Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2019 – May 15, 2019 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Nathan Carlin, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. Roger Janz for Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cui Tao, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Amber Lovatos for Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Lee Revere for Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, and Bridget Smalley

Absent:  Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, and Jeffrey Ackroyd

Ex-Officio Attendees:  Dr. Kevin Morano, Dr. Michael Blackburn

Guest Attendee:  Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo

Administrative Personnel:  Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER  
Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair, FY 2019  
Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair FY 2019, called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES  
Dr. Syed Hashmi, Chair, FY 2019  
Dr. Hashmi polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for April 17, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS  

Annual University Update  
Dr. Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, President, UTHealth  

Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, President, UTHealth, opened the meeting advising the attendees that he would be sharing an update on numerous topics of interest with regard to UTHealth. He apprised the attendees in the following areas:

- Clinical Growth and the Academic Mission:
  FY 2005 was compared to FY 2018 in the UTHealth Mission Areas of Budget; Clinical Practice Patient Visits; Research Expenditures; Federal Contracts and Grants; Philanthropy; and Endowments.

- Legislative Session Priorities & Update:  
The priorities this year included Formula Funding for Texas HRIs; Women’s Health Education and Research Center; TRB Support for Join UTHealth-MDACC Research Building; Children’s Learning Institute Restoration of Funds; Creation of a Dental Clinical Operations Formula; Increase Formula Weight for Biomedical Informatics to 1.75; Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Mission Specific Formula; and 1115 Waiver Renewal.

- TMC3 Update;

- Academic Medicine: Strategy and Priorities:
  o 2010-2020: Education/training; Discovery; Focus on patient quality and safety; New chairs and leaders; Expansion of primary care/multi-specialty clinics; Service line structures; and Customer Service.
  o 2020 and Beyond: Learning health systems; Alignment with health systems; New physician structure and clinical integration; Redesign Harris County safety net; Informatics and AI; Cost structure; Population Health; and Health disparities.

- Academic Medicine: The Future of UTHealth:

- Strong academic and clinical reputation –local, national, and international;
• Scale, growth, geographic reach, financial performance –linked to economy and affiliations/partnerships; and
• Brand value –linked to philanthropy, community support, and patient base.

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Lisa Thomas – a Houston Chronicle “Top Nurse” in the Greater Houston Area
Dr. Lisa Thomas, Cizik School of Nursing, Department of Graduate Studies, was recognized at the Houston Chronicle’s “Salute to Nurses” luncheon May 2 at the Omni Houston Hotel. The event is an annual awards program timed to kick off National Nurses Week, May 6-12. The annual awards program honors the Top 150 nurses in the Greater Houston Area. Dr. Lisa Thomas, DNP, RN, is an Assistant Professor who specialized in rehabilitation nursing at TIRR Memorial Hermann for 12 years before becoming a faculty member at Cizik School of Nursing. She is now the director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program.

2019 Graduation - Cizik School of Nursing
Our Cizik SON commencement ceremony is planned for Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 2 PM at the SMART FINANCIAL CENTRE in Sugar Land. Our guest speaker will be Ernest J. Grant, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN. He is currently serving as the 36th president of the American Nurses Association, the nation’s largest nurse’s organization, representing our nation’s three million registered nurses. He is the first male to serve as ANA president. Dr. Grant is an internationally known expert on burn care and is the director of the acclaimed burn prevention program at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill. He was presented with the Nurse of the Year Award in 2002 by then president George W. Bush for his work treating burn victims from the World Trade Center. The traditional “pinning” of 180 students graduating with BSN degrees will take place during the ceremony on May 16, with an additional 300 students in the MSN, PhD, DNP, and post-master’s certificate programs participating. Since 1972, Cizik School of Nursing has now awarded more than 12,000 nursing degrees.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

New Student Success Portal launches to centralize all UTHealth student resources
Coming this summer, the UTHealth Office of Academic Affairs and Student Success, in partnership with the Student InterCouncil (SIC), will launch the Student Success Portal, a new landing page that provides all UTHealth students with direct access to key resources they need across campus. This portal will allow students to easily locate and search the central student services office for necessary information, instructions, and documents to ensure a smooth transition from semester to semester and year to year. Key features of the Student Success Portal include: Registrar, Bursar, Financial Aid, Student Life (including all services offered by Auxiliary Enterprises), Veteran Services, and Additional resources.

Call for Dr. John J. Kopchick Research Award
This award will be given to a GSBS student and their advisor. It will support up to $50,000 of research expenses over a one-year period. The award is intended to provide pilot funding for innovative research projects in any area of biomedical science. All GSBS students who are in the PhD or MD/PhD degree programs and are in good academic standing are eligible to apply. Pre-application deadline: Tuesday, May 21, 5 p.m.

14th Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities
June 6-7: MET Building at UNT Health Science Center. Topic: Social Epigenomics & Health Disparities. The conference will feature nationally renowned speakers and will highlight evidence-based clinical, community, and policy approaches to improving maternal and child health across the United States.
• **UTPD course aims to help break cycle of abuse**
  - MD Anderson and UT Police Houston have partnered to offer a course to employees and students to help educate them on sexual violence and how to break the cycle.
  - Conflict in Relationships: Breaking the Cycle of Abuse: The course familiarizes attendees with Texas laws associated with family violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Guidance is provided on how to recognize the signs of intimate partner violence, the significance of early action and reporting options.

• **Awards**
  - Alumnus Dan Graur, PhD, 2018-2019 GSBS Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient. He received his PhD in Population Genetics in 1985. Today, Graur is Professor in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry at University of Houston.

• **Reminders:**
  - **Commencement 2019:** The ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 18 10:00 am, at Rice University
  - **GSBS Student Research Day:** June 26-27, Onstead Auditorium and Forum Mitchell BSRB.

**McGovern Medical School**  
**Dr. Nathan Carlin**

- Rita Charon, MD, PhD, is the commencement speaker this year. She is considered the founder of narrative medicine, and she recently gave the Jefferson Lecture, the highest honor given to humanities scholars or intellectual at the federal level. The award is given from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).
- The TMC Library has communicated to us that there is a reduction in access to Mary Ann Liebert titles.
- This month at the Faculty Senate the Student Committee on Professionalism Education (SCoPE) is presenting. They are working on defining what professionalism means at our medical school, with an emphasis on identity and aspiration, not compliance and rules.

**School of Biomedical Informatics**  
**Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer**

- SBMI Commencement Ceremony on May 15. The school will recognize 25 graduates during the ceremony at SBMI’s new building space in the University Center Tower. This year’s speaker is Marie Lynn Miranda, PhD, the Howard R. Hughes Provost at Rice University.
- Our dean Dr. Zhang celebrated 20 years with UTHealth this year!
- PhD Student Astrid Manuel will participate in the Schull Institute Summer program this year. The 8-week program starts June 1 and ends July 31. Participation also includes a $1,000 stipend.
- UTHealth’s Office of Postdoctoral Affairs recently announced the inaugural winner of the Deans’ Excellence in Research Award for SBMI. The award was given to Postdoctoral Fellow Hong Kang, PhD. Along with the prestigious recognition of his scientific research, he received an award of $1,000 and will present his work at the annual Postdoctoral Deans’ Award Symposium on May 9.
- SBMI was named a finalist for the Houston Business Journal’s 2019 Landmark Awards for the construction of its new, expanded space at University Center Tower.
- Professor Dean Sittig, PhD, was interviewed by KTRH Radio about the role artificial intelligence can play in improving health care.
- Professor James Langabeer’s HEROES program is featured in this month’s Houstonia magazine (as well as is mentioned on the cover) in an article entitled: *Can This New Research Program Teach Houston How to Tackle Opioid Abuse?* We are very proud of this program in which we are working with McGovern Medical School and community entities to reach and treatment those with opioid use disorder.

**School of Dentistry**  
**Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos**

- Friday, May 17: Graduation day at George R. Brown Convention Center
- May 7: Very first Hackathon of UTSD and the first Hackathon involving faculty and students. Great ideas were generated. Dean Valenza is digesting the results and we will address them after the accreditation.
- May 9: Calibration session for all faculty of UTSD
• May 10: We have submitted our application to CODA for Oral Pathology residency
• May 30-31: Faculty Retreat; 2-day event-first joint faculty and staff retreat. We will stream in both retreats the Town Hall of May 30.
• June 1: Advanced standing program aka International Dental Program application to CODA
• June 14: presentation from Dr. Walters Rene “A Dive into the Motor Theory of Learning and Fully Integrated Digital Curriculum”
• 25-26 September: CODA Accreditation
• Facilities update: Cambridge and East intersection; the school had a meeting with the city of Houston; everything is still on the table, a flashing light system which will be activated by pedestrians and right turn only from East to Cambridge.

School of Public Health:  

Dr. Ross Shegog

• Faculty council are discussing / reviewing:
  o New hooding requirements (1 faculty / student);
  o interactive learning experience;
  o two final products for the practicum;
  o UTHHealth SPH / MD Anderson Cancer Center Population Health;
  o New non-tenure track educational titles for the office of Faculty Affairs and development (HOOP 192-item 11);
  o Updates on the list of workload items for AAR; and
  o General faculty meeting agenda for May 17.
• UTSPH Graduation Ceremonies across Texas:
  o San Antonio – Thursday, April 25, from 6-8pm
  o Brownsville – Monday, May 6, from 6-8pm
  o Dallas – Thursday, May 9, from 4-6pm
  o Austin – Thursday, May 16, from 3-5pm
  o El Paso – Thursday, May 16, from 6-9pm
• The San Antonio campus celebrated its 40 anniversary.
• A new UTSPH wellness committee will be planning a series of events designed to be a positive force for professional morale, encourage networking in a low stress environment, and enhance the mental and physical fitness of employees and students on our campus. The next meeting is July 24.
• Recent media coverage:
  o Ashish A Deshmukh, PhD, was featured in the ASPPH Friday Letter for receiving a four-year, $2 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health for his project: Optimizing Age-based Anal Cancer Screening Among People Living with HIV (PLWH) using Decision Analytic Modeling.
  o Elizabeth Onyenefu Obekpa, a doctoral student in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, was featured in the ASPPH Friday Letter for being awarded a one-year, $15,000 grant from the Margaret McNamara Education Grants (MMEG).
  o Courtney Byrd-Williams, PhD, was interviewed by WebMD about the pros and cons of food pouches. She was also interviewed about the topic by Austin American-Statesman food writer Addie Broyles for an article that ran in its entertainment website Austin360. The story was also picked up by The Florida Times-Union, The Miami News-Record in Oklahoma, Providence Journal in Rhode Island, The Columbus Dispatch, and The Times-News in North Carolina.
  o James Langabeer, PhD, MBA, was interviewed by Community Impact Newspaper about the growing trend of medical offices being incorporated into retail and restaurant developments. Houstonian Magazine also interviewed Dr. Langabeer, PhD, MBA, and one of the participants for a feature on his opioid use prevention program called HEROES. The five-page article is mentioned as a top story on the cover of the May print edition.
o Catherine Troisi, PhD, MS, was featured in a KHOU-TV Channel 11 Verify segment about measles, as U.S. cases reached a 25-year high. Troisi was also included in the station's online story. On the same topic, Troisi was quoted by mbghealth, a holistic wellness site, about how to know if you're protected from the virus. She was also quoted in a Healthline story about E. coli following an outbreak linked to ground beef, which so far has affected 10 states.

o Shreela Sharma, PhD, RD, shared with KPRC-TV Channel 2 viewers the pros and cons of artificial sweeteners. Sharma was also quoted in the station's online report.

o Wesley McWhorter, MS, RD, was interviewed by MDLinx about the health benefits of fresh herbs.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair-Elect Nominations: Dr. Hashmi reminded the membership that the nominations for the 2019-2020 IFC Chair-Elect position is open. Please send your nominations to Dr. Hashmi and copy Terrie. We will confirm with the nominees their acceptance of being placed on the voting ballot. Per the IFC Bylaws, “each nominee will provide a short description of his/her proposed role and future plans for the IFC” prior to a formal vote. We will request the bios in time to be able to provide them for review before the June 19, 2019 meeting. We will permit self-nomination at the meeting. All candidates will be able to introduce themselves and speak to their candidacy at the June meeting, and we will vote via a confidential voting poll after the June meeting.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

• UTHealth Town Hall is scheduled for May 30, 2019 – please pass that information along to your constituents.

• Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Piper Professor Award for FY 2019: Dr. Patricia Dolan Mullen was awarded the Piper Professor for FY 2019. This is an award for excellence in teaching. This is the ninth award at UTHealth since 1985, and the third award to someone at the UTHealth School of Public Health.

• The University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, MD, Academy of Health Science Education (Shine Academy): The Shine Academy recently provided their call for nominations for membership. UTHealth is permitted to send four nominations to the Shine Academy for consideration of membership by August 2, 2019. Dr. Molony is past president of the Shine Academy and advised that UTHealth is the largest faculty on the Shine Academy and it is an honorific and advisory organization to UT System Health Affairs. He solicited the membership to encourage faculty to apply.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019.


Approved by Interfaculty Council on 6/19/2019.