

ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2002 - August 31, 2003

Lower Rio Grande Valley

Regional Academic Health Center

El Valle Del Río Grande

*Centro Académico Regional Para Estudios
Médicos*

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

One Faculty

One School

Two Campuses

ANNUAL REPORT

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Regional Academic Health Center

Top: Dr. Leonel Vela talks with a group of high school students attending the Mini Medical School in the Summer of 2003.

Right: Dr. Maureen Lichtveld and Mr. Juan Reyes of the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry talk to Drs. Leonel Vela and Mario Rameriz of UTHSC on their visit to the RAHC to discuss South Texas workforce issues in July of 2003.

Middle Left: A ground breaking ceremony for the Regional Academic Health Center at The University of Texas-Pan American was held Wednesday, Dec. 11. Pictured above from left to right are UTPA President Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez; Aaron Pena, state representative-elect; Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, state senator-elect; Robert A. Estrada, University of Texas System regent; Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, president of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; and Patrick C. Oxford, UT System regent and chairman of the Health Affairs Committee.

Bottom Left: RAHC Students at the first annual RAHC faculty appreciation dinner in 2003.

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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGIONAL ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

The 75th Texas Legislature made a major commitment to improve education and health professional opportunities in the South Texas/Border Region by mandating the creation of a Regional Academic Health Center to serve Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) of Texas. This commitment expanded on prior South Texas Border Initiatives implemented by the 73rd and 74th Legislatures.

The Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) is a medical education and research endeavor in which programs are directed at distinctive regional needs and conducted in affiliation with health professionals and educational entities of the region. Pursuant to Legislative mandate, The University of Texas System Board of Regents designated three RAHC divisions: the Medical Education Division for medical student and resident education and training; the Medical Research Division for medical research specific to the LRGV majority population and issues along the U.S.-Mexico border; and the Public Health Division for educational programs in public health. The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio was assigned operational oversight of the Medical Education and Medical Research Divisions. The Public Health Division was placed under the direction of The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center's School of Public Health.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) received its official notice of award for construction, program planning, and implementation of the Medical Education and Medical Research Divisions on November 30, 1998. The

Medical Education building was completed in June 2002 and welcomed the first group of third medical students on July 1, 2002.

The Medical Research facility in Edinburg is currently under construction with an estimated completion date of January 2005. The

first year of student and resident training at the RAHC has been a time of incredible accomplishments. Countless people, including faculty, staff, community members, legislators and many others, have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the RAHC and its students.

MEDICAL EDUCATION DIVISION

The Medical Education Division of the RAHC is located in Harlingen, Texas, on land gifted to The University of Texas Board of

Regents by Valley Baptist Medical Center (VBMC), with the financial assistance of the Economic Development Corporation of

Harlingen, Inc. It includes undergraduate and graduate medical education programs and educational support services for students, residents, and faculty. Clerkship and residency programs and/or rotations are available in Family Practice, Internal

Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry.

One important goal of the RAHC is to produce medical graduates who are representative and knowledgeable of the South Texas

Region and who will be more predisposed to staying in the region to practice. Previously, with only Family Practice residencies

available in the LRGV region, medical students have not had much opportunity or encouragement to do their clerkship, selective,

and elective rotations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; thus, the formal development of the RAHC clerkships is considered to be an

important step in recruiting students as they are considering their choices for residency programs. In turn, graduates from these

residency programs will be more likely to remain in the South Texas Border Region to practice.

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UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The RAHC is located in Harlingen, Texas, and operates as a geographically separate campus of the UTHSCSA School of Medicine

for 24 third-year medical students and, as of July 2003, 24 fourth-year medical students. The RAHC provides educational support

to a residency program in Internal Medicine and residency programs in Pediatrics and General Surgery are being developed. All

three residencies will be extension programs of UTHSCSA. Along with the existing Valley Baptist Medical Center Family Practice

Residency Program, which is affiliated with UTHSCSA, residency rotations in Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Psychiatry will

provide the core of residency programs required to support the RAHC undergraduate medical students, in addition to resident

educations. This year marked the inaugural selection of the Kleberg Medical Scholars and the First Annual Kleberg Medical

Scholars Conference in association with the award of the scholarships to selected medical residents. The addition of a research

component to the programs at the RAHC was indeed a highlight of a very busy year.

Accomplishments for fiscal year 2003, will be listed by department as follows:

- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- General Surgery

- Psychiatry
- Family Practice

MEDICAL RESEARCH DIVISION

The Medical Research Division of the RAHC includes a major medical research facility for faculty research scientists and is located adjacent to The University of Texas – Pan American campus in Edinburg, Texas. It will be overseen and operated by the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The facility is being constructed using \$15 million from The University of Texas System's share of Permanent University Fund bond proceeds on a portion of the "Lamar School Site" that was acquired in December 1998. Areas of research being considered are those expected to benefit the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

These potential areas of study include infectious diseases, environmental health, mental health, and diabetes, among others. Still

under construction, the activities related to the Medical Research Division in FY 2003 included:

- A groundbreaking ceremony held in December 2002.
- Receipt of "Notice to Proceed" with construction.

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Executive Summary

2002 was a very busy year for the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC). When the year began in September, the first group of third year medical students were settling into their studies in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and shifting from two years of primarily classroom work into clerkships that involved them in the daily practice of medicine. Closely supervised by community physicians

who are RAHC faculty members, the doctors-to-be finally experienced extensive patient contact.

Coinciding with the arrival of the students, Dr. James Hanley III began his new duties as Program Director of Internal Medicine on

August 5, 2002. He succeeded Dr. Joseph Dougherty, the RAHC's first Internal Medicine Program Director and the current Assistant Program Director.

Just prior to Dr. Hanley's arrival, in July 2002, the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg, Jr. Foundation awarded a \$1.46 million grant to the

Health Science Center to establish a medical scholars program at the RAHC. The Kleberg Scholars Program supports UTHSCSA

resident physicians at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen. Each Kleberg Scholar at the RAHC receives a \$10,000 per year

award, and Valley Baptist Medical Center also receives a \$10,000-per-year allocation for each scholar. Each resident's stipend

supports a community-based research project of relevance to the population of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Kleberg Scholars for

2002-2003 were: Dr. Nolan Perez, Dr. Abha Sarwal-Gyani, Dr. James Castillo, Dr. Gustavo Garcia, Dr. Robert J.

Hernandez, Dr. Mauricio

Orrego, and Dr. Laxman Sunder.

The RAHC continued to accumulate success stories with the October announcement of the 2002 Standard of Excellence Award

from the Web Marketing Association. The home page for the Medical Education Division of the RAHC captured the association's

national award for Web excellence.

Also in October 2002, the RAHC received word that it was the recipient of a grant from the federal Agency for Toxic Substances

and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to incorporate environmental health into the medical school curriculum. Co-investigators Dr. Tina Fields of the Center for South Texas Programs, and Dr. Leonel Vela of the RAHC worked throughout the first year to plan and begin implementing the curriculum. A program coordinator was hired after receipt of the official notice of award and housed at the RAHC to coordinate efforts between the RAHC and the main campus in San Antonio. The end of 2002 marked the beginning of construction on the \$20 million Medical Research Division of the RAHC, adjacent to the campus of the University of Texas-Pan American at Edinburg, Texas. The groundbreaking ceremony for the facility was held on December 11, 2002. The research facility will be devoted to basic and epidemiological study of diseases that disproportionately affect the Lower Rio Grande Valley, which has about 1 million residents. A portion of the new facility also will house a cooperative Doctor of Pharmacy program. During the spring of 2003, the RAHC hosted its first Mini-Medical School Program. 2003 was the fourth year that UTHSCSA was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant from Pfizer to hold the event and the first year it was held in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The event engaged 280 students from two Harlingen high schools and the region's Med High magnet school in the future of medical education and research during the two-day event. The forum addressed career--s in medicine, medical school admission and the number of opportunities available to the students. The RAHC Library has proven to be an invaluable asset in engaging the community in support of the RAHC. The library has several outreach projects that promote a positive, community-focused image of the RAHC throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In May 2003 one of these projects, Peer Tutor MEDLINEplus Pilot Project received the Texas Library Association's (TLA) Project of the Year Award. The RAHC Library and the Bibliotheca Las Americas, which serves the South Texas High School for Health Professions and Science Academy, worked together to train Med High students and Bibliotheca Las Americas' three librarians in the use of the online medical database, MEDLINEplus, until they mastered different types of searches. The students in turn trained their peers and conducted health resources sessions for parents and community members. This successful collaborative pilot project is an integral part of the UTHSCSA outreach project, which seeks to understand the health information needs of the area's Hispanic population.

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Another major research grant was announced in May 2003 when U.S. Senator John Cornyn secured funding to establish UTHSCSA's Hispanic Nutrition Research and Education Center at the RAHC. A preliminary federal appropriation of \$100,000 will initiate funding of the first and only nutrition center in the U.S. to focus specifically on the Hispanic population. Enhanced funding will be sought during the 108th U.S. Congress. The RAHC reached its full complement of students when the second group of third year medical students arrived in July 2003 to join their predecessors, who were entering their fourth year of studies. The addition of the new cohort of students brought an increased level of activity as well as excitement to the RAHC.

Also in July, UTHSCSA received notification that its School of Medicine had been awarded continued accreditation for a full eight-year period by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). As an extension campus of the Medical School, the RAHC was visited and evaluated as part of the accreditation process. The receipt of the maximum accreditation period allowed by the LCME is a testament to the diligent labors of the Medical School faculty and staff, and to the quality of the education received by students studying at the RAHC.

The end of fiscal year 2002-2004 was marked, fittingly, with the first Kleberg Medical Scholars Program and keynote address at the RAHC. Medical ethicist Dr. Robert M. Nelson, associate professor of anesthesia and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and the Children's University of Philadelphia, presented the event's keynote address titled, "Suffering, Pain, and Death: Reflections on the Limits of Medicine." The audience of approximately 200 included RAHC Faculty, residents and students; members of the board and staff of Valley Baptist Medical Center and Su Clinica Familiar; and UTHSCSA representatives including Dr. Steven A. Wartman, Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic and Health Affairs, Theresa Chiang, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Executive Director for Student Services, Dr. Abraham Verghese, Director of the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics, and Dr. Tina Fields, Assistant Director of the Center for South Texas Programs.

Seven internal medicine residents, named Kleberg Scholars earlier in the year, presented their research during the second day of the event, held August 27-28. Dr. Nolan Perez conducted a study of Intrafamilial transmission of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in the Texas-Mexico Border population. He established screening studies because he wanted better data on the modes of HCV transmission, which might explain the relatively high incidence of HCV among older Mexican Americans.

Dr. Abha Sarwal-Gyani researched if Type II diabetics are consistently evaluated and treated for dyslipidemia in accordance with practice guidelines.

Dr. James Castillo's research project centered on chart reviews of Do No Resuscitate orders in intensive care unit (ICU) patients. HE looked at the impact of age, diagnosis and culture on the use of advanced directives. He found patients' perceived rate of survival of resuscitations attempts, between 60 and 75 percent, is equal to that presented on popular televised medical dramas, and far above actual survival rates.

Dr. Gustavo Garcia researched Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) in the Texas-Mexico Border population where border counties post MDRTB rates 1.5 to 2 times higher than the rest of the state.

Dr. Robert J. Hernandez's research objective was to identify the incidence of undefined anemia in the local, predominantly Mexican-American population and to find the effectiveness of evaluation and treatment, either directly or with a "shotgun" approach. Other studies have revealed that anemia can be an independent risk factor and that active management of anemia improves survival rates.

Dr. Mauricio Orrego's research is to help determine rates of non-alcohol-related fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and determine the size of the problem in the Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Laxman Sunder's research project focused on the early recognition of renal disease, its complications, and its prevalence in

the Valley's diabetic population. He researched if treatment differed with the presence of chronic renal disease, as well as when patients were referred to a nephrologist. Comprehensive reports of the findings of the Kleberg Scholars' studies will be published in the fall of 2004.

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All of these accomplishments required a great deal of effort on the part of many people, both in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and in San Antonio. Throughout the year, The Medical Dean's Office at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio provided a wide variety of administrative and academic support activities for the RAHC. Dr. Steven Wartman, Dean of the School of Medicine, and the various Associate Deans of the Medical School provide extensive academic support to the medical students assigned to the RAHC. This support includes curriculum approval, issues involving medical students and local clinical faculty, academic related activities and assistance, as well as personal issues involving remote medical students. Dr. Nan Clare, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is in constant communication with local clinical faculty, clinical training sites, and participating medical students. In addition to the remote activities, she handles a constant series of activities involving main campus third and fourth year medical student directors, associated faculty, and departmental chairs involving RAHC related issues. Dr. Lenny Lawrence, Associate Dean for Student Affairs is in constant contact with third and fourth year medical students at the RAHC campus as well as first and second year medical students who may be considering spending their clinical years at the RAHC. He provides extensive guidance regarding student affairs, current issues and problems experienced by the students. He maintains constant communications regarding student perceptions, recommendations, etc., about their remote clinical experiences. Dr. Celia Kaye, Vice Dean of the Medical School also maintains extensive communications with medical students, remote clinical faculty, and participating clinical training sites in the Valley. Mr. Bill Allen, Associate Dean for Finance provides fiscal management and analysis functions to the RAHC. And finally, Dr. Jan Wilson, Assistant to the Dean, oversees personnel and administrative issues at the RAHC and provides additional support to the Regional Dean when he is at his San Antonio campus office. While it is impossible to list the contributions of everyone who made the past year at the RAHC such a success, the following appendices include a more detailed listing of accomplishments by individual departments.

Medical Education Division

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MEDICAL EDUCATION DIVISION

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION OVERVIEW

The Medical Education Division of the RAHC is located in Harlingen, Texas, and operates as a geographically separate campus of the UTHSCSA School of Medicine for 24 third-year and 24 fourth-year medical students. Initial formal notification to the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) of intent to operate this geographically separate campus was submitted in April 1999.

LCME requires that third-year medical students be trained in a residency environment, making the development of medical student clerkships dependent on the successful development of community-based medical residency programs. Since the spring of 2000, third and fourth-year medical students have been traveling to Harlingen to participate in Pediatric and Internal Medicine clinical training rotations at community-based clinics, medical practices, and at Valley Baptist Medical Center. Prior to that, students participated in clinical rotations at the Family Practice Residency program in Harlingen. These and other clinical training programs and/or rotations in Obstetrics and Gynecology, General Surgery and Psychiatry form the core of medical training available at the RAHC campus. In July 2003, the School of Medicine at UTHSCSA, which includes the RAHC, was awarded continued accreditation for a full eight-year period – the maximum period allowed – by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

The announcement followed a comprehensive survey by the LCME of the school, with a site visit to the RAHC, in February 2003.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- A national search for a qualified Program Director in 2002 ended when Dr. James F. Hanley, III was recruited from Fargo, ND, in August of 2002. Dr. Hanley has proven a critical asset for our program. Academically, he has structured didactics such as morning report to the highest of standards. Administratively, he has developed strong relationships with VBMC, UTHSCSA, our faculty, and our residents.
- All four of the new interns for FY 2003-04 were in the top ten of our final rank list (excludes withdrawals).
- Seven residents were awarded Kleberg Scholarships.
- On July 1, 2002, our program #1404821524 received Provisional Accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Our Internal Review will be held December 2003, and our next site visit will be August 2004.
- In the fall of 2002, a multi-disciplinary team supported by grant funding held the 2nd Annual RAHC Faculty Development Seminar to address the needs of our RAHC faculty in their new roles as teachers of IM residents.
- Yolanda Felion, Program Administrator, was increased from 50% to 100% time for GME.
- Brochure and program post cards were updated summer 2002.
- AMSA MedPac cards were sent to over 8000 medical students in summer 2002. 58 response cards were returned to the OEP in fall 2002.
- A mass e-mail was sent to fourth-year medical students at all but one of the Texas medical schools with a link to the RAHC IM website.
- Links to website and brochure were posted on IRIS.
- Program information listed on AMSA website and in New Physician in May 2003.
- Brochure sent to Texas medical schools' student affairs offices and IM interest groups in fall 2002.
- In May 2003, program post cards were updated and sent to medical students in Texas, New Mexico, California, Louisiana,

Florida, Puerto Rico, and Arizona.

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- Residency fairs were not attended this academic year given large expense with little benefit noted from past years' attendance.
- Applications:
 - o 292 applicants (131 female vs. 161 males, 19 AMG vs. 273 FMG, 203 citizens/residents vs. 89 foreign nationals);
 - o 60 interviews, 46 selected for ranking (25 female vs. 11 male, 11 AMG vs. 35 FMG, 32 citizens/residents vs. 14 foreign nationals);
 - o 50 applicants ranked;
 - o The four new interns were in the top 10 of ranking.
- Administrative staff and faculty moved into their new RAHC building offices in August 2002.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- The program plans to begin recruitment for an Associate Program Director.
- Plans for a 3rd RAHC Faculty Development in Fall 2003 are underway.

PEDIATRICS

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- Managed the pediatric clerkship for 21 medical students.
- Provided orientation to students and coordinated clinical rotation schedules with preceptors.
- Evaluated preceptor and student performances in the clinical setting.
- Provided mentoring and guidance to Pediatric RAHC faculty involved in clinical teaching.
- Provided pediatric-specific didactic sessions on a weekly basis to medical students.
- Provided guidance to students on preparation for the National Board of Medical Examiners Pediatric Subject examinations.
- Monitored student participation in Pediatric Grand Rounds teleconferenced from San Antonio.
- Developed two new pediatric web-based cases and revised four cases to be self-instructional for the Virtual Community . Led students in discussion of asthma, child abuse, otitis media, and fever web-based cases.
- Presented a poster, "Design and Implementation of the Virtual Community, A Tool for Ambulatory Education," at the 2003 Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 5.
- Participated in meeting with representatives from the RAHC, UTHSCSA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss incorporation of environmental health into the MPC curriculum. The meeting ultimately led to inclusion of four blocks of didactic sessions per semester on environmental issues and patient care.
- Abstract on community service learning was published in the April 2003 supplement to Pediatric Research.
- Collaborated with RAHC Library to provide students information and access to Spanish-language medical resources.
- Coordinated and implemented a half-day retreat for the MPC Project Team at the Parman House Conference Center.
- Recruited faculty and assisted in development of program synopses for six senior selective courses in Pediatrics: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Neurology, Neonatology, Orthopedics, Community Pediatrics, and one senior elective, Evidence-Based Medicine.
- RAHC Faculty Development Retreat – Participated in monthly planning meetings in development of agenda for RAHC retreat. An estimated 70 physicians, including 25 Pediatric RAHC faculty, attended the retreat.
 - o Liability and Risk Management Workshop: Coordinated and participated in a conference call on September 23 to develop the learning objectives and content for the Liability and Risk Management Workshop proposed as a key feature of the 2002 RAHC Faculty Development Retreat. Focus was on teaching faculty ways to minimize and manage risk associated with teaching, including teaching of medical students in the practice setting. Assisted with process of CME accreditation, slide presentations, and educational materials for distribution.

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o RAHC Faculty Development Concurrent Workshops

Designed, implemented, and evaluated workshop targeted toward faculty using the web-based cases designed for the MPC Clerkship.

Implementing Senior Year Selective Courses: Designed, implemented, and evaluated program targeted

towards faculty, including Pediatric RAHC faculty, who had expressed interest in offering senior selectives. Used program to recruit additional interested faculty.

- Participated in the Ambulatory Pediatric Association Faculty Development panel as part of a workshop entitled, "Models for Faculty Development: A Smorgasbord of Successful Programs," at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Seattle,

Washington. Presented research on RAHC faculty development activities from 2001 and 2002. Produced a poster and PowerPoint presentation for the workshop.

- Continued efforts to complete credentialing of Pediatric RAHC faculty through the UTHSCSA Department of Pediatrics and Credentialing Committee. Invited six prospective candidates to submit applications and documentation for credentialing.

- Hired an Academic Coordinator for the RAHC Pediatric Department, beginning January 2003. The Academic Coordinator

provides administrative support for medical education activities.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Continue to support the pediatric clerkship by retaining qualified pediatricians and sub-specialists as volunteer or part-time paid faculty and by augmenting the faculty with additional pediatricians. Additional faculty members will be recruited in 2004 such that we are inclusive of most/all of the major pediatric groups in Harlingen and surrounding communities.

- Continue to oversee and participate actively in the Multidisciplinary Primary Care Clerkship including Career Development Day in March 2004 and March 2005.

- Refine the Senior Selectives curriculum. Develop additional opportunities as they become available.

- Continue to work with the local physicians to provide opportunities for faculty development including the third and fourth annual two-day conferences in 2003 and 2004.

- Continue to build relationships between faculty in the LRGV and San Antonio by having joint faculty meetings and providing other opportunities for communications.

- Continue to develop the volunteer faculty mix for RAHC activities.

- Recruit and support the appointment to the clinical faculty selected (or invited) non-MD's who make significant contributions to student teaching.

- Maintain regular communication with RAHC Pediatric Faculty through the RAHC FACTS newsletter, monthly e-mail news

briefs, and faculty meetings.

- Evaluate readiness for submission of Program Information Form (PIF) to establish a pediatric residency-training program.

Prepare PIF and submit to the Pediatric RRC.

- Continue to work collaboratively with VMBC by providing clinical support in areas of need, primarily pediatric intensive care, when resources are available. Identify opportunities for additional recruitment of sub specialists with VBMC.

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OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- 23 third year medical students took the OB/GYN clerkship.

Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship Student Grades 2002-2003

San Antonio Harlingen

A 38% 43%

B 55% 48%

C 7% 9%

F 0 0

- National Board scores similar to those of San Antonio students.

National Board of Medical Examiner Scores

San Antonio Harlingen

A (78 and up) 15% 17%

B (70-77) 44% 22%

C (60-69) 36% 52%

F (below 60) 5% 9%

Range 99-52 81-57

Mean Score 71.1 69.4

- Increased number of faculty from eight to ten.
- Each faculty is at 10%, which is the equivalent of one FTE for all the clinical teaching in the clerkship.
- The Clerkship Director held orientation for each of the eight clerkship groups by video teleconference and visited with each group of students during their rotations.
- The Clerkship Director participated in a Career Day for students at the RAHC. The purpose of the activity was to introduce students to representatives from many medical specialties in one day and allow time for them to discuss possible plans for residency training.
- In November 2002, after discussion with the clinical faculty in Harlingen, it was decided to drop the plans for development of a residency program in OB/GYN at the RAHC. There was no enthusiasm among the faculty for such a program.
- Valley Women's clinic expressed interest in a residency rotation from San Antonio to Harlingen, similar to the rotation that has existed for years between residents from Galveston with physicians of the Women's Health Specialists group.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

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- Continue the clerkship, incorporating RAHC fourth year students into the OB/GYN elective in Harlingen.
- The Clerkship Director will continue to visit Harlingen at least once during each clerkship to visit with students, faculty, administration and people at the different facilities.
- The postgraduate course in perinatal medicine that was cancelled due to the impending arrival of Hurricane Erika will be rescheduled, most likely in January.
- Plans for a possible resident rotation in Harlingen will move forward.
- The need for a local Program Director is being explored.

SURGERY

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- Dr. Marion Lawler was appointed to the position of on-site Clerkship Director for the Department of Surgery, effective January 2003.
- Offices have been set up at the RAHC facility and a part-time secretary has been hired for the office, effective August 11, 2003.
- Student working hours have been established in accordance with national policies.
- General Surgery Grand Rounds and M & M are being teleconferenced on Monday mornings.
- Cardiothoracic is teleconferencing its citywide conference every Thursday afternoon to RAHC faculty, residents and students.
- The Education Office is teleconferencing teaching sessions each Friday.
- Dr. Esterl participated in the RAHC career day to assist MS III students with the planning of their fourth year and their overall career plans.
- An affiliation agreement with Harlingen Medical Center was signed by all parties. Residents and students will be involved with off pump coronary bypass, carotid endarterectomy, aortofemoral bypass, femoral-popliteal bypass, and a classic and dramatic pericardial tamponade requiring drainage.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Dr. Sirinek will continue to visit Harlingen to meet with administration personnel, faculty, prospective faculty and students assigned to the RAHC throughout the year.
- Dr. Esterl will continue his duties with all aspects of the administration of the clerkship as well as the education of the faculty as teachers.
- Dr. Lawler will increase from 25% time to 40% as the on-site Clerkship Director in FY 2004 and 2005.
- Two general surgeons and one cardiothoracic surgeon have been added at 50% time for fiscal years 2004-05. This is to accommodate additional needed surgical faculty at McAllen and Edinburg.
- A 50% time Administrative Assistant I, a 50% time Medical Student Coordinator and a 100% time Administrative Secretary

for Dr. Lawler have been added for FY 2004 and FY 2005.

PSYCHIATRY

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- Students uniformly gave high marks to their Psychiatry Clerkship experience.
- Dr. Clay Ross, RAHC Clerkship Coordinator was voted as one of two outstanding RAHC faculty of the year.
- A larger than expected number of students has declared that Psychiatry will be their specialty of choice.
- A liaison has been created with Joseph McCormick, M.D., at the School of Public Health in Brownsville. One student is working in a laboratory doing biologic research under his tutelage.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

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- Six fourth year RAHC students are anticipated to take fourth year electives and selectives in the Valley.
- Rio Grande State Center will be added to available sites for rotations.
- Efforts will be made to enlarge the number of sites in the Valley for fourth year students.

FAMILY PRACTICE

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2002-2003

- 24 students completed the Family Practice Clerkship at the RAHC
- The students' performance is indicated on the two tables below:

Family Practice Specialty Exam Scores RAHC Students Compared with San Antonio Students

Site # of Students Mean Score

Low Score High Score Standard Deviation

RAHC 24 76.58 63 91 8.34

San Antonio 176 76.64 57 96 7.56

Clerkship Grade of RAHC Students Compared with San Antonio Students

Site % A % B % C % F % I

RAHC 66.6 12.5 16.7 4.2 0

San Antonio 63.1 26.1 8.5 2.3 0

- Faculty Development
 - o Faculty Development Retreat – Approximately 50 participated.
 - o Faculty Development Leadership Fellowship – 19 attended seven or more sessions.
 - o Five individual faculty consultations.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- RAHC Faculty Development.
- Research and Evidence-Based Medicine Sessions for Primary Care Faculty.
- A minimum of four faculty development sessions on an educational topic defined by the faculty and/or identified from student evaluations of faculty or the clerkship.

Top: Dr. Robert M. Nelson delivers the keynote address of the Kleberg Medical Scholars Program at the RAHC.

Middle: A group of doctors from Tampico, Mexico, pose for a group photo with Dr. Adela Valdez, Regional Assistant Dean, during their tour of the RAHC.

Bottom: The first group of Kleberg Medical Scholars pose with certificates at the inaugural research symposium at the RAHC.

Medical Research Division

Regional Academic Health Center

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGIONAL ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER

MEDICAL RESEARCH DIVISION

The Medical Research Division of the Regional Academic Health Center is located in a facility currently under construction adjacent to the UT Pan American Campus in Edinburg, Texas.

Major research themes include emerging infectious diseases, diabetes research, and investigation of the environment.

The UT Pan

American Cooperative Pharmacy Program (CPP) will provide instruction in the Pharm.D. program and perform additional research

related to pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs and the identification of genetic and environmental factors that

influence drug metabolism and response.

The primary research spaces within the RAHC include biomedical and pharmacy wet laboratories, a biostatistics

computational lab,

lab support areas, a general vivarium with a Biosafety Level 3 designated vivarium, and the associated offices for the

investigators.

Areas designated to support the CPP include a departmental administration suite, instructional areas, and faculty offices.

The RAHC program of spaces includes 27,500 assignable square feet, which translates into approximately 45,800 gross square

feet. The RAHC is intended to interact heavily with UT Pan American and several of the activities within the building are

designed

assuming this interaction.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 11, 2002, and the building is currently scheduled for completion in the spring

of 2005.

Support Departments

Regional Academic Health Center

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGIONAL ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER

SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- The RAHC Medical Research Building in Edinburg's groundbreaking was the major promotional activity during fiscal year

2003. Dignitaries and community leaders from South Texas and the UT System participated in the ceremonial activity to celebrate the advent of the research facility.

- The RAHC web page received additional upgrades and increased use by members of the community throughout South Texas.

- The UTHSCSA Mini-Medical School program was conducted this year to introduce hundreds of high school students and other community members to the RAHC-Harlingen faculty during a special two-day academic program of health education and promotion presentations.

- Goodwill for the RAHC was generated through regular local media coverage in the form of A Su Buena Salud articles written under the names of several RAHC faculty members and appearing in several Valley newspapers each month, advising the public about health promotion topics.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Further strengthening goodwill for the RAHC among opinion leaders and the general public in the Valley through further enhancements of the RAHC website and other media, perhaps including an updated RAHC videotape and possible radio spots for Valley transmission featuring RAHC faculty members.

- Anniversary activities and building dedications will be celebrated by public events and though extensive media coverage.
- The Mini-Medical School program may be supported again in Harlingen to further acquaint high school students with opportunities available to them in the health career and medical research fields.
- The A Su Buena Salud articles will continue.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- Telecommunications and Networking supports the RAHC telephone, computer network and videoconference network needs. The primary support included:
Operation of the building-wide computer network;
Operation of the building telephone system;
Videoconferencing support including assistance with equipment operation and classroom equipment remedial maintenance;
Computer support for the faculty and staff;
Operation of the Wide Area Network that provides the connection to the Central Campus for transmission of voice, video and data;
Provide Internet access to the RAHC building computers.
- During FY03, the engineering and installation of the fiber communications link to VBMC was completed. This connection will provide support for computer networking and videoconferencing in the hospital. The implementation of videoconferencing and computer network connections will be completed in FY04.
- During FY03, T&N hired two staff members to support the RAHC telecommunication, videoconferencing and computer needs. These staff members are now fully trained and responding to the UTHSCSA LRGV technology needs.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Telecommunications and Networking will continue to provide support for the RAHC telephone, computer networking, videoconferencing and Internet access as in FY03. The current staff will continue to provide on-site support.
- Support will be expanded, including the necessary communications circuits, to include the RAHC research component campus in Edinburg.
- With the help of the VBMC staff, the fiber optic cable connection of the VBMC will be fully implemented to provide videoconferencing from the hospital to the Central Campus. Access to computer network capabilities necessary for email and library access will be more widespread in the hospital.
- In partnership with UT System, a fail-safe ring of communications circuits will be implemented to ensure reliable videoconferencing transmission, Internet access and long distance calling service. The communications ring will connect Laredo, Corpus Christi, Harlingen, Edinburg and San Antonio from two directions. If one direction is inoperable, the transmission of data will be accomplished by routing traffic in the opposite direction.

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COMPUTING RESOURCES

Computing Resources continues its commitment to have the RAHC campus seamlessly integrated to the main campus automated systems. Support involving hardware and software infrastructure, desktop support and training for the RAHC community remains a common goal. On-going communications provide vital input from outreach areas in accomplishing equal representation. In this vein, the following FY03 and projected FY04 accomplishments are specified.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- Conducted 12 hours of on-site Basic Microsoft Office Training for administrative staff.
- TSRs for RAHC are included in bi-monthly TSR General Meetings via live videoconference.
- Hardware installation and software upgrades for four on-site servers.
- Tape rotation schedule in place for server back up.
- Enterprise on-site e-mail server utilizing a common university infrastructure.
- Active Directory upgrades to UTHSCSA domain for single campus solution.

- Remote monitoring cards installed for system management and monitor from central campus.
- Upgrades and patched servers at Windows 200s, sp4 for security and continued Operating Systems requirements.
- Conducted 1:1 training for new and current users of PeopleSoft and Data Warehousing.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Additional training for Desktop office tool set.
- Additional training for enterprise business systems.
- Continued on-site server management support involving OS upgrades, security upgrade, system monitoring.
- Replace five aging desktop computer systems.
- Contract management for server equipment coming off warranty.

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EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES-DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

• Videoconferencing statistics: 450 events with 1,180 hours of transmission. During the past fiscal year, the RAHC has participated in a host of academic course, continuing education events, and other administrative meetings. Below is a list demonstrating the diverse nature of events being transmitted to and from this new medical education facility.

- o Thoracic Surgery Grand Rounds

- o Surgery Ground Rounds

- o Psychiatry Grand Rounds

- o Pediatric Grand Rounds

- o Surgery Clerkship

- o OB/GYN Clerkship

- o Psychiatry Clerkship

- o Academic Curriculum Planning

- o Graduate Medical Education meetings

- o Pediatric Planning Meetings

- o Dean's Meetings

- o MSII and MSIII Courses/Meetings

- o Budget and Administrative Meetings

- Staffing (Harlingen) – Through the shared arrangement within IMS, AIS was able to provide on the ground support for teaching and video-teleconferencing activity by two full-time personnel. This guaranteed that engineering support was on site to satisfy requirements for instruction or administrative interactions provided through scheduled services by AIS.

- Classroom and VTC Facilities – Installed by the construction contract, the following electronic classrooms are now under a support agreement with Teaching Support Services within AIS to provide bulbs, batteries, spares, and outside service contracts to enhance the vendor provided warranty support:

- o Auditorium

- o Library 1.132

- o Library Conference Room – 1.136

- o Classroom 2.120

- o Classroom 2.118

- o Dean's Conference Room – 3.115

- o Control Room – 2.120 (HRAHC)

- o Control Room – 407L (shared support with main campus)

- o Classroom 3.102 (shared support with main campus)

- o Classroom 3.104 (shared support with main campus)

- o Dean's Conference Room – 373L (shared support with main campus)

- o Psychology Conference Room – 710L (shared support with main campus)

- OSCE and Virtual Patient – The arrival of the standardized patient teaching facility in the OSCE suite was delayed by the ongoing construction negotiations with BFW and OFPC. A decision by the Medical OSCE team and AIS Instructional Facilities Design installed the OSCE system in a temporary home to allow training and prototyping to begin while the delay continues. The marriage of the OSCE testing facility is designed to be compatible with a parallel facility that is being installed within the Student Services Academic Administration building (under construction) in San Antonio. In keeping with this, a VIRTUAL PATIENT was purchased and the Medical Faculty will

begin integrating it into their curriculum.

- Video Teleconferencing – Distributed Learning Video Conferencing Operations team provided support for all academic and administrative teleconferences provided to the RAHC and the surrounding community. A maintenance agreement was put in place to cover shared staffing provided by other budgets. Additionally, downlink support was provided for various programs via the Demand Access headend.
- Streaming – Distributed Learning and ERD provided Internet courseware support via Blackboard, WebCT, and Real Network. The Demand Access videotape collection was digitized to permit access via campus network. TIF content expertise was leveraged to provide program development support for faculty preparing courses for the Medical

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School. Software licenses were provided to the HSC to support RAHC programs for Real, and Impatica.

- Construction at Harlingen/VBMC – IMS spent time supporting the integration of H-VB with provisions for the integration provided by the construction budget. This allowed AIS provided computers to be installed in the student resident locations and have access to full HSC library resources.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Video Teleconferencing – Current scheduling of videoconferences projects a total of 468 sessions totaling 1140 hours for RAHC programs in FY04 and an estimated 1250 hours for FY05. The academic and administrative goals for fiscal years 2004-2005 for the RAHC will be supported by engineering staff of AIS to provide support for the emerging programs in Harlingen and the surrounding community.
- Staffing (Harlingen) – Through the shared arrangement within IMS, AIS will provide on the ground support for teaching and video teleconferencing activity by two full-time personnel. This guarantees that engineering support will be on site to satisfy requirements for instruction or administration interactions provided through scheduled services by AIS.
- Classroom and Video Teleconferencing Facilities - Installed by the construction contract, the following electronic classrooms will be under a support agreement with Teaching Support Services within AIS to provide bulbs, batteries, spares, and outside service contracts to enhance the vendor provided warranty support:
 - o Auditorium
 - o Library 1.132
 - o Library Conference Room – 1.136
 - o Classroom 2.120
 - o Classroom 2.118
 - o Dean's Conference Room – 3.115
 - o Control Room – 2.120 (HRAHC)
 - o Control Room – 407L (shared support with main campus)
 - o Classroom 3.102 (shared support with main campus)
 - o Classroom 3.104 (shared support with main campus)
 - o Dean's Conference Room – 373L (shared support with main campus)
 - o Psychology Conference Room – 710L (shared support with main campus)
- OSCE and Virtual Patient – The arrival of the standardized patient teaching facility in the OSCE suite will accelerate as the renovations of the OSCE suite are complete and the medical faculty prepare for the arrival of the new Standardized Patient Facility at main campus. Testing supplies and patient support dollars will have to begin to be factored into AIS budgets to support this.
- Video Streaming- Distributed Learning and ERD will provide Internet courseware support via Blackboard, WebCT, and Real Network. The Demand Access videotape collection was digitized to permit access via campus network. Medical classes originating in San Antonio will be recorded and made available for resident recall via the Intranet through Digital Demand Access streaming servers.
- VBMC, Harlingen – Changes in the network will allow consolidation of resources. Implementing these changes will require continued coordination between Distributed Learning and IMS.

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EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES - ACADEMIC INFORMATION SERVICES MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- 34 ERD staff trips to Harlingen for planning, conducting and evaluating professional development programs, participation in curriculum planning, conducting needs assessment and program evaluation, and providing observation and feedback to teachers.
- Conducted 14 professional development workshops for RAHC faculty and staff.
- Seven workshops in the TEXAS Series (Teaching Excellence & Academic Skills) videocast to RAHC; three TEXAS programs "repeat-presented" on-site in Harlingen.
- RAHC faculty and staff participated in ERD's M&M Lunch and Learn Conferences (MultiMedia Lunch and Learn Series).
- Bill Hendricson presented six workshops in the Primary Care Faculty Leadership Fellowship.
- Bill Hendricson chaired the RAHC Faculty Development Committee.
- ERD coordinated planning of the 2002 RAHC Faculty Retreat; 11 professional development workshops were presented for 60 faculty.
- Conducted the 2002 RAHC faculty needs assessment and completed program evaluation of the 2002 RAHC retreat.
- Conducting evaluation of faculty development efforts for RAHC faculty (in-progress).
- Drs. Cindy Olney and Ross Woolley served on several curriculum committees related to implementation of the medical school curriculum at the RAHC.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Coordinate the planning and evaluation of the 2003 RAHC Faculty Retreat. ERD staff will conduct five workshops during this retreat.
- Chair the RAHC Faculty Development Committee and plan professional development activities for 2004 and 2005, including the annual RAHC Faculty Retreats.
- Videocast the monthly workshops in the TEXAS Professional Development Series to the RAHC.
- Repeat present four to six selected TEXAS workshops on-site in Harlingen or Laredo.
- Videocast six to eight M&M Lunch and Learn Seminars.
- Videocast the UTEC class (UTHSCSA Teaching Excellence Course) and/or conduct the course on-site in Harlingen (UTEC is a semester-long, graduate school-level teaching methods course; participants can earn up to 40 hours of CME including an ethics hour).
- Conduct needs assessments for program planning and conduct evaluations of presented professional development programs.
- Videocast the ERD Professional Development Series to the RAHC and conduct selected conferences on-site. 2004 focus is Research and Scholarship.
- Continue participation in various planning committees for the medical school curriculum at the RAHC; conduct evaluations of curriculum implementation.

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LIBRARY

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- Library Services
 - o Debra Warner was recruited as the new RAHC Librarian.
 - o RAHC Library is open 98 hours per week in response to student demand.
 - o Gate count exceeded 24,000 entries to the Library.
 - o RAHC Library was used by students of health programs across the Valley (UTB Nursing, UTPA Nursing, Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health, and TSTC Surgical Technology students)
 - o Circulated more than 2,200 items.
 - o Responded to approximately 10,000 reference questions.
 - o Conducted many library tours including some in Spanish for Mexican visitors and tours for special visitors.
 - o Implemented TracSystems account system for copying and printing and began charging \$.10 per page in July 2003.
- Instruction
 - o Provided RAHC faculty with professional development training classes in PowerPoint, Word, and Excel.
 - o Participated in the weekly Internal Medicine Residency Program Journal Club implemented in September 2002.

The IM residents honored Debra Warner with a teaching award for 2002-2003.

- o Taught Evidence Based Medicine module to all RAHC third year medical students in small groups.
- o Lectured RAHC third year medical students as part of the curriculum on quality consumer health information resources.
- o Presented more than 60 library or information skills classes for RAHC faculty and students, pharmacy students, high school teachers and nurses, senior citizens, etc., reaching approximately 1,000 persons.
- o Created a website and participated in tours for first RAHC Mini-Med School.
- o Sponsored professional development workshops for staff and other Valley librarians on PubMed, Web Usability, US Census, and Link-out through Valley MedShare.
- Circuit Librarian Health Information Network (CLHIN)
- o Routinely visited the 11 institutions that participate in CLHIN.
- o Performed over 700 literature searched and delivered more than 3500 documents.
- o Assisted in JCAHO accreditation visits for three hospitals.
- National Library of Medicine sponsored project
- o Hosted senior NLM staff in November 2002 in Harlingen and surrounding communities.
- o Developed new partnership with Texas A&M University Center for Housing and Urban Development.
- o Completed consumer health information pilot projects at Med High, Su Clinica in Raymondville, South Texas Health System, and the Cameron Park Technology Center as part of the NLM contract.
- o Received the Texas Library Association's Project of the Year award for Med High Peer Tutors pilot project.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Continue to be proactive in providing excellent library services to RAHC students and others in community.
- o Provide hours, services and collection resources as needed by clientele.
- o Provide additional online access to health sciences information.
- o Enhance RAHC Library website.

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- Expand instructional activities
- o Assume major responsibility for teaching Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) to all RAHC third year medical students.
- o Continue instructing third year medical students on health information literacy.
- o Implement pilot program for mini-CEX (Clinical Examination) exam in Informatics for Internal Medicine Residents.
- o Participate in the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) activities including curriculum design and instruction.
- o Develop faculty workshops on topics such as online searching techniques and EBM.
- o Conduct Library tours, orientations and classes as requested.
- o Revise RAHC Library website, brochures, bookmarks and other instructional materials.
- Circuit Librarian Health Information Network (CLHIN)
- o Provide CLHIN services to participating Valley hospitals with revised contracts to reflect budgetary constraints.
- o Enhance the CLHIN record keeping procedures for RAHC and Briscoe Library staff.
- Professional Development
- o Sponsor professional development activities such as a PDA workshop with Valley MedShare members, Medical Library Association videoconference on Health Literacy and Medical Librarian's Month workshop for CLHIN members.
- Funding Opportunities
- o Complete the current NLM contract for Health Information Hispanic Outreach project.
- o Obtain new contract with NLM for colonias outreach project.
- o Partner with local organizations, such as Willacy County Health Action Group, to explore more grant opportunities.

STUDENT SERVICES

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- Planned and hosted six Student Familiarization Visits in FY03.
- Planned and coordinated June 30, 2003 Orientation for 22 incoming MSIII's.
- Planned and hosted five luncheons and private sessions for Dr. Joe Kobos, Psychologist.
- Hosted a Flu Shot clinic.

- Hosted a Financial Aid Session.
- Held an Orientation Session and Dinner March 20th for the incoming RAHC students.
- Regular office hours maintained to provide supportive services to both RAHC third year medical students and RAHC staff.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Student Familiarization Visits.
- Orientation for new students.
- Luncheons and private sessions for Dr. Joe Kobos, Psychologist.
- Flu Shot Clinic.
- Financial Aid Session.
- Orientation Session and Dinner.
- Continue to maintain office hours to support RAHC third and fourth year medical students and to RAHC staff.

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UNIVERSITY POLICE

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- Implemented a staffing schedule consistent with manning requirements and available resources to provide comprehensive law enforcement services to the community 24 hours, seven days per week. This effort included coordination with University of Texas at Brownsville University Police Department until UTHSCSA Police Department acquired the necessary staff.
- Created and maintained a positive relationship with the surrounding law enforcement agencies and criminal justice institutions. This included VBMC Security, Harlingen Police Department, Cameron County Sheriff's Department, Texas State Technical College and Cameron County Justice of the Peace personnel.
- Established a positive relationship with emergency medical and fire services. Familiarized emergency staff with the facility and provided tours and information about how to access the building and where key items such as water hydrants and elevators are located.
- Established Post Orders that were derived from the General Manual. Post Orders designate officer responsibilities during their tour of duty that are specific to the facility.
- Established Visitor Log Procedures to ensure visitors were routed to the appropriate departments and could be accounted for in the event of an emergency. The log also ensures compliance with the Security/Sanction Policy for Contractors.
- Established an Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan as well as a Supplement Department Plan specific to the facility in coordination with Environmental Health and Safety.
- Established and maintained a positive relationship with Ronald McDonald House, a neighboring entity to the campus. This relationship also consists of reciprocal agreement to assist each other by providing a safe meeting place during an emergency evacuation.
- Established a voice for the University Police Department in the monthly Department Head Meetings and Safety Committee Meetings conducted by the Regional Dean.
- Established a Hurricane Response plan in coordination with local authorities, Environmental Health and Safety, as well as the RAHC Safety Committee.
- Developed a File System mirroring the Main Campus HQ regarding Special Events/Pass on Folders and Forms Management.
- Drafted a Field Training Program for use at the facility.
- Acquired and outfitted Police Mountain Bikes for bike patrol.
- Completed the installation of the Diebold Card Access System and Alarm System.
- Completed a PL Tone Change on all department radios in order to provide mobile compatibility within the department.
- Installed the Wireless Emergency Call Boxes.
- Installed the Reserved Faculty Parking Blocks.
- Installed the Parking and Traffic Sign Posts.
- Installed the Free Speech Slab and educated the students, faculty, and staff about its location and purpose according to the

Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP).

- Assisted the Training Officer by ensuring the officers completed the following training:
 - o Defensive Driving Course;
 - o HIPAA Level I online;
 - o TCLESOE Mandated Courses online;
 - o Law Enforcement Officer Flying Armed Course;
 - o Terrorism Awareness;
 - o Racial Profiling;
 - o Asset Forfeiture;
 - o LETN Video Training.
- Created and maintained a feeling of security on campus.

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MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- Hire additional staff to become fully manned and eliminate overtime expenditures.
- Hire additional guard to maintain the Security Desk during the Library's hours of operation.
- Obtain Police Mountain Bike Certifications for each officer.
- Move the Security Desk to maximize public access and increase UPD command and control regarding building access and visitor log procedures.
- Post parking and traffic signs on campus and establish Parking Rules and Regulations for the facility.
- Establish a Post Order governing the testing of the Diebold Alarm System.
- Establish a Post Order for the use and care of the motor vehicles.
- Establish a Post Order for the use and care of the mountain bikes.
- Establish a Forms Management program that will allow members to account for the forms and documents needed on hand at any given time and that complements the Administrative Secretary's efforts in ordering the forms.
- Establish a reliable firearms qualifications and training program with the Texas State Technical College Campus Police Department.
- Continue to promote the community's role in crime prevention.
- Continue to maintain good relations with campus community members as well as the local law enforcement and criminal justice institutions.
- Continue to provide effective crime-deterrent patrols.
- Continue to develop the officers through training and education of Texas Laws, Regents' Rules and Regulations, the General Manual and UTHSCSA HOP.

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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING FY 2003

- The physical facility was maintained by Facility Management (FM) personnel in accordance with UTHSCSA, state, and federal laws and mandates.
- Three FM personnel were employed to perform maintenance duties at the campus.
- Agreements with local utility providers were continued to provide utilities (electricity and water) for the building.
- Contracts were managed to provide custodial and grounds maintenance for the building.
- Equipment and supplies for maintenance operations were procured and provided to the RAHC Facilities Management employees for operational purposes.
- Provided facility inspection services and coordinated warranty issues with contractors.
- Permits and licenses were maintained to comply with state codes and requirements.
- Procedures were followed to initiate, track, and bill repairs and maintenance work performed at this location.
- The computerized energy management system, linked to the UTHSCSA main campus system, allowed FM main campus employees to monitor energy consumption and promote savings.
- RAHC employees were trained to familiarize them with UTHSCSA requirements, standards, and procedures.
- RAHC FM employees were supported (via videoconference, phone, fax, e-mail, and travel to the site) by UTHSCSA FM employees to ensure operations were accomplished in a timely and economical manner.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY 2004 AND 2005

- The physical facility will be maintained by Facility Management (FM) personnel in accordance with UTHSCSA, state, and federal laws and mandates.
- Three FM personnel will continue to be employed to perform maintenance duties at the campus.
- Agreements with local utility providers will be continued to provide utilities (electricity and water) for the building.
- Contracts will be managed to provide custodial and grounds maintenance for the building.
- Equipment and supplies for maintenance operations will be procured and provided to the RAHC Facilities Management employees for operational purposes.
- FM will provide facility inspection services for the new site in Edinburg, Texas.
- Permits and licenses will be maintained to comply with state codes and requirements.
- Procedures will be followed to initiate, track, and bill repairs and maintenance work performed at this location.
- The computerized energy management system, linked to the UTHSCSA main campus system, will allow FM main campus employees to monitor energy consumption and promote savings.
- RAHC employees will continue to be trained to familiarize them with UTHSCSA requirements, standards, and procedures.
- RAHC FM employees will continue to be supported (via videoconference, phone, fax, e-mail, and travel to the site) by UTHSCSA FM employees to ensure operations are accomplished in a timely and economical manner.
- Support RAHC programs through renovations, setups, moves, etc., as requested by the users.
- Perform preventive maintenance as required to extend the cost effective life of equipment and facilities.

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THE CENTER FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROGRAMS

The Center for South Texas Programs provides financial and administrative oversight for the RAHC. The Assistant Vice President for South Texas Programs, Mr. Richard Garcia, provides assistance with budgetary matters and agreements with local entities; the administrative and accounting personnel at the Center serve as approving agents for RAHC requests and vouchers; and accounting staff members reconcile all RAHC accounts. The Center also provides assistance in maintaining the RAHC website, producing quarterly newsletters featuring RAHC-related stories, and producing annual reports.