

School Accomplishments and Planning Ahead

Medical School

Jerry S. Wolinsky, M.D., interim dean

"The Medical School has undergone tremendous change over the last decade, marked mostly by structural growth. Now, we are moving toward a new era in which we renew our commitment to be recognized as an emerging premier institution.

"We already are recognized for outstanding clinical care, medical care and areas of research. Now we are building new areas of strengths, such as the John P. McGovern M.D., Center for Health, Humanities and Human Spirit, where students learn to connect with the human side of medicine. Also on the horizon is the Surgical and Clinical Skills Center, which marries the traditional aspects of physician-patient interaction with the latest in simulation technology. Our new six-story research building adjacent to the Medical School will be completed in the fall of 2007, bringing with it 208,500 square feet of research and related space, as well as a two-story vivarium.

"We must retain and recruit the brightest and the best. In order to do that, we must have access to funds from a variety of sources. To that end, the foundations for a new philanthropic campaign for the Medical School have been laid to raise more than \$120 million over the next 12-18 months."

Medical School Highlights of 2006

- Medical School's role in Katrina recovery, including establishing and staffing the medical command center at the George R. Brown Convention Center.
- Facilities:
 - Recovery from Tropical Storm Allison is complete except for vivarium which will be on the top of the Research Replacement Facility (RRF)
 - Groundbreaking and topping off of the RRF
 - Surgical and Clinical Skills Center
 - New roof and sprinkler system for the MSB
- Office of Communications created from Offices of Community Affairs and Graphic Communications
- Re-energized Alumni Relations program
- Preparation for increase of size of entering class to 220

Goals for FY 2007

- Complete search for dean of the Medical School
- Plan for research activities and faculty recruitment for the RRF
- The Surgical and Clinical Skills Center becomes fully operational
- Implement a comprehensive fund-raising initiative for \$120 million for
 - Recruitment and start-up packages
 - Faculty endowments
 - Student scholarships
 - Surgical and Clinical Skills Center
- Complete searches for department chairs
- Continue efforts to diversify faculty, staff and student body.

School of Health Information Sciences

Jack Smith, Ph.D., dean

Accomplishments in FY 2006

In education:

- Enrolled first students in our new dual-degree program with School of Public Health and acquired philanthropic funding for fellowships for the initial students in the program.
- Completely revised and updated SHIS curriculum to have a research path (MS/PhD) and an applied path (with certificate, work-study program, MS). We will be piloting this new approach in the coming year and formalizing a substantive change to our degrees based on our experience in fall 2007. The certificate program launched with five online courses identified for a basic Certificate in Health Informatics emphasizing the fundamentals of Clinical Health Informatics.
- Co-sponsored the highly successful regional Teaching and Learning Day 2006 with UT Health Science Center Office of Academic Affairs.

In research:

- Led the informatics core for the institutional Clinical and Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) application and leading the informatics core for the new Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS).
- Co-led the submission by the Gulf Coast Consortia (GCC) of the multi-institutional Biomedical Informatics Training Grant to NIH/NLM which obtained an outstanding, funding priority score (120).
- Organized a two-day Symposium on Information-Based Translation Medicine for the Texas Medical Center research community and a highly successfully international workshop on Innovations in Nanoscale Modeling and Imaging of Biological Systems.
- Played a major role in the planning and establishment of the multi-institutional University of Texas Department of Biomedical Engineering.

General accomplishments:

- Created our first endowed professorship.
- More than 25 percent of our faculty were promoted and tenured this past year.
- New faculty accepted offers that will increase faculty 20 percent next year.

Goals for FY2007

"Our goals focus on the continued expansion of the depth and breadth of the school in research, education and service. We will pilot a number of curriculum changes and a fully online certificate program to better align our educational offerings to the needs of students and professionals. We also are going to be focused on aligning our programs to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities for informatics within the institution as new initiatives like the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, the Gulf Coast Consortia Chemical Genomics Center and the Center for Clinical and Translation Sciences start coming online in force.

"We plan to start laying the groundwork for a significant program in translational neuroinformatics in order to leverage current and planned neurology, psychiatric, neuroscience, cognitive science and behavioral research and associated clinical capabilities within the institution.

"Our activities in computational bioengineering also will expand significantly with the activation of our formal relationship with the new University of Texas Biomedical Engineering

(BME) Department and the addition of two new BME faculty to SHIS.

"We will be involved in planning to expand and integrate our programs with the Dental School, Mental Sciences Institute, Children's Learning Institute, the Medical School's neuroscience program and the joint imaging research center as they develop in the UT Research Park on the south campus."

Dental Branch

Catherine M. Flaitz, D.D.S., dean

"In 2006-07 we will be focused on planning for the construction of a new building and the creation of an institution that will strengthen our ability to educate and train the finest dentists and dental hygienists in the state. We have a great reputation for producing well-rounded and compassionate clinicians, but we need to expand our research efforts through collaboration and synergy with scientific teams throughout the Texas Medical Center.

"In addition we have a strong commitment to recruiting leaders in oral health research to find cures for the most common oral health diseases, which are increasingly being linked to other illnesses, such as heart disease.

"The new building is about more than just a replacement facility; it's about improving an entire institution and subsequently the health of our community and the advancement of the dental profession. The resources in the Texas Medical Center are incomparable, and we need to take advantage of creative opportunities with medicine, bioengineering, public health and health information sciences."

Major accomplishments of 2006

- Capped off the celebration of the Centennial, a year spent honoring the 100-year span of the school and committing to another progressive 100 years.
- Received \$60 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds from the Texas Legislature and \$18 million from the UT System Permanent University Fund for the construction of a new building.
- The class of 2006 placed the Dental Branch at sixth in the nation for their scores on the National Board Exam, Part I.
- Launched the Electronic Patient Record system; the first of its kind in a Texas dental school. The system will eliminate the need for paper records in student and graduate residency clinics.
- Received a \$1.2 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to host the Summer Medical and Dental Education program in collaboration with the UT Medical School. The program welcomed a diverse population of undergraduates into the school to learn more about dentistry.
- Recruited four nationally respected department chairs – this represents a 50 percent change in leadership.

Looking forward to 2007

- Will begin planning for the construction of the new dental school building and the development of an enhanced dental education institute. The new school will have a strong focus on endowed chairs, scholarships funds and resources for research.
- Will open a \$1 million state-of-the-art simulation center to enhance the Dental Branch pre-clinical and clinical education, improve teaching resources for faculty, and expand continuing education. The center is an actual clinic that integrates technology and hands-on training to provide a more true-to-life clinical experience for students to learn dentistry.
- Will open the UT Dentists faculty practice clinic, which will provide top-quality patient care to employees, students and visitors to the Texas Medical Center.

School of Nursing

Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., dean

Faculty Practice:

The School of Nursing is very proud to have a faculty practice plan that is considered one of the best in the country.

- This past year we had 19 faculty practicing in 13 agencies throughout the greater Houston area with a total income of \$590,514.
- Our UT Health Services clinic had more than 11,000 patient visits for a total income of over \$1,200,000 which is the largest income of any academic nursing center in the country.

Research

We have the following completed laboratories:

- A wet lab, which is up and running,
- A biobehavioral laboratory (with observation room and one-way mirror),
- Two small biobehavioral laboratories (currently called Stress Reduction Lab and Energy Field Lab), and
- A bioengineering laboratory.

The other labs are built out and will be equipped for specific faculty project needs.

- The Controlled Environment Laboratory is expected to be completed in FY 07.
- In spring 2006, we received a \$500,000 grant from UT System to renovate space in the Service Building for a pre-clinical critical care laboratory; this laboratory has been designed and cost estimates are being obtained. Although completion work remains to be done, the strategic planning for physical infrastructure is done and we can move on with greater intensity to programmatic planning.

The late September research retreat was devoted exclusively to honing in on two areas of emphasis that can serve:

- to integrate the research interests of faculty, doctoral students and future postdoctoral fellows; and
- as the basis for National Institutes of Health-funded Centers of Research Excellence and, eventually, institutional research training grants. Criteria for emphasis areas include:
 - current faculty expertise in the focus area,
 - current or previous major external grant funding (> \$100,000) in the focus area,
 - takes advantage of our unique environment (e.g., UTHSC-H and TMC), and
 - provides opportunities for discovery and translational research not available to other institutions.

Academic Affairs

- The SON is in the top 8 percent of graduate schools in the country.
- The SON has the first Doctor of Nursing Practice program in Texas.