Presidential Awards

February 2, 2012
A Message from the President

Every day is an honor to lead our Health Science Center. Today, I am especially proud to recognize you – the men and women who make our university one of the nation’s finest academic health science centers.

As recipients of the Presidential Awards, you represent exceptional achievement in your fields. Through your creativity, perseverance and leadership, you elevate our Health Science Center as a beacon of hope for the sick, an exciting home for faculty pursuits and a stimulating environment for students. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

Sincerely,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President
Professor of Medicine
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
2012 Presidential Awards

Welcome
Dr. Henrich

Presentation of Awards
Employee Excellence in Service
Clinical Excellence
Teaching Excellence
Junior Research Scholar

Distinguished Scholar Award

Closing
Employee Excellence in Service

The Presidential Employee Excellence in Service Award honors Health Science Center employees who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the university. These individuals regularly and consistently exceed expectations. Their overall performance reflects a high level of service, trustworthiness and respect. By developing new processes or improving existing processes, these individuals have significantly improved productivity and cost savings for the university.

Teresita D. Carrillo, COT
Clinic Manager, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine

Terri was instrumental in the successful integration of the Brady Green (now the University Health Center Downtown) resident’s clinic and the Texas Diabetes Institute (TDI) eye clinic. She is superb at getting others to work with her toward a common goal. Terri accomplishes this, in part, thanks to the credibility and respect she has earned from the troops. She is fair, transparent, driven by mission, inclusive, listens to others’ viewpoints and ideas, and is willing to try something new. Without hesitation, she rolls up her sleeves and dives into the trenches.

Carlos Rosende, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and the Herbert F. Mueller Chair in Ophthalmology, School of Medicine
I have the good fortune to be able to rely on JoAnn to work with both the third- and fourth-year medical students. She is an unbelievable resource! JoAnn is recognized nationally for being in the premiere class of clerkship administrators to seek certification. I was at a meeting of national pediatric educators recently where her name came up many times as a leader in this process. She is a fantastic asset to students, faculty and our institution as a whole.

Jean Petershack, M.D., associate director of Medical Student Education and director of Neonatal Education, School of Medicine

Lupita finds ways to meet the basic needs of the poor and underserved, allowing those in need to participate in lifesaving treatment. She overcomes seemingly insurmountable obstacles to find solutions to problems. Lupita is resourceful, creative, intelligent, dependable and compassionate. She makes our organization, community and our world a better place.

Mary Jackson, M.S.N., RN, OCN, director of CTRC Patient and Family Services, School of Medicine
John has, on multiple occasions, gone way beyond the call of duty to ensure the smooth running of the animal facility and to safeguard the welfare of animals in his care. All of us regard him and his team as invaluable collaborators. He is extremely loyal to the university as evidenced by his 18 years of service and willingness to pitch in and help on any task when needed, no matter what the time of day. Through his broad set of skills and sound knowledge of how things work, he has, over the years, saved the university loads of money in equipment maintenance and kept the LAR facility functional. He truly is an asset to the university.

Rochelle Buffenstein, Ph.D., professor, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, and the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies

Janice has been the glue that has held the Graduate Dean’s Office together for over 20 years. She has provided consistent, reliable support during challenging times in recent years, while simultaneously providing significant administrative support and guidance for two major chair searches. In addition, she serves in a leadership position for the Special Events Council and is always out front on the annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). Janice works late into the evening and on weekends on a regular basis to keep her work current, and always takes the time to train and provide encouragement to basic science department staff and to those she directly supervises.

Curt Schiebel, CPA, assistant dean for administration, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
Clinical Excellence

The Presidential Clinical Excellence Award honors full-time faculty of the Health Science Center who provide clinical services as part of their appointments. These clinicians have distinguished themselves through exemplary and sustained expertise, and they represent the very finest in quality patient care. By building relationships with patients, family members, professional colleagues, residents, students and staff, these awardees demonstrate collaborative teamwork, independent leadership and compassionate care.

Luis F. Angel, M.D.
Associate Professor, Director of Lung Transplantation, Director of Interventional Pulmonary, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine/UT Medicine San Antonio

Dr. Angel is compassionate, intelligent, honest and straightforward. He helped me feel comfortable moving forward and facing reality. Transplantation is a very emotional experience and I am glad to have Dr. Angel by my side on this journey. After my surgery, when I woke up and I was not in pain anymore, it was like a different life. Now there are so many possibilities. I am happy and healthy and I’m extremely grateful for that. I have great respect for Dr. Angel, and I wish there were more doctors as dedicated and caring as he is.

Larysa Sholom, patient
From the very beginning, Dr. Jackson’s South Texas ALS Clinic stood taller than any others because of her determination and special insight. She inspires her team through her knowledge, compassion and understanding, and her clinic continues to improve under her leadership. Watching the relationships between Dr. Jackson and her patients is amazing. One family said to me: “This clinic is different. Everyone is pleasant and cares about me and my family.” Many families have shared with me that they would never have made it through the disease process without Dr. Jackson and the clinic team.

My son, Andrew, was 6 years old and had never seen a doctor other than his beloved pediatrician. He was very nervous about his ophthalmology appointment, and became frightened once he saw the exam room equipment. Dr. Schatz was incredibly compassionate, and Andrew visibly relaxed as she made some of the tests seem like games. Today, my son is a happy and healthy 10 year old who loves “his” Dr. Schatz. You only need to speak to the mothers and children in her waiting room to find they feel the same way about her as Andrew and I do.

Joan M. Smith, mother of patient, Andrew Smith

Mary Klenke, Founder, South Texas Chapter of the ALS Association
Teaching Excellence

The Presidential Teaching Excellence Award is presented to outstanding full-time faculty members who exhibit the finest principles in education. They possess extensive knowledge of their subject material, maintain an awareness of current developments, and incorporate examples from recent literature or clinical experience in the classroom. These faculty members have distinguished themselves not only through teaching methods in the classroom, but also by serving as role models and mentors to students outside class. They have made a significant contribution to the education and development of future health care professionals.
As a teacher, Dr. Gerardi is known at our school for her ability to create a supportive classroom community while still providing a rigorous course. She is a dynamic and powerful communicator who possesses the gift of being able to make complex subjects understandable. She is a highly dedicated professor who knows how to motivate her students to strive for excellence. In spite of these formidable gifts, she is a humble and approachable person who loves to share her extensive knowledge (and chocolates) with others and her students in particular.

Rozmin B. Jiwani, RN, M.S.N., doctoral student, School of Nursing

Constance L. Fry, M.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY, OPHTHALMIC ONCOLOGY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

An excellent teacher inspires, instructs, challenges and leads. Dr. Fry is this sort of teacher. She was the first teacher, but not the last (as her methods were soon imitated by others) that I had in residency who presented us with pre- and post-tests for a rotation. This sort of methodical teaching is very palatable for students and residents, and allows us to feel concrete success! To this day, I can still hear her voice explaining certain aspects of oculoplastic surgery to me.

M. Kelly Green, M.D., alumna, School of Medicine, Class of 2005, alumna, Ophthalmology Residency, Class of 2009, and clinical assistant professor, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine

Margit B. Gerardi, Ph.D., RN, WHNP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, SCHOOL OF NURSING, AND DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As a teacher, Dr. Gerardi is known at our school for her ability to create a supportive classroom community while still providing a rigorous course. She is a dynamic and powerful communicator who possesses the gift of being able to make complex subjects understandable. She is a highly dedicated professor who knows how to motivate her students to strive for excellence. In spite of these formidable gifts, she is a humble and approachable person who loves to share her extensive knowledge (and chocolates) with others and her students in particular.

Rozmin B. Jiwani, RN, M.S.N., doctoral student, School of Nursing

Constance L. Fry, M.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, OPHTHALMIC PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY, OPHTHALMIC ONCOLOGY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

An excellent teacher inspires, instructs, challenges and leads. Dr. Fry is this sort of teacher. She was the first teacher, but not the last (as her methods were soon imitated by others) that I had in residency who presented us with pre- and post-tests for a rotation. This sort of methodical teaching is very palatable for students and residents, and allows us to feel concrete success! To this day, I can still hear her voice explaining certain aspects of oculoplastic surgery to me.

M. Kelly Green, M.D., alumna, School of Medicine, Class of 2005, alumna, Ophthalmology Residency, Class of 2009, and clinical assistant professor, Department of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine

Margit B. Gerardi, Ph.D., RN, WHNP
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, SCHOOL OF NURSING, AND DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As a teacher, Dr. Gerardi is known at our school for her ability to create a supportive classroom community while still providing a rigorous course. She is a dynamic and powerful communicator who possesses the gift of being able to make complex subjects understandable. She is a highly dedicated professor who knows how to motivate her students to strive for excellence. In spite of these formidable gifts, she is a humble and approachable person who loves to share her extensive knowledge (and chocolates) with others and her students in particular.

Rozmin B. Jiwani, RN, M.S.N., doctoral student, School of Nursing
When I followed Mrs. Reeves in the clinical setting, I learned that there is an art to teaching students in this setting. It was refreshing and exciting to see a concept I had learned in the didactic portion of my degree actually being put into practice. Her teaching methods within lecture and clinical move forward to a teaching paradigm that encompasses active learning and student involvement. I feel truly blessed to have been able to be a student of Mrs. Reeves. She truly inspired me to become more involved and passionate in a profession that I love so much.

Natalie Baker, M.S.N., RN, former student

In addition to my own experience of learning from Dr. McManus, I have had the opportunity to see her in action with other learners by inviting her to be a presenter in my class. Dr. McManus has no problem drawing students out of their shells. Before I know it, they are responding to her questions and peppering her with their own. I have observed even the “coolest” of students participating and interacting in ways I would have never imagined. Her lab is without a doubt the most talked about all semester, and the reason why some students take the class in the first place.

Verónica Contreras-Shannon, Ph.D., alumna, Department of Biochemistry, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Class of 2003, and associate professor, Department of Biological Sciences, St. Mary’s University

When I followed Mrs. Reeves in the clinical setting, I learned that there is an art to teaching students in this setting. It was refreshing and exciting to see a concept I had learned in the didactic portion of my degree actually being put into practice. Her teaching methods within lecture and clinical move forward to a teaching paradigm that encompasses active learning and student involvement. I feel truly blessed to have been able to be a student of Mrs. Reeves. She truly inspired me to become more involved and passionate in a profession that I love so much.

Natalie Baker, M.S.N., RN, former student
When teaching, Dr. Trautwein creates an atmosphere of positivity, hope and excitement! It is rare to find a professor that is willing to open his own world up to you and shares his passion so openly that you find yourself pulled into it. Moreover, his passion for deaf education and the ability we will have as graduates to help shape the lives of deaf children and their families everywhere, helped motivate me to not only continue this program, but crave more information so that I could be the best deaf educator possible.

Lindsay Vasquez, student, Deaf Education and Hearing Science Program

Nhung Tran, M.D., FAAP
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine

Immediately I was taken with Dr. Tran’s enthusiasm for her field and her wealth of knowledge. In the short month that I was working with her, she taught me much more than the bread and butter of developmental-behavioral pediatrics. She possesses an amazing ability to establish a meaningful and long-lasting relationship with her patients and their families. Her commitment to the pediatric residency program is also noteworthy, as she plays a very active role in developing a comprehensive learning plan for residents.

Neha Patel, D.O., pediatric resident, PGY-3

Blane Trautwein, Ed.D., CED
Assistant Professor and Program Director, Deaf Education and Hearing Science Program, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, School of Medicine

When teaching, Dr. Trautwein creates an atmosphere of positivity, hope and excitement! It is rare to find a professor that is willing to open his own world up to you and shares his passion so openly that you find yourself pulled into it. Moreover, his passion for deaf education and the ability we will have as graduates to help shape the lives of deaf children and their families everywhere, helped motivate me to not only continue this program, but crave more information so that I could be the best deaf educator possible.

Lindsay Vasquez, student, Deaf Education and Hearing Science Program
The Presidential Junior Research Scholar Award honors remarkable investigators at the Health Science Center who began their independent research within the past five years. These scientists demonstrate mastery in their fields and show significant potential for continued success. The award recipients have made major contributions to theory, research and practice, and they have earned national recognition for their outstanding achievements.

Salvatore Oddo, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine

Dr. Oddo is a star and a credit to this institution. His broad and energetic pursuit of the neurobiology of Alzheimer’s disease and associated neurodegenerative maladies has already produced a striking record of productivity. The fact that he is dealing with the problem of neurodegeneration at so many different levels is a fantastic accomplishment. The research emerging from Dr. Oddo’s laboratory is nationally and internationally recognized, and funding agencies are enthusiastic about supporting his work. To have this level of support at his career stage and in these times is beyond impressive and well deserved.

John M. Johnson, Ph.D., professor and interim chair, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine
Dr. Baseman is an esteemed senior research scientist and a true “player” in his field. During his 31-plus-year career as chair of the Department of Microbiology, he has brought substantial visibility to the UT Health Science Center through his exemplary accomplishments.

Dr. Baseman has always sought out and established successful collaborations across disciplines, well before the word “translational” was associated with biomedical research. His projects and awards have involved multiple Health Science Center departments (Biochemistry, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, Ob-Gyn, Pathology, Pediatrics and Surgery) providing important interdisciplinary synergies and opportunities for trainees (graduate students, postdocs,
residents and M.D. fellows) and for young and more established faculty to grow their programs and remain competitive.

In addition, Dr. Baseman has served as chair of search committees for several chairs and a dean in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; for the Institutional Strategic Planning Committee; and for planning committees involving the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC). The positive impact of these assignments is still present at the Health Science Center.

We anticipate such activities and interactions to become even stronger in the future with the recent establishment of the multidisciplinary Innovation Center for Airway and Inflammation Research (I-CAIR), headed by Dr. Baseman, at the South Texas Research Facility.

The focus of Dr. Baseman’s airway diseases research is to understand properties of pathogenic bacteria that lead to infection and disease progression. His lab’s identification and characterization in 2005 and 2006 of the *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Community Acquired Respiratory Distress Syndrome (CARDS) toxin is a landmark career discovery as it represents the major *M. pneumoniae* virulence factor. *M. pneumoniae* causes acute and chronic lung disease in pediatric, adolescent, adult and elderly populations, and the CARDS toxin by itself is the mediator of mycoplasma airway inflammation, histopathology, and disease progression. The impact of this research is substantial as it explains the fundamental pathogenic mechanisms of *M. pneumoniae* infections and facilitates the development of better diagnostic and treatment modalities.

His laboratory also was the first to describe transcriptional regulation and stress responses associated with *in vivo* physiological signals sensed by human mycoplasmas. This research has sparked new, related investigations by scientists worldwide.

Dr. Baseman has published nearly 185 original research articles and book chapters or reviews. The impact of his work is evident from his extensive invited speaking engagements, involvement in National Institutes of Health (NIH) and non-NIH review committees, his honors and awards, and his continuous funding record from NIH and current very substantial funding from that organization and others. Indeed, very recently he was able to renew for five years his U19 NIH/NIAID-funded Cooperative Research Center, “Role of Unique ADP-Ribosylating and Vacuolating *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Toxin,” at a total of $11,488,200.

For all these reasons, Dr. Baseman is a most worthy recipient of the Health Science Center’s Distinguished Scholar Award.

Alan Frazer, Ph.D., chair, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine

and

Christi A. Walter, Ph.D., chair, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, School of Medicine
PRESIDENTIAL CLINICAL Excellence Award Committee

Kozue Shibazaki, Ph.D. (Chair)
Student Services/Counseling Services

Diana Beckman-Mendez, Ph.D., RN
Family and Community Health Systems

Stephanie Levine, M.D.
Pulmonary Disease

Josefine Heim-Hall, M.D.
Pathology

Erica Oliveira, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Comprehensive Dentistry

Richard Wettstein, M.Med., RRT
Respiratory Care

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED AND JUNIOR RESEARCH SCHOLAR Award Committee

John Littlefield, Ph.D. (Chair)
Academic Center for Excellence in Teaching

George Kudolo, Ph.D.
Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Susan Naylor, Ph.D.
Cellular and Structural Biology

Thomas Oates, D.M.D., Ph.D.
Periodontics

Amelie Ramirez, Dr.P.H.
Epidemiology and Biostatistics

PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE Excellence in Service Award Committee

JoAnn Rios (Chair)
Human Resources

Gloria Canseco
Office of Development
School of Health Professions

Debbie Cash
Human Resources

Shelly Evans
Office of the Dean
School of Medicine

Alicia Gallegos
Office of the Dean
School of Nursing

Patricia Gonzalez
Accounting

Esther Michael, CPPB
Purchasing

Santos Paniagua
Facilities Management

Sara Piety, M.B.A.
Office of Development
Dental School

PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING Excellence Award Committee

John Littlefield, Ph.D. (Chair)
Academic Center for Excellence in Teaching

Archie Jones, D.D.S.
Periodontics

Kristy Kosub, M.D.
Medicine

Linda Porter-Wenzlaff, RN, LPC, Ph.D.
Health Restoration and Care Systems Management

Linda Smith, Ph.D.
Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Frank Weaker, Ph.D.
Cellular and Structural Biology