

# SPH Professor Promoted to HSC Senior VP for Strategic Planning



Osama Mikhail, Ph.D.

Osama I. Mikhail, Ph.D., professor of Management and Policy Sciences at the UT School of Public Health, where he teaches courses in strategic planning and health care finance, has been promoted to the new position of senior vice president, Strategic Planning, for the health science center. He reports to Kevin Dillon, executive vice president for Administration and Business Affairs, and Chief Financial Officer. Deanne Hernandez, manager, Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis, reports to Dr. Mikhail.

Dr. Mikhail has been at the School of Public Health since 1989 and involved in strategic planning for 30 years at the Mead Corporation, Eli Lilly, the Sisters of Charity

Healthcare System and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System. He also has been a consultant on strategic planning at Westchester Medical Center in New York, at Duke University and Vanderbilt University Medical Centers, as well as for several large physician groups in Houston.

"Dr. Mikhail's promotion to senior vice president for Strategic Planning for the UT Health Science Center represents a unique opportunity — one that will greatly enhance the strategic planning initiative of our institution," said Dillon in announcing the promotion. "We need people like Osama around here who are able to step back and help Dr. Willerson, Dr. King and the deans to systematically take a longer view."

Dr. Mikhail says his immediate focus will be on:

- enhancing a process for strategic planning for the UT Health Science Center at Houston;
- development of the upcoming Compact with the UT System;
- looking for more interconnections among the health science center schools, institutes, centers and units from a strategic perspective; and
- strategic planning for strengthening of relationships with Texas Medical Center institutions. ★

## Medical School Veteran Returns to Lead LBJ Hospital

By Camille Webb, Medical School

Steven Brown, M.D., former Medical School faculty member, has been announced by Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky, M.D., as the new chief of staff of the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and associate dean for Harris County Programs at the Medical School, effective mid-April.

"We are very fortunate to have recruited Dr. Brown back to the Medical School," Wolinsky said. "His past experience with our system and the district, development of the compensation plan at Tyler, and honed analytic skills while at Navigant should serve us well. I have charged Steve to take the LBJ campus to a new level of excellence in care and to help it evolve into the premier site for the maturation of our next generations of academicians."

Dr. Brown came to the Medical School in 1991 as an assistant professor of internal medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and was promoted to an associate professor in 1997. He also served as vice chief of staff of LBJ General Hospital from 1999-2002.

He said he looks forward to returning to lead one of the Medical School's primary teaching hospitals and will work to advance the missions of the school.

"My goal will be to nurture an environment conducive to excellent clinical care, education, and research," Dr. Brown said. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and patients involved with the Harris County Programs that have become an increasingly important component of UT Medical School's teaching, research, and clinical portfolio. The clinical diversity and volume at LBJ General Hospital and associated clinics provides

a rich educational environment for trainees at all levels and a challenge to provide efficient, high quality medical care to the citizens of Harris County."

Most recently, Brown was a medical director in the health care division of Navigant Consulting Inc., an international, multi-faceted consulting firm that provides support to a variety of public, academic, nonprofit and group practice entities in areas of hospital management, facilities assessment, revenue cycle, contracting, performance improvement, market assessment,



Steven Brown, M.D., new chief of staff at LBJ

strategic planning, physician compensation and relations between hospitals and physicians.

Before Navigant Consulting, Dr. Brown served as the chief medical officer of The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler and regional vice president for medical affairs for the Kern Service Area of Catholic Healthcare West.

Dr. Brown received his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical care medicine. Dr. Brown is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and the American College of Physicians.

Peter Doyle, M.D., assistant professor and director of the LBJ anesthesiology service, has been the interim director of LBJ General Hospital since Feb. 1.

## School of Nursing at Houston Ranks among Top 5 Percent in U.S.

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been crucial for this accomplishment. We are very proud of the UT nursing school as it continues to raise the bar in the education of the nursing profession."

The school shared the same category as those at such renowned universities as Columbia University, the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University and The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

"Our faculty members have worked hard to achieve this recognition, and without the support of our president and other officials at the university, we could not have achieved this goal this quickly," said Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., dean of the nursing school. "It is especially welcome that being in the top five percent comes in the year that we are celebrating our school's 35th anniversary."

Starck added that the high rankings reflect the dedication to teaching, research, and practice shared by her nursing faculty, as well as the hard work of the school's students,

who make up one of the most diverse populations in U.S. nursing education.

In June 2004, the school moved into its university-owned, purpose-designed building, the \$57-million School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Starck welcomed the new, eight-story building with its imaginative, award-winning design. "Our new facilities have the latest in audiovisual and information technologies to enable flexibility in the teaching and learning process," she said. "It enables innovative ways to alleviate a critical shortage of educated professionals in many branches of nursing."

The UT School of Nursing also has expanded its curriculum in significant ways. The Fall 2007 class became the first in Texas and one of only 11 in the country to work toward a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree.

"Our first class of 16 D.N.P. candidates represents a broad cross-section of nursing

practices," Starck said. "All are full-time nurse practitioners working in a variety of settings — from rural communities to focused medical disciplines such as oncology and cardiology in the Texas Medical Center here in Houston, and from pediatrics to long-term acute care. The diversity this class brings to the program is exceptional."

This year, the school received more than 1,300 applications for just 170 spots entering the basic B.S.N. and accelerated B.S.N. programs. More than 750 students are currently enrolled in the school, instructed by about 75 full- and part-time faculty members.

The UT School of Nursing ranks 31st among 102 schools of nursing that receive research dollars awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

New grants are funding a first-of-its-kind Pre-clinical Critical Care Laboratory (PCCL), which will prepare nursing students at all levels with superior assessment skills and the

understanding of the range of patient responses to illness, injury and treatment. It will complement the school's current research laboratories, test new protocols prior to bedside clinical trials and train interdisciplinary teams in advanced clinical care.

The school's community support group, PARTNERS, passed an impressive milestone this past year, topping the \$1 million mark in scholarship endowment, as well as establishing a \$100,000 PARTNERS Endowed Professorship. Since 1994 PARTNERS has funded 64 full-tuition scholarships and 31 faculty research projects.

"I believe that we are destined to achieve even higher rankings in the years to come," Starck said. "We will earn them with our dedication to providing the best, most comprehensive nursing education in the Texas Medical Center, the state and the country." ★