

Health Matters

What Matters to Your Health, Matters to Us

February 2019

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Message from the Dean



In a few months, the UTRGV School of Medicine will welcome its fourth class and achieve full enrollment. Though students accepted into the School of Medicine have until June to commit to attend the School of Medicine, I am confident our Class of 2023 will be as exemplary as our previous cohorts.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our current medical students, who have embraced the core values of our School of Medicine as they have built a culture of compassion as they pursue their academic and research endeavors and serve the Rio Grande Valley.

From the moment they committed to begin their medical careers at the UTRGV School of Medicine, our 155 medical students eagerly engaged with communities, conducted research involving health issues that affect patients in the Valley, and began developing solutions to address the health care challenges patients faced.

In just three years, our students have presented research at national and international symposiums, opened a student-run clinic that treats patients in a medically underserved area, and participated in numerous community events to promote healthy lifestyles. In this latest issue of *Health Matters*, you can read about our students' participation in our first Spring Research Symposium, which included studies into public health initiatives, food insecurity and clinical interventions, their plans to participate in the National Texas Two Step CPR training campaign and their plans to thank the community leaders who have helped pave the way for the creation of the School of Medicine at their Inaugural Evening of Honors Gala.

Our medical students embody the purpose of the School of Medicine: To train the next generation of patient-centered and culturally competent physicians and biomedical scientists who are committed to improving the well-being of the communities they serve.

Kind Regards,

John H. Krouse, MD, PhD, MBA
Dean, UTRGV School of Medicine
Executive Vice President, Health Affairs

About the Dean

News and Events

MS in Bioethics approved for UTRGV School of Medicine

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine to offer a Master of Science in Bioethics degree program.

[Read more](#)



UTHealth
Rio Grande Valley
School of Medicine

UT Health RGV celebrates opening of its Surgery and Women's Specialty practice in Harlingen

UT Health Rio Grande Valley, the clinical component of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, celebrated the grand opening of UT Health Rio Grande Valley Surgery and Women's Specialty Wednesday, Jan. 23.

[Read more](#)



UT Health RGV now offering orthopedic and sports medicine

UT Health Rio Grande Valley is expanding its clinical services to offer orthopedic and sports medicine care.



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UTRGV School of Medicine employees promote healthy habits with daily exercise

A friendly challenge between coworkers has grown into a daily exercise routine for employees at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine's Clinical Education Building in Harlingen.

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UTRGV School of Medicine students to participate in Texas2Step CPR training



UTRGV Photos by Paul Chouy

Students from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine will be training people in basic, hands-only CPR from Saturday, Feb. 9, to Monday, Feb. 11, at various locations as part of the annual National Texas Two Step CPR campaign.

Medical students will be providing training on the following days and at the following locations:

- 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 77 Flea Market, 5955 N. Expressway 77, Brownsville, Texas 78520
- 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, Alamo Flea Market, 1602 W. Expressway 83, Alamo, Texas 78516
- 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, Basilica of Our Lady San Juan Del Valle, 400 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, Texas 78589
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, UTRGV Student Union, 1201 W University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539

The National Texas Two Step CPR is an annual event that educates and trains the public on the benefits of hands-only CPR. The campaign has trained more than 18,500 people on how to properly administer hands-only CPR.

Each year, about 700 medical students volunteer to train individuals in properly administering hands-only CPR. This is the third year the UTRGV School of Medicine is participating in the event.

For more information, visit <https://www.tx2stepcpr.com/>.

SOM hosts first Spring Student Research Colloquium

The UTRGV School of Medicine hosted its inaugural Spring Student Research Symposium Friday, Jan. 11, at the Medical Education Building in Edinburg. Students presented their research, which included studies into public health initiatives, food insecurity and clinical interventions.



Summer research opportunities available for medical students and residents

The Office of the Associate Dean of Research has added tabs on its website for [medical students](#) and [residents](#) to seek out 2019 extramural research opportunities and funding.

Students and residents are encouraged to read each opportunity carefully, as they have different eligibility requirements and deadlines. For any questions regarding [Research Training Opportunities](#) and finding a mentor, contact the Office of the Associate Dean of Research at (956)296-1926 or visit the office's [webpage](#).

Inaugural Evening of Honors Gala

SOM students to host fundraising gala Feb. 23

Medical students at the UTRGV School of Medicine will host its Inaugural Evening of Honors Gala at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at Rancho Guadalupe. The event will honor individuals who have paved the way for the creation and continued success of the medical school. All proceeds from the gala will support programs for the medical students. Click [here](#) for more information or to purchase tickets.



In the Spotlight

Patrick Ojeaga, Class of 2021

Patrick Ojeaga is a second-year medical student from McAllen, Texas. Ojeaga currently serves as president of the American Medical Association/Texas Medical Association (AMA/TMA) chapter,

Student Ambassador, and as a Peer Tutor.

His interests include orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology and neurosurgery and his research interests include pediatric clinical research that focuses on treatment protocols and process improvement strategies.

[Read more](#)



UTRGV School of Medicine professor researching new treatment for endometriosis

By Victoria Brito, UTRGV News & Internal Communications

A drug previously deemed clinically useless might have promise repurposed as a treatment for endometriosis, according to research being done at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine.

Dr. Annelyn Torres-Reveron, assistant professor of neuroscience and human genetics at the UTRGV School of Medicine, is conducting research using antalarmin – a drug originally developed as a treatment for disorders like depression and anxiety – to help slow the progression of endometriosis.



[Read more](#)



Great things are happening at the UTRGV School of Medicine. Learn more about the SOM Strategic Plan.

[UTRGV SOM Strategic Plan](#)

[Make a Gift](#)

Your gift to the School of Medicine supports our mission to educate a diverse group of medical students and future scientists to benefit the Rio Grande Valley and the world.

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