

Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2021 – June 16, 2021 – Webex

Present: Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Jennifer Bailey, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Syed Hashmi for Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Linh Bui, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Rashedah Ekeoduru, Dr. Kulvinder Bajwa for Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Assaf Gottlieb for Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Dharini van der Hoeven, Dr. Kurt Kasper, Dr. Michele White, Dr. Carole Mackavey, Dr. Seth Stephens, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, and Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey

Absent: Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Nahid Rianon, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Ms. Ankita Podichetty

Guests: President Giuseppe Colasurdo, Mr. Kevin Dillon, and Dr. Michael Blackburn

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano and Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER | APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, IFC Chair FY 2021*

Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, IFC Chair FY 2021, called the meeting to order at 11:31 AM. The members were polled for any objections or corrections to the minutes for May 19, 2021. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as presented.

II. NEW BUSINESS *Dr. Champagne-Langabeer*

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer announced the following members were candidates for the IFC Chair-Elect position for FY 2022:

- Dr. Linh Bui;
- Dr. Rashedah Ekeoduru;
- Dr. Luca Giancardo; and
- Dr. Daniel Harrington

Each candidate was provided an opportunity to address the membership. After the candidates' presentations, Dr. Champagne-Langabeer advised that a confidential poll would be circulated for everyone to vote. The FY 2022 IFC Chair-Elect would be announced after all have voted.

III. STATE OF UTHealth *Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, President;
Mr. Kevin Dillon, Sr. Executive VP, Chief Operating Officer; and
Dr. Michael Blackburn, Executive VP and Chief Academic Officer*

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

- The Legislative Session went very well, and Governmental Affairs did a phenomenal job;
- Formula Funding (based on enrollment) is a positive;
- A flurry of new schools of public health are going up in the state;
- Psychology & Behavioral Health:
 - The new academic health science center will be the largest academic, behavioral health center in the U.S. and is expected to open in January/February 2022;
- Our SPH will become the Texas hub for all payor data for quality, which added \$5M for SPH;
- We also have a bill coming up for our SPH for a new Texas Public Health Epidemic Institute, which has passed in both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. We are hoping to receive funding in the fall, including federal dollars for the pandemic-related initiatives. This is a big ask, and if we receive 100%

funding, it would be \$60M in funding for the biennium. This funding would be transformational for SPH. UTHealth has received great support for this funding for a new platform for public health to manage this pandemic and preparation for other pandemics in the future.

- We have a large ask of \$100M related to the tuition revenue bond. We would like to tap into these funds to provide a new home to the UTHealth School of Public Health that will be part of the TMC3 Project.
- We are also working on attaining additional monies for higher education. There is an initiative in the House strongly supported by Dr. Zerwas, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at UT System, for a one-time lump sum of between \$700M-1.3B. This would mean federal dollars coming into Texas for higher education.
- Work is happening regarding the 1115 Waiver Transition, regarding Medicaid funding and uncompensated care.

Mr. Kevin Dillon, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, UTHealth, provided updates in the following areas:

- We project a positive margin for UTHealth as of August 31, 2021;
- The FY 2022 Budget includes a 3% merit pool for our classified staff that the supervisors handle, and the funding is between 0-5% based on true merit for 6800 classified staff. Executive leadership is reviewing options for what can be done for all faculty;
- Return to work:
 - Different approaches will be taken depending on the type/nature of work (e.g., patient/customer/student interaction) will drive who returns or works remotely. The Deans/Chairs/Vice Chairs, etc., will decide what is most appropriate for their areas.
- TMC3 Project:
 - The build will take approximately 27 months and is located at the corner of Bertner and Braeswood;
 - UTHealth has a one-fifth interest in the project with the Texas Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Texas A&M Health Science Center. Leasing of space by Rice University, University of Houston, law firms, etc.
 - Funding is from the UT System Regents -it will not be taken from UTHealth's employees;
- The new building site planned for the new SPH is near the UT Research Center, close to the UTHealth School of Dentistry.

Dr. Michael Blackburn, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, UTHealth, provided updates in the following areas:

- TMC3 Project:
 - Recently finished designing the second floor of the building (14,000 sf) of wet and dry labs;
 - The projects will be collaborative in nature that will lead to commercialization;
 - More information can be found at <https://www.tmc.edu/tmc3/>, and there is a TMC3 video that can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OntO7kdly50>
- Research Updates:
 - We continue to do 10% better than this time last year due to UTHealth receiving \$125M in COVID focused research, which speaks to the resiliency and creativity of our faculty;
 - The number of grants being submitted has decreased; however, at the same time, we are recruiting at all schools that will dovetail with existing faculty. We have started a series of funding opportunities out of the President's Office to stimulate ideas to provide opportunities for getting back on track with the number of grants being submitted.
- Academics Updates:
 - Commencement groups provided in-person events to celebrate their accomplishments held on two Sunday afternoons;
 - Congratulations to all Deans and their teams working on the events -this new commencement forum was so successful that we would see what it looks like for future events.

- Our ten-year SACSCOC Accreditation was held, and UTHealth passed with flying colors receiving no citations, and we are fully accredited for the next ten years.
- The MMS Dean Search continues and is an active confidential search to find the next best dean for McGovern Medical School.
- COVID Updates:
 - We are monitoring positive cases are at employee health and student health; as of June 16, UTHealth had no reported cases of our students, faculty, or staff for the past three weeks;
 - A vaccination survey (which was for voluntary response) was circulated, and 91.6% declared that they were vaccinated. UTHealth is a very highly vaccinated community.

The IFC membership participated in a discussion concerning the following topics:

- Our students drove the commencement decision to have an in-person event. All other health-related institutions except UTSW held in-person commencement events.
- Research:
 - President Colasurdo is currently discussing the impact of COVID on the researchers and the NIH topic with the EVC Dr. Zerwas and Dr. Blackburn, and leaders from other institutions in the TMC, UT System, and across the nation are also in conversation. It is clear some institutions stayed open, but there was still an impact on productivity, and at the national level, the leaders are having trouble comprehending the difficulties.
 - Consideration of a centralized site for research funding; Dr. Blackburn will work on the way to link this information to all faculty;
 - A suggestion was offered that Dr. Blackburn might consider sending out a survey regarding the impact on research and the COVID pandemic.
- What would the current SPH building be used for when a new SPH is built? Leased space would be reviewed to see if those costs could end with using the SPH building. The new SPH building would be planned for about 18 months after the TMC3 project completes. Planning will begin before the new SPH building breaks ground.
- COVID:
 - How many students will be permitted for in-person learning? The current policy is that vaccinated students can attend in-person classes per the CDC directives; this info has been provided to our Deans for their planning.
 - Impact on International Travel – We follow mandates/guidance provided by UT System, the CDC, and the federal government. We will continue to monitor and provide guidance.
- TMC3 – Is there any consideration for a walkway or skybridge from TMC3 to the Medical Center? There will be a sky bridge connection to the UT Research Park on the Southside. Concerning the Northside connection is much trickier, but a walkway or sky bridge will be planned. The expense is immense (\$11,000/ft.) and has not been discussed.
- An expression of appreciation was offered to Drs. Colasurdo and Blackburn, and Mr. Dillon for all that the executive leadership has done to ensure all clinical employees were able to be safe -and have the confidence that all was being done to protect them as they worked through the pandemic.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Campus Reports:

The following information was provided in the Meeting Materials for this meeting:

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Sandra Branson

Announcements

- **Graduation** was held on May 23rd at Minute Maid Park.
- **Dr. Rebecca Casarez** retired May 31st

- **Dr. Angela Nash** and **Dr. Nitha Matthew Joseph** will be promoted to Associate Professor effective Sept. 1, 2021.
- **Dr. Maya Djukic** received a substantial grant from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and a Quality and Safety Education for Nurses Research Award.
- **Dr. Maja Djukic** attended the Harvard Macy Institute leadership program, June 6-11, 2021.
- **Faculty Assembly representatives** were elected for Fiscal Year 2021 as follows: Chair: **Carole Mackavey**; Chair-Elect: **Omobola Oyeleye**; Secretary: **Barbara Hekel**; Parliamentarian: **Olivia Fitch**.
- **UTHealth's Interfaculty Council representatives for CSON** for FY 2022 are:

<u>Representative</u>	<u>Type of Representative</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dr. Carole L Mackavey	Governance-elected member	2022
Dr. Omobola A Oyeleye	Governance-elected member	2023
Dr. Seth Stephens	At-Large elected member	2022
Dr. Vaunette P. Fay	At-Large elected member	2023

Operations

- **Strategic clinical partnership to expand Cizik School of Nursing's ENP program to UT Health San Antonio - Dr. Elda Ramirez** and **Dr. Deborah McCrea** have been on the road teaching emergency nurse practitioner students in San Antonio and Houston alongside their Alamo City counterpart, Dr. Bradley Goettl-Ng.
- **Foodservice** returned to Cizik School of Nursing on June 7 with the reopening of RG Grill.
- **Hybrid Model.** The CSON continues to work in a hybrid model for the fall/spring/summer, with didactic courses primarily online with simulation and clinical placement in our acute care and community settings. BSN and FNP students practiced a new intraprofessional collaboration via simulation.
- **COVID-19 Vaccines.** Students and faculty from the CSON are volunteering to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.
- **COVID-19 Testing.** Nurses at Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth's nurse-led clinic, UT Health Services, continues as the university's COVID-19 testing operation site. The employee health clinic operates a drive-thru testing center every morning, serving the nearly 9,300 employees at UTHealth.
- **Open faculty positions.** Cizik Nursing Research Director, Director – MSN Program, Director – DNP Program, Associate Dean for Practice and Community Engagement, Associate Dean of Faculty Development, and a variety of undergraduate and graduate faculty positions.

Publications and Presentations

- Aaron J. Loeb, **Diane Wardell**, **Constance M. Johnson**. Coping and healthcare utilization in LGBTQ older adults: A systematic review. *Geriatric Nursing*. July-August 2021: 42(2021) 833-842.
- **Mahrokh Kobeissi**, **Kala Christopherson**, **Kelly Kearney**, **Seema S. Aggarwal**. Expanding Clinical Education During a Time of Crisis: Innovative Virtual Simulation. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*. 31 May 2021, published online ahead of print.
- Sajeevika S. Daundasekara, Brittany R. Schuler, Jennifer E. S. **Beauchamp**, **Daphne C. Hernandez**. The mediating effect of parenting stress and couple relationship quality on the association between material hardship trajectories and maternal mental health status. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2021 May 1; 290:31-39. Published online ahead of print.
- Manuscript cited in the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 report: Ghazal, L.V.; C. Ma; **M. Djukic**; and A. Squires. Transition-to-U.S. practice experiences of internationally educated nurses: An integrative review. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*. 2019 July 4; 42(5):373–392.
- Murillo, R.; Obasi, E.M.; McNeill, L.; Reitzel, L. R.; **Hernandez, D. C.** (2021, June). Acculturative stress in relation to physical activity among Latino immigrant adults. Poster presented at the 2021 American College of Sports Medicine Annual Conference, virtual conference due to COVID-19.
- UTHealth Advances in Teaching and Learning Day, June 11, 2021
 - **Barbara E. Hekel**, **Bridgette R. Pullis**, **Allison P. Edwards**, **Christina DesOrmeaux**, **Juane Alexander**. An Unfolding Case Study to Teach Public Health Concepts. Poster presentation.
 - **Deborah L. McCrea**. Interprofessional Health Science Student Perceptions of Readiness for Disaster Response Utilizing Online Didactic Content and Interagency MCI Simulation. Poster presentation.

- **Hsiao-Hui Ju.** New Vision for a Patient with Diabetes and Retinal Migraines. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners.* May 21, 2021.
- **Sabrina Pickens,** Mary Daniel, Erick C. Jones, and Felicia Jefferson. Development of a Conceptual Framework for Severe Self-Neglect (SN) by Modifying the CREST Model for Self-Neglect. *Frontiers in Medicine.* 17 May 2021.
- **Dr. Deborah McCrea** “Preparing for Realistic Mass Casualty Simulation Scenarios Interprofessional Academic Health University Collaboration with Community Agencies,” oral presentation at the TEACH-S Educational Symposium, May 14, 2021.
- **Hennessy, E.A. & Nash, A.J.** Building adolescent and family recovery capital through an Alternative Peer Group. Invited speaker for the Assn. of Recovery in Higher Education/Trusted Provider Network-Health’s on-demand webinar, May 6, 2021.
- **Dr. Susan D. Ruppert** “Building Resilience: A Professional Imperative,” virtual presentation at an invited plenary session at the hybrid 7th Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference - From Evidence to Impact: Co-Designing Care for Future, sponsored by the Nethersole School of Nursing at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, May 29, 2021.
- **Mary G. Harper, Beth Ulrich,** Dawn Whiteside, Joan Insalaco Warren, Ryan MacDonald, PhD. Preceptor Practice: Initial Results of a National Association for Nursing Professional Development Study. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development,* Volume 37, Number 3, 154–162, May/June 2021.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

Computational Assistance and Tutorial Sessions

- GSBS and Quantitative Sciences Program student volunteers will provide upon request 30-minute consultations on selecting appropriate mathematical tests, identifying proper software and techniques, and interpreting results.
- More information can be found here: <https://gsbs.uth.edu/quantitative-sciences/activitiesand-Opportunities>

GSBS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

- GSBS is seeking students, staff, and faculty to be part of the DEI committee, which will be comprised of 9-12 members.
- If you are interested in participating, more information can be found here: https://uthmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Kj1CNMYnd6XULs

2021 MD Anderson CIPRIT Scholar Award

- GSBS is requesting applications for this award by June 25th. Students affiliated with MD Anderson/GSBS faculty member laboratories and conducting a cancer-related research project are eligible.
- More information can be found here: <https://www.mdanderson.org/educationtraining/clinical-research-training/research-training/cprit-graduate-scholar.html>

McGovern Medical School

Dr. Catherine Ambrose

- The search for the next Dean of McGovern Medical School continues. Three finalists have been identified, and the first round of interviews will be complete in the next few weeks.
- The recent conversion to EPIC electronic medical record system went very smoothly. There were a little more than 4000 tickets submitted for issues in the first days, but most of those were resolved quickly.
- The MMS Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Graduate Student Education Committee gave their annual reports to the MMS Faculty Senate in May.
 - The DEI Committee reported that they are gathering data from the biannual diversity climate surveys, and the offices of Student Affairs, GME and Faculty Affairs. They are also looking into the UT Regents Rule 40304 – the institutional policy on whether race or ethnicity can be used as part of admissions or financial assistance programs. It is allowed under specific circumstances but must be approved and reviewed by the Board of Regents every 5 years.

- The GSEC stated that due to the pandemic, the money set aside for travel funds was not being used and thus that money was transferred to other student needs including parking costs assistance, and the purchase of “lendable” laptops.
- There have been a few instances of criminal activity at the UTPB Building and Garage, so Mr. Figari and a representative of the UT Police will present to the FS at the June meeting their strategies to increase safety.
- Dr. Zi Yang Jiang is the head of the UT CME committee. They are working towards accreditation of our own (MMS) CME office. The results of the application should be available in July and the hope is that this office will be open starting March 2022.

School of Biomedical Informatics

Dr. Kirk Roberts

Dr. Roberts advised that SBMI was very proud to announce that they had a CPRIT training grant approved for pre- and post-doctoral students. There is a lot of excitement at SBMI over receiving approval on this training grant. Dr. Roberts did mention that SPH received notice that their CPRIT grant was continued, too.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Michele White

- UTSD’s Wellness Committee hopes to bring forward the following effort headed by
Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, PhD
Chair, Interfaculty Council
Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, Houston ER Opioid Engagement System (HEROES)
UTHealth | The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Biomedical Informatics

HEROES Helpline Aids Healthcare Workers

UTHealth’s Center for Health Systems Analytics is operating a 24/7 free and confidential helpline for all healthcare workers, first responders, and their families in Texas who have been impacted by COVID-19. Healthcare workers, including allied health students and professionals, and first responders are our heroes. The helpline is here to help our heroes and their families who have been experiencing an unprecedented level of stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please call the Heroes Helpline at 833-367-4689 to speak with trained staff who will guide you to mental health support resources in your area.

- Texas Association of Women Dentists (TAWD) June 21 CinderFella’s Silent Auction, which raised \$10,750 for the Mina Rosenthal Eames Fund.
- UTSD joint staff and faculty retreat July 19 - am session, Faculty retreat July 19 – July 20.
- International Association of Dental Research and the CADR (Canadian) and AADR (American) General Session July 21 – July 24. (Virtual)
- UTSD Summer session ends July 23.
- Greater Houston Dental Society Star of the South General Session July 23 July 24 UTSD dental students, residents, and faculty showcase their research-George R. Brown Convention Center (In-person).
- Behind the Smile Event TBD

School of Public Health

Dr. Ross Shegog

Faculty Council continuing and new items (selected):

- The school intranet has a [Faculty Folder](#) with frequently used links such as the Faculty Information Repository. The faculty folder also contains the annual T&P timeline, Faculty Council minutes, and a [Faculty Handbook](#). From the school’s main webpage, authenticated users can navigate to the intranet.
- Ross Shegog, PhD, begins a one-year term as Faculty Chair starting 9/1/2021. Shreela Sharma, PhD, will be Faculty Chair starting 9/1/2022.

- Faculty Council is scheduled to review the Faculty Compensation Plan every two years. In the next few months, the plan is to draft edits to 1) clarify the minimum research coverage for AIP eligibility; and 2) clarify AIP qualification for non-tenure-track faculty. Minimal changes are expected and will be submitted to the entire faculty for a vote.

Faculty Awards (selected):

- [Associate Professor](#) Baojiang Chen, PhD, was selected for the John P. McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching.
- [Department Chair](#) Alanna Morrison, PhD, FAHA, received the 2020 President’s Scholar Award for Excellence in Research.

Recent and upcoming public health campus events (selected):

- Since March 2020, the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCEOH) has provided COVID-19 outreach and training to a professionals and organizations across federal Public Health Region 6 and the U.S, on keeping workers and customers safe, returning to work, or use of personal protective equipment. Visit the [SWCOEH](#) website for research, training resources, and other materials.
- The Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences at MD Anderson has extended an invitation to all School of Public Health faculty to attend their weekly virtual Cancer Prevention and Control Grand Rounds. Presentations are held on Fridays at noon, and speaker/topic/zoom information will be shared one week in advance in the faculty and staff newsletter under the events heading. For questions, please contact Rachel.Atterstrom@uth.tmc.edu.
- The George McMillan Fleming Center for Healthcare Management hosted a panel on June 9, 2021, on “Mental Health: An Imperative for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” led by Dr. Gordon Shen.
- The Michael & Susan Dell Center has compiled a list of resources that includes reports created in-house with multiple projects on multiple COVID-19 topics. [Click here](#) to see the list.
- UTHHealth SPH is offering a TA Training Course. The TA Training course aims to help students get ready for their position as a teaching assistant. The training is a self-paced online training on Canvas and will take approximately 5 hours to complete. This is a non-credit training course open to all SPH students at no cost.
- UTHHealth’s Center for Health Systems Analytics is operating a 24/7 free and confidential helpline for all healthcare workers, first responders, and their families in Texas who have been impacted by COVID-19. We are here to help individuals and their families who have been experiencing an unprecedented level of stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please call the **Heroes Helpline at 833-367-4689** to speak with trained staff who will guide you to mental health support resources in your area.

Media exposure (selected):

- **Catherine Troisi, PhD**, was quoted in the [Houston Chronicle](#) about sporting events lifting mask requirements for fans.
- **Catherine Troisi, PhD**, was interviewed by the [Houston Chronicle](#) about increasing vaccine rates and the impact on COVID-19 case counts.
- **Catherine Troisi, PhD**, was quoted in the [Houston Chronicle](#) about how far we still have to go on vaccinating Texans to achieve a safe level of immunity.
- **George Delclos, MD, PhD, MPH**, was quoted in the [Houston Chronicle](#) about the new mask recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals.
- **James Langabeer, PhD, EdD, MBA**, was interviewed by the [Houston Chronicle](#) about how the health care industry has changed during the pandemic.
- **Katelyn Jetelina, PhD, MPH**, was quoted in [The Dallas Morning News](#) about the outlook of large sporting events without masks as vaccination rates increase.
- **Kristina Mena, PhD**, was interviewed by [USA Today](#) about the populations most at risk for health concerns linked to drinking contaminated water.

Dissertation presentations

- Two dissertation proposal defenses and two dissertation defenses are occurring in June-July, 2021.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Subcommittee Reports:

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer announced that the final reports of the work done by the subcommittees would be presented at the IFC scheduled meeting on August 18, 2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on August 16, 2021.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on August 18, 2021.