during, and after the storm.

“Students did not know the employees they were interviewing and had to learn to interview them in a way that encourages active listening,” Dr. Koshy says. “Every person’s story is unique. Students were taught to listen carefully and to identify non-verbal cues—a skill that is very important to a doctor unraveling a clinical story to come up with a diagnosis and treatment plan.”

Dr. Koshy says some of the stories shared with students were harrowing. He recalls the story of William “Bill” Severson, an audiovisual technician with McGovern Medical School, who experienced the flooding firsthand with his wife and three children. It was the first time Severson had ever seen flooding on that level around his neighborhood. While helping during the evacuation, Severson spoke about putting an infant in a small cooler to keep safe while walking in chest-deep water.

“Bill and his family continue to be impacted by the storm, but he remains dedicated to his job, coming to work every day and doing what he needs to do to help others at work,” Dr. Koshy says.

Severson says his family has returned to his home, but repairs on it are still not completely finished. Despite the frightening ordeal, he was happy to participate in the program.

“I enjoyed sitting down and talking with the students,” Severson says. “I felt it was important that students understood how many people were affected by the storm, both staff and faculty, and it wasn’t difficult at all to talk to them about what had happened.”

Dr. Ann Friedman, a local expert in mindfulness and meditation, spoke to students on the role mindfulness can play in daily life to counter physician fatigue and burnout while maximizing presence during patient encounters.

Feedback from students was very positive, and Dr. Koshy says he is enthusiastic about the program and its future.

“I hope it will turn into something bigger,” Dr. Koshy says.

James Dawn describes his reaction to Hurricane Harvey, watch the video: go.uth.edu/Harvey2
YEAR IN REVIEW

I was on my acting internship in internal medicine when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston. This rotation entails taking intern-level responsibility as a fourth-year student to prepare for residency. I was learning so much the first three weeks, but I got stranded at home for four days in the final week when the flooding from Harvey was at its worst. There were two feet of water on all the roads surrounding my apartment complex, and there was nowhere I could go.

Our county hospital was still on restricted access for the public, which meant that family and friend visits with patients was extremely limited and the only way into the building was through the emergency room. The hospital had been hit pretty hard by the storm. There were multiple leaks in the ceilings. The call rooms and resident workroom looked very lived-in from the people who had been there for the past 96 hours taking care of some very sick patients and weathering the storm. In total, dozens of medical residents and faculty members had stayed at least four nights at the hospital, a generally unprecedented length for a consecutive shift.

That first day back, we discharged a man who had had a unilateral below-knee amputation before the hurricane hit. Our social worker had trouble securing him a wheelchair before discharge, so all we could provide was a four point walker. The patient explained this would not work for him because he was having a lot of balance problems with the walker. He was understandably worried about falling at home, and he would not be able to afford a prosthetic replacement for his leg for a long time or potentially ever. My attending, Dr. Gus Krucke, a very kind man with a huge heart, told the patient he would see if he could come up with a wheelchair.

Dr. Krucke called the team wireless telephone that was always carried by the intern, and he asked if we would meet him at the back door of the hospital. He had used his personal time that morning to swing by a clinic where he knew a wheelchair had been stashed away in a back closet. The wheelchair was dirty from years of non-use, and my task was to get it all cleaned up because the patient from the day before would be coming up to retrieve it. I cleaned it vigorously because I wanted it to be just right for my patient.

Later that day our team phone rang again while we were on rounds. The patient was outside the emergency department entryway waiting for his wheelchair. Our team’s intern and I went to take it to him. The man insisted on trying out the chair before taking off from the hospital. It took all he had to ambulate from the passenger side of the truck to the chair. But, I could see how happy it made him that we had gone out of our way to provide him with a wheelchair to use at no cost. It took all I could do to hold back my tears from his joy after such a rough week.

The patient gave the intern and me a firm and sincere handshake, and thanked us three times before his friend drove them away from the hospital. That day I was reminded that in times of distress, kindness can move mountains. It also reinforced that being a physician is about loving your fellow man and helping in any way you can. Comprehensive medical care like this is just the kind I aspire to practice in the future, and it goes beyond typical “doctoring.” Sometimes you improve people’s lives outside of the emergency department and exam rooms. Sometimes, in fact, you find help stashed in the most unlikely of places, like the back of a forgotten storage closet.
In the Eye of the Storm

Five or six days following my deployment as a medical team manager for a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue for Harvey – where we worked in Robstown and Fort Bend and Brazoria counties in Texas, I was activated for Maria – my 25th deployment. I was sent as the only medical officer for a Federal Incident Support Team, which works as a liaison between local government and federal task forces. I arrived in San Juan just 36 hours before Maria hit. I noticed some damage from Hurricane Irma, but most of the city was doing fine. I stopped by a CVS drugstore and was surprised to see a grocery aisle stocked full of food. This told me that the community was not prepared for the storm as we normally see panicked buying before a hurricane.

Our engineers had selected the Intercontinental Hotel in which to ride out the storm since it was made of concrete and had good power and water sources. The plan was that the hotel would send its guests to the ground floor via an intercom announcement once the storm hit. At 5 a.m., the hotel authorities announced that the winds were worse than expected, instructing guests to go to the stairwells with blankets and the expectation of spending several hours there. Our team went to the first floor of the hotel to meet up, and the winds were pretty strong. We then moved to an adjacent building to ride out the storm, but once this building’s wooden roof started visibly moving up and down two inches, we returned to the hotel to ride it out. This was the strongest of the four hurricanes I’ve gone through.

By 5 p.m. the winds slowed down enough to send out initial recon teams, and we were quickly able to get the sense of the island’s devastation. We had two task forces during the ride out, and six additional task forces were called in to help, but they weren’t going to be able to get in immediately since the airport was shut down. We began to work with the territory to get our taskings, and FEMA asked us to start searching. We broke up into squads, which each area responsible for a section of the island. There was an amazing amount of devastation compounded by the fact that all electricity was down, there was no radio communication, and no phone lines, so stranded or injured citizens couldn’t call for help, and the police and ambulance couldn’t use radio – it was complete isolation.

The San Juan mayor asked us to help the territory understand the impact to the medical system, so we identified and made contact with all 98 of the island’s medical facilities. Their needs were enormous – they had no water, were running out of fuel and medical supplies, and their morgues were over capacity. I was there for a total of 15 days, and saw resources slowing coming in.

We absolutely need physicians on these task forces. In Puerto Rico, 58 physicians were deployed around the country, for up to 14 days at a time. To have a physician who can get away for 14 days is really difficult – it falls to employers who are supportive of these missions and colleagues who can be flexible with very short notice to adapt to emergency schedules and fill shifts. I am really thankful that McGovern Medical School and my colleagues support me. There were sacrifices of many people to make this happen.

There are many opportunities for medical personnel to participate in organized disaster teams – but it is important to sign up and train in advance – you can’t just volunteer when a disaster hits. People who do search and rescue missions are some of the most competitive and highly trained people in the country. I will hopefully be going on these missions for a couple of more decades.

Richard Bradley, M.D., professor of emergency medicine and chief of the Department of Medicine’s Division of Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine, served as part of the national emergency response in both Harvey and Maria.
Dr. Serena Auñón-Chancellor graduated from McGovern Medical School in 2001 and completed her internal medicine residency and aerospace medicine residency at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (UTMB). She also earned a master's degree in public health from UTMB. She joined NASA as a flight surgeon in 2006 and was selected as an astronaut in 2009. She launched to the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2018 with the Expedition 56/57 crew. Here she answers questions for the McGovern Annual Report.

What has inspired your career?
My career has taken a lot of twists and turns. I graduated as an engineer and became pre-med late. I had a lot of encouragement from friends who were going pre-med who said I’d be good as a doctor. Making that change was absolutely the right decision because I love being a physician. I wanted to be an astronaut from age 8 or 9 and watched NASA landings as a child, which were inspirational. Friends and family were very supportive of my decisions.

Who were your role models?
Tons of people I met long the way, but I can’t say one specific person. You take the best part and emulate those — little pieces of one instructor here, or one professor there. Certainly my family and my parents were very influential, and they had a particularly high level of expectation of me and my three sisters. My parents worked very hard; my mother is a novelist and my dad came to this country in 1960 as a Cuban immigrant with little money but worked his way up and became the dean of the college of engineering at several universities. My sisters are also my role models.
How did you choose McGovern Medical School?
I always say McGovern chose me. When I applied to medical school, I got few interviews, just two total – McGovern and UTMB. During my interview at McGovern, I remember being asked, ‘Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?’ I said, ‘I see myself at NASA.’ The folks at McGovern took a chance on me. Back then, there weren’t many pre-med engineers, and they saw my path forward was a little different; they chose to support me on that. It’s all worked out very well, and I’m grateful to McGovern. It’s inspired me, and it’s taught me to look at every aspect of someone I meet. I work with medical students today, and you never know where they will end up. Having gone to McGovern helped me achieve tremendous things in my career.

What do you remember most about McGovern Medical School?
I remember the faculty – they made such an impact, and I don’t know if they know that. They took a lot of time teaching you. Your learning curve is exponential as a medical student. The patient-centered approach was paramount at McGovern. I realized how good McGovern was at approaching the patients, and I really appreciate that and try to use that same method. Being a physician is one of the most human professions, and it requires finding a way to approach every patient from where they are.

What advice would you give current medical students?
Spend as much time as you can watching and emulating your instructors, take the good and toss away the bad, learn as much as you can. Medical school years are stressful, but learn as much as you can before going into residency. Enjoy your

“Having gone to McGovern helped me achieve tremendous things in my career.”
— Serena Aunón-Chancellor, M.D., ’01
medical school career – these are friends you will keep for a lifetime. Take advantage of working in clinics that serve the uninsured, try new things, go on medical mission trips, and take electives at other institutions. Your specialty will find you. Focus on what you want, and it will happen.

How have you been able to continue being an active clinician and how does continuing to be a clinician add value to your role as an astronaut?

It’s difficult because my astronaut job is a full-time job, so working as a physician has to be on weekends, or after hours. I love being a physician and do so in UTMB settings in urgent care or hospital wards and in student-run free clinics. When you stop seeing patients, you go into withdrawal. The astronaut office understands and lets me recertify in my specialties (internal medicine and aerospace medicine). Being a physician astronaut absolutely adds value as medical challenges of space flight come up and expertise is needed. Astronaut physicians have a highly valued role and cover a wide range of areas.

What will your role be on the Expedition 56/57 crew?

Roles are the same for all astronauts on the mission. We are all trained equally on space walks, robotics, space systems, and science experiments, and we are assigned equally on these tasks throughout our six-month stay on the ISS. If there were a medical issue, they would come to me; each crew has two medical officers, although not necessarily a physician.

What are you most looking forward to about this mission?

The human research that will be performed. Some of our international partners are looking at cool experiments with chronic disease, microgravity, cell structure, and protein structure.

What kind of medical differences and challenges do astronauts face compared to our Earth-bound population?

The biggest challenges astronauts face once we are in microgravity is that we are unloaded – we experience bone loss, muscle mass loss, and fight to maintain this with exercise throughout the mission. We see changes in the eyeball – its shape, retina, changes in vision – we’re not sure why and are doing research and are trained to do ultrasounds of our own eyes. We also have exposure to radiation. In low-Earth orbit it’s not as big of a deal, but it will be when we set out to Mars. Humans adapt pretty well – we don’t give the body enough credit. We are trying to fly people for longer and longer to see if there is change in the genetic structure to see how well we can maintain bone and muscle mass.

“Humans adapt pretty well – we don’t give the body enough credit.”

— Serena Auñón-Chancellor, M.D., ’01
Do you have the cell counts?  
“What about different pictures of the cells?”

“You may consider doing a different representation here to make it more striking.”

Cesar A. Arias, M.D., MSc, Ph.D., professor of internal medicine and director of the Center for Antimicrobial Resistance and Microbial Genomics (CARMiG), questions and offer suggestions to his graduate students as they present their research at a weekly lab meeting. Throughout the discourse, he expertly guides them toward creative ideas to help solve one of the greatest health challenges of our time: antimicrobial resistance.

Antibiotics are among the most frequently prescribed medications. Treating a wide variety of infections and diseases caused by bacteria, antibiotics offer efficient, cost-effective solutions.

Unfortunately, decades of antibiotic use have accelerated the evolution of resistance in certain bacteria. Many infections that previously were controlled by antibiotics have become harder—and sometimes impossible—to treat.

“These organisms spread around hospitals, countries, and continents in ways we don’t yet understand,” says Dr. Arias, who also directs the Center for Infectious Diseases at UTHealth School of Public Health and is both the Laurel and Robert H. Graham Faculty Fellow and Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Chair in Infectious Diseases. “Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem that threatens our ability to treat common infectious diseases and practice modern medicine.”

In fact, antibiotic-resistant bacteria are jeopardizing modern medicine in such an impactful way that the highest levels of government have
stepped in. The United Nations recently elevated antimicrobial resistance to a top global health priority, the fourth health challenge ever to be named a top global threat. Unless action is taken, researchers project that antimicrobial-resistant infections will kill more people by 2050 than currently die from cancer.

To combat this health threat, UTHealth established CARMiG in 2016 at McGovern Medical School. Led by Dr. Arias, CARMiG is a collaboration of researchers across the Texas Medical Center in pursuit of innovative clinical and therapeutic approaches to tackle multi-drug resistant organisms.

Scientists at CARMiG apply genomic and bioinformatics tools to study antimicrobial-resistant pathogens and track their local and worldwide spread. By integrating a diverse range of specialties, including bacteriology and molecular genetics, biochemistry, pharmacology, clinical infectious diseases, bioinformatics, and epidemiology, CARMiG connects scientific discovery to patient care with patient needs driving research.

As antimicrobial resistance rapidly spirals into a deeper global health crisis, it requires a global solution. Dr. Arias has such global reach as the director of the Molecular Genetics and Antimicrobial Resistance Unit and International Center for Microbial Genomics at Universidad El Bosque in Bogotá, Colombia.

“The advent of new technologies like whole genome sequencing used in the cancer field is making an enormous impact in infectious diseases,” he says. “As we seek to develop novel genomic approaches to treatments, a global reach will enable us to disseminate discoveries faster and coordinate more effectively with our counterparts all over the world.”

Through close collaboration with Universidad El Bosque, Dr. Arias and his team have access to crucial data throughout North and South America. Graduate students at UTHealth also have opportunities to travel and learn from their counterparts in Bogotá.

UTHealth recognizes that Dr. Arias is an outstanding leader in antimicrobial resistance and recently awarded him one of five renewable $100,000 Presidential Collaborative Research Awards made possible by support from the President’s Excellence Fund. By leveraging the combined expertise of researchers at McGovern Medical School, UTHealth School of Public Health, and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Arias’ team established a pipeline that sequenced genomes of thousands of bacteria and analyzed countless data points to better understand the *Staphylococcus aureus* epidemic in Latin America.

“Dr. Arias is smart, innovative, and collaborative. He has brought together an outstanding and diverse group of scientists and public health practitioners to address the complex issue of antimicrobial resistance,” says Barbara J. Stoll, M.D., dean and H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences at McGovern Medical School.

Dr. Arias’ brilliance in scientific research and talent as an educator are surpassed only by his mastery in collaboration. His ability to mobilize extraordinary teams that span disciplines, institutions, countries, and continents is leading UTHealth to the front lines in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance.

“Our function is to serve as a bridge between the lab bench and the patient,” he says. “As a scientist, you always want to work toward something that will improve people’s lives.”

“Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem that threatens our ability to treat common infectious diseases and practice modern medicine.”

— Cesar A. Arias, M.D., MSc, Ph.D.
Cancer. Heart disease. They are known as the two leading causes of death in the United States. However, these are not the leading cause of death in young Americans.

“You take a healthy baby home from the hospital, and the most common reason that they are going to die between age 1 and 44 is trauma,” says Charles Cox, M.D., professor of pediatric surgery and the George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Neurosciences.

With the goal of protecting these young lives, Dr. Cox has devoted his career to improving outcomes for trauma patients.

Dr. Cox joined the medical school faculty in 1996. He earned his medical degree at UTMB and completed his internship and residency in surgery at McGovern Medical School. He went on to complete a National Institutes of Health research fellowship in trauma and burns at Shriner’s Burn Institute at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) and a pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan. He also served 15 years in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve, receiving numerous awards for his service in Afghanistan.

Since joining the medical school, Dr. Cox has led the pediatric trauma service at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, which includes a specialized pediatric emergency center that is part of the Texas Trauma Institute. Patients from around the region are cared for by specialized teams that include attending pediatric surgeons, pediatric intensivists, pediatric neurosurgeons, pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatric orthopedic surgeons, pediatric otorhinolaryngologists, pediatric cardiovascular surgeons, and pediatric emergency medicine specialists.

“We have a dedicated pediatric emergency center and the specialists on staff to provide expert care for any patient,” Dr. Cox says. “That’s why our pediatric emergency transport team brings us patients via ambulance and Life Flight from up to 300 miles away.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1.7 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) annually. More than 6.5 million U.S. patients are burdened by the physical, cognitive, and psychosocial deficits associated with TBI, leading to an economic impact of approximately $76.5 billion per year.

Dr. Cox also leads the medical school’s Pediatric Translational Laboratories and Pediatric Program in Regenerative Medicine – a multi-disciplinary effort that addresses problems that originate with traumatic injury and the consequences of resuscitation and critical care. The program focuses on stem cells for traumatic brain injury and related neurological injuries, such as hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, stroke, and spinal cord injury.

The research group completed the first Phase 1 stem cell study using a pediatric patient’s own stem cells from their bone marrow to treat TBI. The preliminary results suggest a therapeutic benefit, reducing the body’s neuroinflammatory response to trauma and preserving brain tissue.

In 2016, the Department of Defense awarded Dr. Cox a $6.8 million grant to assess the feasibility of using adult patients’ stem cells from their own bone marrow to treat traumatic brain injury as a Phase 2 study.

Dr. Cox is also committed to training the next generation of trauma researchers. Through a National Institutes of Health T32 training grant, we are training wonderful young surgeon scientists. Since 2002, nine fellows have graduated from the specialized trauma research training program and are making their own inroads in this complex clinical arena that devastates so many young lives.
Charles Cox, M.D., is a professor of pediatric surgery and the George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Neurosciences.
Recognizing that art enhances well-being and strengthens resiliency, the McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics developed the “Arts and Resilience” Program—a monthly series that invites writers, musicians, actors, painters, dancers, and other artists to McGovern Medical School to perform for students, faculty, staff, and the broader school community.

This new program is especially meaningful in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and is a natural fit for the McGovern Center, which promotes the humanistic dimension of medicine.

“The experience of art—a beautiful painting, a soulful piece of music, a dramatic aria, a creative theatrical production—enriches each of us by refreshing our imagination and stimulating our own creativity,” said Dean Barbara J. Stoll. “By providing a moment for emotional reflection, we hope that the Arts and Resilience program will enhance the well-being of our medical school community.”

The series premiered in September with a poetry reading and conversation with Fady Joudah, M.D., an award-winning poet and physician. Dr. Joudah, who completed his residency training in internal medicine at McGovern Medical School, won the Yale Series of Younger Poets Competition in 2007. He read his poetry and recounted experiences from his life both inside and outside
of medicine. He said being a both doctor and a writer has enriched his life in unique ways.

Joudah said his writing has been enriched by the "language of medicine," which he showed through several poems that focused on previous academic studies such as an experience in an anatomy lab. He emphasized the need for medical professionals to look at their practice through the lens of the humanities.

Pianist Mark Vogel brought his insights into music and physics for October’s program, focusing the use of sounds waves and rhythm to help the healing process. He admitted he doesn’t entirely grasp all the deeper, subconscious effects music has on individuals but said insight from musicians like himself gives a window into the science behind it. He performed selected pieces by Bach, Chopin, and others, and concluded with a piece by Vince Guaraldi.

Jane Weiner, a professional dancer and founder of Hope Stone Inc., addressed the intersection of dancing and healthy living for November’s

“The experience of art—a beautiful painting, a soulful piece of music, a dramatic aria, a creative theatrical production—enriches each of us by refreshing our imagination and stimulating our own creativity.”

— Dean Barbara J. Stoll
event. Weiner said she comes from a medical family and reminisced about her late father, a pediatrician, and about her brother, a pediatric surgeon who worked in Afghanistan. She talked about her father’s busy schedule and the complexity of having dinner together and connected her own experience with the busy lives of professional families today. She ultimately said there is “burnout in every field these days,” and spoke about dance and its relation to neuroplasticity.

Actor and playwright Ruddy Cravens visited in December with local actors to perform a reading of “Wondergirl,” a story about a husband and wife grappling with the health of their unborn twins who may be born prematurely. As the story unfolds, one of the twins dies shortly after birth but the other—a girl—survives. After the situation worsens, the dramatic tension intersects with the human drama in an emotional finale.

Some of the story’s background came from Cravens’ own experiences losing a child. While he called the experience “horrific,” he said he hoped the play would help bring a sense of what typical people go through when faced with the uncertainty of losing a loved one and the need for medical professionals to avoid having a “dispassionate distance” from patients facing insurmountable odds.

March’s program welcomed Houston-based accordionist Roberto Rodriguez and Dr. Roger Wood, music historian and author. The two tackled the origins and evolution of the accordion, or what Rodriguez called an “orchestra in a box.” Wood spoke about its earliest form first made in Berlin in 1822 and its spread across Europe and into North America, and Rodriguez performed several songs while talking about the more technical aspects of the instrument. Rodriguez called the event a “great opportunity” to speak about his experiences with the instrument and share his knowledge with medical students.

“We are so fortunate that Houston has a vibrant arts community—exceptional visual art, music, opera, dance, theater, and amazingly talented artists—and are very grateful that these wonderful artists are helping to enrich our school,” Dean Stoll said.

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**Progress Notes**

*by Fady Joudah*

The age of portrait is drugged. Beauty is symmetry so rare it’s a mystery. My left eye is smaller than my right, my big mouth shows my nice teeth perfectly aligned like Muslims in prayer. My lips an accordion. Each sneeze a facial thumbprint. One corner of my mouth hangs downward when I want to hold a guffaw hostage. Bell’s Palsy perhaps or what Mark Twain said about steamboat piloting, that a doctor’s unable to look upon the blush in a young beauty’s face without thinking it could be a fever, a malar rash, a butterfly announcing a wolf. Can I lie face down now as cadavers posed on first anatomy lesson? I didn’t know mine was a woman until three weeks later we turned her over. Out of reverence there was to be no untimely exposure of donors, our patrons who were covered in patches of scrubs-green dish towels, and by semester’s end we were sick of all that, tossed mega livers and mammoth hearts into lab air and caught them. My body was Margaret. That’s what the death certificate said when it was released before finals. The cause of her death? Nothing memorable, frail old age. But the colonel on table nineteen with an accessory spleen had put a bullet through his temple, a final prayer. Not in entry or exit were there skull cracks to condemn the house of death, no shattered glass in the brain, only a smooth tunnel of deep violet that bloomed in concentric circles. The weekends were lonely. He had the most beautiful muscles of all 32 bodies that were neatly arranged, zipped up as if a mass grave had been disinterred. Or when unzipped and facing the ceiling had cloth over their eyes as if they’d just been executed. Gray silver hair, chiseled countenance, he was sixty-seven, a veteran of more than one war. I had come across that which will end me, extend me, at least once, without knowing it.

*from Footnotes in the Order of Disappearance (2018); Milkweed editions.*
We’re seeing STARS! Thanks to The University of Texas System Board of Regents, McGovern Medical School has recruited several new outstanding faculty members through its Faculty Science and Technology Acquisition and Retention (STARs) Program. The STARs program helps UT institutions attract and retain outstanding faculty through competitive awards, which can be used to purchase equipment and renovate facilities. Meet our latest round of STAR-studded recruits!

**STAR AWARDS**

**Sarah Huang, M.D., Ph.D.**
**Rising STAR**
**Assistant Professor**
Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine, Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases
Recruited from: Columbia Medical Center

Dr. Huang’s expertise focuses on human pluripotent stem cells in deriving all the major classes of lung epithelial cells. Dr. Huang will use her research plan to extend this examination of severe influenza infection, and her presence adds a significant amount of expertise to the group of faculty at IMM actively working in lung development and disease.

**Sidney Wang, Ph.D.**
**Rising STAR**
**Assistant Professor**
Center for Human Genetics, Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases
Recruited from: University of Chicago

Dr. Wang aims to connect phenotype to genotype through understanding gene regulation and develop genomics tools that can be applied to investigations in his own lab and beyond. He plans to combine his skill sets to provide context-dependent functional interpretations for genetic variants in human populations, using genomics approaches to guide specific reverse-genetics studies.
Anna Konovalova, Ph.D.
Rising STAR
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Recruited from: Princeton University

Dr. Konovalova’s lab will focus on investigating surface-exposed lipoproteins in Gram-negative bacteria and bacterial cell envelope stress responses to better understand antibiotic resistance and contribute to the design of new antimicrobials.

Ji Young Yoo, Ph.D.
Rising STAR
Assistant Professor
Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery
Recruited from: Ohio State University

Dr. Yoo’s research focuses on developing therapeutic oncolytic herpes simplex viruses (oHSV) and understanding tumor microenvironment changes in response to oHSV therapy. She aims to make an impact on the prognosis of cancer patients by advancing the translation of her findings to improve therapy.

Kuang-Lei Tsai, Ph.D.
Rising STAR
Assistant Professor
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Recruited from: National Tsing Hua University

Dr. Tsai’s research focuses on exploring the structures and functions of macromolecular assemblies involved in gene regulation through a combination of advanced cryo-EM techniques with various biochemical and biophysical approaches.
Cynthia Ju, Ph.D.
Translational STAR
Professor
Department of Anesthesiology
Recruited from: University of Colorado

Dr. Ju’s studies focus on developing molecular and cellular mechanisms of acute and chronic liver injury. She also trains and mentors young scientists through her Liver Injury Program and will continue to expand her research on chronic liver injury and fibrosis caused by alcohol ingestion.

Balveen Kaur, Ph.D.
Translational STAR
Professor
Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery
Recruited from: Ohio State University

Dr. Kaur’s lab is studying brain tumors and their interactions with the extracellular matrix and tumor microenvironment. The neuro-oncology program she directs integrates numerous activities across departments and promotes collaborative research.

Henry Wang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Translational Star
Vice chair of research
Department of Emergency Medicine
Recruited from: University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Wang is the principal investigator of the NIH-funded Pragmatic Airway Resuscitation Trial, which is comparing paramedic intubation with laryngeal tube airway management in adult out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, and he also leads one of the largest population-based studies of sepsis epidemiology.
ELTZSCHIG NAMED CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

Following a national search, Dean Barbara J. Stoll announced that Holger Eltzschig, M.D., Ph.D., has been named the chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Dr. Eltzschig joined McGovern Medical School Sept. 1, 2016, coming from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and was soon named interim chair of the department by Dean Stoll. He is also associate vice president for Translational Research and Perioperative Programs at UTHouston and director of a new Perioperative Research Center.

An internationally recognized physician-scientist, Dr. Eltzschig was named the first holder of a John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Distinguished Chair and also was the recipient of a prestigious UT System Faculty Translational STARs Award.

Born and raised in 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 work there established the basis of his numerous translational studies related to perioperative organ injury and protection.

Dr. Eltzschig’s research involves basic, translational, and clinical studies focused on many aspects of perioperative organ protection. He has a remarkable history of extramural grant funding—continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health with 3-6 concurrent R01 grants (or their equivalents) since moving to the United States.

ALLEN NAMED HCPC MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Melissa Allen, D.O., has been named medical director of The University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center, the mental health hospital component of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth).

“We are pleased that Dr. Allen will contribute her leadership and clinical skills to this role that is so vital to the success of UTHouston Harris County Psychiatric Center,” said Jair Soares, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and executive director of UTHouston Harris County Psychiatric Center. “She is highly respected by her colleagues and the clinical staff and brings innovation and enthusiasm that will help lead the hospital as we move into a new phase of growth.”

Since 2012, Dr. Allen has been a core teaching faculty member as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and an attending physician in the Bipolar Specialty Unit at UTHouston Harris County Psychiatric Center. Every year since 2013, she has received the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award, which honors the top teaching faculty for each department. She became chief of Adult Psychiatry Services in 2014 and has served as the hospital’s interim medical director since September 2016.

Dr. Allen earned her doctorate of osteopathic medicine at The University of North Texas Health Science Center and a bachelor’s degree in biomedical science at Texas A&M University. Her clinical and research interests include psychotic disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychopharmacology, treatment refractory mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, women’s mental health, effects of human trafficking, and community mental health.
FRANCISCO ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

A research and clinical leader in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), Gerard Francisco, M.D., has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine (NAM).

Dr. Francisco was one of 80 professionals elected to the academy for outstanding professional achievement. He is now one of only 17 PM&R specialists in the world elected to the 2,127-member academy, the academy reports. Dr. Francisco is a tenured professor and chair of PM&R and the chief medical officer of TIRR Memorial Hermann.

“The entire UTHealth community is proud to congratulate Dr. Francisco on this well-deserved honor,” said UTHealth President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D. “He joins a small and elite group of physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists to become members of National Academy of Medicine, which speaks to his impressive, important contributions to the field.”

Dr. Francisco specializes in brain injury and stroke rehabilitation, and currently chairs the brain injury medicine examination committee of the American Board of PM&R.

A National Institutes of Health RO1 grant recipient, Dr. Francisco is the founding director of the NeuroRecovery Research Center at TIRR, where he and his team study the role of neuromodulation, human-machine interfaces, robots and exoskeletons in facilitating neurologic and physical recovery.

“These newly elected members represent the most exceptional scholars and leaders in science, medicine and health in the U.S. and around the globe,” said National Academy of Medicine President Victor J. Dzau. “Their expertise will help our organization address today’s most pressing health challenges and inform the future of health.”

ACADEMY OF ATHENS INDUCTS SAFI

Hazim J. Safi, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, made history with his induction into the Academy of Athens as a Corresponding Member.

The Academy of Athens, Greece’s national academy founded in 1926, is a reflection in name and an extension of the Academy of Plato, which was first founded in 387 B.C. and cultivates education and research in scientific research, literature, and the fine arts.

The academy held an induction ceremony Nov. 7, 2017, conducted by former Greek Prime Minister Lukas Papademos, and welcomed Dr. Safi as a Corresponding Member – a distinguished member of academia who is not a Greek resident.

Dr. Safi joins the late Dr. Michael DeBakey, under whom he trained, as the only other American cardiovascular surgeon at the institution. Currently, there are 40 Associate Members, 40 Foreign Members, and 250 Corresponding Members.

Over the past 40 years, Dr. Safi has been praised for his “legendary” surgical skills and has become an institution in the field of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery. His career interest has been in complex aortic surgery and his major contributions to the discipline have focused on detailed studies of multiple organ protection during aortic surgery and the development of protocols that have been widely adopted around the world.

Dr. Safi completed a fellowship at St. James’ Hospital in London, England, before joining the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, in 1977, where he was trained in the United States system for general surgery as well as cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.
Year in Review

“I’ve always worked very well with Harris Health’s leadership and staff,” he said. “Harris Health has great people, and I look forward to promoting synergy between UTHealth and Harris Health to achieve our common goal of high-quality care for our patients.”

Dr. Miller will continue as professor in the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, co-director of the Center for Clinical Research, and associate dean for hospital quality initiatives at McGovern Medical School.

Dr. Miller earned a bachelor’s in religion studies at Texas Christian University in 1983 and a master’s in philosophy at Rice University in 1986. In 1993, he earned his Ph.D. in epidemiology.

LBJ Hospital Names Ko Chief of Staff

Tien C. Ko, M.D., professor in the Department of Surgery, has been named chief of staff at Harris Health System’s Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital, becoming the fifth chief of staff in the hospital’s 28-year history.

Dr. Ko also has been appointed associate dean for Harris Health Programs at McGovern Medical School. He will continue to serve as chief of surgery at LBJ Hospital and holds the Jack H. Mayfield, M.D. Distinguished Professorship in Surgery.

“It’s a huge privilege to represent UTHealth at this important hospital for our community and be able to promote the medical school’s values of high-quality patient care, education, and research,” Dr. Ko said. “To be the lead physician in this effort is a tremendous honor and a great responsibility.”

He said his top two goals are patient care and enhancing the collaboration of the medical team with Harris Health leadership and staff.

“I’ve always worked very well with Harris Health’s leadership and staff,” he said. “Harris Health has great people, and I look forward to promoting synergy between UTHealth and Harris Health to achieve our common goal of high-quality care for our patients.”

Alan Vierling, executive vice president and administrator, LBJ Hospital, said he is happy with Dr. Ko ascending to his new role.

He said Dr. Ko’s 10 years of work experience at LBJ Hospital will be invaluable.

“Dr. Ko brings a refreshing air of logic, reason, and practicality to everything he does,” Vierling said. “He sees the answer to a problem quickly and understands how to make things happen in a timely fashion. His experience at LBJ Hospital helps him understand how things work and who to tap to get things done.”

Charles “Trey” C. Miller, Ph.D., a health care leader with more than 25 years of experience in clinical epidemiology and clinical research, has been named associate vice president for clinical research and health care quality at UTHealth.

“Dr. Miller has tremendous experience as a clinical researcher and research administrator,” said Michael Blackburn, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief academic officer at UTHealth. “We are fortunate to have someone with his knowledge and skills to lead focused efforts to enhance clinical research at UTHealth.”

Dr. Miller will oversee the university’s policies, procedures, and programs around clinical research and health care quality. Additionally, he will be responsible for the implementation and assessment of programs to enhance efficiencies and increase quality in core areas of the university’s mission of education, research, and clinical care.

“The UTHealth schools and our hospital partners serve an enormous population in a complex and dynamic practice environment. Opportunities are abundant to build research into the ordinary practice of medicine, and for UTHealth to take a national leadership role in what the Institute of Medicine terms a model learning health care system,” Dr. Miller said.

Dr. Miller will continue as professor in the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, co-director of the Center for Clinical Research, and associate dean for hospital quality initiatives at McGovern Medical School.

Dr. Miller earned a bachelor’s in religion studies at Texas Christian University in 1983 and a master’s in philosophy at Rice University in 1986. In 1993, he earned his Ph.D. in epidemiology.

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MILLER TO LEAD CLINICAL RESEARCH, HEALTH CARE QUALITY FOR UTHEALTH
It was an evening of well-wishing and congratulations for Marylee Kott, M.D., ’77, and Diana Fite, M.D., ’78, the 2017 winners of the Distinguished Alumnus Award of McGovern Medical School, at the annual awards ceremony Oct. 20, 2017 at the Third Coast restaurant in Houston.

Dr. Kott currently serves as an associate professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and is retired from active pathology practice, but works part time as informatics medical director of pathology with the Harris Health System, developing the Beaker Laboratory module to interface with the hospital’s Epic Electronic Medical Record.

Dr. Fite is an emergency physician at ER Katy in Katy, Texas, and is the medical director of the emergency department and the hospital at Memorial Hermann Tomball.

Dr. Kott said she hails from a “family of old-fashioned doctors.” While she originally sought to be a teacher, her husband encouraged her to give medical school a shot. She had applied to UT and her brother also had been accepted which Dr. Kott joked was “very unpleasant” because her brother was younger.

“I have to say that I learned from my family of doctors how to care for patients, the importance of diagnostic skills, and how to be kind to all,” Dr. Kott said. “I found at [McGovern Medical School] I came into contact with more physicians who embodied the qualities I wanted to emulate.”

Dr. Fite remembered growing up in Amarillo, and mentioned that she had no memory of being encouraged by her parents to become a doctor. While attending college, Dr. Fite had married and said she was unsure of the direction she wanted to take but during her second year noticed others said their plans were to attend medical school.

Following her education, she served as an emergency physician at Sam Houston Hospital until 1983, and then as medical director at Spring Branch Medical Center for several years. She worked at various Houston-area facilities, including Trinity Medical Center in Brenham, St. Joseph Hospital, Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, and was on the steering committee and the initial ED medical director for Methodist Willowbrook Hospital, where she worked from 2000 to May of 2017.

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.
Richard Andrassy, M.D., and Anne Dougherty, M.D., were among those honored with the Distinguished Physician Award by Memorial Hermann at the 2017 Annual Medical Staff Meeting. Dr. Dougherty is professor of ACTAT-EP Heart and vice president, human research protection programs, and Dr. Andrassy is executive vice dean of clinical affairs, chair of the Department of Surgery, Denton A. Cooley, M.D. Chair of Surgery, and the Dr. Thomas D. Cronin Chair of Plastic Surgery.

Jaroslaw Aronowski, Ph.D., professor and the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Chair in Neurology, received the Thomas Willis Award from the American Heart Association.

Michelle S. Barratt, M.D., professor of pediatrics, received the 2017 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

Robert Brown, M.D., Harvey S. Rosenberg, M.D., Chair in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was named division chief of pathology at LBJ General Hospital.

Xiaodong Cheng, Ph.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology and Walter and Mary Mischer Distinguished Professor in Molecular Medicine, was named an American Association of the Advancement of Science Fellow.

Lars Cisek, Jr. M.D., Ph.D., professor of pediatric surgery, was named division chief of Pediatric Urology for the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Herbert Fred, M.D., professor of internal medicine, received the John P. Mc Govern Compleat Physician Award from the Harris County Medical Society.

John Holcomb, M.D., professor of surgery, received the Jonathan Letterman Medical Excellence Award from the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

Claire Hulsebosch, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology and anatomy, received the Reeve-Irvine Research Medal.

McGovern Medical School recipients of the 2017 UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award are John Byrne, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy; Vasanthi Jayaraman, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; Grant Fowler, M.D., professor of family and community medicine; and Emma Omoruyi, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics. With a monetary award of $25,000, the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Awards are among the largest in the nation for rewarding outstanding faculty performance.
Lillian Kao, M.D., F.A.C.S., professor of surgery and Jack H. Mayfield, M.D., Chair in Surgery, was named division chief for Acute Care Surgery in the Department of Surgery.

Heidi Kaplan, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, received the Faculty Mentoring Award from the Texas Branch of the American Society Microbiology.

Manickam Kumaravel, M.D., associate professor of diagnostic and interventional imaging, was inducted into The University of Texas Shine Academy.

Kevin P. Lally, M.D., M.S., chair of the Department of Pediatric Surgery and interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics, received the Coe Medal from the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons.

Michael Lorenz, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, was named an American Association of the Advancement of Science Fellow.

Chris Mackenzie, Ph.D., assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, received the 2017 Freeman Award for Faculty Teaching.

Maureen Mayes, M.D., professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, was named the 2017 Doctor of the Year by the Scleroderma Foundation in recognition of her ongoing work in patient education.

Louise McCullough, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurology, received the Stroke Research Mentoring Award from the American Heart Association and the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the National Institutes of Health.

Jon Meliones, M.D., professor of pediatrics, was named division chief of Pediatric In-Patient Services for the Department of Pediatrics.

Kenneth Moise, M.D., professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, received the Roy M. Pitkin Award from Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Winners of the 2017 Women Faculty Forum Awards are Amber Luong, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of otorhinolaryngology, clinical excellence; Carmen Dessauer, Ph.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology, basic science excellence; Julie Kaplow, Ph.D., psychiatry and behavioral sciences, clinical excellence; and Jennifer Swails, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, rising star.
Donald Molony, M.D., professor of internal medicine, received the 2017 DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award.

McGovern Medical School recipients of the UTHealth President’s 2017 Excellence Awards are Donald Molony, M.D., professor of internal medicine, for teaching; Carmel Dyer, M.D., for clinical service; and Rodney Kellems, Ph.D., recognition for excellence.

Barbara Murray, M.D., the J. Ralph Meadows Professor in Internal Medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, received the Alexander Fleming Lifetime Achievement Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America – the organization’s highest honor.

Joseph Nevarez, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, was named division chief of Hyperbaric Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Tom Nguyen, M.D., associate professor of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, received the 2017 Benjy Brooks Outstanding Clinical Faculty Teaching Award.

Carlos Reyes Ortiz, M.D., associate professor of geriatric and palliative medicine, was named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar for 2017-18 to study the relationships between falling, depression, and a history of violence or abuse in older people.

Brian Parsley, M.D., associate professor of orthopedic surgery, was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons.

Anil Pillai, M.D., associate professor of radiology, was named division chief of Interventional Radiology in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging.

P. Syamasundar Rao, M.D., professor of pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, received the Xth Dr. K.C. Chaudhuri Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indian Journal of Pediatrics in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of academics, research, and patient care in pediatrics.

Adan Rios, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine, was honored by the Pink Door cancer charity of Houston as both a caregiver and cancer survivor at its 10th anniversary gala. He also received the Dr. Justo Arosemena Bicentennial Medal Award from the Panamanian National Congress in recognition of his “civic, scientific and humanitarian virtues in his fight to combat cancer and HIV/AIDS.”

Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology and associate dean for educational programs, received the Career Educator Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Southern Group on Educational Affairs and the Merrell Flair Award in Medical Education from the AAMC.
Milton L. “Chip” Routt, Jr., M.D., professor of orthopedic surgery and the Andrew R. Burgess, M.D., Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery Trauma, received the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine’s Alumni Association.

Jorge Salazar, M.D., professor of pediatric surgery, was named division chief of Cardiovascular Surgery for the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Keely Smith, M.D., FAAP, associate professor of pediatrics, was named division chief of Pediatric Hospital Medicine for the Department of Pediatrics.

Barbara J. Stoll, M.D., dean of McGovern Medical School, received the Women Leaders in Medicine Award from the American Medical Student Association.

Henry Strobel, Ph.D., professor emeritus of biochemistry and molecular biology, received the Carole J. Bland Phronesis Award from the Associate of American Medical Colleges’ Group on Faculty Affairs.

Jennifer Swails, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, received the 2017 McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award.

KuoJen Tsao, M.D., professor of pediatric surgery and James H. Red Duke, Jr., M.D., Distinguished Professor in Surgery, was named division chief of General Thoracic Surgery for the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Jerry S. Wolinsky, M.D., professor emeritus of neurology, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers and David Sackett Trial of the Year Award.

Bill Shrader, vice president and director of the John P. McGovern Foundation, and Dean Barbara J. Stoll enjoy the second annual McGovern Day.

McGovern Day celebration 2017, watch the video: go.uth.edu/mcgovernday
COMMITMENT BUILDS ON PIONEERING LEGACY

“...it came out of the blue,” says John D. Milam, M.D., professor emeritus of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at McGovern Medical School, as he recalls working alongside renowned heart surgeon Denton A. Cooley, M.D., to perform the first human open-heart transplants in the United States. “We were going to do it—not in a week or a year, but right then.”

“Dr. Milam was a pioneer in pathology and laboratory medicine in the Texas Medical Center and an outstanding role model of a scholarly physician for students, residents, and junior faculty.”

— Robert L. Hunter, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

And so they did.

A respected medical educator, Dr. Milam dedicated his life’s work to training future medical leaders and advancing the field of pathology. As he reflects upon his distinguished 40-year career that has taken him around the world, his eyes gleam and his enthusiasm radiates when he discusses his role as a pathologist on the team that pioneered the first open heart transplant.

Since performing the first human heart transplant in 1968, the procedure has transformed from an experimental operation to an established treatment for advanced heart disease, which saves thousands of lives each year.

Dr. Milam continued to advance life-changing research long into his career, developing devices to refine blood banking and transfusion approaches for open-heart surgery. In 1973, he joined the Department of Pathology at McGovern Medical School where he dedicated his time to educating future generations of pathologists to catalyze their own medical innovations.

Throughout his career at McGovern Medical School, Dr. Milam recognized the importance of having exceptional mentors and teachers to lead the way for students. He also recognized the criti-
cal need for resources to arm both educators and students with the necessary tools to break new ground. “There are outstanding pathologists here. They have the work, and they have the time, but they need support,” he says.

As is typical for a pioneer like Dr. Milam, he and his wife, Carol, recently stepped forward to do something for the department that had never before been done—create an endowed chair to provide critical, dependable funding and enrich the academic environment. Their remarkable gift, which will be matched by the Game Changers Initiative, will establish the John D. and Carol J. Milam Chair in the Department of Pathology.

“It gives us a chance to give back to the school and the profession,” Carol says.

The John D. and Carol J. Milam Chair will provide a well of new resources for the depart- ment, which is led by Robert L. Hunter, M.D., Ph.D., Distinguished Chair in Molecular Pathology.

Dr. Hunter says that endowed funds like the John D. and Carol J. Milam Chair are essential in building impactful programs and recruiting talented faculty members who aspire to the standards of excellence and leadership set by Dr. Milam.

“It is an honor to carry on Dr. Milam’s legacy through this endowment,” he says. “Dr. Milam was a pioneer in pathology and laboratory medicine in the Texas Medical Center and an outstanding role model of a scholarly physician for students, residents, and junior faculty. Gifts like this are investments that ensure a strong future for our department and our school.”

Dr. Milam’s pioneering vision contributed to one of the most delicate medical procedures, touched the lives of countless patients, and enriched the experiences of both students and faculty. Now, his philanthropic vision will help ensure the department’s success for years to come.

“I think they have the potential for doing some great work,” he says. “This gift will have a great benefit for the department.”
UT Physicians, the medical practice of McGovern Medical School, offers more than 1,500 clinicians certified in more than 80 medical specialties and subspecialties in and around the Greater Houston area.

In addition to providing a vast network of highly specialized complex and primary medical care, UT Physicians offers a host of wellness programs to complement its clinical offerings, offering a holistic approach to health.

In its 1948 constitution, the World Health Organization (WHO) defined health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease.”

Tom Murphy, M.D., assistant dean for Community Affairs and Health Policy, states, “Social determinants of health today include housing insecurity, food insecurity, income insecurity, loss of benefits (insurance), access to care, gender, social and physical environment, personal violence, and other factors, which directly impact the health status of the individuals within a population. Attention to the social determinants of health and healthcare is required if there is to be meaningful transformation of the health care delivery system in this country.”

UT Physicians has taken this approach to health – taking a more complete picture – by offering wellness services, in addition to excellent medical care, in several of its community-based clinics.

Free cooking classes in a commercial kitchen are held at the UT Physicians – Victory location (7364 Antoine Dr., Houston, Texas), to help patients learn lifestyle changes they can make at home.

“Attention to the social determinants of health and healthcare is required if there is to be meaningful transformation of the health care delivery system in this country.”

— Tom Murphy, M.D.
Assistant Dean, Community Affairs and Health Policy

“People can make simple meals that are healthy and stay within their budget,” explains Christina Englehart, community health education specialist at UT Physicians – Victory. “A lot of people come to our classes and are surprised by how much fat or salt is in the food they are eating. We teach them how to make easy substitutions when cooking at home, which lead to a healthier lifestyle. Many of our participants are diabetics who want to cut carbs from their diets.”

Tanya Cooksey says it is a wonderful opportunity to improve health.
“I have gone home to make the recipes I have learned here,” Cooksey says. “The substitutes have made a difference in my life. I would never have thought to boil an omelet in a bag or make hash browns out of cauliflower.”

In addition to cooking classes and demonstrations held at the clinic, UT Physicians – Victory hosts food-label reading classes, teaching community members not only how to make healthy selections but also explaining which foods are smart choices on a budget.

“At UT Physicians, we want to make a long-lasting impact in the community,” says Latanya Sam, community practice manager for UT Physicians – Victory.

At UT Physicians – Southwest (10623 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, Texas), a variety of free classes, including organic gardening, nutrition classes, tai chi, and hatha yoga are offered to the entire community.

More than 800 participants have attended the clinic’s organic gardening classes since 2016, according to Pei-Shan “Ivy” Weng, UT Physicians – Southwest, community health education specialist.

“We want our surrounding communities to know that our clinic is not just a place to go when you are sick,” says Fahad Kamal, community practice manager, UT Physicians – Southwest. “We focus on educating our patients in preventative healthcare and in taking care of themselves mentally, spiritually, and clinically.”

UT Physicians -Southwest plans to expand its wellness services to focus on pediatric and women patient populations and partners with senior education centers within Harris County.

“Our goal is to promote further communication on preventative and wellness services to our patients throughout the clinic, having greater impact on our surrounding communities, and providing the best level service in quality and clinical care,” Weng adds.
LEGISLATURE APPROVES FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT CONTINUUM OF CARE CAMPUS

As state and federal entities compete for shrinking healthcare dollars, McGovern Medical School received welcomed news from the 85th session of the Texas Legislature that could go a long way toward helping a vulnerable patient population.

The Texas Legislature approved $300 million to expand and significantly repair the state’s hospital system during the 2018-2019 biennium, with the intent to appropriate more funds to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) in the following biennia. HHSC recommended, and Gov. Greg Abbott and the Legislative Budget Board approved, allocating more than 40 percent of this biennium’s funding to a joint HHSC/UTHealth project.

The $125 million, 288-bed UTHealth Continuum of Care Campus for Behavioral Health will be built adjacent to the 274-bed UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) and will include acute, subacute, and residential treatment. The combined facility would create the largest academic behavioral health hospital in the country. The new hospital will be owned by HHSC, and UTHealth will oversee the expected three years of construction and then operate and staff the new hospital.

“Our state leaders in the Legislature and in the Health and Human Services Commission have shown incredible dedication to help those suffering from behavioral health illnesses in Texas. UTHealth is honored to partner with them to develop innovative programs and provide the highest level of care for this vulnerable population,” says Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D., UTHealth president and Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair. “This funding is a giant step toward addressing a critical health care need.”

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth operates and staffs UTHealth HCPC, which is jointly owned by the State of Texas and Harris County. It is the second-largest academic behavioral health care hospital in the country and was recently recognized by the Joint Commission as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures.

Other than the Harris County Jail, UTHealth HCPC is the largest provider of inpatient psychiatric care in Houston, with 9,000 admissions annually, including adults, adolescents, and children. The teaching hospital of McGovern Medical School’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, its role is to assist stabilizing those in need of acute care for mental health issues, including bipolar disorder, depression, co-occurring chemical dependency, schizophrenia, behavioral disorders, and adjustment disorders.

“Current psychiatric services are insufficient to meet the mental health needs of our city and our state,” says Jair Soares, M.D., Ph.D., professor and Pat R. Rutherford, Jr., Chair in Psychiatry and executive director of UTHealth HCPC. “At any time we have a waiting list of 24-45 patients in need of hospitalization and only 274 inpatient beds.”
Expansion of the psychiatric hospital means more than just additional beds for these patients. Currently, UTHealth HCPC has the capacity to primarily provide acute inpatient care and specialized services, including diagnostic assessments and treatments such as behavioral interventions, medication management, psychological testing, individual and group therapy, electroconvulsive therapy, and new therapies in clinical trials, such as ketamine for treatment-resistant depression.

“In this new facility, our goal is to create a continuum of care for our patients and their families, offering a full spectrum of services, including acute care, sub-acute care, and residential treatment,” explains Stephen Glazier, chief operating officer. “We intend to provide a full breadth of options to best fit patients’ needs. By improving clinical outcomes, we hope to reduce readmission rates and break the cycle of chronic recidivism that too many of our patients fall into.”

With a focus on reducing rapid readmissions (those within 30 days) and improving outcomes for super utilizers (those with four or more stays per year), this new campus should reduce the pressure on hospital emergency centers and the Harris County Jail, which has become the de facto regional behavioral health care provider, currently housing more psychiatric patients than all of the state hospitals combined. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, the Harris County commissioners, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and Houston City Council members strongly supported funding for this needed infrastructure.

“The continuum model will be designed to address not only different levels of care but also to integrate the different types of care individuals need, including psychiatric, substance abuse, and medical care. The continuum will allow the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to continue its research into the causes and treatment of behavioral health issues and to expand its training of the next generation of healers,” Dr. Soares says.

The new Continuum of Care Campus building, which will be constructed on what is now a parking lot adjacent to UTHealth HCPC, will incorporate the latest design concepts for a behavioral health facility.

“Bringing together experts in neuroscience and architecture, the building will be specifically designed and finely tuned to the unique needs of our patient population,” Glazier adds. “Our intention is to create an environment that promotes safety for both patients and staff, helps to reduce stress and anxiety, and enables patients to maintain their privacy and dignity.”

Many people at the Capitol and across the state were instrumental in securing these funds, including the author and sponsor of SB 1 (the General Appropriations Act), Sen. Jane Nelson and Rep. John Zerwas, M.D., and state leaders such as Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and House Speaker Joe Straus. Sen. Charles Schwertner, M.D., and Rep. Sarah Davis, who oversee budget negotiations for health and human service programs, led the effort in their respective chambers to make sure this critical funding was included in an otherwise extremely tight budget year. Most of the Texas Medical Center is in Rep. Davis’ district. The Continuum of Care Campus in Houston also was a recommended project by two interim committees before the session. After a long study, tours, and briefings, the Houston project was recommended for this behavioral health funding by the Senate Interim Committee on Health and Human Services, led by Sen. Schwertner and vice chaired by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst; and the House Select Committee on Mental Health, which was led by Rep. Four Price and included local mental health champions Reps. Garnet Coleman, Sarah Davis, and Senfronia Thompson.
Susie Distefano, CEO of Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, and Dean Barbara J. Stoll are joining forces in a new project.
From good to great is not only the title of one of the most popular business books, it’s also the goal of a new joint project spearheaded by Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and McGovern Medical School, called the Greatness Project.

“Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is a great children’s hospital with depths of service and expertise. Our goal is to elevate ourselves as a destination of choice for women’s and children’s services in our community,” explains Susie Distefano, CEO of Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Located within Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital is a 310-bed women’s and children’s quaternary care hospital that includes a 118-bed Level IV neonatal intensive care unit – the highest level of care available for premature and critically ill newborns – and the region’s busiest Level I Pediatric Trauma Center. The hospital’s unique position – located within a comprehensive adult care facility – allows for care across the entire lifespan and also to the entire family under the same roof.

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital serves as the primary teaching hospital for the pediatric and obstetric / gynecology programs for McGovern faculty, residents, fellows, and students – a relationship that originated more than 50 years ago.

The Greatness Project, launched in November 2016, is focused on smart growth and brand awareness for Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, with a strategic focus on key elements including:

- Encourage growth through clinical program development and support
- Expand the women’s and children’s network across the Memorial Hermann Health System
- Expand philanthropy
- Improve philanthropy activation
- Spearhead research and innovation projects
- Activate digital health platforms
- Lead quality and safety programs

Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital has developed a steering committee, which includes McGovern faculty and leadership, to formalize these areas into an actionable plan.

“The Journey to Greatness Project is a joint effort – Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital and UTHealth working as one to tell our story and to enhance how we serve the women and children across the Greater Houston community,” Dean Barbara J. Stoll says.
2017 RESIDENCY MATCH RESULTS

WHERE THEY’RE GOING

1. Maryland
   Utah
   Connecticut
   Nevada
   Oregon
   South Carolina
   Minnesota
   New Mexico
   Wisconsin
   Illinois
   Virginia

2. Arizona
   Arkansas
   Colorado
   Kentucky
   Iowa
   Massachusetts
   Michigan

3. Alabama
   Oklahoma
   Washington

4. Florida
   Georgia
   Kansas
   Missouri
   North Carolina

5. Pennsylvania
   Washington DC

Match Day 2017’s excitement, watch the video: go.uth.edu/Match2017
SPECIALTY CHOICES

Commencement 2017, watch the video:
go.uth.edu/Commencement2017
The Department of Anesthesiology is committed to excellent clinical care of perioperative and critically ill patients and patients requiring interventional pain treatment. We also provide a wide array of training opportunities for anesthesia residents, fellows, and advance practice providers and perform cutting-edge research in the field of perioperative medicine.

Our diverse faculty provide clinical expertise at multiple 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, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, Lyndon Baines Johnson General Hospital, The UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston, as well as in specialized pain management clinics.

Our residency training program is one of the largest anesthesiology training programs in the country, with 24 clinical base year spots and 27 clinical anesthesia spots per year. Our residents’ training begins with a clinical base year offering broad experience in both medicine and surgery. Fellowships are available in Cardiovascular, Critical Care, Neuro, Pediatrics, Regional, and Trauma Anesthesia.

Clinical research is being performed in airway management, coagulation abnormalities, as well as cardiac, critical care, pediatric, obstetric, regional, and trauma anesthesia. During the past year, we launched the building of a new translational research center called the "Center for Perioperative Medicine," where cutting-edge research is performed to understand inflammatory responses triggered during surgery, infection, ischemia, and reperfusion injury. Through our research, we hope to identify novel pharmacologic approaches to treat or prevent organ injury, train the next generation of scientists, and perform collaborative research.

Our basic science research team has expanded in number. We have increased our laboratory-based research platform with multiple R01 grants and other federal grants, which generate about $2M in annual funding to McGovern Medical School. Our most recent cutting-edge basic science research focuses on the inflammatory responses in acute and chronic liver diseases. Our studies in cell and animal models seek to identify mechanistic strategies to prevent and treat these liver abnormalities.

We are also conducting research on the role of hypoxia-elicited adaptive responses during organ injury and its corresponding signaling pathways, which may lead to novel pharmacologic approaches to prevent or treat acute organ injury in surgical patients. As an incentive to engage our residents in translational research, our department offers training grants and fellowships to promote this opportunity.

Faculty .......................................................... 90
Residents .......................................................... 72
Interns ............................................................ 24
Fellows .............................................................. 13
Research ...................................................... $2,036,530

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 to 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 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.

BMB is home to three research centers and an NIH-supported program project grant that represents areas of research excellence within the department. Overall, the research activities of the BMB faculty provide an atmosphere of discovery and learning that enriches medical and graduate school educational activities.

Faculty ....................................................................................................... 33
Graduate Students .................................................................................14
Fellows ........................................................................................................17
Research .................................................................................$9,284,807

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 dangerously enlarged 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, research, 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 KL2 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 and structural heart surgery. Several of our faculty have major leadership roles in UTHealth and

Hazim Safi, M.D.
Memorial Hermann research and 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/Vizient quality initiatives.

Faculty........................................................................................................ 19
Residents ....................................................................................................9
Fellows.........................................................................................................2
Research ............................................................................................... $97,862

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 has been ranked as one of the top eight dermatology clinical centers of excellence in the nation. The faculty and residents care for an extremely diverse patient population at all of the affiliated locations. Research in the department emphasizes pediatric dermatology, cutaneous lymphoma, skin cancer, dermatopathology, and skin molecular virology. The department operates free-standing laboratories for dermatopathology histologic slide preparation, including immunofluorescence, and for state-of-the-art molecular studies of viruses that affect the skin. The clinical dermatopathology laboratory issues diagnostic reports on more than 30,000 patient specimens per year.

There are 25 salaried faculty and 21 dermatology residents. A fellowship in Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials in Pediatric Dermatology is offered. In collaboration with the Department of Pathology, there is an ACGME-accredited dermatopathology fellowship program. In collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center, there is an ACGME-accredited fellowship training program in Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology. 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.

Faculty.......................................................................................................10*
Residents .................................................................................................21*
Fellows....................................................................................................... 3*
Research ............................................................................................... $302,403*

*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 625,830 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
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........................................................................................................73
Residents .................................................................................................53
Fellows....................................................................................................... 14
Research ......................................................................................$153,765

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, and Memorial Hermann Sugar Land 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 and Sugar Land.

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 expansion to 20 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, and Ultrasound.

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.

Faculty.................................................................104
Staff Physicians .........................................................42
Advance Practice Practitioners..........................57
Residents..............................................................57
Fellows.................................................................5
Research..............................................................$1,255,968

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 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 are also trained to use the transtheoretical model of behavior change to encourage their patients to make healthy lifestyle changes.

The Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship in conjunction with the Department of Orthopedic Surgery provides experiences in multiple settings, including field and training room experiences for high school and collegiate athletes and large community sporting events.

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

The UTP Community Based Clinics offer excellent patient care in 13 ambulatory sites 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 health behavioral change and clinical research.

| Faculty | 84 |
| Staff Physicians | 17 |
| Residents | 36 |
| Fellows | 1 |
| Research | $1,434,182 |

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.

Members of the IBP faculty teach Physiology and Pharmacology to medical students and actively participate in four Graduate School programs: Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Cancer Biology, Neuroscience and Therapeutics and Pharmacology. We also participate in the Center for Membrane Biology within the McGovern Medical School and in several training grants, including those in Interdisciplinary Pharmacological Scientists and Computational Cancer Biology.

| Faculty | 36 |
**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 in 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.

**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 Infectious Diseases, 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. Drs. Michael Lorenz and Hung Ton-That were elected as Fellows in the American Academy of Microbiology. Dr. Lorenz also was elected as Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. William Margolin was appointed as a McGovern Scholar and Dr. Chris MacKenzie was awarded the John H. Freeman Award for Faculty Teaching. Two new faculty joined the department: Dr. Anna Konovalova, an expert in membrane biology from Princeton University who earned a
Rising Star Award from the UT System, and Dr. Bo Hu, an expert in cryo-tomography whose research interests include cell structure and function.

Faculty.......................................................................................................20
Graduate Students.....................................................................................21
Fellows.......................................................................................................26
Research...............................................................................$6,380,880

NEUROBIOLOGY AND ANATOMY

Normal functioning of the brain makes us who we are. This privileged position is robbed by brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases, for which there are currently no cures. The Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy is committed to understanding brain function and finding cures for diseases of the brain. Faculty members in the department are actively engaged in multiple areas of research, including cellular and molecular neuroscience, computational neuroscience, systems and cognitive neuroscience, traumatic brain injury, and neurodegenerative diseases. We have considerable strengths in the areas of learning and memory, brain plasticity, neuronal circuit analysis, visual information processing, and cognitive dysfunction. Our faculty members teach both medical students at McGovern Medical School and graduate students at the MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS).

The department is home to the Center for Concussion Studies; 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.

In FY2017, Neurobiology and Anatomy faculty and their trainees received numerous research awards. An NIH multi-PI grant was awarded to Drs. Neal Waxham, Pramod Dash, and Jing Zhao. Dr. Waxham successfully competed for another collaborative grant, from the National Science Foundation, and Dr. Dash received the UTHouston Presidential Collaborative Research Award and an award from the TIRR Foundation. Drs. Valentin Dragoi and Roger Janz, in collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, successfully obtained an NIH visual core grant from the NEI. In addition, Drs. Dragoi, Janz, and Ruth Heidelberger received administrative supplements from the NIH BRAIN Initiative and NEI. Drs. Shin Nagayama and Harel Shouval were awarded new NIH grants, from the NIDCD and NIBIB, respectively. Dr. David Marshak was part of an NIH SBIR grant awarded to BetaS- tem Therapeutics. Dr. Felix Moruno, a post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Andrey Tsvetkov, was awarded a fellowship from the Hereditary Disease Foundation.

In the arena of scholarship, faculty published papers in *Neuron*, *Behavioural Processes*, the *Journal of Neuroscience* and the *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, amongst many others. The department’s online open access textbook, Neuroscience Online Electronic Textbook, had more than 2.6 million page views during FY2017.

Our faculty members delivered scientific presentations at numerous national and international conferences and symposia. Dr. Dash was invited to moderate a session on “Cellular Therapies in Neurotrauma,” at the Cellular Therapeutics in Trauma and Critical Care (CTTACC) international conference, held in San Francisco. Dr. Dragoi was an invited speaker at the Symposium on “The Early Visual System: From Data to Models” in Paris, France, and at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, in Berlin, Germany. Dr. John Byrne served as keynote speaker at the International Conference on “Brain Plasticity Linking Molecules, Cells & Behavior,” in Magdeburg, Germany. Dr. Marshak was an invited speaker at the Dowling-Werblin Symposium, “Half a Century of Retina Research: Neural Circuitry, Retinal Disorders, and Restoration of Vision” in Sonoma, California.
The teaching accomplishments of the department were highlighted by Dr. Waxham’s receipt of the GSBS John P. McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching and Dr. Byrne’s receipt of The University of Texas System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award.

Other awards and honors included Dr. Claire Hulsebosch’s receipt of the Reeve-Irvine Research Medal, in recognition of her meritorious scientific contributions; and Dr. Heidelberger’s service on the Council of the Biophysical Society. Dr. Heidelberger also received the GSBS Faculty Recognition Award, given in acknowledgment of her outstanding contributions to graduate education and the MD/PhD program.

Faculty .............................................................. 26
Fellows ............................................................... 10
Research ............................................................. $6,772,208

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. Our Stroke Institute continues to grow and provides research and educational support to the department and to UTHealth. The UT telemedicine program has grown to 20 sites, providing access to care for many patients throughout Houston and Texas.

The endovascular and intervention division continues to work in collaboration with the Department of Neurosurgery and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. The group has expanded the care they provide to Houston and now performs emergent stroke thrombectomy services at four Memorial Hermann sites, the Texas Medical Center, Southwest Memorial, Memorial City, and The Woodlands. Fellowship training has expanded to three fellows per year.

The Multiple Sclerosis Research Group focuses on fundamental and applied research approaches in neuroimmunology and advanced magnetic resonance imaging. In addition to a busy clinical practice, the group participates in many clinical trials investigating exciting new treatments for MS and conducts basic and translational research that is improving our understanding of demyelinating diseases.

The Neuromuscular Program provides state-of-the-art clinical care to patients with neuromuscular disorders. Our providers have unique expertise in neuromuscular pathology, single fiber EMG, and the treatment of chronic inflammatory neuropathies. The program is a designated Center of Excellence for GBS and CIDP. Our Muscle and Nerve pathology laboratory is CAP/CLIA certified and EMG laboratory is AANEM accredited.

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 state-of-the-art medical and surgical therapeutic programs for patients with Parkinsonian diseases, tremor, dystonia, ataxia, and traumatic brain disorders. In addition to being actively engaged in translational research, we offer several clinical trials, a large community centric Deep Brain Stimulation Program 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. The Neuropsychology Program specializes in the comprehensive evaluation of the cognitive and behavioral effects of neurological and psychological disorders, and provides cognitive rehabilitation and psychotherapy to enhance cognitive functioning and to help patients cope with neurological disability. Our diagnostic neurology team of expert clinicians is always available for evaluating and treating new patients referred for any sort of neurological condition.

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, 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 (now Vizient). In recent years, we have ranked around #10 nationally. In addition, complication rates at the Mischer Neuroscience Institute are below national 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 started 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 three per year (for a 7-year program). Most neurosurgery residencies nationally support one 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. Last year, we were in the top 20 nationally for NIH funding to Neurosurgery Departments (#13).
and robotic surgery. Our gynecology sub-specialists are experts in gynecologic oncology and female 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, 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, fetal intervention, and OB/Gyn Hospitalist.

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

Faculty ................................................................. 81
Residents ............................................................... 48
Fellows (Maternal Fetal Medicine) ......................... 10
Fellows (Hospitalist) ................................................ 2
Research ............................................................. $1,355,275

RUIZ, 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 ................................................................. 27
Fellows ................................................................. 1
Research ............................................................. $2,258,910

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 health care 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 Dr. Johnny Huard’s 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. Dr. Scott Tashman is 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.

Clinical research in orthopaedic trauma has enrolled more than 800 patients at UTHealth across 22 multi-center studies, making us one of the anchor sites for the Major Extremity Trauma and Rehabilitation Consortium (METRC), which has brought more than $2 million of federal funding to our university. We are excited to have started another prospective, randomized clinical trial (Prevent CLOT) in the last six months in conjunction with Drs. Charlie Wade, Bryan Cotton, and CeTIR. This PCORI-funded study is multi center with a total award of $12,000,000 and plans to enroll 12,000 patients nationally to determine if lovenox and aspirin are equivalent at preventing pulmonary embolism in patients with musculoskeletal trauma. We also look forward to starting three new multicenter grant-funded trials this year with METRC, including EMS-BinD, with Joshua Gary, M.D. as the national PI.

Our department comprises 107 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.

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>107</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$1,844,802</td>
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**OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY - 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 ear, nose, and throat care for our patients. The Department’s clinical offices are locat-
ed in the Texas Medical Center, Southeast Houston, and The Woodlands. Patient care is provided at Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Memorial Hermann-Southeast Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands Medical Center, 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 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** .............................................................. $172,681

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**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 52 full-time clinical and research faculty as well as many joint appointment, part-time, and adjunct faculty.

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** ................................................................. 52
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 ACGME 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 UTHealth 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.

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 Network 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.................................................................191
Residents ............................................................107
Fellows.................................................................62
Postdocs .............................................................9
Research .............................................................$40,125,989

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, Memorial Hermann Orthopedic & Spine Hospital (MHOSH), the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, MD Anderson, and Shriners Hospital for Children.

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

The PM&R department operates the NeuroRecovery Research Center based at TIRR Memorial Hermann. The faculty direct various laboratories in this center, including the UTHealth Motor Recovery Laboratory, the Center for Wearable Exoskeletons, Rehabilitation Robotics, Neuromodulation and Neural Interfaces, Neuromyo engineering, and Neurorehabilitation.

The faculty 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.................................................................30
Residents ............................................................16
Fellows.................................................................2
Research .............................................................$1,279,112

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, mental health nursing, and social work.

Our faculty and staff—at the forefront of the exploration of the causes and treatments of mental illnesses—generate close to $3 million annually in grant-supported research. Specific areas of research include mood and anxiety disorders, trauma and grief, childhood disorders and addiction, with new programs in Post-traumatic Stress, Integrated Clinical Neuroscience and Treatment, Early Diagnosis & Intervention, Biochemical Markers, Psychiatric Genetics, 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 23 community clinics throughout Houston, in addition to specialty psychiatry clinics located at the Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences Building in the Texas Medical Center.

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

Faculty....................................................................................................... 93
Residents ................................................................................................. 42
Fellows......................................................................................................... 6
Post-Doctoral Research Fellows ......................................................... 8
Research...................................................................................................... $2,768,782

Surgery

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, Memorial Hermann – Southwest, Memorial Hermann – Sugar Land, Memorial Hermann – Katy, Memorial Hermann – Memorial City, Memorial Hermann – Woodlands, 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....................................................................................................... 80
Staff Physicians ......................................................................................... 9
Residents ................................................................................................. 76
Fellows...................................................................................................... 20
Research................................................................................................. $4,251,166

Student retreat 2017 was full of excitement, watch the video: go.uth.edu/retreat41
LIVES REMEMBERED

PHILLIP ADAMS, M.D.

Phillip Adams, M.D., 65, former associate professor of surgery, died Sept. 24, 2016, in Houston.

A member of the faculty from 2010-15, Dr. Adams first joined the medical school as a student in 1973. Following graduation, he completed his surgical residency at UT and continued with a residency in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at the Texas Heart Institute with Dr. Denton Cooley.

During his long career, he was a proud student, colleague, and friend of innumerable physicians in Houston, including Dr. Cooley, Dr. Stanley Dudrick, and Dr. James H. "Red" Duke, Jr. He co-authored numerous research papers, including those on groundbreaking work with Dr. Cooley on cardiac valve replacements. His contributions to medical literature appeared in respected publications such as the Journal of Surgical Research and The Texas Heart Institute Journal. Devoted to improving trauma care, Dr. Adams helped pioneer the Life Flight program and worked tirelessly to save lives in the emergency room and operating room. In 2013, he received the Hermann Hospital Distinguished Physician Award. He also held a nonsalaried appointment in the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Maston Adams; his son and daughter-in-law, Travis and Molly Adams; his daughter, Taylor Anne Adams; his stepdaughter, Kelsey Maston Brooks and her fiancé Josh Wright; stepdaughter Cody Maston Brooks; his siblings; and his large circle of friends and colleagues.

In memory of his dedication to serving others, a scholarship fund has been established to honor his legacy of excellence in the medical field. The family requests gifts be sent to the Dr. Phillip R. Adams Scholarship at McGovern Medical School, UTHealth, P.O. Box 1321, Houston, TX 77251.

SHARON CRANDELL, M.D.


She received her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Rice University and earned her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, where she also completed her residency in pediatrics.

Dr. Crandell returned to Houston to complete her Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship at the medical school. She was first appointed as an instructor in pediatrics at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston in 1978 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1979. She retired from the medical school in 2014.

Besides being an excellent clinician, Dr. Crandell served as the medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital for a long time, as well as the medical director of the transport team and played an important role in making the transport team, especially the air transport one of the best. Her most significant impact was her work as the long-serving program director of the UT Pediatric Residency Program from July 1988 to June 2008. She also served as vice chair for education and training programs in the Department of Pediatrics.

Funeral services were held in her hometown of Terre Haute, Indiana. A memorial service was held in Houston.

It is asked that gifts be made in Sharon Sue
LIVES REMEMBERED

Crandell, M.D.’s memory to support the Sharon Sue Crandell, MD Memorial Fund benefiting pediatric residents at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. Please make checks payable to UTHealth, PO Box 1321, Houston, TX 77251-1321

KENNETH KRAJEWSKI, M.D.

Kenneth J. Krajewski, M.D., associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and chief of substance abuse and special services at Harris County Psychiatric Center (UTHealth HCPC), died May 24, 2017, after battling a prolonged illness. He was 67 years old.

Dr. Krajewski was born in Illinois and obtained his bachelor’s of science, master’s in biochemistry, and doctor of medicine at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where he completed his psychiatric residency as chief resident in 1979. Dr. Krajewski began working as part of Hermann Hospital/UT in 1981 and in 1987 was among the first medical staff hired at HCPC, serving the university for over 36 years.

In 1989, Dr. Krajewski was named chief of Substance Abuse and Special Services, and thereafter focused his work on acute mental illness and comorbid substance abuse. He was sought out for his teaching skills and was on the Dean’s Excellence Teaching List from 1983 to 1990 consecutively and was awarded the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award in 1991, 1993, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Beloved by his colleagues and the clinical team on the Dual Diagnosis and Substance Abuse Unit 3B, Dr. Krajewski inspired others as he continued to work with dedication and enthusiasm despite illness. He will be remembered for the depth of his knowledge, his dedication to teaching residents and medical students, his care and commitment to patients, and his steadfastly positive attitude.

JONATHAN OPHIR, PH.D.

Jonathan Ophir, Ph.D., retired professor of diagnostic and interventional imaging, died Oct. 19, 2017. He was 72.

He graduated with a bachelor’s of science degree in electrical engineering, summa cum laude, from the University of Kansas, where he also completed his master’s and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering.

He joined the medical school in 1980 as an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology and also held a faculty position as professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Biomedical Informatics from 1981-2001. He retired from UTHealth in 2012.

Dr. Ophir was a highly accomplished scientist with a long history of National Institutes of Health grant funding and approximately 20 patents during his career. He was the inventor of ultrasound elastography, an imaging technique that is now a component of state-of-the-art ultrasound equipment throughout the world.

His work received international acclaim and resulted in major awards, including the Joseph Holmes Basic Science Pioneer Award of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Terrance Matzuk Award for innovative research in the development of ultrasound technology, and the Academy of Radiology Research Distinguished Scientist Award. He was an outstanding teacher and mentor for many graduate and post-graduate scientists, as well as faculty and
residents. He and his wife, Karen, organized and maintained the highly respected International Conference on Ultrasonic Measurement and Imaging of Tissue Elasticity that continued for over 10 years.

“He was a brilliant innovator and investigator, who had a talent for making his discoveries usable and understandable by physicians and trainees,” said Susan John, M.D., chair of the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging. “Dr. Ophir was an exceptional credit to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. I am so grateful to have been able to know and work with him, and he will be missed.”

AGNES SCHONBRUNN, PH.D.

Agnes Schonbrunn, Ph.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology and vice chair of the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, died June 10, 2017. She was 68.

She joined both the medical school and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences faculty in 1988. She previously served on the Harvard University School of Public Health faculty.

She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Brandeis University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacology at Harvard University. She completed the Institute of Managerial Leadership at The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business.

Dr. Schonbrunn’s research examined signaling mechanisms and regulation of receptors for neuroendocrine peptides and focused on three general areas related to somatostatin receptor function. Her work was featured in more than 100 publications.

During her career, she received several honors, including numerous Dean’s Teaching Excellence awards from the Medical School as well as the Graduate School and the Gerald D. Aurbach Lecture Award from the Endocrine Society (2002). She also was very active in the Endocrine Society, Women in Endocrinology, and The Pituitary Society.

“For me, I will remember her passion for science, her fastidious and diligent teaching, and her extraordinary generosity and collegiality,” said John F. Hancock, M.B., B.Chir., Ph.D., ScD, executive director, The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine; professor and chair, Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology; John S. Dunn Distinguished University Chair in Physiology and Medicine; vice dean for basic research, McGovern Medical School. “The department and medical school would not be what they are today without her contributions over so many years.”

She is survived by her husband, David Steffen, and her children, Michael and Matthew. She was buried at Fernwood Cemetery in California, with a memorial service held at Beth Yeshurun in Houston.
Newly Elevated
Named
Endowments

Anne and Don Fizer Foundation Endowment for Depression Research
Barbara J. Gibbs Partnership Fund
Bob and Hazel Casey Chair in Biochemistry
D. Dudley and Judy White Oldham Research Fund
D. Dudley and Judy White Oldham Scholarship
Daniel C. Arnold Endowed Fund for Vision Rehabilitation
David Dillard Grayson, Sr. and Inge Grayson Scholarship
Dean and Jackie Pisani Lead Fund for Medical Genetics
Frazer Scholarship Fund
Graham Faculty Fellowship
Howell Family Research Fund
John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics Endowment Fund
Judge Paul and Mary Ferguson Neurology Research Endowment
Kimbrough Family Endowed Lectureship Fund
McGovern Texas Health Professions Scholarship
Pediatric Resident and Fellow Research and Education Fund
Rick McCord Professorship in Neurology
Susan and Richard Anderson Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology
Tom Traweek, MD and Family Endowed Scholarship Fund

Thanks to additional contributions to existing endowed funds, the following faculty positions were elevated in FY17. (Titles listed include the new, elevated name.)

Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Chair in Biomedical Science
Meg and Dick Weekley Chair in Childhood Reading and Learning
Rochelle and Max Levit Chair in the Neurosciences
Rochelle and Max Levit Distinguished Professorship in the Neurosciences
William S. Kilroy, Sr. Distinguished University Chair in Pulmonary Disease
New Endowment Appointments

Dr. John O’Brien  Louisa Stude Sarofim Distinguished Chair
Dr. Ruth Heidelberger  Frederic B. Asche Chair in Ophthalmology
Dr. Amir M. Khan  David R. Park Professorship in Pediatric Medicine
Dr. Nirav C. Thosani  Atilla Ertan, M.D. Chair in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Dr. Stephen P. Daiger  Mary Farish Johnston Distinguished Chair
Dr. David I. Sandberg  Dr. Marnie Rose Professorship in Pediatric Neurosurgery
Dr. Kevin P. Lally  Richard J. Andressy, M.D. Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Surgery
Dr. Stella K. Kim  Joe M. Green, Jr. Chair in Ophthalmology
Dr. Absson D. Gutierrez  Cheves and Isabella Smythe Distinguished Professorship in Medicine
Dr. Holger K. Eltzschig  John P. and Katherine G. McGovern Distinguished Chair
Dr. Bela Patel  Graham Distinguished University Chair
Dr. Ali J. Marian  James T. Willerson Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Research

Dr. Cesar A. Arias  in tribute from The Ewing Halsell Foundation
Dr. John W. Munz  Graham Faculty Fellowship
Dr. Bryan A. Cotton  Walter R. Lowe, M.D. Professorship
Dr. Milton L. Routt, Jr.  John B. Holmes Professorship in the Clinical Sciences
Dr. Johnny Huard  Andrew R. Burgess, M.D. Chair in Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery
Dr. Lillian S. Kao  Distinguished Chair for Orthopedic Research

The Leather Lounge is home to a new feature wall that recognizes the transformational contributions of the John P. McGovern Foundation to UTHealth and McGovern Medical School. The wall also highlights the remarkable contributions that students, alumni, faculty, and staff make every day to distinguish McGovern Medical School as a leader in education, research, and patient care in Houston and beyond.
## FY 2017 Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total faculty</td>
<td>1,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total staff</td>
<td>3,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total M.D. Graduates</td>
<td>7,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Medical Students</td>
<td>1,077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Fall 2017 Entering Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas Residents</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-State Students</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest member of the class</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest member of the class</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average GPA</td>
<td>3.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average MCAT</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PATIENT CARE**

**UT Physicians Arrived Patients**
- FY15: 792,645
- FY16: 836,667
- FY17: 887,883

**UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center Admissions**
- FY15: 8,808
- FY16: 9,583
- FY17: 8,601

**RESEARCH**

**Medical School Research Expenditures**
- FY15: $133,821,022
- FY16: $141,450,730
- FY17: $153,576,612

**Grant Proposals**
- FY15: 1,035
- FY16: 1,113
- FY17: 1,204

**Number of Contract and Grant Awards**
- FY15: 691
- FY16: 665
- FY17: 764

**DISCOVERIES**

**Invention Disclosures**
- FY15: 53
- FY16: 41
- FY17: 50

**New U.S. Patent Applications**
- FY15: 42
- FY16: 48
- FY17: 31

**Licenses/Options executed**
- FY15: 19
- FY16: 19
- FY17: 19

**Licenses and Options Generating Income**
- FY15: 94
- FY16: 90
- FY17: 75

**U.S. Patents Issued**
- FY15: 14
- FY16: 6
- FY17: 9

**Startup Companies Formed**
- FY15: 5
- FY16: 0
- FY17: 5
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
Join us in advancing health care.

At UTHealth, our students, faculty and staff harness their passions to have the greatest impact possible in patient care, education and research discovery. When our alumni, grateful patients and friends add their passions and resources to the mix, the impact grows exponentially.

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