

Aggie Medicine

News from the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine

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TEXAS A&M
HEALTH
SCIENCE
CENTER
COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE

College of Medicine Scholarship Programs Expand

When it comes to giving back to your alma mater or your community, there are few opportunities to make a gift that will have the same impact year after year as the gift of an endowed scholarship.

An endowed scholarship has the amazing ability to impact the lives of students in perpetuity. Every year our scholarship students are able to continue their medical education due to the assistance of someone they likely have never met but whose generosity will allow them to complete their medical education and serve others. That's the reality of an endowed scholarship, and its ultimate impact is immeasurable.

Endowed scholarships at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine start at \$25,000, paying out each year approximately five percent of the principal to the recipient. The endowment can be pledged and paid out over a period of up to five years. Scholarship endowments, once they reach the minimum of \$25,000, can be added to at any time in the future, either through a planned gift, such as a will bequest, or through further current giving.

For information on how to establish your own named scholarship endowment or to honor someone else with one, please contact Brian Hervey toll free at (866) 645-8492 or hervey@medicine.tamhsc.edu.

Rohack Named AMA President- Elect



J. James Rohack, M.D., a cardiologist from Bryan, Texas, was named president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA), the nation's largest and most influential

physician organization, in June.

Following a yearlong term as president-elect, Dr. Rohack will assume the AMA presidency in June 2009. His annual term as president will be followed by an additional annual term as immediate past president ending in June 2010.

Dr. Rohack is a professor in both the Department of Medicine and the Department of Medical Humanities in Medicine at the College of Medicine. He is also director of the Center for Healthcare Policy at Scott & White and medical director for system improvement in Temple, Texas, where he continues his clinical practice at Scott & White Clinic.

"As AMA president-elect, I look forward to being a voice for American physicians as we work with others to solve America's challenges in providing the best medical care in the world to all, while preserving our sacred patient-physician relationship," said Dr. Rohack.

Taking a leadership role with the AMA in 2001 when he was first elected to the AMA Board of Trustees, Dr. Rohack served a one-year term as chair of the AMA Board of Trustees in 2004-2005. He was re-elected to a final four-year term in 2005.

Sulak Receives First Baker Endowed Professorship

Patricia J. Sulak, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Scott & White, was named the inaugural Dudley P. Baker Endowed Professor of



Research and Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology at a ceremony held Friday, October 24 in the Mayborn Auditorium. In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Sulak is the medical director of the Division of Departmental Research and Director of the Adolescent Sex Education Program in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Scott & White.

Dr. Sulak received her B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy in 1975 and her M.D. degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in 1980. She completed her residency in OB/GYN at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. in 1985 where she was named the Outstanding Resident of the Year among all WRAMC residency training programs and received the Armed Forces District Award for "Best Scientific Research Paper." She served as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps until 1987 and was awarded their Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Dr. Sulak is actively involved in clinical research, conducting

numerous studies on women's health issues, hormone therapy and contraception. The Scott & White OB/GYN Resident Research Awards were renamed "The Patricia Sulak Award for Excellence in Resident Research" in honor of her work in creating the residency research program in 1987. Her current research emphasis is in contraceptive redesign to eliminate monthly menses and hormone withdrawal symptoms including menstrual headaches, pain and premenstrual symptoms.

Dr. Sulak continues to develop, implement and research sex education programs for adolescents. Her work in this area began in 1996 when she began implementation of a program based solely on medical, legal and socioeconomic issues. She founded and directs the award winning Scott & White Sex Education Program "Worth the Wait" (www.worththewait.org), which has been adopted by numerous school districts in Texas and beyond.

The Dudley P. Baker Endowed Professor of Research and Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology was created in honor of Dr. Baker, who has been on staff at Scott & White for 37 years. He has been well-respected and loved by his students, residents, colleagues and patients since he first arrived in 1971. Many of these same people gave generously to create the professorship to honor him.

Students Volunteer at Shelters for Hurricane Ike Evacuees

More than 100 College of Medicine students volunteered their time to help evacuees in the local area after Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston, Houston and surrounding communities. In College Station, students visited patients from Galveston's Shriners Hospital and assisted federal medical teams in caring for more than 300 special needs patients housed at Texas A&M University's Reed Arena. In Temple, students volunteered at the Bell County Expo Center.

"The students worked all shifts (7 a.m.-3 p.m., 3 p.m.-11 p.m., 11 p.m.-7 a.m.), including some during the height of the storm," Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Dr. Gary McCord said. "The federal medical teams were really in a teaching mode and were grateful for the help. The students saw a lot and really enjoyed the experience."

The following are a few comments from the student volunteers:

"Just wanted to let you know that medical students are being used very well and are definitely needed. I was told while I was there that there were around 460-470 patients/caregivers, and they were turning people away. This was one of the most amazing and rewarding experiences I have ever done. Please let me know if you cannot get enough people to volunteer for the rest of the weekend because I would willingly go back despite the biochemistry test on Tuesday."

"The night shift from 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. went very well. The staff was incredibly grateful for our presence."

"I went Friday 7-3, and it was an amazing experience. The patients were very grateful to have us around. Some of us really bonded as classmates, too. I definitely did not expect to be taking patient histories and delivering them to doctors. Not to mention how eager the doctors were to teach us amid the chaos. The experience made me appreciate all the stuff we are learning in school."

"I will NEVER take what nurses do for granted, and I think every medical student should have this experience. I know that it has changed the way I view the incredible people skills that

nurses have, and I hope that as a physician, I never forget what I have seen here."

"Last night was such an amazing experience. Even though I was only scheduled for only part of the shift, I couldn't get myself to leave and ended up staying the entire time. I only wish I had an opportunity like this during my first year."

A breakfast for the student volunteers was hosted by the Dean's Office in College Station Tuesday, September 30 to thank the students for their generosity.



Huston Elected to American Board of Internal Medicine Board of Directors



David P. Huston, M.D., Vice Dean for Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and Chief Academic Officer – Houston Campus has been elected to the

American Board of Internal Medicine board of directors. ABIM sets the standards and certifies physicians practicing in internal medicine and its subspecialties who possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to provide high quality care.

The board of directors, composed of physicians board certified in internal medicine and one of its subspecialties, guides ABIM's overall mission and direction as it works to improve health care quality. All ABIM directors participate in ABIM's Maintenance of Certification program, which promotes ongoing learning and in which doctors demonstrate their commitment to the board's standards.

Dr. Huston is the representative of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI), a board jointly sponsored by ABIM and the American Board of Pediatrics.

"Both organizations share the same commitment to health care quality, and I am honored to represent ABAI on the ABIM Board of Directors," said Dr. Huston.



Medical Students Receive Scott & White Scholarships

Scott & White awarded \$2,000 scholarships to a select group of third- and fourth-year medical students at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine on June 17. The two-year scholarships are based in part on high academic achievement and a commitment to community service. Each year two third-year medical students are selected to receive the two-year scholarship for the remainder of their clinical training.

The new scholarship recipients for 2008 were Evan Hardegree and Ravi Kumar. Hardegree is a third-year medical student from Abilene, where he graduated from Abilene Christian University. In addition to studying medicine, Hardegree has been involved in STAT, Stand Tall Against Tobacco, an education program for seventh grade students in Bryan/College Station, as well as both the Surgery/Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine Interest Groups.

Kumar is a third-year student from California and Illinois. He graduated cum laude from Texas A&M at Galveston with a degree in marine biology. He joined the Peace Corps in 2000 and served two years in a rural village in Panama as an environmental and community health volunteer, followed by work as a ranger for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. Kumar has served in medical school as the Texas Medical Association first-year medical student representative, TMA chapter president, student lecturer for gross anatomy and spent the last year studying neural cell niches.

Fourth-year students Connie So, David Pham and Matthew Brown received their second scholarships. Brown postponed his final year of medical school last year while doing research for the National Institutes of Health and returned to complete his fourth year.

COM Hosts Reunion '08 Weekend Events for Alumni, Largest Ever Entering Medical Class

The Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine hosted a Reunion '08, August 1-2, for alumni and their families, as well as the college's largest ever incoming class of 135 first-year students.

The weekend kicked off Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. at the Joe H. Reynolds Medical Building courtyard on Texas A&M University's west campus for the Dean's Welcome Dinner. The event included a family-friendly dinner, tours of the medical school and simulation center, children's activities and entertainment from Bill Bertrand and the Country Magic Band.

Saturday began with a White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2012 to signify the beginning of their medical

training. Class of 1983 member William L. Rayburn, college faculty member and local Scott & White physician, served as the featured speaker at the event, held at 10 a.m. at Rudder Auditorium on Texas A&M University's main campus. A reception followed in Rudder Exhibit Hall.

On Saturday evening, alumni and their guests joined college faculty and staff for Reunion '08 to celebrate the classes of 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003, first with a cocktail reception in the George Bush Library Complex Rotunda at 6 p.m. Dinner was held across the courtyard at the Annenberg Conference Center at 7:30 p.m.

The college will hold a reunion for the classes of 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004 in 2009.

College of Medicine Annual Fund

As the College of Medicine strives to become one of the nation's premier medical schools, the donations of our friends and alumni are essential to our growth. Each individual donor provides our students and faculty that extra opportunity to excel by providing for our programs and curriculum.

The College of Medicine Annual Fund allows those interested in giving the chance to impact the lives of our students in a unique way—by supporting our student groups and organizations. Our student organizations strengthen the College of Medicine's role in the community by providing health education to community schools, clinics for homeless and uninsured patients and professional medical groups.

It is a testament to the quality and character of the students selected to attend the College of Medicine that many would choose to participate in these programs. Our students' commitment to the Bryan/College Station and Temple communities is one of the many reasons the College of Medicine is becoming widely known for the quality of our alumni.

Membership for the 2009 College of Medicine Annual Fund begins in December. For more information, please call toll free (866) 645-8492 or email development@medicine.tamhsc.edu.



Alikhani, Van Winkle Receive Scholarships

Fourth-year students Puya Alikhani and Jenny Van Winkle were awarded scholarships from the American Medical Association Foundation and the Texas Medical Liability Trust, respectively.

The AMA Foundation awarded Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarships to fifteen rising fourth-year medical students, including the college's own



Alikhani. Recipients were nominated by their medical school dean and chosen by a selection committee based upon their academic standing and financial status, as well as community involvement, letters of recommendation and personal statement. Alikhani and 14 other students from across the country received a \$10,000 scholarship to help defray medical school expenses.

"These medical students represent the very best of the next generation of U.S. physicians," said AMA Foundation President Jean Howard. "Their academic achievements as well as their leadership and volunteer activities speak to their commitment to make a difference in the medical profession."

Van Winkle was one of eight students from Texas medical schools

selected to receive the 2008 TMLT Memorial Scholarships. For the past four years, TMLT has awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to one student at each Texas medical school that participated in the competition. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on each student's financial need and written essay.

The TMLT Memorial Scholarships recognize Texas medical students who are interested in finding creative ways to enhance patient safety and who can communicate their ideas in a short essay. The TMLT Board of Governors evaluates the applications and chooses the recipients.

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