

The Pulse Yearbook

2023 in Review



Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 JAN. EDITION

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

The New Year always brings opportunities for new beginnings. Today (January 18th), we are launching Cougar Conversations, a monthly event that will bring students, faculty and staff together over the noon hour to talk, visit, eat and get to know each other better. This will occur on the third Wednesday of every month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in the Active Learning Classroom on the first floor of our building. We will provide fruit, cookies and drinks, folks can feel free to bring their lunch, and we will have tables with different conversation topics, and other tables with no specific topic where people can sit and discuss whatever they would like to. The purpose of this activity is for all of us to build community together, and to help promote well being. I hope that you will join us!

- Steve Spann



ON THE RISE



Spotlighting our Mission, Vision and Values

At our college, respect is one of our four foundational values. It is woven into the fabric of all our pursuits at Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine. We find common ground through mutual respect. We navigate hard and uncomfortable conversations by being respectful in our approach to delicate topics. As we challenge ourselves this new year, to leverage new opportunities and new beginnings, let us endeavor to make a daily commitment to fostering respectful relationships and living a values-centered life. How do you relate to our RISE values? To be featured in next month's edition of The Pulse, please email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu.

STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations to Adebosola Karunwi, MS2 and Dr. Kimberly Pilkinton who were accepted to present "Health Care is More than Care: Preparing the Next Generation to Improve Health Disparities" at the 2023 Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics Faculty Development Seminar in Phoenix, AZ. Here they were allowed to share a piece of our innovative curriculum and highlight our medical school.



Over 12 students are going to the Latino Medical Student Association Regional Conference. Iliana Oberkircher is attending as the chapter president, Rolando Alvarado is presenting a poster on A Circular RNA vaccine for COVID-19, Kaylah Perez is presenting a poster on Copper Chelators Express Brain Penetration and Serum Bioavailability for Use Against Neurodegenerative Disease and Valerie DeLeon is presenting a poster on A Rare Variant of the Superior Cerebellar and Anterior Inferior Cerebellar Arteries Observed During Cadaveric Dissection.



Taking next steps in medical school! Our third-year students are finishing up the exam portion of their Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) before they move on to the advanced clerkship phase.

Class of 2024

FACULTY NEWS



Welcome new faculty to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Diana Grair, M.D., Family Physician joined the UH Health Family Care Center on January 2, 2023 as the new Chief Medical Officer. She is also joining as faculty in the Clinical Sciences Department. Please welcome Dr. Grair!



Faculty Development Course – January 25

Michelle A. Carroll Turpin, Ph.D. presents a self-directed learning workshop on effective strategies for teaching. The event will be hosted in TBL 2100 on the second floor on Wednesday, January 25 from noon to 1 p.m. All faculty are invited.



Upcoming Curriculum Retreat Days

Please mark your calendars! We will be holding two faculty curriculum retreats this spring term. Please save these dates/times on your calendar: Tuesday, February 14th, noon - 5 p.m. and Tuesday, April 18th, noon - 5 p.m.



UH Faculty selected for EPA Science Advisory Board

Ben King, Ph.D., M.P.H. has been selected to serve on a Science Advisory Board (SAB) at the EPA for a Hexavalent Chromium Review Panel. The EPA SAB, its standing committees and ad hoc panels engage in a variety of advisory activities of significant importance to the EPA. His contribution to future agency efforts is much needed and appreciated.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We are joyful and excited to see our team continue to grow. Let us join together to extend a warm and hearty welcome to the newest members of the college.

- Ayobami Akerele, Community Health Worker II
- Amanda Williams, Community Health Worker I
- Perri Storey, Communications Manager



Staff Council Update



The Fertitta Family College of Medicine Staff Council is proud to present the first Professional Development Lunch and Learn. The inaugural talk titled Wellness, Mental Health, and Stress Relief at Work is presented by the Director of UH Wellness, Reuben Parrish. Parrish is passionate and committed in assisting the university in helping improve the lives of students, staff and faculty.

In addition to Parrish's talk, Court Stein, Wellness Administrator at UH Human Resources, will present the many wellness benefits offered to UH staff to improve their mental and physical health.

This event is open to all College of Medicine staff. [Click here](#) to register to attend.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Community Open House

In December, our Community Engagement Team hosted a Community Open House for Third Ward and East End Community Working Group partners. With close to 100 guests in attendance, it's clear the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine is of interest to our community.



¡Vive Tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving!

¡Vive Tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving! is a physical activity and wellness event for the Hispanic community in the East End. The Latino Medical Student Association joined our Community Health team to give information about at-home COVID tests and demonstrate physical activities. Approximately 1,000 people attended the family event at Mason Park.



Operation Love

UH Health Family Care Center & Community Health participated in Operation Love at Blackshear Elementary. The 'Operation Love' project grew out of a love for the children and families of Third Ward. It is a project of the Tre Missional community in partnership with community businesses and other ministries in the greater Houston area.

LCME CORNER

LCME

LIASON COMMITTEE ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

www.lcme.org

LCME Element 1.1 Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

The CQI process provides a comprehensive view of performance of the College of Medicine medical education program, tracking 26 LCME elements and standards in five areas for monitoring and improvement. These elements and standards will be informed by the needs of key stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, committees, leadership and LCME survey visit monitoring requirements. The process and plan focus on data and outcome measures that will be shared via online reports and performance dashboards. Stayed tuned for our next newsletter for more information on LCME accreditation.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards

Cougar Cudos is a Staff Council program that allows staff to recognize other staff members for exceptional service to the University of Houston.

- David Garcia Cougar Cudos nomination!

Previous College of Medicine winners include Linda Hulett, Operations Administrator. Congratulations to both Linda & David for being nominated!

Want to give kudos to your colleagues? [Click here](#) to nominate someone for a Cougar Cudos.



UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER



Family Care Center
UH HEALTH

*Our mission is to improve health and health care for families
in our UH community and surrounding neighborhoods.*

Call today for an appointment.
832 - UHCARES
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

University of Houston Center
Health & Wellbeing Institute
4141 Martin Luther King Boulevard
Houston, TX 77030
uh.edu/familycarecenter

Now accepting Medicare, Medicaid and most major insurance plans!

UH Health Family Care Center

UH Health Family Care Center is now accepting Traditional Medicaid and Medicare, along with most major insurances including the UH BCBS Health Select Plan. Covid testing is available for faculty and staff, insurance or self-pay accepted. Students can utilize the student health center. For appointments, call 832-UHCARES or visit our website: uh.edu/familycarecenter.

FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

- Texas's Doctor Shortage Is Bilingual
- Is Covid a Common Cold Yet
- Medical Students teach science, life lessons to Jack Yates students considering health care
- 35 Years of Service: Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach, Dr. Kathryn Horn, Retires

CONNECT WITH US!

We want to hear from you and help celebrate your successes!

Do you have something you'd like to share college wide? Email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu with details for consideration in next month's edition of The Pulse.

Kind regards,

Stephen J. Spann, M.D., M.B.A.
Founding Dean, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
UH Vice-President for Medical Affairs
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Medicine



To improve health and health care in
Houston, Texas, and beyond.

 **Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine**
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 FEB. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

The word “integrity” can be used in a number of different ways. Speaking with integrity means telling the truth. Acting with integrity is about walking the talk, practicing what we preach. Physicians must tell the truth to their patients, and try to role model healthy lifestyles to their patients to whom they educate about the need to have a healthy lifestyle. Teachers must be honest with their students, hold them accountable while being accountable to them. Researchers must not fabricate or alter experimental results, or report findings and conclusions that are not based on evidence. A lack of integrity leads to a lack of trust. Integrity is one of our core RISE values. May we always strive to speak and act with integrity!

- Steve Spann



STUDENT NEWS

3rd Year Students Making Big Moves!



February is Black History Month. This month, we are proud to acknowledge and celebrate Black Americans' heritage, culture and contributions. At Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, we celebrate “medicine with a mission” with the help of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The SNMA is committed to supporting current and future underrepresented medical students, addressing health disparities in underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically compassionate, integrity centered and socially conscious physicians.



Congratulations to our first-year medical students, Kaylah Perez and Rolando Alvarado, on being awarded first place in their categories for their research presentations at the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) Southwest Regional Conference in Fort Worth, TX. Also, congratulations to Kaylah, who was elected as the Chief Information Officer for the LMSA SW Regional Board.



Congratulations to the 2023 Student Scholarly Project Presentation Day winners! Our second-year medical students presented their projects on a variety of relevant topics. Let us applaud our winners:

- 1st place: Sylvia Omozee and Iliana Oberkircher for “Investigating Cellular Patterning of Breast Cancer Cells with ADGRF1 Overexpression or Activation on Novel Micropatterned Substrates.”
- 2nd place: Carolina Venturi and Salik Tehami for the “Use of Digital Campaign to Promote COVID-19 Vaccination and Clinical Trial Participation in Vietnamese Texans;” and Isaiah Carter for “Relationships Between Religion, Spirituality, or Personal Beliefs on Health Outcomes.”
- 3rd place: Romi Govender and Linda Ferelle for “Transportation Barriers to Healthcare Among U.S. Latino Adults.”
- Best overall biomedical science research: Ian Dadeboe for “Using Computational Pharmacology to Identify *N. fowleri* Antibiotics.”
- Best overall social-behavioral research: Hannah Adams and Taylor Jackson for “The Power of Support: A Scoping Review Investigating the Impact of Perinatal Support in Improving Maternal and Fetal Outcomes.”

FACULTY NEWS



Welcome new faculty to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Natarajan Venkatayan, M.D., clinical associate professor, joined the Department of Clinical Sciences. Dr. Venkatayan is the program director for the UH-HCA West Family Medicine Residency Program.

Tameka Clemons, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor, joined the Department of Biomedical Sciences on February 1, 2023. Dr. Clemons will teach biochemistry.

Please welcome our newest faculty members.

Tips to Maintain Heart Health:



In addition to Black History Month, February is also American Heart Month. American Heart Month is a national awareness campaign that encourages us to focus on our heart health. President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the first American Heart Month in February 1964. To celebrate, we are sharing some tips to improve your heart health from Dr. Kenya Steele, a family physician and the assistant dean of Diversity and Outreach.

To read more: [The Importance of Heart Health](#)

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Naya Ellis, HCC Program Coordinator II. In her new role, Naya works with community health workers and HCC leadership to coordinate in-house visits with our community participants. She will also assist with the scheduling, booking, and set up for the 5 HCC seminars that we host per academic year.
- Mary Tipton, Program Manager II at the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute. In her new role, Mary will be responsible for coordination and institute research, community and educational programming.
- Latricia Vaughns, Research Administrator III. In her new role, Latricia's responsibilities center primarily around Pre-award functions. This includes funding opportunity evaluation, proposal development, grantsmanship training, dissemination of information from the Division of Research and serving as a liaison between faculty and sponsors.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Intracommunity Engagement

With two Cougar Conversations under our belt, these monthly events are a resounding success. Aimed at building community by forging stronger relationships: students, faculty and staff can foster connections while sharing experiences on different topics at 10 separate tables. Thank you to all who participated in these events.



MLK Day of Service

Our medical students participated in MLK Day of Service at Blodgett Urban Garden. This community garden harvest fresh fruits and vegetables to serve the Third Ward community and is dedicated to sustainable gardening, healthy eating and community education.



African American Male Wellness Walk VIP Meet and Greet

Mayor Sylvester Turner, Rebecca Negri, outreach & marketing manager and other community members joined the meet and greet event to support the African American Male Wellness Agency. Aligned with our mission, this agency's goal is to increase the life expectancy of African American men in physical and mental health, financial literacy, fatherhood and research.

LCME CORNER

LCME

LIAISON COMMITTEE ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

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LCME Institutional Self-Study

The institutional self-study is central to the accreditation process. In the self-study, a medical school brings together representatives of the administration, faculty, student body and other constituencies to (1) collect and review data about the medical school and its educational programs, (2) identify institutional strengths and issues requiring action, and (3) define strategies to ensure that the strengths are maintained and any problems are addressed.

Liaison Committee on Medical Education. (2022, April). Guide to the - LCME. Standards, Publications, & Notification Forms. Retrieved February 16, 2023, from LCME.org - 2023-24 Self Study Guide

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER



One-year Anniversary

UH Health Family Care Center celebrated its first anniversary with an open house on Wednesday, February 22, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Spring clean your health routine!

If you want to spruce up your health and wellness routine this spring but don't know where to start, let UH Health Family Care Center help refresh you from the inside out. We offer affordable, comprehensive services in one convenient location on the University of Houston campus.

- Primary Care
- Men's & Women's Health
- Pediatric Care
- Behavioral Health
- Telehealth
- Free Parking

UH Health Family Care Center is in-network with most major insurance plans including Medicare and Medicaid.

Your health care home.
832 - UHCARES

UH Family Care Center
UH HEALTH

Spring Clean Your Health Routine!

With a goal to reach 63,000 households in the Third Ward, the new spring marketing campaign is aimed at encouraging community members to spring clean their health routines and allow the Family Care Center to be their health care home.

FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

- February 2: [Houston Urgently Needs Spanish-speaking Doctors](#)
- January 25: [Advancing Diagnostic Equity Through Clinician Engagement, Community Partnerships, and Connected Care](#)
- January 18: [UH Medical Student Hopes to Save Lives After Dad Dies Without Primary Care](#)
- January 18: [Most people abandon their New Year's resolution. Houston psychologists offer tips for success](#)
- January 16: [Concerns Over New COVID Variant](#)

CONNECT WITH US!

We want to hear from you and help celebrate your successes!

Do you have something you'd like to share college wide? Email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu with details for consideration in next month's edition of The Pulse.

Kind regards,

Stephen J. Spann, M.D., M.B.A.
Founding Dean, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine
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Mission

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UH Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 MAR. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

In his seminal 1970s essay, Robert Greenleaf coined the term Servant Leadership and gave birth to framework for over five decades of leadership practices that focus on the servant as leader.

Our third rise value, Servant Leadership, centers on this philosophy of being of service to others, as we lead the way to improved health outcomes in communities that need it most.

This is a matter of the heart. Being willing and able to listen first, and then to lead with compassion, humility, openness and supportive behaviors are the four pillars of true servant leadership. As we labor together to find the right ways to make a difference, may we always R.I.S.E in every situation, test, trial, and victory!

- Steve Spann



STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations Sarah Snyder!

Sarah Snyder was selected as a 2023-2024 Regional Candidate for the White House Fellows Program. The selection criteria for this program includes a record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career, evidence of leadership skills, a demonstrated commitment to public service, skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal government and the ability to work effectively as part of a team. Congratulations to Sarah who has demonstrated each of these!



Health Career Collaborative

With the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine's commitment to create a pipeline of students from underrepresented minorities in health, this program hosted 13 students from Jack Yates High School to present their semester-long research projects on cancer, bipolar disorder and other medically significant topics. Our medical students have mentored and invested time with these high schoolers since last September. Mutual pride and respect were shared by all. Congratulations on a job well done! A special acknowledgement to second year medical students, Iliana Oberkircher and Sylvia Omozee, for co-directing the program.



Black Physician Specialty Exploration Event

Our medical students had the opportunity to learn from over 10 physicians with a variety of specialties. Each physician shared their career's journey and valuable insights into their respective fields. A special acknowledgement to second year medical student, Dominique Norris, and the diversity and inclusion student representatives for leading the event.

FACULTY NEWS



Welcome Dr. Zebda to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Dr. Mohamed Zebda joined as a Clinical Associate Faculty and the new pediatrician at the UH Health Family Care Center on March 15, 2023. Please welcome our newest faculty member.



The 26th Annual Table Talk Luncheon

Bich-May Nguyen, M.D., M.P.H. and Bhavna Lall M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. represented the Fertitta Family College of Medicine at this annual event that benefits the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies program at the University of Houston. Dr. Nguyen was also selected as one of the conversationalists and discussed our college's mission, holistic admissions process and emphasis on active learning. Thank you to our incredible faculty for all your contributions to medicine in Houston and beyond!



Healthy Communities: Children and Families

Thank you to Dr. David Curtis, Dr. Diana Grair and Dr. Kathryn Horn for their efforts to support the Healthy Communities: Children and Families event in Emancipation Park.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Kynette Campbell joined as Administrative Assistant in the Department of Clinical Sciences on February 27, 2023. In her new role, Kynette works with faculty and staff to ensure processes are followed, including purchasing, travel arrangements, writing projects and task force assignments.
- Anthony Schrock, Jr. joined as Revenue Cycle Director in Business Operations on February 27, 2023. In his new role, Anthony will ensure a healthy revenue cycle for our UH Health Family Care Center through onboarding new payor contracts, improving cash flow, optimizing the patient financial experience, and ensuring timely billing & collections of receivables.



Staff Council Update

New Staff Council Members

The Staff Council is excited to welcome two new members:

- Trina Barker, Academic Advisor 2
- Richard O'Neal, Director of Curriculum Development and Support

A big thank you to our new members for their commitment and service!

Save-the-date! Lunch and Learn #2

Join us for the second installment of the Staff Council's Lunch and Learn series. This series is focused on professional development and building staff camaraderie. The speaker will be announced soon, and lunch is provided.

- Date: May 3, 2023
- Time: 12pm – 1pm
- Location: ALC, Room 1200

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Fresh Fruit Mart, Blood Pressure and BMI Checks

In keeping with our outreach efforts to residents of the Third Ward, Dr. Brian Reed and medical student, George Flores, provided free blood pressure checks and BMI screenings at the monthly Trinity United Methodist Church's Fresh Produce Mart.



6th Annual Third Ward Collaborative Health Fair

At the 6th Annual Third Ward Collaborative Health Fair: "Every Body Matters," our licensed clinical psychologist and chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Bill Elder, Ph.D. shared resources and information about our services. Thank you to Dr. Elder and Outreach & Marketing Manager Rebecca Negri for amplifying the message of health to Third Ward families and beyond.



Third Ward on Tap

Hosted by Friends of Columbia Tap, the Third Ward on Tap engaged residents with the goal to reimagine the Columbia Tap Trail adjacent to Cuney Homes public housing as a connected, sustainable, and equitable linear park. Thank you, Amanda Williams, Community Engagement and Rebecca Negri, UH Health Family Care Center, for representing the College of Medicine and UH Health at this resource fair.

LCME CORNER

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LIASON COMMITTEE ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

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LCME Institutional Self-Study

LCME Standard 8: Curricular Management, Evaluation, and Enhancement

The faculty of a medical school engage in curricular revision and program evaluation activities to ensure that medical education program quality is maintained and enhanced and that medical students achieve all medical education program objectives and participate in required clinical experiences and settings.

This standard focuses on the overall curricular review process, emphasizing academic outcome measures and student evaluation of the four-year MD curriculum.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards



Join us in congratulating all award winners!

- Staff Council: Cougar Cudo to Lupita Curiel.
- Leadership & Professionalism Category: Faculty award winner is Dr. Frené LaCour-Chestnut; Staff award winner is Richard O'Neal.
- Mentorship Category: Faculty award winner is Dr. Brian Dzwonek; Staff award winner is Dr. Kendra Jackson.
- Research Category: Faculty award winner is Dr. Lola Adepoju; Staff award winner is Matt Spieldenner.
- Service & Community Service Category: Faculty winner is Dr. Camille Leugers; Staff award winner is Linda Civallero.
- Teaching Category: Faculty award winner is Dr. Kimberly Pilkinton; Staff award winner is Dwayne Pacifico.
- R.I.S.E Award Winner is Dr. Brian Reed.
- Dean's Award Winner is Dr. Kimberly Pilkinton.

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

We launched our UH Health social media last month in conjunction with the 1st year anniversary of UH Health Family Care Center. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for a chance to win some SWAG! Let us know you follow our UH Health accounts by sending an email to uhcomcom@central.uh.edu. After validating, we'll arrange for SWAG pick up!



FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

- March 14: [UH Health Family Care Center Awarded \\$1.3M for Child and Family Mental Health Programs](#)

CONNECT WITH US!

We want to hear from you and help celebrate your successes!

Do you have something you'd like to share college wide? Email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu with details for consideration in next month's edition of The Pulse.



THE PULSE

2023 APR. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

Dr. Winston Liaw and I had the wonderful privilege of traveling to Santa Ana, a rural village in Southeastern Honduras from April 15th through April 23rd with 10 of our first-year medical students, two members of our staff, and Dr. Bob Parkerson, a physician faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine. There, we worked with a local team including a physician, dentist, nursing personnel, administrator, and translators in providing primary medical care to 180 patients in a resource-poor setting. Our medical students were actively involved in examining the patients, developing a differential diagnosis, and a treatment plan for each patient we saw in clinic. We also made two house calls, one of which involved a 1.2 mile hike in the mountains to reach the patient's home. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to work together as a team providing compassionate medical care with the goal of improving the health of the patients we were honored to serve. We were all reminded of the purpose that attracted us to the medical profession, and experienced great joy in caring for these grateful patients. We hope to offer several opportunities each year for our medical students, both first year and upperclassmen, to enjoy learning about global health in this setting that has significant health care needs.

- Steve Spann



ON THE RISE



Spotlighting our Mission, Vision and Values

Our fourth rise value, Equity, is based on being just, impartial and fair. In the workplace, equity involves empowering employees to be their optimal self, and treating everyone in the organization fairly. Different from equality which means providing the same to all, equity acknowledges that everyone comes from a different starting point in life and to be equitable means making adjustments to these differences.

How have you witnessed our RISE values expressed in the course of your day-to-day work? To share a values story in a future edition of The Pulse, please email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu.

STUDENT NEWS



Albert Schweitzer Fellow

Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program 2023-2024. Congratulations to Hannah Adams, Angelique Basquine, Anika Felix, Amber Hurd and Isabella Martingano for being selected for the Albert Schweitzer Fellows Program for 2023-2024! The mentored experiential learning and leadership development program is designed to increase our student's skills and commitment to more effectively address the health needs of underserved people. We are so proud of you, Coogs!



Sylvia Omozee Off Script

Sylvia Omozee, M2, participated in the Off Script: Stories from the Heart of Medicine storytelling event at The Health Museum on April 6th. Last fall at the Blaffer Art Museum, two of our students participated in the same event on the heels of the Innovations in Arts and Health conference. What a great platform to allow our students to share their stories!

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Pilkinton Takes D.C.!

Kimberly Pilkinton (Atkins), M.D., M.P.H., FACOG was selected by the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\)](#) District XI (Texas) to attend a national congressional leadership conference. In D.C., she discussed allowing pregnant and lactating patients to be a part of studies for more effective and safer treatments and advocated for a sustainable plan for Medicare. What inspiring work!



Dr. King and the E.P.A.

Dr. Ben King attended a meeting of the US Environmental Protection Agency, as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the final human health assessment of Hexavalent Chromium. Hexavalent chromium is a very dangerous heavy metal which is produced as a byproduct of several industrial processes and was famously the focus of the movie "Erin Brokovic" (2000) which describes the investigation and litigation of a severe instance of hexavalent chromium contamination in Hinkley, California. As an epidemiologist, Dr. King provided comment and testimony on the quality of the science in the report.



Advocacy Day

Dr. Starks and Dr. Pilkinton joined some of our medical students in Austin with the Texas Medical Association advocating for health care needs for Texans.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Tamara Davis joined as Program Coordinator II for Student Affairs, Admissions, and Outreach on April 10, 2023. In her new role, Tamara works alongside Ashley Schwartz and Dr. Kenya Steele to coordinate programs for students interested in medical school to gain valuable knowledge and experience on their pathway to medical education.
- Aishah Nomani joined the Department of Clinical Sciences as a Program Coordinator II on April 24, 2023. Aishah's goal is to provide students with legendary service, by planning, coordinating, communicating, and supporting, and directing them to the right programs for growth and development.



The flyer features the University of Houston logo and text: "Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON". It says "Staff Council Presents." and "You Can Help a Coog! A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT". The event details are: "Wednesday, May 3, 2023 12 - 1 p.m. ALC, Room 1200". It includes an RSVQ QR code and the website "comstaff@central.uh.edu". A yellow banner at the bottom right says "Lunch provided".

Lunch and Learn #2: You Can Help a Coog!

The Fertitta Family College of Medicine Staff Council is proud to present the next speaker of the Professional Development Lunch and Learn series.

Mynika Collins is a Licensed Professional Counselor with 7 years of experience in various settings including university counseling centers, school districts, psychiatric hospitals, substance use treatment facilities, and private practice. She has experience providing individual, group, and family counseling. Mynika's talk will discuss helping students in distress, communication, and resource sharing.

When working with clients, Mynika uses a holistic and person-centered approach to treat the whole person and ensures that what is done in therapy is personalized, collaborative, and unique to each client. She strives to create spaces that are safe, supportive, and culturally inclusive. Mynika enjoys reading, writing, and traveling in her free time.

College staff planning to attend are asked to [RSVP](#) for food planning and dietary accommodations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



The Walk to Save Black Men's Lives

Our very own MS1s Cecilia Pham and Guillermo Saldaña and Chair of Clinical Sciences, Brian Reed, M.D. came together to raise awareness on health disparities plaguing our communities while giving Mayor Sylvester Turner from City of Houston and others free health screenings.



Pathways to Equity Panel with Dr. Johnson and Mirla at the Honors College Commons

Dr. Claudine Johnson, Clinical Associate Professor, and Mirla Lopez, Program Director for Healthy Connections, discussed The Household Centered Care Program at the Honors College. The program focuses on serving Third Ward and East End residents through house calls to identify social needs and connect residents to community resources.



Houston Global Health Collaborative 11th Annual Global Health Conference

The event was held at our medical school with attendees from around the world. Participants were involved in insightful conversations and presentations with global health leaders on topics such as tech and innovation, psychosocial issues, global surgery, and more.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards



Congratulations to Kathleen Guillon!

Kathleen presented a poster at The Shine Academy and The University of Texas's Innovations in Health Science Education annual conference, the theme of which was "Diversity, Collaboration, And Opportunities in Current Health Science Education." Her poster, titled "Transgender Representation in Medical Education: Developing Standardized Patient Scenarios with the Local Transgender Community" received the special recognition award for diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Kudos to Huyen Vu!

Huyen was nominated for UH Undergraduate Student Employee of the Year! Her nomination include the following compliments: "Huyen is an exceptional student employee whose contributions have had a lasting impact on our department and the university as a whole. Her hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence makes her a deserving candidate for this recognition." Congratulations on this amazing nomination!

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

UH Health Family Care Center welcomes Dr. Mohamed Zebda, our newest dedicated pediatrician! Call 832-UHCARES to schedule an appointment for your child today.

Dr. Zulfiqar also joined the UH Health Family Care Center in February 2023. Dr. Zulfiqar is a family medicine physician specializing in geriatric and palliative medicine and is accepting new patients!



Mohamed Zebda, D.O., M.P.H.
Pediatrics



Amber Zulfiqar, M.D.
Family Medicine

CONNECT WITH US!

We want to hear from you and help celebrate your successes!

Do you have something you'd like to share college wide? Email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu with details for consideration in next month's edition of The Pulse.



Mission

To improve health and health care in
Houston, Texas, and beyond.



Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 MAY EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

Respect is one of our core RISE values at the UH Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine. As students, staff, and faculty, we want to role model respect for our patients, our loved ones, our friends and colleagues, and each other. Respect involves valuing others as much as we value ourselves. It requires personal humility, and a focus on listening to and learning from others to better understand them. I believe that it also involves empathy, and compassion. Respecting others allows us to build trusting relationships, and to be more effective healers, teachers, learners, and leaders.

- Steve Spann



ON THE RISE



Achievement Celebration for Paule Anne Lewis

Join us Wednesday, May 31st at 4:30pm for an achievement celebration honoring [Paule Anne Lewis](#), Associate VP, Business Operations for the College of Medicine. Please join me in thanking Paule Anne for her hard and tireless work over the past 5 years in establishing and overseeing the business operations for our new medical school.

STUDENT NEWS



Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, MSis Cecilia Pham and Ana Vu took over our social media channels to celebrate their cultural roots. We love learning more about our students and celebrating each of their unique backgrounds. Thank you Cecilia and Ana for participating!



American Academy of Neurology 2023 Annual Meeting

Valerie DeLeon, Sierra Cowan and Breanna Chachere represented the College of Medicine presenting posters, speaking to fellow participants and more at the American Academy of Neurology 2023 Annual Meeting.



Society for Hospital Medicine Event

12 students attended the Society for Hospital Medicine event with [Bhavna Lall, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.](#), the speaker was an interventional cardiologist from Baylor speaking about treatment guidelines for CHF. They all enjoyed it!

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome Dr. Smith to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Ashley Smith, Psy.D. joined as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Behavioral Health and Social Sciences Department. Please welcome our newest faculty member.



Dr. Adepoju Wins Outstanding Population Health Publication Award

Congratulations to [Omolola Adepoju, M.P.H., Ph.D.](#), Health Systems & Population Health Sciences, for winning the Outstanding Population Health Publication! This annual award from UH Population Health is to recognize the lead author of a peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter, judged as making a substantial contribution to the literature and/or practice of population health.



Dr. Ruth Enid Zambrana joins our final Household Centered Care (HCC) Seminar

Dr. Zambrana is a distinguished university professor in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She was excited to join our HCC seminar and spoke with students about how practitioners and scholars in the 60s and 70s aspired to achieve health equity by focusing on families and communities, and how the mission of our school is a fulfillment of those aspirations.



Behavioral Health Consultant Certificate Course

The College of Medicine hosted the Behavioral Health Consultant Certificate Course (BHC-CC) special training event with Mental Health America of Greater Houston and Rice University in which participants were trained to work as behavior health consultants (BHCs) in a primary care setting. The live session training included partner role plays, contextual interviews, standardized patient small group practice, and more. Special shoutout to our chief behavioral health officer, [David Curtis, Ph.D.](#), director of clinical simulation, Dr. Steven Butler, Dr. Stacy Ogbeide and more for helping put on a wonderful event!

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Jon De La Rosa joined the Department of Behavioral Social Sciences in May as Program Manager for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program at the UH Health Family Care Center (FCC). Jon will work with the child clinical team at the FCC and community health workers to help foster partnerships with Third Ward and East End neighborhood schools and other community organizations. Jon has spent the last 11 years with UH's Undergraduate Admissions and is very excited to start his new journey with the College of Medicine.
- Leroy Ozores joined as Program Coordinator for Advance Clerkships & Electives on May 1, 2023. In his new role, Leroy will be planning, coordinating, communicating, supporting, and directing students who are interested in medical school to gain valuable knowledge and experience on their pathway for growth and development.
- Christian Oats known as "Coco", joined the Humana Institute as an Administrative Assistant on May 8, 2023. Coco works closely with the Founding Director of Humana Institute, faculty and staff to achieve the institute's community-centered, and research-driven goals.



Take Your Child to Work Day 2023

This year's Take Your Child To Work Day will take place on Friday, June 16, 2023. Young Coogs can participate in one or more exciting and fun programs hosted by departments across campus.

All children must be accompanied by a UH employed parent for the entire day. Children must be between the ages of 6 and 17. Registrations will be limited to the first 180 children and program availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Scheduled programs will run between 9 am and 4 pm. The full schedule of events will be provided when your registration is confirmed. Event times may vary by TYCTWD host location.

Visit the [TYCTWD website](#) for registration requirements and a list of activities. Registrations is on a first-come first-serve basis.

[Submit your Take Your Child To Work Day Registration](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Love Has No Limits: Boynton Chapel Health & Wellness Fair

Neighborhood Block Party with Boynton Chapel Methodist Church! [Diana Grair, M.D.](#), medical director of UH Health Family Care Center, along with our Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine Healthy Connections teams, provided free blood pressure and BMI checks to our community, reaching 300 attendees. Photo provided by Karl Hearne Photography.



Día de la Mujer Latina's Health Fiesta

[Brian Reed, M.D.](#), [Amber Zulfiqar, M.D.](#), [Camille Leugers, M.D.](#), and MS2 students Hannah Adams, Romi Joy Govender and Iliana Oberkircher provided pap smears and clinical breast examinations to hundreds of women in need at Día de la Mujer Latina's Health Fiesta. Thank you for being an inspiration to our community!



Nueva Vida Wellness Bingo

The Household-Centered Care team and UH Health Family Care Center collaborated to host a wellness bingo event with the residents at Nueva Vida Senior Living Apartments. In addition to Bingo, residents also received blood pressure screenings, nutritional & behavioral health education and/or the opportunity to sign up for various resources with healthy connections.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards



Cougar Cudos! Congratulations to the Longitudinal Primary Course (LPC) and Household Centered Care (HCC) team from the Department of Clinical Sciences for receiving a team Cougar Cudos! Thank you Lupita Curiel, Esmeralda Machado and Jonaya Ellis for your exceptional service and dedication to the College of Medicine.

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

UH Health Family Care Center Announces New Board of Directors

The UH Health Family Care Center has appointed seven members to its new board of directors. The new board members, many of whom have experience serving on non-profit boards and leading community organizations, include Gloria Moreno (President), Lharissa Jacobs (Secretary), Santiago Caraballo (Treasurer), Rev. Linda Davis, Michael Klepin, Sydney Lacey and Dr. Steve Watts. Their combined expertise will ensure the Family Care Center succeeds on its mission to provide patient-centered care to UH and Houston's underserved communities.

UH Health Family Care Center offers primary care and behavioral health services. Call 832-UHCARES to schedule an appointment.



FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

Our Shared Triumphs Featured in the News

- May 10: [UH Health Family Care Center Announces New Board of Directors](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 JUN. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

Integrity is one of our core RISE values, and it is a core personal value that was instilled by my parents when I was a child. Personal integrity is about more than honesty and telling the truth, it is about living one's life in a manner that reflects one's core beliefs and values. Integrity is about being transparent and genuine. Personal integrity builds trust, and trust is fundamental to strong interpersonal relationships. Physician integrity is a key component of strong physician-patient relationships. And integrity in individual team members is fundamental to highly functional teams. Let's continue to role model integrity in our relationships with our families, our patients, and each other!

- Steve Spann



STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations Zainab Jimoh!

Congratulations to Zainab Jimoh who was selected as the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Coordinator for Texas Academy of Family Physicians! Zainab will represent her fellow student members and best interests of TAFP when serving as a liaison between the resident and student leader forum, the FMIG network and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Region 1 FMIG Coordinator.



Abstract Advances to Semifinals

Elliot Flint and Nabeel Ahmad's abstract for the Dermatology Section of the National Medical Association's Medical Student Dermatology Symposium in honor of A. Paul Kelly, MD has been selected as a semifinalist and accepted to move forward in the process of selection for Finalists and presentation at the National NMA Annual Meeting.

FACULTY NEWS



Welcome Dr. Bray to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

[James H. Bray, Ph.D.](#) joined as a Clinical Psychologist and the new Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department. Please welcome our newest faculty member.



Dr. Starks Completes M.B.A.

Congratulations to Steven Starks, M.D., F.A.P.A. for completing his M.B.A. as part of the Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership at Yale.



Making an Imprint on Future Clinical Psychologists

Behavioral & Social Sciences Faculty Psychologists in the UH Health Family Care Center have completed year-long practicum training experiences for 7 doctoral students in clinical psychology. Bill Elder, Ph.D., Mo Grissom, Ph.D., Emaan Lehardy, Ph.D., and Dave Curtis, Ph.D. provided initial training experiences for these students in partnership with their main campus professors in the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences.



Behavioral Health Consultant Certificate Course

Ben King, Ph.D., M.P.H., served as the judge for the Gulf Coast Division research day and was invited to participate as one of 4 judges in the statewide competition. This was the research presentation competition for residents in all HCA residency programs, statewide. Our HCA division (GCD) swept the competition! With winners taking 1st, 2nd (tied), and 3rd place in the scores.

STAFF NEWS



Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Daniella Hernandez joined Community Health on June 1, 2023 as a Program Manager II. Daniella is a proud Houston native with deep ties to the East End community and brings 15 years of progressive experience in social services. As a certified Community Health Worker, she has developed a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges facing communities like East End and Third Ward.
- Yizel Mandujano joined the Community Health department as a Community Health Worker on June 1, 2023. Her role as a Community Health Worker I, is dedicated to helping those individuals and families in Third Ward and East End in search of resources and referrals that fit their unique lifestyles. As a CHW, she will ensure to provide her best by attentively listening, researching and creating a trustworthy relationship with my participants.
- Miriam Rodriguez joined the Community Health department as a Community Health Worker. Her role as a CHW will include recruiting participants, particularly members of the Third Ward and East End communities, in order to aid them in obtaining resources and help fulfill their basic needs with the goal of facilitating their pursuit of better health.
- Michelle Pedraza Community Health Worker for the Healthy Connections/Household Centered Care Program. Michelle will work closely with students and participants in the HCC program to provide resource navigation and serve as the bridge between the College of Medicine and the Third Ward and East End communities.
- Stefanie Lapka started as our Health Sciences Librarian on June 1, 2023. In this role, Stefanie will provide research support and evidence-based instruction and will collaboratively develop the collection of library materials available in the Information Commons.
- Abigail Vazquez Household Centered Care Program Coordinator II, started on June 5, 2023. Abigail is a proud first-generation Latina who was born and raised here in Houston, TX., and is currently attending the University of Houston pursuing a B.S. in Health with a minor in Nutrition (expected graduation Summer '23).
- Avani Dave Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations, started on June 12, 2023. Avani has over fifteen years of experience in higher education operations and holds a master's in business administration. She joins us from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.



Take Your Child to Work Day 2023

A big thank you to our Staff Council for hosting Take Your Child to Work Day! We had 15 children join us with a special visit from Shasta! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a special day for our little visitors!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Fresh Fruit Mart, Blood Pressure and BMI Checks

In keeping with our outreach efforts to residents of the Third Ward, Dr. Brian Reed and medical student, George Flores, provided free blood pressure checks and BMI screenings at the monthly Trinity United Methodist Church's Fresh Produce Mart.



6th Annual Third Ward Collaborative Health Fair

At the 6th Annual Third Ward Collaborative Health Fair: "Every Body Matters," our licensed clinical psychologist and chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Bill Elder, Ph.D. shared resources and information about our services. Thank you to Dr. Elder and Outreach & Marketing Manager Rebecca Negri for amplifying the message of health to Third Ward families and beyond.



Third Ward on Tap

Hosted by Friends of Columbia Tap, the Third Ward on Tap engaged residents with the goal to reimagine the Columbia Tap Trail adjacent to Cuney Homes public housing as a connected, sustainable, and equitable linear park. Thank you, Amanda Williams, Community Engagement and Rebecca Negri, UH Health Family Care Center, for representing the College of Medicine and UH Health at this resource fair.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards



Congratulations Dr. LaCour-Chestnut! The HCA residents gave Dr. LaCour-Chestnut a teaching award at the Internal Medicine Graduation!

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

UH Health Family Care Center Hosts Back to School Block Party

Save the Date! UH Health Family Care Center will host its first Back-to-School Block Party in collaboration with Boynton Chapel on August 12th. Join us for free backpacks and school supplies, vaccines, sports physicals, music, food and fun!

UH Health Family Care Center offers primary care and behavioral health services. Call 832-UHCARES to schedule an appointment.

Back to School Block Party!

- ★ Free backpacks & school supplies for the first 150 K-12 students
- ★ Vaccines & Sports Physicals Available
- ★ Music, Food, Fun & Games for the Kids!
- ★ Free parking at Family Care Center
- ★ Shuttle to & from Boynton Chapel available

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 | 9AM - 1PM
4349 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD
HOUSTON, TX 77204
832-UH CARES

[Click for more information!](#)

Family Care Center
UH HEALTH

FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

Our Shared Triumphs Featured in the News

- POSTING SOON! A Story from UH's Brian Luhn about the Honduras Brigade - Check back for a live link expected June 29.
- June 5: [Advocates shed light on safety risk to people experiencing homelessness after man beaten to death](#)

CONNECT WITH US!

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Do you have something you'd like to share college wide? Email uhcomcom@central.uh.edu with details for consideration in next month's edition of The Pulse.



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Houston, Texas, and beyond.



A July edition was not published in 2023.



Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 AUG. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

Servant Leadership is our third RISE value, and it is just as important as the other three. Medicine is a profession in which we serve our patients. I often begin my visits with patients by asking “how can I be of help to you today?” As educators, we are here to serve our students, and to help them become excellent physicians who are also servant leaders. Servant leaders constantly try to serve those whom they seek to lead, and servant leadership has been shown to be one of the most effective leadership styles. Great leaders throughout history have been servant leaders. Servant leaders put others first, and seek to serve, as opposed to being served. And great servant leaders lead by example. We are blessed to have many servant leaders among our College of Medicine faculty, staff, and students. Thank you for living this RISE value!

- Steve Spann



STUDENT NEWS



White Coat Ceremony – Welcoming Class of 2027

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine welcomes the Class of 2027. Founding Dean, Stephen J. Spann M.D., M.B.A. and other leadership addressed incoming students and inspired them as they donned the symbol of their commitment: white coats for the first time heralding the official start of their medical journeys. [View the ceremony recording here.](#)



Hispanic Health Coalition Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Brandon Gonzalez, Itzel Amacalli Tejada and Guillermo Saldaña upon receiving Hispanic Health Coalition scholarships this past month. The purpose of the Hispanic Health Coalition’s Scholarship program is to support Hispanic scholars in their pursuit of a career in the health professions by providing financial assistance for higher education expenses. Eligible students must exhibit excellent academic performance, strong leadership abilities, active involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities and a genuine commitment to serving their community. Congratulations to these outstanding students.



VOICES Back to School Fundraiser and Bash

“Back to School Bash has become a big part of the VOICES organization. It started in 2021 when we saw the huge need for school supplies and health services for the greater Houston area. Since then, we have grown our partnerships and worked with community organizations like WIC, Cool Dads, Operation Love, Legacy Clinic and even our very own College of Medicine to provide free health screens, community resources and school supplies to over 300 students,” says founding member Brianna Gonzalez. This year, VOICES hosted their annual Back to School Bash at Blackshear Elementary and provided school supplies to hundreds of students in our community.

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome Dr. Bray to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

[Chinyere Adiuku, MSN, FNP](#) joined as a Clinician for the Clinical Sciences Department.

[Nwachukwu Anazodo, MSN, FNP-C](#) joined as a Clinician for the Clinical Sciences Department.

[Ann Bakama](#) joined as a Clinician for the Clinical Sciences Department.

[Christian Davidson Eckman, M.D.](#) joined as a Clinician for the Clinical Sciences Department.

[Saralyn McMorris, LCSW](#) joined as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Mental Health Clinician for Behavioral and Social Sciences.

[Sarat Munjuluri, M.D., M.S.](#) joined as a Clinical Assistant Professor for Behavioral and Social Sciences.

[Nkechi Onwumere, FNP-C](#) joined as a Clinician for the Clinical Sciences Department.

[Stephen Scott, M.D., M.P.H.](#) joined as the Senior Associate Dean for Education and Clinical Professor.

[Suzan Skef, M.D., M.S.](#) joined as Interim Director of the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) and Clinical Associate Professor for the Clinical Sciences Department.



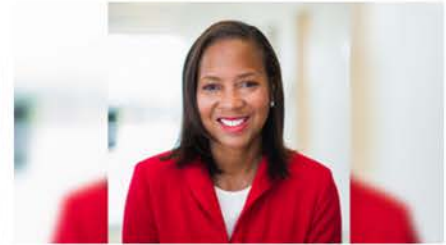
Congratulations to our Recently Promoted Faculty of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!



Michelle A. Carroll-Turpin, Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Admissions was promoted to Associate Professor.



Winston Liaw, M.D., M.P.H., Chair of Health Systems and Population Health Sciences was promoted to Clinical Professor.



Kenya Steele, M.D., Assistant Dean of Outreach and Student Pathways was promoted to Clinical Professor.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Wendy Fitzgerald, Director of Continuing Medical Education and Faculty Affairs. In her new role, she will be overseeing Grand Rounds, as well as developing other CME programs and working with faculty onboarding.
- Ashlei Phillips Medical Assistant II for the UH Health Family Care Center.
- Hunter Ryan, Program Director II. In his new role, he will lead and support building the Community Health Commons, a central hub for collaboration with community partners, health providers, residents and the College of Medicine.
- Nely Serrano, Program Manager 2. In her new role, she will be working on the processing/onboarding of our Voluntary Faculty, as well as other FA projects.
- Shari Townsend, Outpatient Nurse Manager for UH Health Family Care Center.
- Jerry Younger, Assistant Business Administrator. In his new role, he will be supporting Marie Jeanne in the areas of recruitment, onboarding, off-boarding, and other HR-related personnel transactions.
- Brendella Rosae Walton, Executive Healthcare Administrative Assistant for Community Health.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Mayor's Back to School Event

The annual Mayor's Back to School Festival was held on August 5 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where 25,000 Houston students received free backpacks and school supplies. The UH Health Family Care Center attended to discuss the importance of childhood nutrition, the clinic and its services to the community.



Cristo Rey Sports Physicals

The UH Health Family Care Center was invited to Cristo Rey Jesuit to provide sports physicals to student athletes. Clinic staff, physicians and College of Medicine students had the opportunity to perform over 50 physicals, hand out educational materials and meet with Cristo Rey Jesuit families.

LCME CORNER

LCME

LIASON COMMITTEE ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

www.lcme.org

LCME Institutional Self-Study

LCME Full Accreditation Survey Visit

The LCME will be conducting its Full Accreditation Survey Visit for the College of Medicine on March 17-20, 2024. A team of 3 or 4 experienced medical educators and administrators will meet with faculty, staff and students to discuss their experiences and to assess the College of Medicine's compliance with required LCME elements. The survey visit team then submits a report to the full LCME, which will make an accreditation decision in June 2024.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards

Lola Adepoju, Ph.D., M.P.H. submitted a proposal to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and was approved. She will conduct research on Multisectoral Partnerships to Chronicle and Assess the Impact of Successive Disaster Events on Affordable Housing and Mental Health Outcomes in Underserved Communities.

James Bray, Ph.D. gave two presentations at the European Congress of Psychology in Brighton, England.

Tameka Clemons, Ph.D. was an invited speaker at Duke PUMP summer research program on July 7.

Thomas Gest, Ph.D., as President, attended and presided over the Annual Meetings of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists on July 9-12 in Orlando, Florida.

Lauren Gilbert, Ph.D., M.P.H. and Ben King, Ph.D., M.P.H. Mentored the first place team at UH Humana Institute's Summer Health Equity Research Program, SHERP Shark Tank pitch competition.

Ben King, Ph.D., M.P.H. served as an award judge for the Elizabeth Barrett-Connor Research Award for Early Career Investigators and the American Public Health Association Student Assembly Scholarship.

Ben King, Ph.D., M.P.H. served on the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board on Toxicology Review of Hexavalent Chromium. (July 19 & 27).

Brian Reed, M.D. participated on a panel entitled "Mental Health in Our Communities: What are the community driven solutions we should all know about" at the 5th Annual Black Maternal Mental Health Summit on July 20.



UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER



UH Health Family Care Center Back to School Block Party

On August 12, the UH Health Family Care Center hosted its first Back to School Block Party in partnership with Boynton Chapel Methodist Church. The Family Care Center gave away more than 250 backpacks with school supplies to the 350 plus attendees, provided sports physicals, vaccines and exams to the community and connected the families with local resources and partners. Thank you to all who volunteered and supported this event!



Now Accepting Community Health Choice

The UH Health Family Care Center is now accepting Community Health Choice for primary care and behavioral health services. Call us at 832-UHCARES for an appointment.



UH Health Family Care Center Welcomes Sarat Munjuluri

Sarat Munjuluri, M.D., M.S. has joined the College of Medicine as a clinical assistant professor and serves as a child psychiatrist at the UH Health Family Care Center. He is board certified in general and child & adolescent psychiatry. He will provide outpatient psychiatric care to children and adolescents with a broad range of mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety and ADHD. His primary role is conducting medication evaluations, managing pharmacotherapies and collaborating with the UH Health Family Care Center care team to provide more coordinated support for patients. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Munjuluri.

FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

Our Shared Triumphs Featured in the News

- August 22: [Interprofessional Student Teams Propose Creative Solutions to Advance Health Equity](#)
- August 17: [Reflections on Life, Death and Humanity](#)
- August 1: [UH STEM Program Empowers Third Ward Students](#)
- July 27: [The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care to Host Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine Students Through New Affiliation Agreement](#)
- July 27: [Tillman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine to Welcome New Medical Students](#)
- July 26: [Hundreds of people experiencing homelessness died in Maricopa County last year. Will 2023 be worse?](#)

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THE PULSE

2023 SEP. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

The fourth of our RISE values is equity. I think about equity as an equal opportunity for everyone to live a flourishing life. There are many inequities in our society. Addressing health inequities in the population is an important part of the mission of the UH Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine. There are major health inequities in the population of our great city. When we look at life expectancy by zip code, there is a 19.3-year gap in life expectancy between the “healthiest” and the “unhealthiest” zip codes. Health inequities or disparities result from adverse social determinants, also called non-medical drivers, of health; we now believe that these are responsible for 80% of the preventable death and disease in our country. Social and economic factors are felt to be responsible for 40% of the preventable adverse health outcomes; environmental factors for 10%, and health behaviors for 30%. Many of these adverse social determinants of health are themselves the result of inequities. The value of health care (defined as the ratio between care outcomes and costs) in our country is the lowest among all wealthy countries, and a major contributing factor to this is health inequity. The U.S. ranks lowest among all wealthy nations in health equity. Our College of Medicine can develop innovative ways to improve health equity in our city, our country, and around the world.

- Steve Spann



STUDENT NEWS



Latino Medical Student Association leads Medical Spanish Simulation

Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), with support of Aaron Lara, held a Medical Spanish Simulation earlier this month that was attended by their fellow students and also College of Medicine faculty. Through these simulations, LMSA seeks to narrow the health care gap caused by language barriers. It's divided into three levels based upon the students' language proficiency and is a peer mentorship system which helps students connect and develop leadership skills. LMSA plans to expand into the community by promoting health education in Houston Hispanic communities.



Hispanic Heritage Month LMSA News Story

The Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) was recently interviewed by ABC13 News. The news station came to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine and spent the day sitting in various lectures, visiting with students and learning more about the mission and importance of LMSA.

[View the news clip here.](#)

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome Dr. Bray to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Jamie Everett, M.D. joined as Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology for Biomedical Sciences and is a practicing pathologist. She will be educating students in the field of pathology throughout our curriculum and as a course director in our Organ System courses. Everett will play a central role in our educational mission by overseeing the Diagnostic Teaching Laboratory, where she will impart essential pathological techniques and skills to our students.

Jonas Garcia, M.D. joined as Adjunct Clinical Professor for Internal Medicine and will be on clinical staff at the UH Health Family Care Center. He will be involved in the clinical practice of medicine at the Family Care Center and will provide cardiovascular medical care to the patients of Harris County correctional facility.

Terence Ma, Ph.D., M.B.A. joined as Assistant Dean for Assessment and Quality Improvement for Biomedical Sciences. He is responsible for developing, maintaining and managing plans for continuous quality improvement for medical student education, as well as monitoring and maintaining materials for accreditation with LCME and SACS.

Pooja Patel, M.D., M.P.H., M.M.S., FACOG joined as Associate Professor for Clinical Sciences and is responsible for the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services at the Family Care Center. She will be training medical students in obstetrical and gynecological care.

Patrizia Perazzo, Ph.D. joined as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Behavioral and Social Sciences. She provides mental health treatment in both Spanish and English at the Family Care Center. Her work focuses on treating children, adolescents and their families who present with a wide range of mental health conditions.

Lu Wang, Ph.D. joined as Assistant Professor for Health Systems and Population Health Sciences and the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute. She is a joint hire between the College of Medicine and the Department of Biomedical Engineering and has a Ph.D. in computer science and another Ph.D. in industrial engineering. Wang is interested in the implementation of human-centered artificial intelligence (AI).



Congratulations on Retiring from the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Thomas Gest, Ph.D., Clinical Professor of Anatomy, is retiring from the Fertitta Family College of Medicine after more than three years of service with the Department of Biomedical Sciences. We wish Dr. Gest a pleasant and enjoyable retirement after his service to the college.



Levesque Attends the AAMC GRA Leadership Course in Washington, D.C.

Jacqueline Levesque, A.Ed. recently attended the Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Resident Affairs Leadership Course in Washington, D.C. Levesque joined more than 40 graduate medical education leaders for the beginnings of an eight-month certificate course where as an invited member of the core faculty, she will provide valuable insight and help propel the Fertitta Family College of Medicine to new heights.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Chai Demoulin, Executive Health Care Administrative Assistant. In her new role, Chai will support Mekia Amos in providing administrative support and management of the College of Medicine business office. In her most recent role, Chai worked with a nonprofit organization that helps aspiring students interested in health care through its medical pathway programs.
- Donna Freeman, Executive Administrative Assistant. In her new role, Donna will support the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences. She has spent the last decade dedicating herself to the Robert Terry Library at Texas Southern University.
- Carlos Fuentes, Research Coordinator. In his new role, Carlos will facilitate research activities within the department, such as conducting literature reviews, collecting data, and contributing to manuscripts and grants. He's a University of Houston graduate (The Honors College) and most recently served as a study coordinator at the Cizik School of Nursing.
- Dr. Tres Radford, Director of Curriculum Development and Support. In her new role, she will be playing a key role in ensuring that the curriculum is meeting the needs of students and all of the requirements of accreditation. She will be working closely with our course directors, faculty, program managers, program coordinators and students.
- Abi Vasquez, Household Center Care (HCC) Program Coordinator II. In her new role, she will be working to get all events for the HCC program organized and ensure all logistics are in place. She also will schedule the HCC IPE Team visits, including disciplines from UH CON and SW.
- Ron Williams, Operations Administrator. In his new role, he will support the college with facilities services, auxiliary services, space management, property inventory and facilities utilization procedures. His most recent memorable achievement was being an instrumental key player in Apple's relocation to their new 1-billion-dollar campus in Austin, Texas.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Household Centered Care Seminar

HCC held its first student seminar for the academic year on Tuesday, September 23, 2023. College of Medicine first year students were joined by social work students from UH Downtown and junior nursing students from the Gessner College of Nursing, along with community health workers, for an introduction to HCC and interprofessional competencies. Using a community case study, small teams of students addressed the non-medical needs of a family, simulating their future experiences in households in Third Ward and East End. These teams will start working in the field in Spring 2024.



Volunteer Faculty Open House

The Fertitta Family College of Medicine Volunteer Faculty Open House was this past Tuesday night. Dean Spann and the College of Medicine hosted more than a hundred of our esteemed volunteer faculty. The event served as a thank you to our current volunteer faculty, as well as a recruitment tool to engage potential new faculty for the college. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend.

UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER



Back to School- Blackshear Elementary

The UH Health Family Care Center had the opportunity to attend Blackshear Elementary's Back to School Bash. Bill Elder, Ph.D. and David Curtis, Ph.D. spoke to attendees about the clinic's behavioral health services and Kathryn Horn, M.D. worked with College of Medicine students to provide hearing, vision, and blood pressure screenings.



The UH Health Family Care Center Welcomes Jonas Garcia

Jonas Garcia, M.D., has joined the Family Care Center and will also be providing cardiovascular medical care to the patients of the Harris County correctional facility. He will be involved in the clinical practice of medicine by continuing the follow-up medical care of his long-time patients. In addition to the FCC, Garcia has joined the College of Medicine as an adjunct clinical professor of internal medicine and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



The UH Health Family Care Center Welcomes Pooja Patel

Pooja Patel, M.D., MPH, MMS, FACOG, has joined the Family Care Center and is responsible for the delivery of obstetrics and gynecological services. In addition to the FCC, Patel has joined the College of Medicine as an associate professor and is a board-certified obstetrician gynecologist. She is also responsible for training medical students in obstetrical and gynecological care at the Fertitta Family College of Medicine.

FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

Our Shared Triumphs Featured in the News

- September 25: [Theatre of the Oppressed](#)
- September 22: [Latino UH medical students look to improve doctors' Spanish to give equal care to Hispanic populace](#)
- August 28: [Pharmacy Closures Impacting Medically Underserved Communities](#)

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Mission
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Tilman J. Fertitta Family
College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 OCT. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

"On Monday I informed University of Houston President Dr. Renu Khator that I plan to step down from the position of Founding Dean of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and retire after 45 years of working fulltime as a physician. She made that announcement to the broader UH community yesterday, and she will soon appoint a search committee to help identify a new Dean to lead our college.

I have enjoyed a wonderful and varied career practicing family medicine in rural, urban, and global settings; training two generations of physicians and other health professionals; conducting research to discover new knowledge, and leading two medical school departments as chair, two medical schools as dean, and several health care organizations including a large teaching hospital. But I believe that the most exciting and rewarding part of my career has been the opportunity to lead the planning, implementation and launch of our College of Medicine. It has been a real joy to be able to design the kind of medical school that I thought our state needed, get broad buy in for that vision, develop a plan, identify the funding, recruit the faculty, build the curriculum, design a building, and recruit the medical students for this new medical school.



This has been a team effort, and I am grateful to a multitude of individuals who contributed to make this a reality: the UH Board of Regents, President Khator and her cabinet, academic leaders across the University who contributed to the planning, state legislators, donors, the outstanding College of Medicine faculty we have been fortunate to recruit, our dedicated staff, and our amazing students who were willing to take a risk in coming to a new and different kind of medical school. Each one of you has made, and will continue to make, important contributions to this college and its mission.

I have told Dr. Khator that I will be happy to continue in my current position until the new Dean has been recruited and is onsite. I am fully committed to leading the college through the upcoming LCME accreditation survey, celebrating the graduation of our first class of students in May, and continuing to grow and improve our medical school. I will remain "all in" as your leader until a new Dean arrives. I believe that great things are ahead for our college in the days to come, and I am excited to continue to work towards our mission of improving the health and health care of the population of this great city, state and beyond during my remaining time here. And I am confident that I can count on each of you to continue to contribute to this important mission."

- Steve Spann

STUDENT NEWS



Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston Annual Gala & Scholarship Awards

Fertitta Family College of Medicine faculty, staff and students attended the Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston (HAMAH) Gala and Scholarship Awards. The event celebrated two of our College of Medicine students, M4 Brandon Gonzalez and M2 Amacalli Tejada, who received scholarships. The purpose of HAMAH is to increase the number of Hispanic students who are committed to increasing health equity and plan to successfully graduate from medical school, a health professions school or graduate school in science.



Girls Inc. BOLD Leaders Summit

The Fertitta Family College of Medicine's offices of Outreach and Student Pathways and Student Affairs attended the Girls Inc. BOLD Leaders Summit. The event was a fun-filled and educational one-day event for girls aged 13-18 and their parents, addressing topics such as healthy living, community and civic engagement. M2 Stephanie Sanchez gave a presentation on "What is Your Skin Telling you?" that discussed skin function and health. Alechia Abioye, director of Student Affairs, led a hands-on activity on making safe, at-home scrubs.



Health Career Collaborative Program

Health Career Collaborative (HCC) kicked off at Austin High School with 20 tenth grade students. HCC is a national program that is led by medical students and exposes high school students from underrepresented backgrounds to health-related careers in medicine. Project goals are to encourage graduation and provide students access to a diverse range of health-related careers by providing mentorship and an engaging health curriculum with project-based learning.

FACULTY NEWS

Welcome Dr. Bray to the Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

Lani Ackerman, M.D. clinical professor for Clinical Sciences, is director of Electives and the interim director of Advanced Clerkships.

Jorge Gonzales, Ph.D., clinical professor for Behavioral and Social Sciences is a clinical child and adolescent psychologist at the Family Care Clinic.



Omolola Adepoju Ph.D., M.P.H. receives \$1.5 Million Grant from the National Academy of Sciences

Researchers at the University of Houston have secured a \$1.5 million grant from the National Academy of Sciences to develop a public health data system to address health equity challenges in Houston's medically underserved neighborhoods in times of natural disaster.

Omolola E. Adepoju, Ph.D., M.P.H. and team will work with community leaders to develop a climate and health dashboard where people can post pictures and thoughts from previous natural disasters, like Hurricane Harvey, and share their experiences. Initially, the project will focus on the Third Ward, Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens neighborhoods while others could be added in the coming years.

[Full Story](#)

STAFF NEWS

Welcome New Staff to the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine!

We continue to grow our dynamic team of consummate professionals. Let us welcome the newest members to join our college:

- Akwaugo Anozie, Mid-level Clinician, has joined the Clinical Sciences department and will engage with Correctional Health.
- Ashley Estrada, Eligibility Specialist. In her new role, she will assist patients in securing assistance with gaps in coverage, reviewing patient benefits and ensuring patients are financially clear to be seen, resolving claim issues, and performing claims follow up to reduce aging unpaid claims. Ashley joins us from a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) where she performed similar eligibility & registration responsibilities as she fulfilled her passion in helping others. She brings previous experience working in customer service and outreach/patient education roles helping patients to learn tools and resources to better assist in managing and improving their health.
- Andrea Flores, Administrative Assistant. In her new role, she brings 15 years of diverse office experience from health care, real estate and as a small business owner to support the Correctional Health/Clinical Sciences Department.
- Alberto Garcia, Systems Administrator III. In his new role, he will be our server and systems subject matter expert, supporting our growing research and clinical infrastructure. He will also be helping to mature our centralized endpoint management, handling account creations/permission changes and much more. He is a service-driven IT Systems Administrator with 10 plus years of experience supporting restaurants, education and health care environments, including prior positions at the University of Houston.
- Augustine Ukor, Mid-level Clinician, has joined the Clinical Sciences department and will engage with Correctional Health.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Healthy Connections at National Night Out

The Healthy Connections/Household Centered Care program attended the Third Ward National Night Out at Emancipation Park on November 3. Daniella Hernandez, Miriam Rodriguez and Linda Civallo spoke to attendees about the opportunity to receive home visits from a community health worker, as well as medical, nursing and social work students to help address social or health care challenges.



Doctor for a Day

The Humana Institute, Household Centered Care, and student organization My Doctor is a Black Woman, hosted third through fifth graders from Thompson Elementary and Lockhart Elementary in Third Ward for "Doctor for a Day". The 30 visiting students donned their lab coats and experienced STEM through the perspective of medical students who guided them through lessons on exercise physiology, human anatomy using the Anatomage table and heart sounds with "Harvey" in CCASEL. The students also received hands-on training in compressions (CPR) for emergencies. Both medical students and elementary students alike were engaged in this educational and fun-filled day.



Household-Centered Care's Poverty Simulation

The Fertitta Family College of Medicine Household-Centered Care's Poverty Simulation was this month, and students navigated their community, their neighborhood and their community services for their families while living in poverty. Throughout the sessions, they became sensitized to the realities of poverty and gained an understanding of how poverty affects health. During this journey they were joined by students of the Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing and the Graduate College of Social Work.

LCME CORNER

LCME

LIASON COMMITTEE ON
MEDICAL EDUCATION

www.lcme.org

LCME Institutional Self-Study

LCME Full Accreditation Survey Visit

The LCME will be conducting its Full Accreditation Survey Visit for the College of Medicine on March 17-20, 2024. A team of 3 or 4 experienced medical educators and administrators will meet with faculty, staff and students to discuss their experiences and to assess the College of Medicine's compliance with required LCME elements. The survey visit team then submits a report to the full LCME, which will make an accreditation decision in June 2024.

RECOGNITION

Kudos, Honors, and Awards

LeChauncy Woodard, M.D., M.P.H. clinical professor at the University of Houston Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and founding director of the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute, has been awarded Mastership in the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internal medicine physicians. Only 1-2% of ACP's 161,000 members have obtained Masterships, putting Woodard in exclusive company.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical-specialty society in the world. Each year, it confers Mastership on a select few candidates in recognition of outstanding and extraordinary career accomplishments, including teaching, research and practice in clinical medicine, contributions to preventative medicine and improvements in the delivery of health care. Those selected are considered "citizen physicians," educational innovators, humanists and learner-teachers who inspire others to seek high standards and excellence in their profession.

[Full Story](#)



UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER



Healthy Women's Expo

Hosted by Healthy Start and Molina Healthcare, the Healthy Women's Expo was a health and resource fair focusing on pregnant and postpartum women and their young families. Medical Assistant Ashlei Phillips and Pooja Patel M.D., M.P.H., M.M.S., FACOG, had the opportunity to provide blood pressure screenings and talk to attendees about the Family Care Center.



College of Medicine Faculty Attend St. Mary's Health Fair

Brian Reed, M.D., and LeChauncy Woodard, M.D., M.P.H., attended St. Mary's of the Purification's Health Fair and provided blood pressure, hearing and vision screenings to church members before and after services. Members also had the chance to learn more about the Family Care Center and the benefits it provides.



CAN DRIVE

ACCEPTING DONATIONS ALL NOVEMBER!

Please drop off canned items with Rebecca Negri, located in the admin office on the third floor of the College of Medicine

We are collecting canned items to make holiday meal kits for families in the Third Ward and East End!

REQUESTED ITEMS:

- Yams (14oz or 29oz)
- Cranberry Sauce (14oz)
- Green Beans (14oz or 29oz)
- French Fried Onions (2.8oz)
- Cream of Mushroom Soup (10.5oz)
- Pumpkin (15oz)
- Corn Bread Mix



Office of Government and Community Relations
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON





Family Care Center
UH HEALTH



FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER IN THE NEWS

Our Shared Triumphs Featured in the News

- October 27: [UH Researchers Secure \\$1.5 Million to Build Disaster Resource Tool for Houston's Medically Underserved Communities](#)
- October 20: [UH's Dr. LeChauncy Woodard Earns Prestigious 'Mastership' from American College of Physicians](#)
- September 19: [First Medical Student of THI/UH Collaboration shares his Personal Heart Journey](#)
- September 14: [Improving Access to Care: UH Study Explores Telemedicine's Impact on Opioid Use Disorder Patients](#)
- September 13: [Real-Time Health Monitoring: UH Researcher Explores Wearable Sensors to Detect Colorectal Cancer](#)
- September 7: [Community Collaboration is Key: HRI's Dr. Woodard nurtures leadership of new Student Cadre](#)

COOGS CARE

Supporting Mental Health and Wellness

At the University of Houston, we care about you. In addition to you practicing self-care, we believe in the strength of a community that cares for our fellow Coogs. We have a number of resources to support your mental health and overall wellness. Learn more about our available resources here.

Need Support Now?

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline call or text 988, or chat online at 988 Lifeline Chat and Text.

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College of Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 NOV. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN



A Holiday Message

Dean Spann, the founding dean of the Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine and vice-president for Medical Affairs at the University of Houston wishes you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving.

[Click to view his Thanksgiving message.](#)

[Click to view the latest edition of the Dean's Newsletter.](#)

UH STAFF COUNCIL NEWS

UH Staff are Invited to Participate

The Monthly Staff Council Meeting will be held on December 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. All staff members are encouraged to attend and learn more about the University. If you would like to present questions to the Staff Council prior to the meeting, please submit them [HERE](#).



UH HEALTH FAMILY CARE CENTER

 **Family Care Center**
UH HEALTH

TOY DRIVE

 **Office of Government
and Community Relations**
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Accepting Donations All November!

Help us collect toys for children in the Third Ward and East End! Drop off new toys for ages 0-18 years at the designated locations, or make a purchase off our Amazon Wish List!

DROPOFF LOCATIONS:
Student Center South
Ezekiel W. Cullen Building
Health 3, inside the Family Care Center
Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine

VIEW OUR AMAZON WISH LIST! 

[VIEW TOY DRIVE WISHLIST](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Family Care Center
UH HEALTH

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

THE PULSE

2023 DEC. EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN SPANN

The year-end holidays bring opportunities for reflection on the year gone by, and celebration of holidays and the opportunities that a new year brings. And they bring opportunities for expressions of gratitude. As I reflect on this 2023 year at the UH Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, I find much to celebrate and be grateful for. Top of my list is the relationships with our wonderful students, faculty and staff, and the contributions that each of you make in helping us strive to accomplish our mission to improve the health and health care of the population. We can celebrate many accomplishments in the areas of education, research, clinical care, and service to and engagement with our community. Our College of Medicine is visible locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally thanks to everything you all do. We have had a good year, and 2024 promises to be even better. I wish for each of you and your loved ones a wonderful and joyful holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

- Steve Spann



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AWARDS



Dean's Award

Joel S. Blumberg, M.D., Department of Clinical Sciences



RISE Award

Linda Civallero, Community Health

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AWARDS



Ugly Sweater Award

Denise Delgado, Student Affairs, Admissions & Outreach



Office Holiday Decoration Award

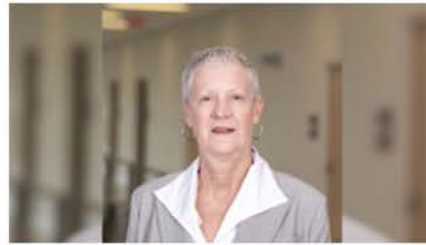
Student Affairs, Admissions & Outreach

FACULTY AWARDS



Faculty Leadership & Professionalism Award

Amber Zulfiqar, M.D., Department of Clinical Sciences



Faculty Mentorship Award

Camille Leugers, M.D., Department of Clinical Sciences



Faculty Research Award

Lola E. Adepoju, Ph.D., M.P.H., Department of Health Systems & Population Health Sciences, Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute



Faculty Service & Community Service Award

Claudine D. Johnson, M.D., Department of Clinical Sciences



Faculty Teaching Award

Chakravarthy Marx Sadacharan, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences

STAFF AWARDS



Staff Leadership & Professionalism Award

Alechia Abioye, Ed.D Student Affairs



Staff Mentorship Award

David Garcia, Office of the Dean



Staff Research Award

Mary Tipton, Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute



Staff Service & Community Service Award

Mirla Lopez, Community Health



Staff Teaching Award

Leslie Rojas, Office of Medical Education

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2023

