UTRGV W THealth School of RioGrande Valley Medicine

54TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF ADVISORS FOR THE





THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023

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UTRGV W RioGrande Valley School of Medicine



FUTURE OF TEXAS

Among Texas Public Universities for Least Student Debt #2 In Texas for Best Public Universities #3

Best Colleges in America for Value, among Texas Schools

TOP 10

For Best Value for Your Money

#45

Top National Public University

Sources: U.S. News & World Report (2022), Forbes (2021), Washington Monthly (2022), Money.com (2022)

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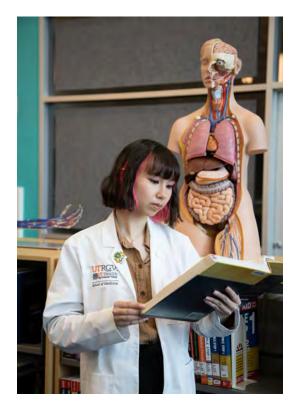


About the UTRGV School of Medicine

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine is the realization of the decades-long effort of community leaders and other supporters to establish a medical school in the Valley to provide health care to a region that historically has been burdened by health disparities.

In 1997, the Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 606, which allowed The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) — now known as UT Health San Antonio—to open a Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) to train physicians who would practice medicine in the Valley. UTHSCSA opened its Medical Education Division in 2002 in Harlingen and its Medical Research Division in 2006, in Edinburg. In 2009, the Texas Legislature approved The University of Texas System Board of Regents to create a medical school using the resources from the RAHC for the Valley in the future.

Three years later, The UT System Board of Regents approved the creation of a new university and medical school in the Rio Grande Valley, using resources from two universities within the UT System—The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College and The University of Texas-Pan American—and the RAHC.



In June 2013, The Texas Legislature approved the creation of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and its School of Medicine. Two years later, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine welcomed its first 42 medical residents in six hospital-based training programs. The UTRGV School of Medicine received preliminary accreditation from the LCME in October 2015, which allowed the School of Medicine to recruit for its first class.

The UTRGV School of Medicine welcomed its charter class of 55 medical students in the summer of 2016.

The UTRGV School of Medicine now has more than 200 medical students and over 200 medical residents and fellows serving in nine hospital-based training programs throughout the Valley, with more training programs on the horizon.









Mission

We will transform the health of the Rio Grande Valley and beyond by providing advanced academic medicine through these five pillars:

- Innovative Education
- Life-Changing Research and Discoveries
- High Quality Patient-Centered Care
- Serving our Community
- · Sustainability and a Culture of Entrepreneurship

Vision

To transform the health of the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Values

In addition to the UTRGV Values of Excellence (shared governance; diversity, access and inclusion; leadership; inquiry, discovery and creativity; health and well-being; and engagement and impact), the UTRGV School of Medicine's core values include:

- Open Communication & Transparency: Share information openly across all levels (of the school) to engrain a collaborative and trustworthy environment.
- Community Focus: Commitment to improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities of at-risk populations through community and population-based interventions.
- Cultural Awareness: Integration of knowledge, awareness, and empathy to successfully work with the diverse and unique needs of any community.
- Empathy & Compassion: Care for and understand others to provide support and achieve positive outcomes.
- **Good Stewardship:** Selfless service (for the common good) to promote accountability and a culture of responsibility.
- Innovation & Transformation: Embrace change and promote creativity to shape the future of academic medicine.
- Integrity: Act with honor, honesty, and truthfulness. Know and do the right thing in all undertakings – learning, discovery, patient care, service, and entrepreneurship.
- Respect, Collegiality & Inclusive Citizenship: Treat people with respect and kindness to create a community of inclusivity, cooperation, and connectedness.

* Breakfast at Hotel on your own

Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Conference Registration	Embassy Suites, Foyer
	TAAHP Board Meeting	Chavez
11:30 AM	Optional Networking Lunch for Non-JAMP Faculty Directors (On your own)	Embassy Suite Lobby
1:15 PM	Navigating the Conference Doyen Rainey, University of Texas at Dallas	Grand Ballroom
1:30 PM	New Advisor Workshop Doyen Rainey, University of Texas at Dallas	Austin & Crockett
	Moderator: Dr. Taiya Fabre, TAAHP Chair, Houston Christian University	
	 Experienced Advisor Workshop: TAAHP Members How advisors can help their pre-health students get the most out of scholarship and creative activities Matt Chumchal, Texas Christian University: Undergraduate Research Where are they? Finding Pre-Health Students When There's No Required Major Ann Davis, Texas Woman's University Affiliation Agreements for Shadowing Experiences - What are they and how can we facilitate them? Kim Smith, Baylor University Moderators: Dr. Jonathan King & Dr. Mike Wiblishauser 	Houston & Bowie
3:15 PM	Buses Depart to UTRGV School of Medicine Edinburg Campus	
4:00-7:15 PM	Welcome to UTRGV School of Medicine	UTRGV SOM Atrium
	Tour of UTRGV School of Medicine	
	Welcome Remarks by Dr. Jeremy Gibson, Vice Dean for Education Affairs, I Fiesta Dinner Reception	JTRGV School of Medicine
7:15-7:30 PM	Buses Depart to Hotel	

* Breakfast at Hotel on your own

Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Conference Registration	Embassy Suites, Foyer
8:00 AM	 TAAHP Wekome and Announcements Dr. Taiya Fabre, TAAHP Chair, Houston Christian University Betty L. Monfort, Senior Assistant Dean, Admissions & Recruitment, UTRGV School of Medicine Sofia Hernandez, Chief of Staff and Strategic Initiatives, UTRGV School of Medicine 	Grand Ballroom
8:15 AM	Keynote Speaker Address: Dr. Fred Farias III, OD, FAAO	Grand Ballroom
9:15 AM	 Professional School Updates Dr. Mathew Meeks, Executive Director, Texas Health Education School and Cysterski-Acosta, Associate Dean of Admissions and Stud Affairs, University of Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine Christina Cormier, Director of Admissions and Outreach, TCU Burn School of Medicine Dr. Javier La Fontaine, Dean of UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine Dr. Gisele Armond Abron, Associate Dean of Admissions, UT Tyler Medical 	ent e Grand Ballroom nett
10:45 AM	Break - Light Refreshments and Snacks	Patio
	Networking/Visit Exhibits	Banquet, Pre-function Gallery & Washington
11:45 AM	Dean's Lunch and Business Meeting	Crockett & Austin

Banquet

TAAHP Lunch and Business Meeting

Even t	Location
THE FOLLOWING 3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS WILL TAP CONCURRENTLY FROM 1:00-1:40 PM AND 1:45-2 SELECT 2 SESSIONS/LOCATIONS TO ATTEN	:25 PM.
Enhancing the Academic Success of Undergraduate Medical Education Students Mercy Azeke, Ed.D., Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, Interim Director of Academic Advising and Support Services, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UTRGV School of Medicine Many medical students start their medical education journey with a preconceived notion that the same study strategies that worked for them in their undergraduate, or a previous educational program, will suffice in medical school. Unfortunately, some newly admitted medical students do not fully understand the need to adapt their study strategies for the highly integrated and comprehensive nature of undergraduate medical education curriculum. Consequently, many students struggle with the rigors of transitioning into the medical education curriculum. This interactive presentation will focus on academic and personal services, strategies, and resources designed to support the academic success of UME students. We will highlight the significance of well-structured student support services through related data and student feedback. Also, participants will have the opportunity to share some of their success strategies. Moderator: Shirley Anderson	Houston & Bowie
 Rocking High Stakes Exams Cristel Escalona, MD, Division Chief of Pediatrics, Associate Professor Pediatrics, Director of Student Health & Wellness, Director Careers in Medicine, Pediatric Hospitalist, Admissions Committee Chair, JAMP Faculty Director Understanding anxiety surrounding high stakes exams and supporting students in exam preparation, and implementation of strategies for success. Moderator: Rachel Ciomperlik 	Crockett & Austin
Test Your Advising Knowledge: TMDSAS Pop Quiz Enrique Jasso, TMDSAS Director; Breanna Bietz; Myriam Cabrera; Zuleima Melendez <i>Submitting an application to professional school shouldn't feel like a shot in the dark. The</i> <i>TMDSAS team shares key tips for getting applications through processing quickly, while</i> <i>providing a crash course to help you answer your students' questions about Texas residency,</i> <i>pre-requisite coursework, and ensuring your letters are approved quickly. You'll also learn</i> <i>about the coming changes to the Entry Year 2024 TMDSAS Application.</i> Moderator: Ashleigh Tynes	Chavez

Time	Event	Location
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Networking & Break	Embassy Suites, Pre-function Gallery& Patio
2:30 PM	JAMP JFD Meeting	Chavez

THE FOLLOWING 2 PANELS WILL TAKE PLACE CONCURRENTLY FROM 3:00 - 3:35 PM AND 3:40 - 4:15 PM. SELECT 1 LOCATION. PANELISTS WILL SWAP.

Houston & Bowie

Health Profession s Deans Panel

- Jarrod Tynes, Assistant Professor, West Coast University PA Program
- Dr. Javier La Fontaine, Dean of UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine
- Elizabeth Crouch, Asst Dean for Professional Programs Admissions & Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Texas A&M University

Moderator: Dr. Jonathan King

Crockett & Austin

Dental Deans Panel

- Dr. Barbara H. Miller, Assistant Dean, Office of Recruitment and Admissions, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Cyd Goldfarb, Senior Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Texas Tech University
- Dr. Kelly Lemke, Director of Admissions, The University of Texas Health San Antonio
- Dr. Ralph A. Cooley, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Services, The University of Texas Health

Moderator: Dr. Mike Wiblishauser

Time

Event

THE FOLLOWING PANELS WILL TAKE PLACE CONCURRENTLY FROM 4:20-6:00 PM. SELECT 1 LOCATION. PANELISTS WILL SWAP.

Houston & Bowie

Medical Deans Panel A

- Dr. Jesus G. Vallejo, Senior Associate Dean of Admissions, Diversity, Equity & Multicultural Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine
- Dr. Judianne Kellaway, Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach, Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio
- Dr. Courtney West, AD for Educational Affairs, Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Fernando Vasquez, Assistant Dean of MD Admissions & Director of Early Assurance Pathway Programs, Office of Admissions, School of Medicine, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Cynthia Perry, Associate Academic Dean for Admissions, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at El Paso
- Dr. Felix Morales, Associate Dean of Admissions, Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine at Lubbock
- Dr. Michelle Carroll Turpin, Assistant Dean of Admissions, Tilman J. Feritta Family College of Medicine at University of Houston
- Dr. Sheela Lahoti, Associate Dean of Admissions, McGovern Medical School at UT Health - Houston Moderator: Dr. Cynthia Powell

Crockett & Austin

Medical Deans Panel B

- Dr. Pierre W. Banks, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Recruitment, John Sealy School of Medicine at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- Betty L. Monfort, Senior Assistant Dean, Admissions and Recruitment, UTRGV School of Medicine
- Dr. Craig Rubin, Admissions Committee Chair, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
- Dr. Gisele Abron, Associate Dean of Admissions, The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine
- Dr. Shawn Skeen, Interim Asst Dean of Admissions, Outreach and Finance, Burnett School of Medicine at Texas Christian University
- Andrea Cyterski-Acosta, Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Joel Daboub, Director of Admissions and Records, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School
- Dr. Mike Kennedy, Assistant Dean of Admissions, University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Ostheopathic Medicine

Moderator: Dr. Cleveland Lane

6:00-6:30 PM	Complimentary Drinks	Patio
6:30 PM	Awards Banquet & Reception	Banquet
7:00-10:00 PM	Music Provided By Embassy Suites Hotel Band-Live Performance by Rumba Buena	Patio

Saturday, February 4, 2023

* Breakfast at Hotel on your own

Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Exhibits Open	Embassy Suites Pre-Function Gallery
	UTRGV Health Professions Student Panel Moderator: Betty L. Monfort, Senior Assistant Dean, Admissions and Recruitment UTRGV School of Medicine	t, Grand Ballroom
9:00 AM	 TXHES Updates Dr. Mathew Meeks, Executive Director, Texas Health Education Service Filo G. Maldonado, Consultant, Texas Health Education Service Enrique Jasso, Director, Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service Moderator: Dr. Matt Chumchal	Grand Ballroom
10:00 AM	 Getting Students Ready to Take the MCAT Exam Updates from the AAMC MCAT Program Lesley Ward, Director, MCAT Outreach & Engagement Lauren Bauser, Director, Product Management Director of MCAT Preparation 	on
11:00 AM	 Closing Remarks Dr. Taiya Fabre, Houston Christian University, TAAHP Past Chair Dr. Matt Chumchal, Texas Christian University, TAAHP Chair 	Grand Ballroom

Join us for the TAAHP 2024 Conference Hosted by: Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at El Paso, TX.

TAAHP Leadership



Taiya Fabre, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Professor of Chemistry TAAHP Chair 2022 - 2023

Dr. Fabre serves as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Chemistry in the College of Science and Engineering at Houston Christian University. She is also the Faculty Liaison to the Health Professions Program at HCU. Dr. Fabre received a B.S. in Chemistry (A.C.S. certified) In 1995 from Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA. She received a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA in 2001. Dr. Fabre is a member of various professional organizations such as TAAHP, SAAHP, NAAHP, American Chemical Society and Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women Chemists. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Matt Chumchal, Ph.D.

Professor and Director of the Pre-Health Professions Institute THAAP Chair Elect

Dr. Matt Chumchal is a Professor Biology at Texas Christian University (TCU) and Associate Professor of Medical Education at the Burnett School of Medicine. He earned a BS in Biology from Southwestern University in 2001, an MS in Biology from TCU in 2003 and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma in 2007. Dr. Chumchal credits the caring advisors he encountered along his path with setting him on the "straight and narrow" and instilling in him a lifelong appreciation for the important difference that student-centered faculty and staff can make in the lives of young people. During his first year at TCU, he was so impressed with the bright and big-hearted pre-health students in his anatomy course that, he joined TCU's HPAC and become a pre-health advisor in 2008. He currently serves as Director of the TCU Pre-Health Professions Institute and Chair of HPAC. He is also TCU's JAMP Faculty Director. He has been a member of TAAHP since 2013 and served on the executive board from 2017-2019 as a Member-at-Large and since 2022 as Chair Elect. When not working with prehealth students he can be found in his research lab studying mercury contamination of the environment.

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Dean of the UTRGV School of Medicine

Michael B. Hocker, MD, MHS

Dr. Michael B. Hocker, Dean of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, assumed his post on June 28, 2021.

Dr. Hocker comes to the Rio Grande Valley from the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University where he served as the senior associate dean and designated institutional official (DIO) of graduate medical education. In that role, Dr. Hocker oversaw 51 residency and fellowship programs. Previously, he served as the Vice-Chair of Operations for Emergency Medicine and assistant DIO for graduate medical education. He also holds the J. Harold Harrison M.D. Distinguished Chair in Emergency Medicine.

Prior to joining MCG, Dr. Hocker spent 14 years at Duke University School of Medicine, where he helped start what is now considered one of the country's top emergency medicine training programs. He also earned a Master of Health Science in Clinical Leadership from Duke. In 2016, the Duke Division of Emergency Medicine honored his leadership with the naming of the Michael B. Hocker, MD, Duke Emergency Medicine Division Leadership and Service Award.

Dr. Hocker is a master clinician and Board certified in Emergency Medicine, he completed his internship at the UC Davis East Bay Surgical Program in Oakland, California, and his residency training in emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts.

A former U.S. Navy flight surgeon, he graduated from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado and earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

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Dean of the UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Javier La Fontaine, DPM, MS, MEd

Dr. Javier La Fontaine is the inaugural dean of the UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine (SOPM). Prior to joining UTRGV, he worked at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he served as a professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery and as Fellowship Director of Limb Preservation at Parkland Hospital. As served as associate professor at TX A&M University College of Medicine; chief of podiatric medicine section at Central Texas Veterans Medical Center in Temple, Texas; associate professor of the Department of Orthopedics at the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA); and division chief of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and residency program director at UTHSCSA and Bexar County Hospital. He graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He earned his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He received a Master's in Clinical Investigation from UTHSCSA in 2006 and a Master's in Education with an emphasis in higher education from Liberty University in 2021. He is board certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) and the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM). Dr. La Fontaine completed his internship in Primary Podiatric Medicine and residency in Podiatric Surgery at UTHSCSA.

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Dean of the UTRGV College of Health Professions



Michael Lehker, Ph.D.

Dr. Michael Lehker, Founding Dean of the College of Health Professions, is a professor of microbiology in the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Lehker has taught various courses in microbiology, genetics, developmental biology, and molecular biology at the undergraduate and graduate levels and has over 20 years of teaching and research experience at majority Hispanic institutions. He maintains an active research laboratory studying the role of iron acquisition and utilization in the *pathogenesis* of the sexually transmitted protozoan *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

Dr. Lehker is committed to enhancing and promoting allied health professional students' education, research, and clinical practice at the College of Health Professions. A particular focus is on innovative educational approaches in healthcare education to enhance student engagement and effectiveness and the establishment of new programs to increase participation of Rio Grande Valley students in the allied health, medical and biomedical workforce. Building research capacity is another passion of Dr. Lehker.

Dr. Lehker received his undergraduate and master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He began his work in the RGV in 2003 when he joined the faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College. Before joining UTRGV, he also held faculty positions at UTEP and UTHSCSA.

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Dean of the UTRGV School of Social Work

UTRGV UT Health School of RioGrande Valley Medicine



Luis R. Torres-Hostos, Ph.D.

Luis R. Torres-Hostos, Ph.D., is Founding Dean and Professor of the School of Social Work at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, TX. He assumed his role on August 1st, 2020 and rapidly integrated into the university, local, and binational communities of the Rio Grande Valley, where he has positioned the School of Social Work to play a key role in promoting health, health equity, and social justice. In his first year, he led a strategic planning effort that will increase the number of faculty and researchers in the School; expand community-engaged research and scholarship in topics impacting the Rio Grande Valley communities; and strengthen educational initiatives, including expanding clinical preparation in the master's program, developing additional specializations, creating a bilingual master's program, and building a doctoral program. Dr. Torres-Hostos' research focuses on health disparities and social determinants of health with a focus on Hispanic and African American communities, and on community engagement initiatives aimed at building community resilience. He is currently leading a team of researchers, community partners, and students in an NIH-funded project titled Community Engagement Strategies for COVID-19 Prevention and Response in Underserved Communities in Hidalgo County, which is part of the Texas CEAL COVID-19 Alliance (Community-Engagement Research Against in Disproportionately Affected Communities) Consortium (see www.TexasCeal.org). Dr. Torres-Hostos' research and community work have been funded by federal, state, and private entities. He has traveled and worked extensively in Latin America, and has established research collaborations in Mexico, Central America, and Puerto Rico. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross South Texas Chapter and is a member of the Rotary Club of Mission. Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Torres-Hostos holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Fordham University in New York City and has over 30 years of clinical, teaching, research, and administrative experience.

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Interim Dean of UTRGV School of Nursing



Lilia Fuentes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Dr. Lilia A. Fuentes is an associate professor with UTRGV and is currently the interim dean for the School of Nursing. Her nursing profession began back in 1991 when she graduated with her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from the University of Texas Pan American (UTPA).

She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degree from UTPA in 1994 and 2001. In 2004, Dr. Fuentes accepted a position as a clinical instructor at UTPA and since then has served as the MSN Program Coordinator; School of Nursing Associate Director; Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs; and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. During her tenure with UTRGV, Dr. Fuentes has focused her scholarly work on childhood obesity and cultural competence among nurse practitioner students. As an FNP, Dr. Fuentes practices at Dr. Samuel T. Garcia Family Medicine Clinic in McAllen once a week and is active in local, state and national nursing organizations. She is currently the treasurer for Valley Advanced Practice Nurse Association (VAPNA) and serves on several community advisory boards.

Dr. Fuentes lives in McAllen with her husband, Dr. Alejandro Fuentes, and enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her family.

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Keynote Speaker: Fred Farias III, OD, FAAO



Fred Farias III, OD, FAAO, of McAllen, Texas, is president and CEO of 20/20 Vision Care. He has served on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board since 2015 and was appointed chairman of the board by Governor Abbott in 2021. He was previously chairman of the Academic Workforce Success Committee and is also a member of the Texas Higher Education Foundation.

Dr. Farias is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, former president of the Texas Optometric Association and the Rio Grande Valley Optometric Society, and a former member of the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees. He was named the Texas Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 2015 and the National American Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 2016.

Additionally, he is a lifetime member of The University of Texas (UT) System Chancellor's Executive Committee and the UT Austin Development Board. Dr. Farias is active in the McAllen community, serving as chairman of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council.

Dr. Farias received a Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree from Harvard Medical School, and a Doctor of Optometry from Southern College of Optometry.

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Speakers



Matthew C. Meeks, Ed.D.

Executive Director Texas Health Education Service

Matthew Meeks, Ed.D. serves as the executive director of the Texas Health Education Service (TXHES). In this role, Dr. Meeks, provides oversight of the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS), which serves twenty-one Texas dental, medical, podiatry, and veterinary member institutions as well as the pre-health population. Matthew also oversees the administration of the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP), which provides a path for students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds to matriculate to participating medical schools in Texas.

Matthew's focus is on supporting the mission of TXHES to amplify TMDSAS and JAMP's goals to serve students, collegiate advisors, and professional schools in Texas and across the country. He has led the organization through the development of numerous outreach initiatives, including the launch of the Inside Health Education website in 2021. Through these efforts, TXHES continuously engages the prehealth community to develop educational resources to inspire prospective healthcare professionals and support advisors and professional schools in their efforts to reach and enrich the applicant pool. Matthew has also been involved in international study abroad programming, including having taught and led students on both study and service trips to over 30 countries.

Matthew is a Texas native from Fort Worth. He earned his doctorate in organizational behavior and learning from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College and focused his research on increasing participation in international study abroad programming among underrepresented populations. He also holds multiple degrees from Dallas Baptist University, including a master's degree in Educational Instruction and History. In addition, currently attends a non-profit executive leadership program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

UTRGV UT Health School of RioGrande Valley Medicine



Cristel Escalona, MD, FAAP

Division Chief of Pediatrics, Associate Professor Pediatrics, Director of Student Health & Wellness, Director of Careers in Medicine, Pediatric Hospitalist, Admissions Committee Chair, JAMP Faculty Director

Dr. Escalona, a native of the Rio Grande Valley is a graduate of the University of Texas Pan American. She obtained her medical education at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston Texas. Her medical school research focus was in women with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effects of Healing Touch which she did in conjunction with the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon. Having a keen interest in children's health she pursued a residency in Pediatrics at UTMB and as a resident her research focus was in pregnancy trends among first generation Hispanic American Adolescents which earned her the Arild E Hansen Award for Outstanding Resident Research. Upon completing her residency, Dr. Escalona came back to the RGV to practice as a pediatric hospitalist. She began teaching inpatient pediatrics to third and fourth year medical students as community faculty for University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio from 2008 - 2013. In 2013, she joined UTPA student health as medical director. In 2016, she transitioned to the newly minted school of medicine in the department of Pediatrics. She has served on the admissions committee since the school's inception and is currently the chair. She also serves as director of Careers in Medicine and student wellness her foremost passion. She recently became division chief of pediatrics and is board certified in pediatrics as well as pediatric hospital medicine. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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Mercy Azeke, Ed.D.



Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, Interim Director of Academic Advising and Support Services, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UTRGV School of Medicine

Mercy Azeke is a graduate of Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, where she received her M.Ed. (1980) in Curriculum Instruction, and Ed. D. (1985) in Vocational Education. She also successfully completed two leadership fellowships: American Association of Higher Education Black Caucus Leadership and Mentoring Institute. Savannah State University, Savannah, GA; (2005) Presidential Institute for Administrative Leadership Development, Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA; (2003-2004).

Prior to coming UTRGV School of Medicine, she was the Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success, at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ. Prior to that, was the Dean of Center for Student Success (CSS) and Academic Advising. She also worked at Virginia Polytechnic and State University (Virginia Tech), Norfolk State University, Virginia and Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois.

Dr. Azeke has over 30 years of work experience in in higher education. Areas of expertise include but not limited to student development, student retention and success, university-wide academic advising, and academic, career and personal support services to students.

Filomeno G. Maldonado

Executive Consultant, Texas Health Education Service

Mr. Maldonado serves as executive consultant to Dr. Matthew Meeks, TXHES Executive Director, providing support to JAMP, TMDSAS, and member institutions. He joined the leadership team in 2022. Mr. Maldonado, former Dean of Admissions at Texas A&M School of Medicine (retired), assists in coordinating projects and analyzing data as assigned by the executive director. Currently, he is analyzing JAMP dismissed student data and coordinating the SES Committee's effort of evaluating the TMDSAS SES calculation to determine SES status.

Mr. Maldonado holds a M.A. in Higher Education Administration from UT San Antonio, earned a B.A. in English and History from St. Mary's University San Antonio, and has Ph.D. work in Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University. Mr. Maldonado enjoys being with family, walking daily, reading history, particularly Hispanic history of Texas, watching Texas Aggie football and baseball, and volunteering in the community.

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Enrique Jasso Jr., TMDSAS Director

Enrique is the director of the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) and Communications and Outreach Strategist for the Texas Health Education Service (TXHES). He joined the organization in 2010 as part of the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP). Enrique currently directs the application service, digital production, and communications teams, which engage the pre-health community to produce educational and support resources for aspiring health professionals via the Inside Health Education newsroom. Enrique holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Sam Houston State University and a B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin. Outside of work, Enrique enjoys harvesting jalapeños and poblanos from his garden and spoiling his dogs Appa and Daisy.

Breanna Bietz, Senior Applicant Liaison, TMDSAS

She holds a master's degree from the University of New Orleans and a bachelors from the University of South Dakota. Breanna joined TMDSAS in 2019 and has led the development of applicant resources such as the Application Guide and the TXHES Inside Health Education newsroom.





Myriam Cabrera, Application Liaison, TMDSAS

She joined the organization in 2021 and has been an integral in supporting applicants through providing guidance and processing residency, coursework, and quality assurance to promote timely and accurate processing of applications.



Zuleima Melendez, TMDSAS Support Coordinator

UTRGV RioGrande Valley School of Medicine

She joined the organization in 2020. Zuleima hosts the weekly live Q&A sessions, TMDSAS Office Hours, where she addresses common applicant questions and develops support resources via the TXHES Inside Health Education newsroom to promote applicant success.



TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY



UT Health Rio Grande Valley is focused on providing you and your family with the highest quality and personalized patient care in South Texas.

Improving the quality of health and wellness for individuals and families in the RGV is the heart of our mission. With life-saving procedures and treatments that keep you and your family healthy, UT Health RGV is here for you.

Our patient care locations offer services and treatments in family medicine, neurology, general and endocrine surgery, along with vision, ear, nose, & throat, women's health, plastic surgery, pediatrics, orthopedics, sports medicine, behavioral health services and many more - right here, close to home. What matters to your health, matters to us.



Overall Patient Satisfaction



Specialty Services

Available



Patient Care Sites Available in the Rio Grande Valley

Scan QR code for more information.





School of Podiatric Medicine

Apply to the inaugural class of 2027 to the School of Podiatric Medicine at UTRGV!

A DPM (Doctor of Podiatric Medicine), qualified by their education and training, is a specialist in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lower extremity disorders, diseases, and injuries. A podiatric physician makes a diagnosis, prescribes medications, orders physical therapy, sets fractures, and performs surgery. Podiatric physicians may specialize in areas such as surgery, orthopedics, or public health.

The UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine will foster student success by inspiring, education and developing a diverse compassionate student body fully prepared for podiatric residency training, becoming dedicated Podiatric Physicians, Research Scientist, Public Health Professionals, and Educators.



Why Apply?

- The Doctor of Podiatric Medicine is a 4-year medical program
- 3 years for the residency program after graduation
- Secondary application fee has been waived for Entry Year 2023
- Low cost of tuition
- Only school of podiatric medicine in Texas



Classes begin August 7, 2023!

For more information, please email DPMAdmissions@utrgv.edu or visit the SOPM website: **UTRGV.edu/school-of-podiatric-medicine**

UTRGV. UT Health RioGrande Valley

College of Health Professions

The pathway to improving the health and well-being of the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas and the world begins in the College of Health PROFESSIONS at UTRGV!

Bachelor Degree Programs

BAT-Health Sciences Technology (On-line) **BS-Addiction Studies** (On-line) **BS-American Sign Language** Interpreting **BS-Biomedical Sciences BS-Medical Laboratory Sciences BS-Communication** Sciences and Disorders **BS-Exercise Science BS-Health BS-Integrated Health Science BS-Kinesiology BS-Kinesiology Teacher Certification BS-Nutritional Sciences BS-Rehabilitation Services**

> <u>cohpinfo@utrgv.edu</u> utrgv.edu/coha

Master's Degree Programs

MPAS-Physician Assistant Studies MPAS-Physician Assistant Studies (Bridge Program) MS-Dietetics MS-Exercise Science MS-Communication Sciences and Disorders MS-Health Science (AOP) MS-Kinesiology (AOP) MS-Rehabilitation Counseling

Doctoral Degree Programs

PhD-Rehabilitation Counseling OTD-Occupational Therapy



25 Educating Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Traditional BSN (Bryan-College Station)
- Second Degree BSN (Round Rock) RN to BSN (Online)

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Nursing Education (Online) Family Nurse Practitioner (Online)
- Forensic Nursing (Online)

DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Nursing Practice (Online)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Graduate Certificate in Forensic Health Care (Online)
- Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY School of Nursing

nursing.tamu.edu













unthsc.edu/admissions

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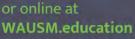
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Contact us at 833-MDWAUSM or admissions@wausm.education



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•2nd Degree Accelerated BSN: Can be completed in four consecutive semesters •RN to BSN: Accelerated Online Program, 7 weeks modules to meet the busy RN's schedule.

<u>MSN Education</u>: Offered 100% online. 36 credit hours with clinical practicum required. <u>MSN Administration</u>: Offered 100% online, 36 credit hours. <u>MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner</u>: This is a 48 credit hours program and 800 clinical hours. It is offered 60% online, about 28% hybrid and 12% face to face (F2F classes are offered once/week in the evening).

Post-Master Family Nurse Practitioner: 15 credit hours program, 12 face to face, 3 online. 605 650 clinical hours. Post Master's Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner: 12 month program, 18 credit hours and 520 clinical hours, 100% online.

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2023 TAAHP Annual Conference Exhibitors

- American University of Antigua College of Medicine
- Baylor University
- Scribe America
- Texas A&M Rangel School of Pharmacy
- Texas Health Education Service
- The University of Texas College of Pharmacy
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Student Health Clinic BAE-B-SAFE
- University of Houston College of Pharmacy
- University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
- University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy
- University of the Incarnate Word School of Physical Therapy & Rosenburg School of Optometry
- University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
- UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics
- Edward VCOM Virginia, Carolinas, Auburn, Louisiana
- West Coast University- Texas
- UTMB John Sealy School of Medicine

UTRGV UT Health School of RioGrande Valley Medicine

Table	Institutions/Organizations	Status
1	American University of Antigua College of Medicine	Exhibitor
2	Scribe America	Exhibitor
3	The University of Texas College of Pharmacy	Exhibitor
4	University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences	Exhibitor
5	West Coast University - Texas	Exhibitor
6	Kaplan	Platinum Sponsor
7	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Podiatric Medicine	Platinum Sponsor
8	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Health Professions	Platinum Sponsor
9	Ross University School of Medicine	Gold Sponsor
10	Edward VCOM - Virginia, Carolinas, Auburn, Louisiana	Gold Sponsor
11	Texas Health Education Service	Exhibitor
12	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Student Health Clinic BAE-B-SAFE	Exhibitor
13	American University of Caribbean School of Medicine	Gold Sponsor
14	Western Atlantic University School of Medicine (WAUSM)	Gold Sponsor
15	The University of Queens - Ochsner Clinical School	Bronze Sponsor
16	Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy	Exhibitor
17	Baylor University	Exhibitor
18	Life University	Bronze Sponsor
19	Valley Regional Medical Center	Gold Sponsor
20	Rio Grande Regional Hospital	Gold Sponsor
21	Lone Star National Bank	Gold Sponsor
22	The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	Gold Sponsor
23	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Nursing	Silver Sponsor
24	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine	Exhibitor
25	Texas A&M University School of Nursing	Silver Sponsor
26	University of Houston College of Pharmacy	Exhibitor
27	SHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine	Bronze Sponsor
28	University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy	Exhibitor
29	University of the Incarnate Word School of Physical Therapy & Rosenburg School of Optometry	Exhibitor
30	University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine	Exhibitor
31	UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics	Exhibitor
32	UTMB John Sealy School of Medicine	Exhibitor
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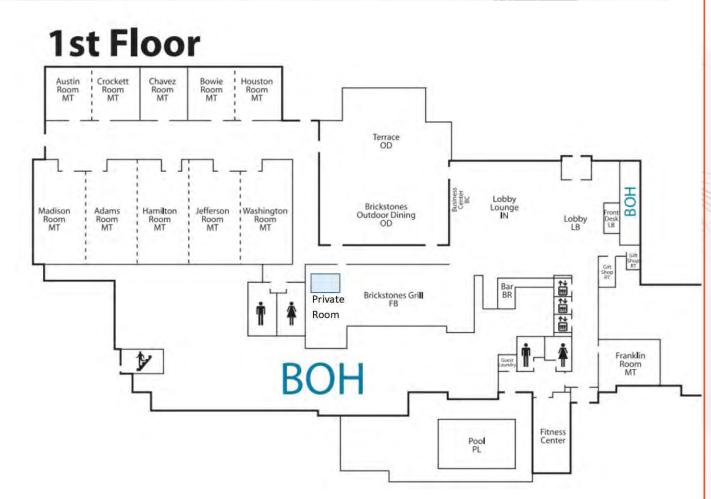
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Hotel Floor Plan



111

BOH - "Back of the House" – This area is only accessible to hotel staff.

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