

**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 8:11:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021.5.7 - COM Faculty Senate Election Results.pdf](#)  
[2021.5.6 - COVID-19 Protocols Beginning June 1.pdf](#)  
[2021.5.7 - Maroon Line Clinic Vaccine.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

I hope you all had a great week and that you are enjoying our beautiful May weather.

### Community

- Three of our faculty were featured on ReachMD Clinician's Roundtable in a podcast titled "[Concerns in the Community: Obstacles to Accessing the COVID-19 Vaccine.](#)" **Dr. Hector Chapa** explores barriers in community health with **Dr. Robert Carpenter**, and **Dr. Toni Keaton**.
- COVID-19
  - Positivity numbers (we experienced no change to our cumulative tracking system in the past week):
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 38
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 60
  - The COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (COVRRRT) just wants to remind everyone that the Texas A&M policy for **wearing face coverings while on campus is still in effect**. This would include situations like when one is walking common hallways and when individuals are in the same study room. Please continue to abide by the policy until advised otherwise by the pertinent Texas A&M authorities.
  - The Maroon Line Testing site on the Bryan HSC campus will be offering Curative COVID-19 testing Thursday afternoons from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
  - The Maroon Line Clinic in Bryan CB1 has been allocated more than **1,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine** and is holding vaccination events weekly.
    - Appointments are available to members of the Texas A&M University System staff, faculty, or student body (and their dependents).
    - We are following news of potential expansion of the Pfizer vaccine Emergency Use Authorization to younger patients in the coming week.
    - Our next event offering initial doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by appointment only **today Friday, May 7** from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
    - Clinic times for next week will be **Wednesday, May 12** from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM and **Friday, May 14** from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
      - Attached are directions to our vaccination center and step by step examples of the scheduling process along with the required registration/consent forms within our patient portal.

- If you are interested in starting the two dose Pfizer COVID vaccine with our center please schedule an appointment at:  
[https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu\\_id=319012&facility\\_id=33](https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu_id=319012&facility_id=33)
- I am sure you all received the email stating occupancy of our buildings will be back to 100% (see attached). The primary impact of this message is it signals the end of the blanket Alternate Work Location approvals that we have been operating under since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The College of Medicine Executive Committee will discuss this further and provide college specific guidance regarding return to campus expectations.

- For those of you unable to attend our monthly meeting, the recording will be shared soon.

## Education

- Congratulations to nine of our **Family Medicine (TAMFMR) PGY-3 Residents** for passing their board exam on first attempt. This continues the TAMFMR 5 year board pass rate of 100% - such great news!

## Research

- Congratulations to our **COM Graduate Student Organization leaders** for an outstanding job with our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas A&M COM Graduate Student Organization Research Symposium last Friday. They hosted numerous oral and poster presentations, featured speakers, and an awards ceremony.
- Based on all of your feedback and evaluations, a top candidate has been determined for our **NEXT Department Head search**. References are being checked, and I am striving to make a verbal offer and start negotiations over the weekend.

Thank you ahead of time to all of our **Areas of Excellence** (Clinical, Community, Education, and Research) **working group facilitators and champions** for all their respective efforts over the past several months to bring forward more flushed out goals and strategies during our annual virtual strategic plan revisit retreat occurring today, May 7.

Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs

College of Medicine | Texas A&M University

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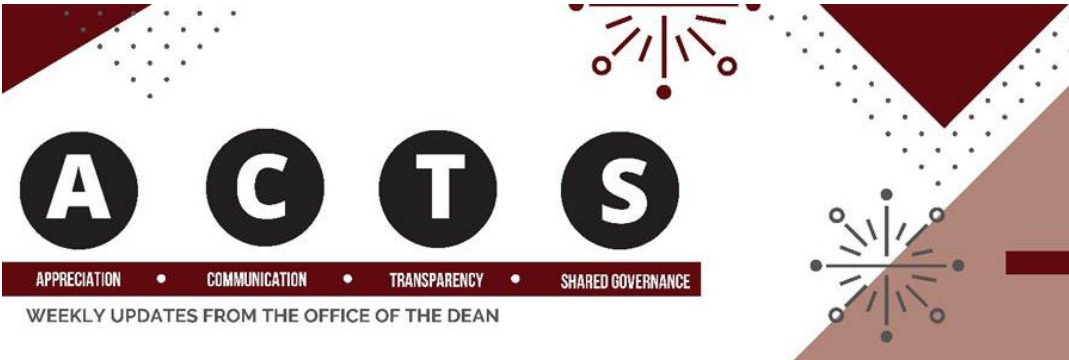
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, April 30, 2021 10:19:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021-2025 - VISION360 Strategic Plan Brochure.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.30 - Maroon Line Clinic Vaccine.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.30 - AFS College-Level Teaching Award Call for Nominations.pdf](#)  
[2021.5.3 - MMAC Speaker Series - War and Peace - Recent Advances and Unresolved Problems in Burn Care.pdf](#)

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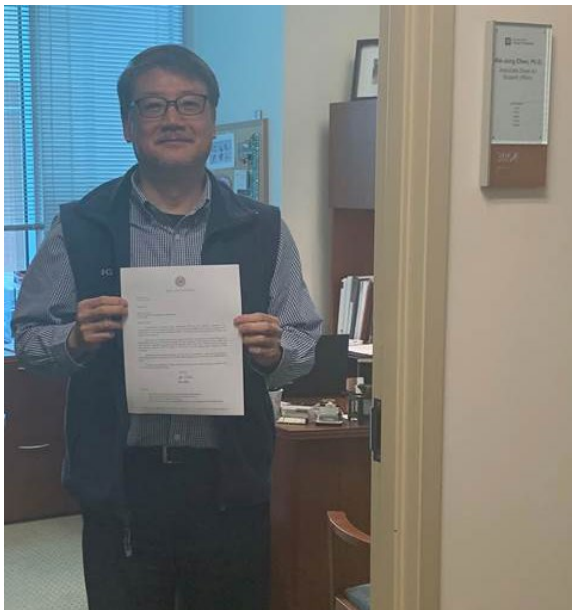


Dear COM All,

I hope you all had a great week. I have the following updates for you:

**Community**

- Thank you to **Melissa Fisher**, Manager for Health Information in our Primary Care & Population Health Department, for going above and beyond on call 24/7 for eCW support. She is a critical employee, and we thank you for your hard work.
- Thank you to **Julie Baker**, Manager for Operations in our Primary Care & Population Health Department, for going the extra mile with her work in the BCG study, handling COVID clinical issues, and vaccine coordination.
- Thank you to **Robin Fuller**, Director in our Primary Care & Population Health Department, for her hard work with the eCW transition and continued dedication to our residents.
- On Monday, April 19, our Pre-Clerkship Office Staff presented a workshop at the SGEA Staff Track Virtual Conference 2021. The session was titled *Implicit Biases from the PreClerkship and Clerkship Perspective: Acknowledging Blind Spots Do Exist*. The session was well-attended and the hope was to provide an opportunity to raise personal awareness and challenge the participants to explore their own implicit biases. Presenters included: **Ms. Sonia de Leon** (BCS), **Ms. Marisa Garza** (BCS), **Ms. Kim Gibson** (BCS), **Ms. Cortney Graves** (BCS), **Ms. Courtney Guest** (BCS), **Ms. Janice Kintzer** (Temple), **Ms. Nemika Meely** (Dallas), **Dr. Latoya Morris** (BCS), **Dr. T. Gail Pritchard** (BCS), and **Mr. John Workman** (BCS).
- Congratulations to **Dr. Wei-Jung Chen**, Professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, for receiving the Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence (PPTe) award. These awards are conferred upon the most distinguished teachers at Texas A&M University. PPTe recipients exhibit uncommon excellence and devotion to the education of their students. This is a huge achievement, and we are so proud of you.



- I need all of you to participate virtually in our upcoming Friday, May 7 **Annual Strategic Plan Revisit Retreat**. [Please RSVP here](#) if you haven't already, and please review the final version of the HSC Vision 360 document (attached).
- Kudos to the **Fab 5** at **Baylor Scott & White in Dallas** for their continued achievements ([view article here](#)).
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers (we experienced no change to our cumulative tracking system in the past week):
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 38
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 60
  - The COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (COVRRT) just wants to remind everyone that the Texas A&M policy for **wearing face coverings while on campus is still in effect**. This would include situations like when one is walking common hallways and when individuals are in the same study room. Please continue to abide by the policy until advised otherwise by the pertinent Texas A&M authorities.
  - The Maroon Line Clinic in Bryan CB1 has been allocated more than **1,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine** and is holding vaccination events on a much more regular basis.
    - Appointments are available to members of the Texas A&M University System staff, faculty, or student body (and their dependents).
    - Our next event offering initial doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by appointment only **today Friday, April 30** from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
    - Clinic times for next week will be Wednesday, May 5 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM and Friday, May 7 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.
      - Attached are directions to our vaccination center and step by step examples of the scheduling process along with the required registration/consent forms within our patient portal.
      - If you are interested in starting the two dose Pfizer COVID vaccine with our center please schedule an appointment at:  
[https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu\\_id=319012&facility\\_id=33](https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu_id=319012&facility_id=33)
  - Thank you to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, who are both 3<sup>rd</sup> year College of Pharmacy students helping at the Maroon Line Clinic Vaccination event.

- We are grateful to have hosted **Dr. Susan Bailey**, President of the American Medical Association and a graduate from our College of Medicine charter Class of 1981, in Houston this past Tuesday. We met with our EnMed leadership and students, the Houston Methodist leadership, and our Institute of Biosciences & Technology (IBT) leadership.









### Education

- On Wednesday, I was at our Round Rock Campus along with **Dr. Kevin Brown** (our Round Rock Associate Campus Dean) and **Dr. Ann Utterback** (College of Nursing Assistant Dean for Distant Site Round Rock) to meet with **Dr. Ruth Welborn** from Texas State University (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Round Rock Campus and Dean of the College of Health Professions). We discussed many aspirational collaborative ideas between us, and we will be visiting their Round Rock campus in May to further discuss next steps.

- Each year, the Texas A&M University **Association of Former Students** awards Texas A&M faculty with the **College-Level Teaching Award**. These awards recognize, encourage, and reward the superior classroom teachers— those individuals whose command of their respective discipline, teaching methodologies, pervasive caring, communication skills, and commitment to the learning process exemplify the meaning of teacher/mentor in its highest sense. This award is designed to distinguish those teachers who maintain high expectations of their students and who ensure academic rigor in their courses. Distinguished teachers recognize their responsibility in motivating and contributing to the overall development of the student. **Please consider nominating an outstanding faculty member for this prestigious award by May 10** (details attached).
- This upcoming **Monday, May 3** from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, please join us for a **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session** featuring Dr. Leo Cancio on the topic of War and Peace: Recent Advances and Unresolved Problems in Burn Care (flier attached).

## Research

Enjoy your weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 11:18:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image009.png](#)  
[2021.4.16 - LEEP Quarterly Report.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.16 - Maroon Line Clinic Vaccine.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

It was a very busy week with a lot of exciting things going on.

#### Community

- Congratulations to our HSC student team for taking **first place** in the national [CLARION](#) Interprofessional Case Competition. This is our fourth year competing, second year to place, (last year's competition was canceled), and first year to take top honors.
- I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Ray Pentecost** (Professor of Practice, College of Architecture and Director of the Center for Health Systems & Design) now has a joint appointment with our College of Medicine in our Primary Care & Population Health Department.



- The Office of Evaluation and Assessment is pleased to welcome **Dr. Kevin Kidder** back to our college as our Director of Evaluation and Assessment and Instructional Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Education. Dr. Kidder has a PhD in Educational Psychology and Research

with a concentration in Evaluation, Statistics, & Measurement from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Kidder worked with our college for several years, and then returned to us after working at The University of Colorado School of Medicine as Assistant Director of Evaluation and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine. During his time as the Evaluation Specialist at the National Institute of STEM Evaluation and Research (NISER), he was able to help secure and serve as the external evaluator for nearly \$13 million in federally funded STEM education grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Additionally, Dr. Kidder was nominated and accepted into the Texas A&M “Leading Others” program, and he is finishing the 5-month intensive leadership course next month. Dr. Kidder’s research interests include improving learning environments and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion issues as it relates to medical education. He also enjoys mentoring medical students around educational research in medical education through a mixed methods approach. Dr. Kidder brings energy and insight to our evaluation and assessment programs, and we are glad he has returned “home.”

- On Tuesday, **Dr. Farida Sohrabji** (our Interim Department Head of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics) spoke to the Houston Aggie Women, which is a networking group that supports professional development, education and giving back. Dr. Sohrabji spoke about women’s health and how some health conditions occur more frequently in women than in men (and vice versa). She also discussed new research that indicates instances of the same medications affecting women and men differently.



- **Wellness Centers:** We are currently working to update and outfit our Bryan Faculty/Staff and Student Wellness Centers. We project being able to reopen these facilities for use in **early August** as TAMU/HSC/COM policies and the changing realities of the pandemic allow.
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers (we experienced no change to our cumulative tracking system in the past week):
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 38
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 59
  - The COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (COVRRT) just wants to remind everyone that the Texas A&M policy for **wearing face coverings while on campus is still in effect**. This would include situations like when one is walking common hallways and when individuals are in the same study room. Please continue to abide by the policy until advised otherwise by the

- pertinent Texas A&M authorities.
  - Unfortunately, our medical student COVID-19 positive patient direct experiences have been paused for now based on Texas A&M (and state) regulations. Once the emergency use authorization requirements around the vaccine are lifted and our clinical affiliates start to require vaccinations, we should be able to start these electives/activities back up.
  - The Maroon Line Clinic in Bryan CB1 has been allocated more than **1,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine** and will begin holding vaccination events on a much more regular basis.
    - Our next event will offer initial doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by appointment only **today Friday, April 16** from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Appointments are available to members of the Texas A&M University System staff, faculty, or student body (and their dependents).
      - Attached are directions to our vaccination center and step by step examples of the scheduling process along with the required registration/consent forms within our patient portal.
      - If you are interested in starting the two dose Pfizer COVID vaccine with our center please schedule an appointment at: [https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu\\_id=319012&facility\\_id=33](https://healow.com/apps/jsp/webview/openaccess/widgets/uc/ucFacility.jsp?apu_id=319012&facility_id=33)
- Thank you to **Lt. Gen (USAF retired) Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH** for his presentation earlier this week at our Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Series on “Law of Armed Conflict: Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment.” A recording of the session will be shared soon.
  - Feel free to save the date for the next session:
    - Monday, May 3, 2021 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST via Zoom
      - Topic: War and Peace: Recent Advances and Unresolved Problems in Burn Care
      - Lee Cancio, MD, FACS, FCCM
        - COL (ret.), MC, US Army
        - Director, US Army Burn Center
        - US Army Institute of Surgical Research
        - Fort Sam Houston, TX
- Congratulations again to our **Texas A&M Accountability, Climate, and Equity (ACE) awardees**. The 2021 ceremony was hosted this past Wednesday ([watch here](#)).
  - **Amy Waer**, MD, Women’s Progress Award (Administrator category)
- Congratulations to **Dr. Hector Chapa** for being selected as one of 22 members to represent professional schools in the InterProfessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) as part of the national IPEC Core Competencies revision working group.
- The **Learning Environment Enrichment Program** (LEEP) has their quarterly report to share with you all. Please view attached.
- Our **Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences faculty, staff, and trainees** have been working hard and after hours to provide support to the Kent Moore Cabinet employees involved in the shootings last Thursday. Thank you all for your Selfless Service.

## Research

- This week from Matt Brown's Office of Business Affairs, the Department Heads and I have received our College of Medicine sponsored projects data. Each year, **we continue to increase our sponsored projects** dollar amount, and I wanted to thank all of you involved in our research mission for making this happen.

## Education

- Congratulations to **Dr. Leslie Singleton** (our Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in Houston) for her recent [book release](#) on *Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation in the 21st Century: Emerging Research and Opportunities*.

Take care,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

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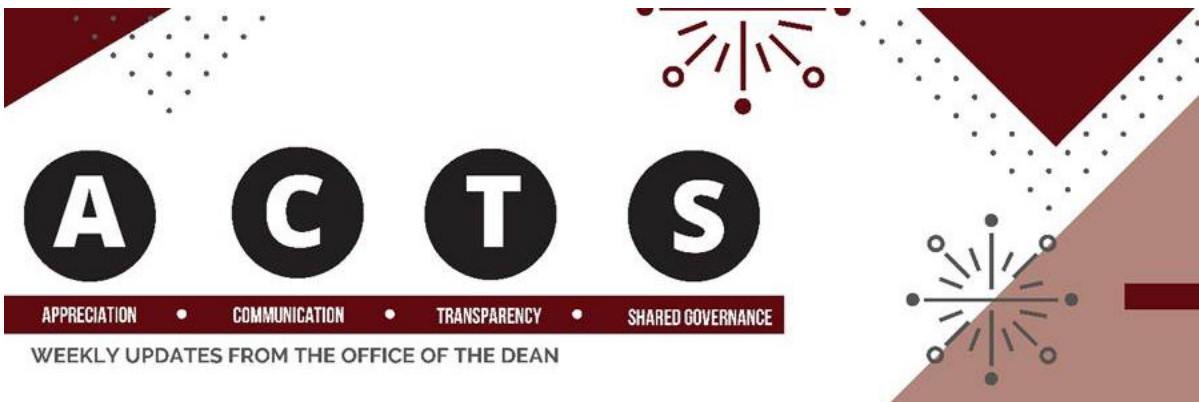
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, April 9, 2021 2:53:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.4.12 - MMAC Speaker Series - Law of Armed Conflict - Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.9 - Voluntary - Vaccinated Individual Maroon Line Algorithm 5.0.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.17 - COM Endowed Positions Guideline.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

I hope you are all doing ok. Please see below for this week's information.

### Community

- Our **thoughts and prayers** go out to those with family/loved ones involved directly or indirectly in yesterday's Bryan, Texas shootings (<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/08/us/bryan-texas-shooting/index.html>). We thank our Bryan/College Station **frontline workers/healthcare providers** for their heroic efforts.
- 
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers:
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 38
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 59
  - Please find attached the final version of the COM algorithm for Voluntary Participation in the Care of COVID Positive & Suspected Patients for Post-vaccinated Clinical Students (checklist included, page 2).
    - This is a significant change in the opportunity for our medical students to gain invaluable clinical experience in patient care and helps COM continue leading in medical education during the pandemic.
  - Maroon Line Clinic
    - We continue to stand ready to provide vaccines to members of our Aggie COMMunity and are awaiting allocation of additional vaccines from DSHS.
    - Texas A&M Student Health Services received more than **4,800 vaccine doses** this week, with more to come. They are doing an amazing job administering vaccines to faculty, staff and students (please visit the [COVID vaccine information page](#) to sign up).
  - Maroon Line Testing
    - Our volunteers provided testing services to 39 members of the Texas A&M system this week.
    - If you are a Texas A&M student/staff/faculty and are interested in undergoing COVID-19 testing, please feel free to sign up at: <https://tamus.curativeinc.com/welcome>
- 
- As Texas A&M University anticipates going "back to normal" on August 1, 2021, I would like our



college to leverage all the COVID-19 lessons learned and continue the efficiencies around virtual where appropriate so that we are “**better than before.**”

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- Today, on behalf of our college, I will be submitting an unsolicited COVID-19 Relief Bill proposal for vaccine distribution targeted to our Texas rural, mostly underserved, counties. Thank you to **Taylor Sexton** (Assistant Director for Office of Federal Relations), Drs. **Rob Carpenter, Jeremy Gibson, Sam Hogue, Micheal Spohn**, our **Academic Technology and Marketing and Communications team, Gerry Parker** and our **Ag colleagues**, along with many others for assisting around this initiative. Fingers crossed that we get funded.
- 
- Thank you to **Dr. PK Carlton** for his Military Medicine Distinguished Speakers Session earlier this week. For those of you who missed it, please see the recording:  
<https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/cfc3648f606544398801abc405598e101d>
  - Additionally, our upcoming session featuring **Dr. Doug Robb** is Monday, April 12 from 12 pm – 1 pm (rescheduled from February due to the winter storm) – details attached. Please [RSVP here](#).
- 
- Thank you to **Drs. Michael Dewsnap** (Community), **Diane Chico** (Education), **Courtney Dodge** (Clinical), and **Jim Samuel** (Research) for facilitating our COM strategic plan annual revisit working groups (they have all started meeting).
- 
- Please [RSVP here](#) (Zoom details will be sent to you) for the **COM Annual Strategic Planning Retreat**, which will be hosted on Friday, May 7 from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. All graduate & medical students, sponsored & affiliated residents, and affiliated & employed faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.
- 
- Reminder for all to participate in Mr. Greg Hartman’s **HSC Vision 360 strategic plan town hall** on Wednesday, April 14 from 3:30 pm – 5 pm.
  - Join Zoom Meeting
    - <https://tamu.zoom.us/j/95674851877?pwd=NjFibzNNNERialM0aJMbFFExUGQvdz09>
    - Meeting ID: 956 7485 1877
    - 
    - Phone: 888 788 0099
- 
- We have developed our College of Medicine **Endowed Chair/Professorship guidelines** (see attached) that have been discussed and adopted by our Department Heads. For next steps, we are in the process of forming the **Advisory Council** regarding such, and each Department Head is putting forward a departmental faculty representative to sit on the council. Once the council is formed, we will start the search process for the Stearman Endowed Professorship, which is currently vacant.

## Research

## Education

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- A reminder to our **Class of 2021 graduating medical students**: Please complete your **AAMC**

**Graduation Questionnaire**, for those who haven't already done so. As of today, we are at a 53.7% completion rate, and we are aiming and incentivizing your class for a greater than 80% completion rate.

- Congratulations to **Jacob Moser** for his **Baby Steps: Pediatrics Milestones Study Aid** ([linked here](#)) that he shared this week with his peers in the Pediatric Clerkship. Jacob received an Innovation grant from the Department of Medical Education (MDED) in 2020 to fund his project. The MDED extends a *Thank You!* to Jacob for his [video about the department](#) and for encouraging his peers to engage in scholarly medical research.
- On a personal note, I am proud to let you all know that I have been accepted to the Texas A&M University Bush School of Government & Public Service **Executive Master's in Public Service and Administration (EMPSA) program**. This is an online asynchronous degree program, and I will start in June of this year. This is a stretch goal of mine, as I spoke about in my interview for the Deanship, and my wanting to promote lifelong learning. I hope you will all join me as I navigate this journey and celebrate my semester by semester accomplishments.

Thanks,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

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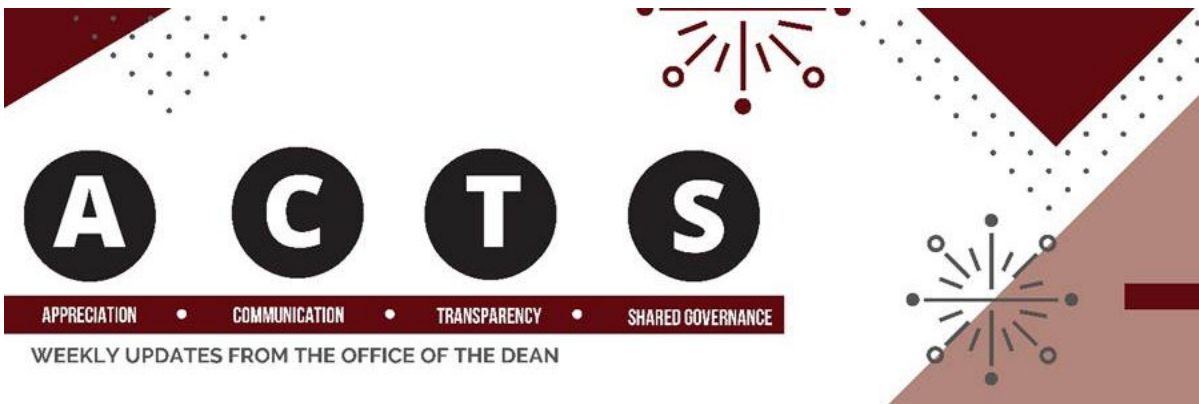
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, April 2, 2021 9:42:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021.4.2 - Position Description - Chief of Staff.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.2 - Johnson & Johnson vaccine.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.2 - Effects of Placental Transfusion on Late Preterm Infants Admitted to a Mother Baby Unit \(George, Chiruvolu\).pdf](#)  
[2021.4.2 - ISGP.pdf](#)  
[2021.4.2 - President's Meritorious Service Award Winners.pdf](#)



Dear COM,

I hope you all had a great week. I have the following updates for you:

### Community

- I am pleased to announce that **Cady Auckerman** has accepted my verbal offer to be our College of Medicine **Chief of Staff**. Cady comes to our college with twenty years of Texas A&M System and University experience (including Chief of Staff roles for 12 years), and she will be starting with us on Monday, May 3, 2021. Attached is our Chief of Staff position description, for reference. Thank you to Mr. Courtney Dodge for chairing this search process along with all of the search committee members.



- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers (we experienced no change to our cumulative tracking system in the past week):
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 37
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 59
  - As of this morning, the Maroon Line Clinic has not received additional vaccine allotments.

The [Texas A&M Student Health Services Clinic](#) (College Station main campus) will have vaccine opportunities to be given at the Chapel the weeks of April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for vaccinators and screeners. Further information will be forthcoming as logistics continue to be planned.

- You may have heard about a manufacturing issue with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The DSHS has confirmed the Texas allocation was not affected (see attached).
- Volunteer spotlight: We had a volunteer unexpectedly unable to join us at the Maroon Line Testing site this week, and thankfully \_\_\_\_\_ was able to join us along with \_\_\_\_\_ is a Texas A&M Biology major undergraduate and a member of the Science to Medicine early acceptance program. She has an anticipated entry to COM as an M1 in 2022.

- Dr. Kevin Brown, Mr. Courtney Dodge, and myself had a productive in person meeting with Dr. James Geracci at **Seton Williamson** in Round Rock earlier this week discussing ongoing collaborative efforts.
- Also earlier this week, Dr. Kevin Brown and myself met with Dr. Rob Watson (Chief Medical Officer for BSWH Austin/Round Rock region), Dr. Christian Cable (BSWH Designated Institutional Official for Temple), and Dr. Rakesh Surapaneni (BSWH Designated Institutional Official and Education Lead for Round Rock) regarding growth opportunities with **BSWH** in the Round Rock/Austin area.
- On Wednesday, we had our quarterly **Military Medicine Advisory Committee** meeting. Thanks to all for their presentations and moving this area of focus forward for our college.

## Research

- **Dr. Rajesh Miranda** received the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Marlatt Mentorship Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism. The Marlatt Award is given to an individual whose mentoring of young researchers in the alcohol research field is demonstrated to be exceptional.

- The **International Society for Gravitational Physiology** 2021 Conference will be held virtually this year. Abstracts are due by April 12, and registration is open and free for students. There will be many talks relevant to space medicine, so please join us for this event (details attached). Feel free to contact **Dr. Pooneh Bagher** for more info.

### Education

- **Dr. Leslie Day** co-authored an [Anatomy & Physiology Laboratory Manual](#) published by McGraw-Hill. This manual utilizes cadaveric dissection and educational learning principles to teach Anatomy & Physiology concepts to pre-health students across the globe. The lab manual accompanies the world recognized McKinley's Anatomy & Physiology Textbook, also published by McGraw-Hill.

### Appreciation

- Congratulations to **Chris Diem** for being selected as an individual award recipient for the President's Meritorious Service Award (details attached). Chris consistently demonstrates commitment to the Aggie Core Values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service day in and day out.
- Congratulations to seven members of our COMmunity as they were named 2021 **Texas A&M Accountability, Climate, and Equity (ACE) awardees**. The ACE Awards acknowledge and honor students, faculty and staff in honor of their demonstrated commitment to the Texas A&M core value of **respect** by promoting respectful treatment of others, affirming and encouraging individuals to take pride in their social and cultural identities, and including all in their definition of the "Aggie Family."

- **Amy Waer**, MD, Women's Progress Award (Administrator category)

### Leadership Position Opportunities within the COM

- As a reminder, our **Executive Associate Dean** position is now posted externally and internally. Dr. Jim Samuel is chairing this search committee, and Kim Meschke is administrating the process. If you know of anyone at the Professor level (on any track) who is interested in applying, please encourage them to reach out to me.
  - The links below are the exact same application. The only difference in the links are the faculty track (tenured vs non-tenured Clinical).
    - Tenured: Professor & Executive Associate Dean
      - <https://apply.interfolio.com/84713>
    - Academic Professional Track (Non-Tenure): Clinical Professor & Executive

Associate Dean

- <https://apply.interfolio.com/84623>

Happy Easter to those who celebrate this occasion. I hope you all have a beautiful weekend.

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs

College of Medicine | Texas A&M University

8447 Riverside Parkway #3078

1359 TAMU | Bryan, TX 77807

ph: 979.436.0223 | [waer@tamu.edu](mailto:waer@tamu.edu)

Strengths=Focus, Achiever, Responsibility, Relator, Discipline

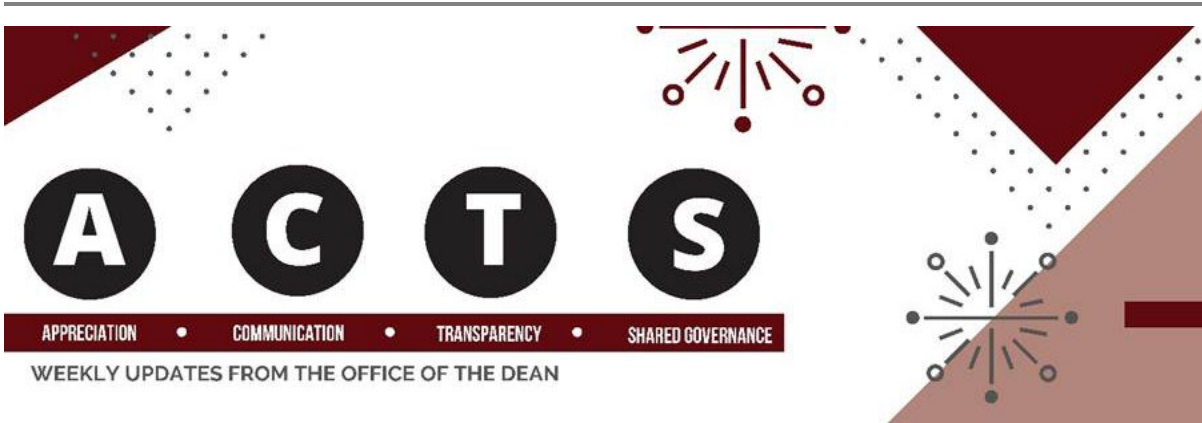
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, March 26, 2021 12:47:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.3.24 - Service Awards - Faculty Staff.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.4 - Strategic Planning Working Group Member List.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.26 - Call for Nominations - GIC members.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.26 - Seeking faculty mentors Self Directed Learning pilot.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.26 - FMR & PR Residents c.o2024.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

I hope you all had a great week and that you are enjoying our beautiful Spring weather. I have the following updates for you:

#### **Appreciation**

- Please join me in congratulating **Drs. Rob Carpenter** and **Michael Dewsnap** for their Texas A&M [Transformational Teaching and Learning Conference](#) presentation submission acceptance on the topic: Promoting Excellence through Appreciative Inquiry at Texas A&M University College of Medicine. We invite you all to attend, and please visit their website when registration opens.
- Congratulations to our **Family Medicine Residency & Psychiatry Residency Programs** for both achieving outstanding matches. See attached for our incoming PGY1s.
- Thank you to **Dr. Francis Achike** and the **Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** for hosting the town hall early this week to address the recent acts of Asian racism within our nation.
- Thank you to all of our **Faculty and Staff** who participated in our **annual COM Service Awards Ceremony** earlier this week. All of your years of service and dedication to our College is much appreciated (see attached).

#### **Communication & Transparency**

- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers (we experienced no change to our cumulative tracking system in the

past week):

- **Employees** (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 37
- **Students** (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 59
- Maroon Line Clinic:
  - We received an allocation of 500 doses of the Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine from DSHS the week of 3.8.2021.
  - We reopened our registration process to all COM members for a limited time this week to allow additional members to register with us for classification and offer appointments for vaccination when their specific phase qualification is approved.
  - We advocated for and received approval to offer vaccination to all registered members of COM over the age of 50 in line with the recent expansion of qualification guidelines by DSHS.
  - We helped facilitate vaccination events on the Round Rock and Bryan campuses.
  - We continue to stand ready to provide vaccines to members of our Aggie COMmunity and are awaiting allocation of additional vaccines from DSHS.
  - DSHS has approved opening registration and vaccination to all adults in Texas starting Monday 3.29.2021.
- Maroon Line Testing:
  - Our volunteers provided testing services to 180 members of the Texas A&M system this week as a part of the required testing process announced by the University.
  - We have met our initial benchmark goal of delivering our **5000<sup>th</sup> testing encounter** over six months of service on Thursday 3.26.2021.
  - We have windows with 100 testing appointments each open next Tuesday 3.30 and Thursday 4.1 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.
  - If you are a Texas A&M student/staff/faculty and are interested in undergoing COVID-19 testing, please feel free to sign up at:  
<https://tamus.curativeinc.com/welcome>
- Thank you to \_\_\_\_\_ (early acceptance program) and **Laura Ackerman** (Program Coordinator for AIM) for jumping in at a moment's notice to assist with the Maroon Line Testing site this week when we had a rush of individuals arrive.

- Thank you to all of our COM **strategic plan working groups** (Clinical, Community, Education, and Research), our facilitators, and members (list attached) who are actively meeting and doing the pre-homework leading up to our Friday, May 7 COM Annual Strategic Plan revisit process.



Reminder: **You are all invited** to attend this important virtual event and have a voice in where our College is going around these areas of excellence ([please RSVP here](#)).

- Thank you to our **medical student leaders** for arranging the **OR Etiquette Panel** in collaboration with our Nursing colleagues earlier this week. If you were unable to attend, you are welcome to view the recording here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/18-82Vpo4XqYc7YztrDOeMAoZ\\_dkxtO9D/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18-82Vpo4XqYc7YztrDOeMAoZ_dkxtO9D/view?usp=sharing)
- Thank you to **Dr. Gül Russell** for hosting our **Alumni Leadership Series** event on March 12 featuring **Dr. Ali Azizi**, who spoke on “Comparative Health Systems US vs Canada: A Hospitalist’s Experience.” If you were unable to attend, you can view the recording here: <https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/9283153e2dc749f0b001e3ff941bd4f21d>

### **Shared Governance**

- The **Graduate Instruction Committee** (GIC) is requesting anyone from our faculty who is interested in the COM graduate education to nominate (or self-nominate) for two at-large voting member positions. A ballot will be run among the general faculty after nominations are gathered. If you wish to submit a nomination, please contact Mrs. Pamela Williams ([polozeck@tamu.edu](mailto:polozeck@tamu.edu)) by Friday, April 2 (more details attached).
- The **Self-Directed Learning task force** is seeking **faculty mentors** for an upcoming Self-Directed Learning pilot, scheduled to take place during the Respiratory Block from June 9 to June 23, 2021. Please contact task force leader Dr. Leslie Day ([lday@tamu.edu](mailto:lday@tamu.edu)) if you are interested in participating (more details attached).

Have a nice weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**  
**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

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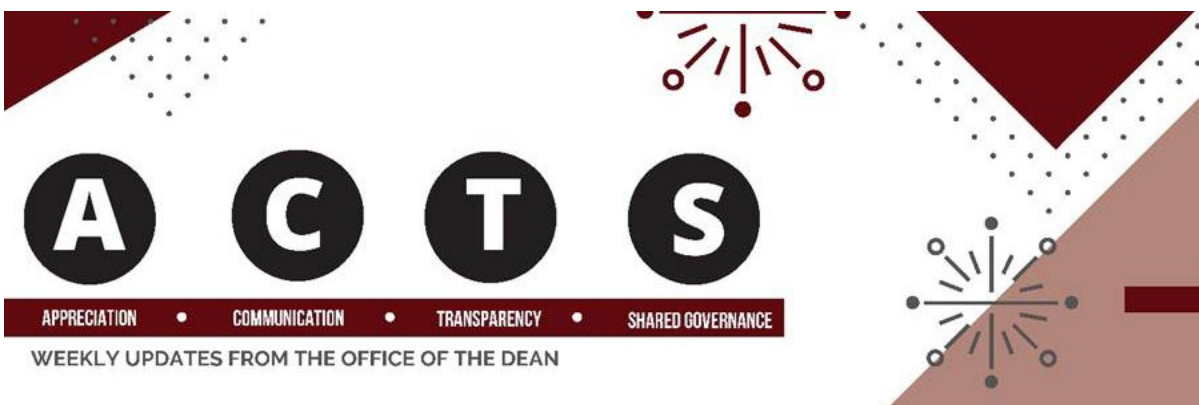
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 12:26:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.3.12 - Anyone 50 or older can now get COVID-19 vaccine.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

I hope you all had a nice week. Please see below for this week's updates:

- I am pleased to let you know that **Dr. Diane Chico** has officially been approved to be our Department Head for Medical Education (no longer interim!). Congratulations, Dr. Chico! Thanks to Dr. Jeremy Gibson as the search committee Chair and all the search committee members for their efforts to make this happen.
- Our College of Medicine **Grad Student Org** (GSO) is running a College of Medicine car decal fundraiser to help support events put on by their organization. They have added an additional car decal design for **our former students!** The designs can be viewed in this [Google form](#) where orders can be placed. Please spread the word, and these will be available until sold out.
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers:
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 33
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 58
  - Anyone age 50 or older can now get COVID-19 vaccines (see attached for further details).
  - We received an allocation of 500 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which we have already begun distributing in consultation with Texas A&M Health and the Vaccine Task Force.
- We had our second **BSWH/TAMU Joint Advisory Committee** (JAC) meeting in person in Dallas earlier this week. We are in the process of charging the **current six subcommittees** (listed below) who will be asked to participate virtually in the upcoming April JAC meeting. At some point in the future, we will be adding two additional subcommittees: Clinical and Research.
  - Bryan/College Station: Dr. Micheal Spohn, *Chair*
  - Dallas: Dr. Cristie Columbus, *Chair*
  - Round Rock: Dr. Kevin Brown, *Chair*
  - Temple: Dr. Scott Wieters, *Chair*

Faculty Affairs: Dr. Bill Griffith, *Chair*

◦ Undergraduate Medical Education: Dr. Jeremy Gibson, *Chair*

- **Drs. Sam Hogue, Micheal Spohn**, and I went to Beeville, Texas yesterday to meet with the **CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Beeville** leadership team, as well as the Beeville key community members regarding restarting our rural track with our medical students. There was great interest and enthusiasm, and we will be moving this initiative forward as part of our COM Rural and Population Health Area of Focus.
- Last Thursday, March 4, we virtually hosted **retired Major General Elder Granger, MD** for his leadership presentation as part of our Military Medicine Distinguished Speakers Series. For those of you unable to participate live, here is the recording for your viewing.
  - <https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/5795c1b7b9ce4fb2ac75a838e12076c61d>
- This Sunday, March 14: **Dr. Hector Chapa** will be giving a **TEDxTAMU** talk at Rudder Theatre in College Station, and there are 100 max tickets (in person) available. View [this website](#) for more details.

Have a great weekend!  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**  
**Dean**

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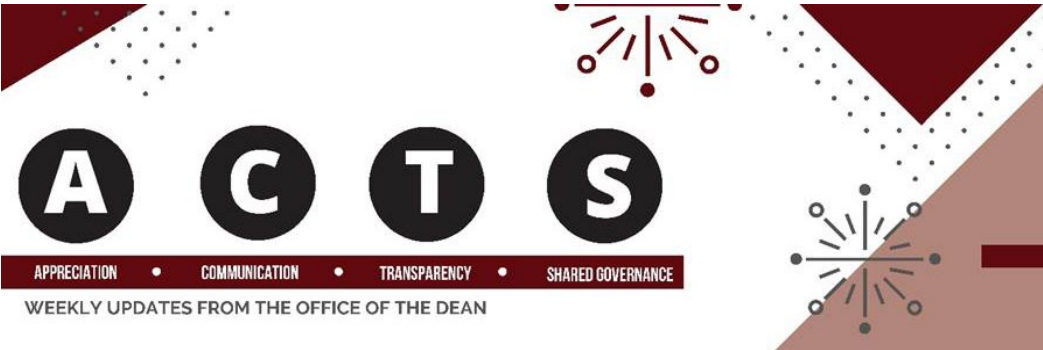
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021 10:45:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [2021.3.5 - Recommendations for NonCompliance with TAMU CoVID 19 Policies v11.5.20.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.5 - USMLE STEP 1 Performance Summary.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.5 - NBME Annual Recognition Letter 2020 - Texas AM Health Science Center COM.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.5 - Sad News - Dr. Dennis Myers.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.5 - GSO symposium flyer \(4.30.21\).pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers (We had a shift in total numbers due both to new cases as well as reclassification based on clarification of two prior individuals' roles):
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 33
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 58
  - Maroon Line Clinic:
    - All remaining members of the COM Medical Student Class of 2024 on the BCS campus wishing to undergo vaccination were offered appointments this week through partnership with the Brazos County / CHI St. Joseph Vaccination Hub at the Brazos Center in acknowledgment of their responsibilities as rising healthcare workers.
    - We will be receiving the "one and done" Johnson & Johnson vaccine next week, and we are currently discussing with the HSC covid vaccine task force regard local distribution.
  - Maroon Line Testing:
    - Our volunteers provided testing services to 52 members of the TAMU system this week.
    - We have windows for testing appointments open for next Tuesday 3/9 and Thursday 3/11 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM.
    - If you are a TAMU student/staff/faculty and are interested in undergoing COVID-19 testing, please feel free to sign up at: <https://tamus.curativeinc.com/welcome>
  - Just a reminder about our process for noncompliance with COVID reports as they relate to professionalism. Our COVID rapid response team (COVRRT) vets COVID reports and recommends actions to pertinent personnel/entities before actions. Such actions could include moving the report to our Learning Environment Enrichment Program (LEEP) or direct action by supervisors etc. Please view attached.
- I am pleased to announce that despite pandemics and polar vortices, our graduating medical and graduate students will be having their **commencement ceremony in person** this year. To allow for required social distancing, the event will be moved to Reed Arena, and to fit in with the university's commencement schedule, it will be one day earlier than usual. The Class of 2021 will be graduating on **Friday, May 21 at 4 pm in Reed Arena** on the Texas A&M University College Station campus. As was the case last year, our usual Hooding Ceremony will not be possible, and Match Day will occur virtually. Please join me in congratulating our graduating students.
- Thank you to our medical student leaders, \_\_\_\_\_, for assisting with organizing and virtually hosting the **Latino Medical Student Association 9<sup>th</sup> annual regional conference** last Saturday.

- Regarding our USMLE Step 1 scores, our College of Medicine students have done amazingly well and **are three points we higher than the national average!** So proud of you all and a big shout out to our **Office of Academic Success team** for all their dedicated time and effort to assisting our students around this (see attached).
- Thank you to **retired Major General Elder Granger, MD** for his leadership presentation earlier this week as part of our Military Medicine Distinguished Speakers Series. For those of you unable to participate live, we will send the recording to you in an upcoming ACTS.

**Leader vs. Manager**

The manager administers	↔	The leader innovates
The manager maintains	↔	The leader develops
The manager relies on systems	↔	The leader relies on people
The manager counts on controls	↔	The leader counts on trust
The manager does things right	↔	The leader does the right thing

5P. Leadership Principles

8

Video call participants: Elder, Nichols, Marlen..., Cambo, Nichols, Marlen..., Kris, Fra, Mares, Selena, Jenny Thurmond.

**15 Leadership Principles**

- PRINCIPLE 1 – Communicate openly
- PRINCIPLE 2 – Get to know other people
- PRINCIPLE 3 – Foster creative thinking
- PRINCIPLE 4 – Use incentives
- PRINCIPLE 5 – Praise in public, punish in private
- PRINCIPLE 6 – Use rewards
- PRINCIPLE 7 – Include others in the decision-making process
- PRINCIPLE 8 – Treat people with kindness and respect

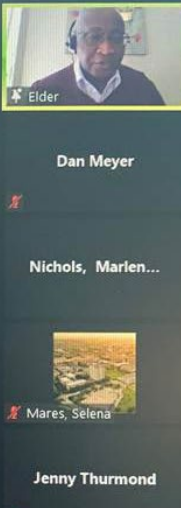
5P. Leadership Principles


9


Video call participants: Elder, Dan Meyer, Bennett Zivney, A Farris, Winterrowd, As...

## 15 Leadership Principles

- PRINCIPLE 9 – Lead by example or follow with enthusiasm
- PRINCIPLE 10 – Understand the sources of conflict
- PRINCIPLE 11 – Acknowledge that people basically want to do good
- PRINCIPLE 12 – Gain power by giving up power
- PRINCIPLE 13 – Treat causes not symptoms
- PRINCIPLE 14 – Integrate... No stove pipes
- PRINCIPLE 15 – Be accountable and responsible






10

- Thank you to **Drs. Paul Brandt** and **Wei-Jung Chen** for their service to the NBME and representing our College of Medicine at this national level (view attached).
- It is with sad news that I inform you of the recent passing of **Dr. Dennis Myers**, one of our amazing clinical leaders and educators from Temple. Condolences to his family and friends (see attached).
- [Upcoming events](#)
  - March 14: **Dr. Hector Chapa** will be giving a **TEDxTAMU** talk at Rudder Complex in College Station, and there are 100 max tickets (in person) available. View [this website](#) for more details.
  - April 30: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual **Research Symposium** hosted by our COM Graduate Student Organization (see attached).

Thank you all, and have a good weekend.

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

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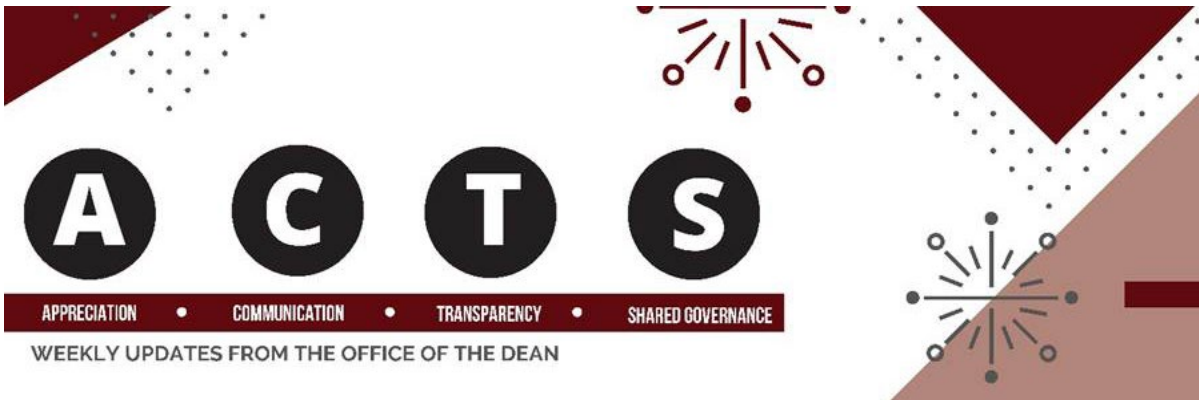
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, February 26, 2021 12:26:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[2021.2.26 - USMLE Medical Student & Residency Advisory Panel.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.26 - COM & AMPLIFY Women's Mentoring Circle.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - Curriculum Model.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.26 - Cartoons.pdf](#)  
[2021.3.4 - MMAC Speaker Series - Leadership Philosophy Collected Wisdom Along the Way.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.26 - Cup of Coffee Training \(3.11.21\).pdf](#)  
[2021.4.12 - MMAC Speaker Series - Law of Armed Conflict - Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment.pdf](#)



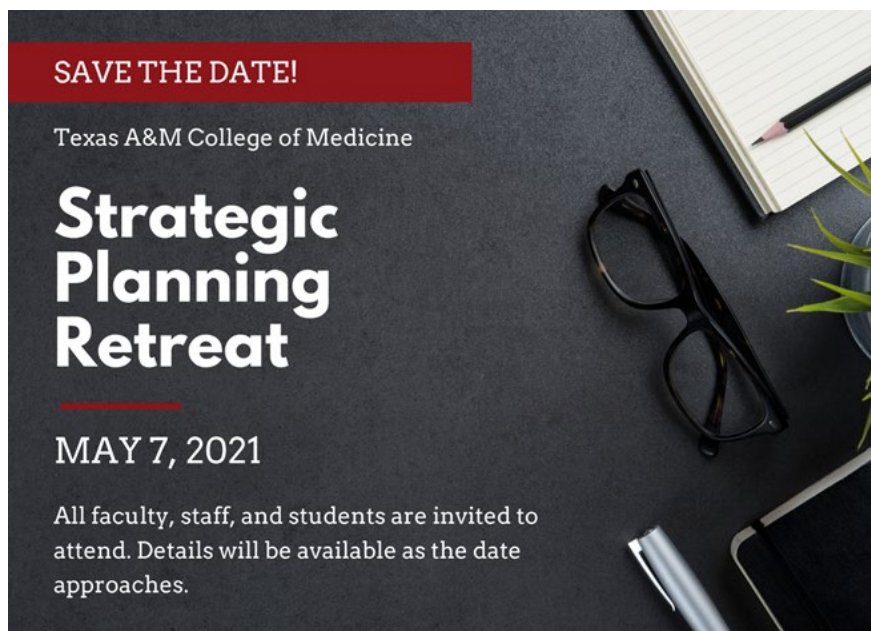
Dear COM All,

I truly hope all of you have gotten past the worst of the affects from last week's winter storm. I have the following updates from this week for you:

- Second and third year medical students, please reach out to me via email at [waer@tamu.edu](mailto:waer@tamu.edu) if you are interested in potentially being nominated from our College for the USMLE Medical Student & Residency Advisory Panel. If selected, this is a great way to get national recognition. See attached for details.
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 35
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 55
  - We continue tracking multiple high-risk exposures as a result of disruption to usual living conditions and activities from last week's severe winter storm.
  - As a reminder, up to date information, algorithms, reporting checklists, and resources can be found at the COM COVID-19 website: <https://medicine.tamu.edu/coronavirus/>
  - Should you experience a COVID related exposure, symptoms, or positive result please follow the appropriate arm of the COM (E/S/P) algorithm:  
<https://medicine.tamu.edu/coronavirus/algorithm-pdfs/com-symptom-positive-or-exposure-algorithm.pdf>
    - This would include immediate completion of the mandatory TAMU COVID-19 Reporting Form: <https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=N38DRD4EMK>
    - As well as the COM COVID-19 Concern Reporting Form:  
<https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=KWMN4YNF89>
  - Maroon Line Testing site:
    - Provided service to 55 members of the Texas A&M System this last week.

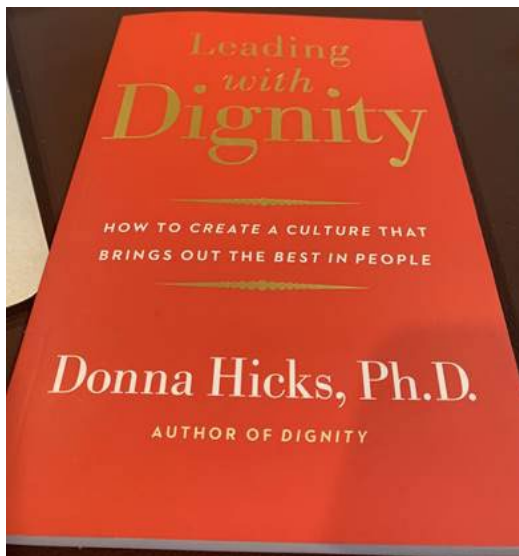
- We will be open for testing appointments again next week on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 PM to – 2:00 PM.
  - Maroon line Vaccine clinic
    - We continue to submit weekly requests to DSHS for allocations of vaccines.
    - Your best options for vaccination are Walmart, Sam's, and through Local Hubs.
    - We are anxiously awaiting emergency use authorization of Johnson and Johnson single dose viral vector vaccine.
    - We anticipate FDA decision this weekend and hope it will alter current vaccine distribution in Texas.
    - Bryan/College Station M1s have been given the option to receive vaccine through Brazos Center.
- Please join me in congratulating **Dr. James Samuel** in his election to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. The Academy, the honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology, recognizes excellence, originality, service and leadership in the microbial sciences. Dr. Samuel is among the top 65 fellows who were elected into the Academy this year. This is a great honor and we are so proud of you.
- To our graduate students and medical students: Please see the attached from the TAMU **AMPLIFY Women's Mentoring Circle** as an additional opportunity for mentoring. Applications are due March 3.
- Thank you to our **Curriculum Committee**, the **working group members**, and especially **Dr. Laura West** as our Curriculum Committee Chair for achieving significant improvements to our medical student curriculum. These improvements with bringing back a summer break for research and/or military obligations is a huge achievement and truly a "You Said, We Did" moment.
  - This model (attached) has:
    - the core clerkship occurring within a one-year timespan and concluding by April of the M3 year, as requested by clerkship leadership and Student Affairs to support residency applications and
    - a 10-week break between the M1 and M2 year, to support student opportunities in research, clinical shadowing, volunteering, and supplemental curricula.
- I am pleased to let you know that **Dr. Terri Kurz** has been offered and accepted to be our **Assistant Dean for Faculty Development** (this position was formerly held by Dr. Emily Wilson who moved to the University of Southern Alabama for a career advancement opportunity). Dr. Kurz will be reporting directly to Dr. Bill Griffith in his Interim Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs role. Congratulations Dr. Kurz, we are so proud of you!
- Thank you, Dr. Gül Russell, for providing the attached cartoons for some **humor and levity**.
- Please remember to **register** for our College of Medicine virtual **annual strategic plan retreat** on Friday, May 7 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Pre-session working groups will be forming next month so please look for these opportunities for all constituents of our College to lead change and improvement of our strategic plan.
  - Registration: [https://calendar.tamu.edu/medicine/view/event/event\\_id/226367](https://calendar.tamu.edu/medicine/view/event/event_id/226367)





- Thank you to all of our **M1 Houston based EnMed students** who participated in the town hall earlier this week. For those of you may have missed it, please see the recording of the session:
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qy7fxbGtYlQL\\_1jlcFBbluV6FhMqJgzb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qy7fxbGtYlQL_1jlcFBbluV6FhMqJgzb/view?usp=sharing)
- As a reminder, the **COM Ombuds office** is still available as a resource to all faculty and staff. Although they cannot meet in person, they are accessible and can setup one-on-one meetings over the phone and via Zoom. In addition, their office has a dedicated email where you can reach them to setup a meeting at: [com-ombuds@tamu.edu](mailto:com-ombuds@tamu.edu) .
  - **Erin Herbrich (Staff Ombuds)** is available to assist COM staff with any issues. We are currently in the process of filling the Faculty Ombuds role.
  - They are here to help with any of the following:
    - Serving as a confidential outlet if a College of Medicine faculty or staff person needs to verbally process an issue
    - Being available within a timely manner to meet one-on-one with College of Medicine faculty and staff
    - Interfacing with the Texas A&M Ombuds where appropriate/indicated
    - Working collaboratively to address learning environment concerns
    - Being familiar with the College of Medicine and Texas A&M policies (such as Title IX) and procedures
  - <https://medicine.tamu.edu/about/professionalism/ombuds.html>
- Please take the time to fill out the TAMU [Your Voice Matter's 2021 survey](#) by March 7, 2021. This survey is focused on climate and experience of all members of TAMU. This survey will specifically help COM further identify our strengths and areas of improvement with regard to our climate, experience, and overall learning environment.
- Upcoming events (fliers attached)
  - **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Series**
    - Thursday, March 4 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST
      - Elder Granger MD, FACP, FACHE, MG, USA (retired)
      - Topic: Leadership Philosophy: Collected Wisdom Along the Way

- Monday, April 5 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST
  - PK Carlton, Jr, MD, FACS, Lt Gen (Ret) USAF
  - Details & flier coming soon
- Monday, April 12 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST (*rescheduled from February 19*)
  - Lt Gen (USAF ret) Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH
  - Topic: Law of Armed Conflict: Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment
- **Cup of Coffee Training** (*rescheduled from February 18*)
  - Thursday, March 11 from 12 pm – 1 pm
- **Dr. Geoffrey Kapler** (Department Head for Molecular and Cellular Medicine) and myself were accepted with a group of around 20 university wide participants for the **TAMU Leading with Dignity series**. We have been participating every Friday for the past several weeks, and this session is being led by author Dr. Donna Hicks and is based on her bestselling book *Leading with Dignity*.



- A few of the main take away points so far in the series is that leading with dignity requires:
  - Knowledge of the inherent value and vulnerability of ourselves and others
  - Knowledge of the power we have to affect others
  - That dignity and respect go hand in hand
- In these ongoing challenging times, let's all please remember to treat each other with dignity and speak up in a respectful/professional manner if we feel that our dignity has been violated. Thanks and more to come around this topic...

I hope that you all have a good weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**  
**Dean**  
**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**  
 Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs  
 College of Medicine | Texas A&M University  
 8447 Riverside Parkway #3078  
 1359 TAMU | Bryan, TX 77807

ph: 979.436.0223 | [waer@tamu.edu](mailto:waer@tamu.edu)

Strengths=Focus, Achiever, Responsibility, Relator, Discipline

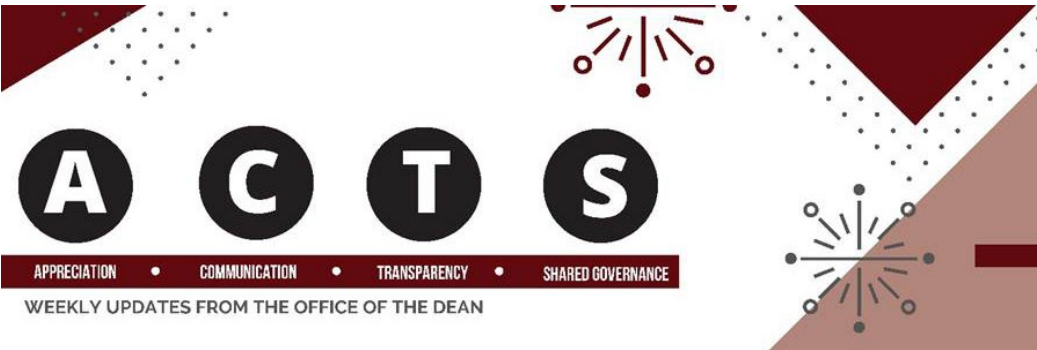
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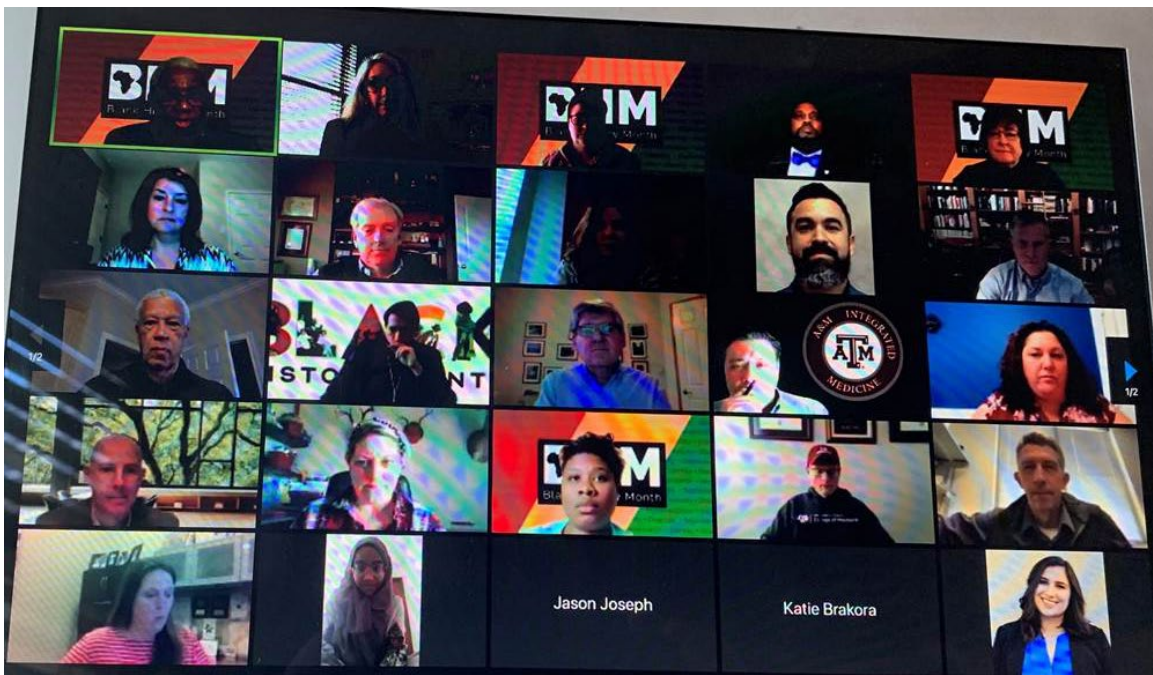
**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, February 12, 2021 3:21:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.2.5 - DEI Inauguration Program.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.12 - Policy Review Grad Admission.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.12 - Relationships In Medicine Panel \(2.16.21\).pdf](#)  
[2021.2.12 - Wine Glass Order Form.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.5 - Cup of Coffee Training \(2.18.21\).pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe and warm regarding this inclement weather. I have the following updates for you from this week.

- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 33
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 52
  - Maroon Line Testing Site
    - Performed 84 tests on the HSC Bryan campus this week
    - Will be closed next week due to inclement weather
    - Potential for opening testing windows later in week pending improvement in forecast
    - Should you encounter a problem scheduling a TAMUS COVID-19 test next week in BCS, please contact Dr. Carpenter
  - Maroon Line Clinic
    - Delivered second doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to individuals from the initial January clinic
    - Facilitated vaccination of additional phase 1A members of our COMMunity with our HSC Vaccine Task Force partners at the College of Pharmacy
    - Preparing for additional vaccine administration events pending additional allocation of primary vaccine doses from Tx DSHS
- Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Timothy B. Boone**, Chairman, Department of Urology and Director of the Houston Methodist Education Institute, on receiving the **Southwestern University Medal of Honor**. Dr. Boone is a 1977 graduate of Southwestern, where he continues to be a valued member and benefactor of the Southwestern community, through mentoring current students and offering research internship opportunities, as well as previously serving as the chair of the Science Center Advisory Council for the new Fondren–Jones Science Center. We are honored to celebrate this lifetime achievement with you, Dr. Boone and even more honored to have you as our Houston Campus Dean!
- Thank you to our COM Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) office for last Friday's **DEI Committee Inauguration Ceremony**, and thank you to all of you who have served on the outgoing committee and will continue to serve on the incoming committee (please view attached).



- I am so pleased to let you know that **Dr. Farida Sohrabji** (our Interim Department Head for NEXt) has officially been approved by Texas A&M to hold the **Cox Endowed Chair** position. Thank you to Dr. James Samuel and the search committee members who led this process for our College. Congratulations, Dr. Sohrabji!
- **COM Medical Science Ph.D. Graduate Program Recruitment**  
 The Bryan/College Station Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC) hosted applicants to the PhD Program in Medical Sciences via Zoom on January 29-30, 2021. Following their interviews and feedback received from the faculty and current Ph.D. students, the GAC made 15 offers to a cohort of talented students. A big thanks to the GAC, co-chaired by **Dr. Jason Karpac** and **Dr. A. Phillip West**, for identifying outstanding candidates to the MSCI Graduate Program. Thanks also to **all the faculty and Ph.D. students** who met with students, as well as to **Dr. Carol Vargas and her office** for assisting in the coordination of this event. We are excited about recruiting these outstanding candidates to the College of Medicine. A document that outlines the recruitment process as configured by the GAC and GPC, including the application review and the availability of student applications to

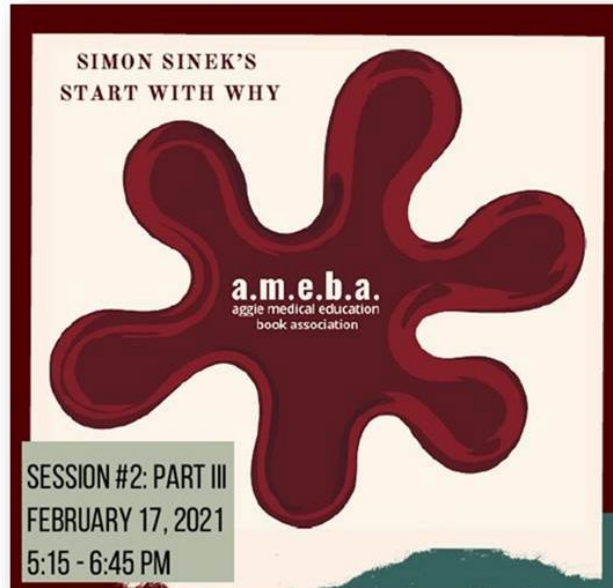
the graduate faculty, is attached.

- Over the past weekend, **Dr. Gloria Conover**, our Director of Medical Student Research, was a panelist representing the College of Medicine in the Sling Health Design Review 2. The other panelists were **Dr. Marcia Ory** from the School of Public Health, **Dr. Lynne Opperman** from the College of Dentistry, and **Drs. Heather Lewis** and **Saurabh Biswas** from the College of Engineering. The panelists provided constructive live feedback to the nine cross-disciplinary student teams currently working on research projects that propose engineering solutions centered on addressing healthcare problems. Congratulations to

being involved in innovative cross-disciplinary projects.

- Congratulations to our medical students who participated in our **Annual Medical Research Colloquium** (MRC), sponsored by the Office of Medical Student Research Education. The 34 poster and oral talks presented this week during our 2021 MRC, exemplifies the tenacity and grit of medical students and their faculty mentors to strive for excellence in medical research that will improve patient disease outcomes. The MRC Organizing Committee thanks our amazingly inspirational Physician Investigators Keynote Speakers, **Dr. Bhargavi Patham** from Houston Methodist, and **Dr. Barbara W. Trautner** from Baylor College of Medicine. The Committee is also very grateful to all the judges who dedicated their time and effort to support the breath of scholarly research activity presented by our medical students and make the Virtual 2021 MRC a great success!
- Texas A&M Health has a new photo repository with images that you can use for websites, PowerPoint presentations, and other communications you make create on behalf of the college. Please bookmark the link for later use: <https://tamuhealth.photoshelter.com/index>. Those with a Texas A&M NetID can log in through SSO to download photos.
- The **Learning Environment Enrichment Program** (LEEP) would like to remind everyone of a university-wide survey that runs from now until March 7. In short, the survey [Your Voice 2021](#) assesses campus climate, safety, belonging and success. They want to hear from all students (including MD, PhD, master's, etc.), faculty and staff to understand everyone's perspectives on their Texas A&M experience.
- **Reveille X** is now in BCS training to take over for **Reveille IX** at the end of this semester in case you missed this announcement:
  - [https://today.tamu.edu/2021/02/05/texas-am-announces-selection-of-mascot-candidate/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=maestro&utm\\_campaign=campus-notification&utm\\_term=mascot-candidate&utm\\_content=email](https://today.tamu.edu/2021/02/05/texas-am-announces-selection-of-mascot-candidate/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=maestro&utm_campaign=campus-notification&utm_term=mascot-candidate&utm_content=email)
- Past event recordings, for your reference:
  - Thursday, February 4: **Alumni Leadership Series** on a career in Psychiatry featuring **Dr. Aekta Malhotra**, MD, MS Class of 2016.
    - <https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/42b849233d544b14a0bbe3f863f11dd51d>
  - Monday, February 8: **COM Graduate & Medical Students: Check In Meeting**
    - (start at 1 min 45 seconds) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/118u9YiGOh23lneT1ZPH-dr43xfiN1CMf/view?usp=sharing>
- [Upcoming events](#) to save on your calendars
  - Tuesday, February 16 at 7 pm
    - **Women in Medicine** and **Med Pride** will be hosting a **Relationships in Medicine Panel**. The details are attached, which includes the 5 couples who will be panelists. The Zoom information is:
      - <https://tamu.zoom.us/j/91820331486?pwd=R3JSTXdveFRvaXdjdE1oVkrR1ZkF1dz09>
      - Zoom Meeting ID: 918 2033 1486
      - Passcode: 640254
  - Wednesday, February 17 from 5:15 pm – 6:45 pm
    - Session #2 of **Aggie Medical Education Book Association (AMEBA)**. All COMMunity members (faculty, staff, residents, students [COM, GRAD etc.]) are encouraged to attend (contact Selena Mares at [mares@tamu.edu](mailto:mares@tamu.edu) to join and claim a book). ZOOM information is sent directly to

participants. *It's casual, it's fun...it's AMEBA.*



- Thursday, February 18 from 12 pm – 1 pm
    - **Cup of Coffee Peer Messenger Training** (details attached)
  - Friday, February 19 – Monday, February 22
    - **Black Men in White Coats Documentary Screening:** You can [RSVP via this website](#), and then you will get a link to sign up to watch the film. There will be a panel discussion (TBD) where you can participate in lively discussions.
  - Now through Friday, February 19
    - **Women in Medicine**, is holding a Wine Glass Fundraiser where they are selling stemless wine glasses with the Health Science Center logo. Please find both the advertisement flyer and order form with pricing information attached.
  - Now (until sold out)
    - The COM **Grad Student Org** (GSO) is running a College of Medicine car decal fundraiser to help support events put on by their organization. They currently have 3 car decal designs, each priced at \$8. The designs can be viewed in this [Google form](#) where orders can be placed.
- Lastly, I am happy to let you all know that I was accepted into the **Texas A&M Leading with Dignity Development Program** and look forward to learning more around this topic, which I will report back out to all of you.

Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

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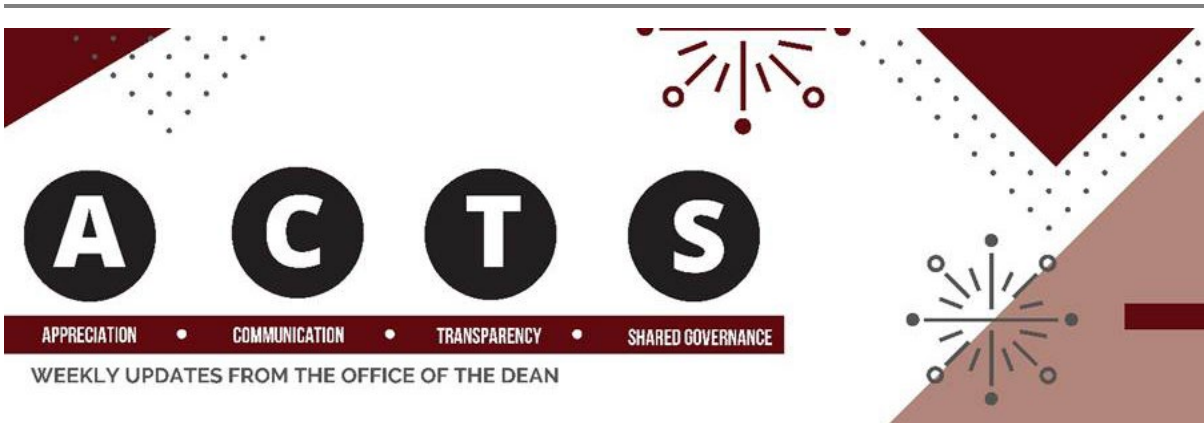
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2021 1:28:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[2021.2.5 - Comparing three Covid-19 vaccines - Pfizer, Moderna, J&J.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.5 - Dr. Mark Holquin.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.2 - COM Faculty Meeting \(Covid Vaccine update\).pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - Faculty Ombudsman Position Description.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.19 - MMAC Speaker Series - Law of Armed Conflict - Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.22 - Staff & Faculty Years of Service Awards.pdf](#)  
[2021.2.18 - Cup of Coffee Training.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

This was another successful week for our College. Please see the below updates:

- **CST\*R Grand Rounds** occurred on Tuesday with a great turn out. The topic was:
  - “Some Thoughts on Clinician / Scientist Collaboration”
  - Featuring Bradley K. Weiner, MD, FAOA
    - Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College and Houston Methodist Institute of Academic Medicine
    - Adjunct Professor, Texas A&M University
    - Vice Chairman, Residency Program Director, and Chief of Spinal Surgery: Orthopaedics, Houston Methodist Hospital
    - Business Practices Officer, Methodist Hospital Research Institute
    - Director, Center for Regenerative Medicine Research Laboratories
  - For those of you unable to watch the session live, please see the below link:
    - <https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/d9b6ea64c64c495ea86847a552be730b1d>
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 33
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 49
  - The Maroon Line Testing Site performed 96 tests this week.
  - The COM COVID-19 Working Group continues to promote opportunities for advancement in clinical learning for our students. They are developing and vetting algorithms for those in **clinical roles** that take into account the benefit of added protection from achieving full



vaccination coverage (at 2 weeks past receiving the second dose of a current approved COVID-19 vaccine).

- The **Maroon Line Clinic** vaccination center on the Bryan campus anticipates receiving its allotment of second doses next week to continue the vaccination series for individuals vaccinated during our initial trial in January.
    - We continue to eagerly await additional allotments of primary doses from DSHS and are advocating for members of our COMMunity with respect to COVID-19 vaccination on multiple fronts.
  - There are multiple opportunities arising for members of COM to volunteer in vaccination efforts both on our campuses as well as in surrounding counties with fewer resources.
    - Those interested in volunteering in roles ranging from registration/Check-in to vaccine administration to traffic/crowd control can reach out to their campus leadership or to Dr. Carpenter directly.
  - Please see the attached for information comparing the Covid-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson.
- 
- Thank you to our **Faculty Advisory Committee** and **Faculty Senate Caucus** for hosting our Faculty Town Hall earlier this week and to all the speakers who presented. Please see attached a few slides from Dr. Sam Hogue's presentation to the group on COVID-19 vaccines.
  
  - On a sad note, I want to inform you that **Dr. Mark Holguin**, a beloved physician leader and teacher from BSWH Temple and a graduate from our Texas A&M University College of Medicine Class of 1982, passed away on January 31, 2021 (see attached). Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, friends, and colleagues.
  
  - Please note: Our upcoming three **NExT Department Head candidates** are now scheduled for their in person BCS campus visits March through mid-April. If we can make these visits occur, I am waiting to make an offer to the top candidate no later than April 30.
  
  - Congratulations to all **six of our medical students** who learned earlier this week that they all **matched into Ophthalmology** programs (an early match process). This is a very competitive specialty, and we are so proud of each and every one of them.
  
  - I am pleased to let you all know that yesterday, **Dr. Kevin Brown** was officially named as non-interim **Associate Campus Dean for Round Rock**. Congratulations, Dr. Brown!



**Stanford**  
MEDICINE

Substance Use Disorders and Other Addictions in the  
Pan-Asian Population:  
Understanding Barriers to Treatment and Advocating for  
Addiction Medicine Education

**APAMSA Conference**  
January 23, 2021

**Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen, MD, FACP, FASAM**

*Clinical Associate Professor*

*Medical Director, Primary Care Chemical Dependency Clinics*

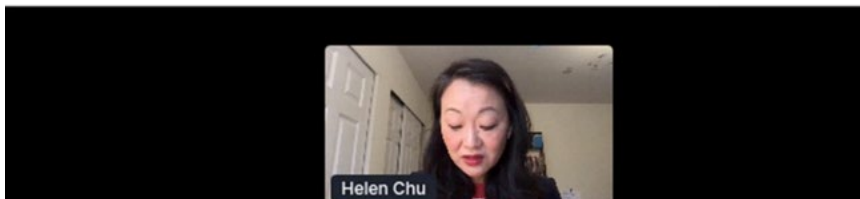
*Division of Primary Care and Population Health*

*Department of Medicine*

*Stanford University School of Medicine*

"Our lives begin to end the day we become  
silent about things that matter."

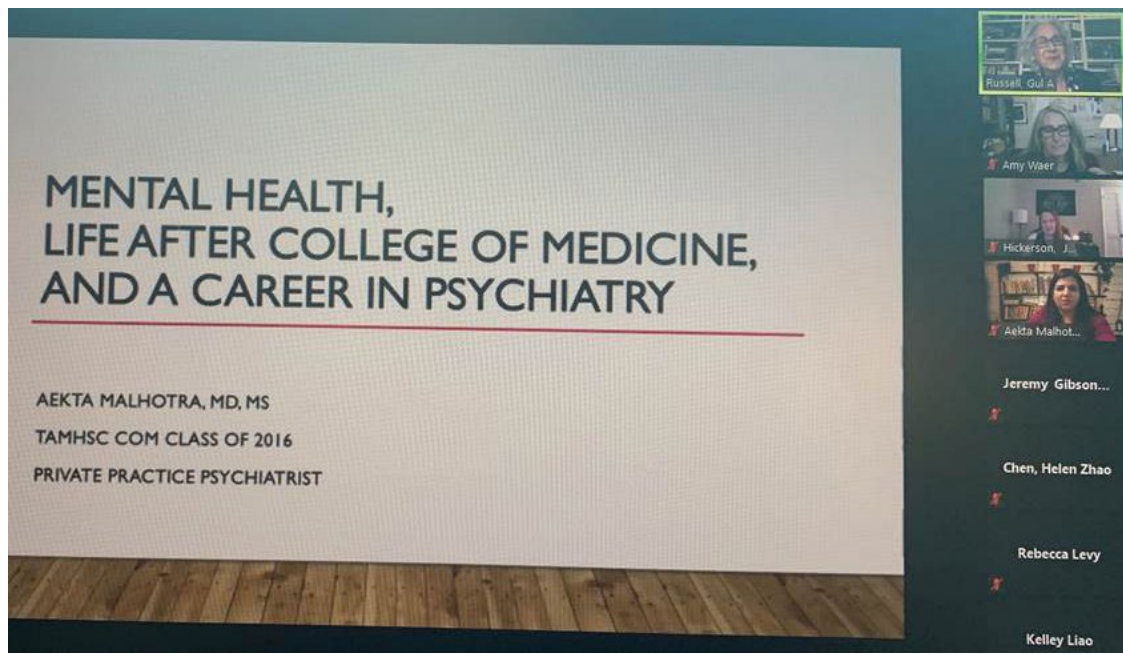
-Martin Luther King, Jr.





## Video “Saving Face: Recognizing and Managing the Stigma of Mental Illness in Asian Americans” (2009)

- 65-minute video at [www.ethnomed.org](http://www.ethnomed.org) then search for “saving face”
- 3 interviews with Asian American psychiatrists and standardized patients:
  - A young, well-educated bicultural professional Indian-American woman with Bipolar Disorder.
  - A 54- year old Vietnamese-American man with PTSD and depression.
  - The parents of an 8-year-old Filipino-American second grader with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) who was suspended from school for having a knife in his backpack and could not return without psychiatric evaluation.
- Thank you to **Dr. Aekta Malhotra**, MD, MS Class of 2016, for presenting this past Wednesday at our **Alumni Leadership Series** on a career in Psychiatry. Her advice was invaluable, and we are so proud of her and all that she has been able to accomplish. For those of you unable to participate, the recording will be sent soon.



- Thank you to **Dr. David Threadgill** for his willingness to assist myself along with our Business Affairs and Faculty Affairs office leads to develop a **standard operating procedure/process** for our COM **faculty retention**. Once we have a draft proposal, we will share this with our COM Department Head group, and then it will go to our COM Executive Committee group for discussion and vote.
- Reminder: I would encourage any of our COM employed faculty who are interested to apply for our COM **Faculty Ombudsman** position (information attached). This is a great opportunity to play a key role in improving our learning environment.
- Hopefully you have noticed that you have been receiving less **COM All emails**. We heard you loud and clear that you felt inundated by all of these emails. A big thanks to **Jennifer Maldonado-Castillo and her team** for assisting with limiting and consolidating that amount of notices going out through this mechanism. Please also remember that if you have anything at all you want to send to COM All, I am happy to include it in my weekly ACTS emails. Please just email me the information on or before noon each Thursday to make it in for that Friday. More details about how we will use our COM All email distribution list will be sent by the Academic Technology, Media, & Communications team.
- Yesterday, I was in Round Rock at our COM building to meet with key **Round Rock city leaders** and present to them regarding our ongoing presence within their community. Thank you to the group who attended (socially distanced).



- Lastly, here are some [upcoming events](#) to share with you all (fliers attached).
  - **Cup of Coffee Peer Messenger Training**
    - Thursday, February 18 from 12 pm – 1 pm
  - **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session**
    - Friday, February 19 from 12 pm – 1 pm
  - **Employed Staff and Faculty Service Awards**
    - Please join us in recognizing our COM Staff and Faculty for their dedicated years of service.
    - Monday, February 22 from 10 am – 11 am

Thanks and enjoy your weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

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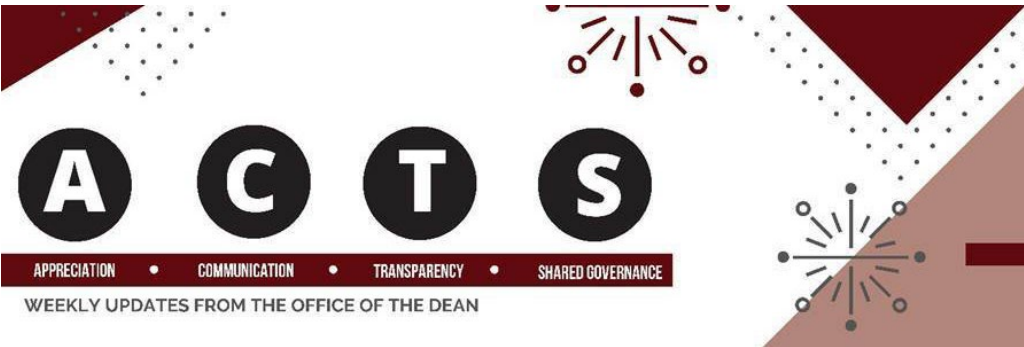
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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2021 2:54:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.1.26 - BSWH and TAMU JAC \(Waer\).pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - Faculty Ombudsman Position Description.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - When & Where Can You Get the Vaccine.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - USMLE Step 2 CS Cancelled Permanently.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - Department and Associate Heads List.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.24 - TAMU COM Executive Leadership Proposed Reorg.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - Texas A&M unveils eight-part action plan to improve diversity on campus.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - ACGME.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.29 - PreMed Scene Guest Speakers.pdf](#)



Dear COM All,

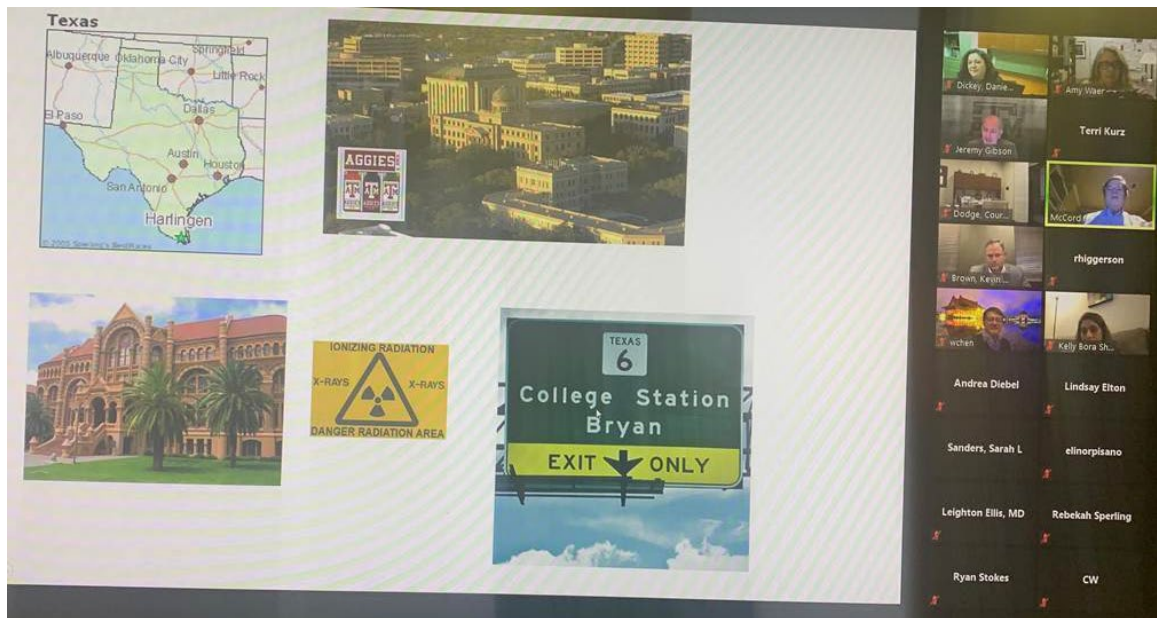
I hope you all had a good week. I have the following updates for you:

- We had our first **BSWH/Texas A&M Joint Affiliation Committee** (JAC) virtual meeting on Tuesday (please view presentation attached). The meeting was very productive with definitive next steps outlined. Our next meeting of this group is planned to be in person in Dallas in March.
- I would encourage any of our COM employed faculty who are interested to apply for our COM **Faculty Ombudsman** position (information attached). This is a great opportunity to play a key role in improving our learning environment.
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 32
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 49
  - This week, our Maroon Line testing site returned to a standard testing schedule, from noon to 2 pm Tuesday and Thursday, with 200 standing appointments each day. During those two days, we tested 105 faculty, staff, and students. We had three new volunteers helping at the testing site, all of them first-year medical students.
  - The [BCG vaccine trial](#), led by **Dr. Jeff Cirillo** and **Dr. Greg Neal**, has screened 1,253 people and treated 269. About 100 subjects have completed the first six months of the trial, and the researchers are conducting a meta-analysis with other ongoing studies throughout the world in the hope of obtaining preliminary findings earlier.
  - Please view the attached PDF: When & Where Can You Get the Vaccine
  - CHI St. Joseph is offering the vaccine for 1B patients. You can sign up here: <https://stjoseph.stlukeshealth.org/covidvaccine>
  - We are tracking multiple high-risk exposures at this time. Please remain vigilant with regards to your well-practiced safety measures including hand-hygiene, appropriate masking, social distancing, and avoiding meals indoors or in close proximity. Together we can continue to Lead By Example as we hold the [Maroon Line](#).



- For those of you who may have not seen it, the NBME/USMLE announced earlier this week they will no longer be having the **Step 2 Clinical Skills examination** (article attached).
- I am pleased to announce that **Dr. Jose Florez-Arango** from our COM Department of Humanities in Medicine is representing our college on the **Executive Committee of the Center for Health Systems Design** out of the TAMU College of Architecture. Dr. Florez-Arango will be reporting out his findings from this leadership role quarterly at our COM Executive Committee meetings.
- As a reminder, **Dr. Jeff Kapler**, our COM Molecular and Cellular Medicine Department Head, is chairing our **Valuing the Educational Mission Task Force**, which is looking at creative, less monetary ways to reward participation in our graduate and medical education programs (because the eRVU program was dissolved for financial purposes last year). The task force proposal is due March 1. Thank you, Dr. Kapler and all the members of the task force for your efforts around this.
- As a reminder to who are our COM **Department Heads/Associate Heads** (where applicable), please see the attached table.
- Our COM Executive Committee met earlier this week to review and reorganize the first three layers of our **org chart**. Please see attached our current plan.
  - We are in the process of the search for the new Chief of Staff role (Courtney Dodge chairing the search process)
  - Earlier this week, we received the President's approval to post the Executive Associate Dean (EAD) position. Please note the EAD position (once hired) will be replacing my current Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs position. Dr. Jim Samuel will be chairing the EAD search committee process.
- We hosted our first **North Austin Medical Center Pediatric Clerkship Faculty Development session** last evening via Zoom. Thank you to **Drs. Gary McCord, Danielle Dickey, and Terri Kurz** for their presentations. We had over 40 participants and look forward to starting our complete (inpatient and outpatient) Pediatric Clerkship experience in Round Rock next month with them.





- Sixteen inaugural members of the **Medical Student Research Advisory Committee (MSRAC)** met for the first time this week to collaborate on increasing scholarly research opportunities for our medical students. The committee, chaired by **Dr. Gloria Conover**, brings together the representatives of all COM departments and clerkship campuses to promote and support the growth of a vibrant community of medical research scholars.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Rob Carpenter** for being named our MD Plus Director. Dr. Warren Zimmer previously held this role prior to retirement.
- Earlier this week, Texas A&M unveiled an eight-part action plan to improve **diversity** on campus (view article attached).
- Our **Graduate Medical Education (GME)** Program received our institutional accreditation letter (attached). We have received no citations and commendations for “substantial compliance.” Thank you to **Mr. Courtney Dodge** for his leadership with our GME Program.
- **Dr. Samba Reddy** (COM) and **Mr. Greg Hartman** (HSC) were featured as guest speakers at the PreMed Scene, a non-profit organization for pre-health students to engage and access educational resources towards creating a better path in their journey towards professional school (view attached).
- The **Medical Science Graduate Admissions Committee**, sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and supported by MarComm, put together a video to showcase the graduate training happening in the College of Medicine. This video is highly professional and will serve hugely for visibility around other initiatives related to research, med school and donors. Please take a few minutes to watch it.
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xXtqwJohEJpnTyzvigo6DRX9SqSYrOQX/view?usp=sharing>
- For those who may have missed last week's **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session** featuring Dr. Rocky Bono, here is the recording.
  - <https://mediasite.tamu.edu/Mediasite/Play/ca67437254a94058ab3432e94d0d0c761d>
  - Please save the date for our upcoming session.
    - Friday, February 19, 2021 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST
      - Lt Gen (USAF ret) Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH
      - **Law of Armed Conflict: Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment**
      - Hosted virtually via Zoom
      - This presentation is an interactive dialogue that challenges participants to explore ethical challenges facing military medics in armed conflict. The Dual Agency Role of a military medic, namely “are you a medic first or military first?” will be addressed. Scenarios describing medical ethical dilemmas will be reviewed to highlight the challenges facing medics in a deployed environment.
- On a very sad note, I wanted acknowledge the tragic loss of one of our own medical community members. **Dr.**

**Lindley Dodson** who was shot and killed earlier this week in Austin by another physician. Our COMmunity sends condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues and the entire Austin/Round Rock community.

- [https://www.gofundme.com/f/loving-support-for-childrens-medical-group?utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=unknown&utm\\_campaign=comms\\_3m62+loving-support-for-childrens-medical-group](https://www.gofundme.com/f/loving-support-for-childrens-medical-group?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unknown&utm_campaign=comms_3m62+loving-support-for-childrens-medical-group)

Continue to try and stay strong,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

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College of Medicine | Texas A&M University

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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-Dean](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, January 22, 2021 12:32:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[2021.1.22 - County, health officials - Phase 1B vaccinations at Brazos Center should begin by Feb. 1.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.21 - MMAC Speaker Series - Disruptions to Healthcare COVID-19 & Clinical Leadership \(for web\).pdf](#)

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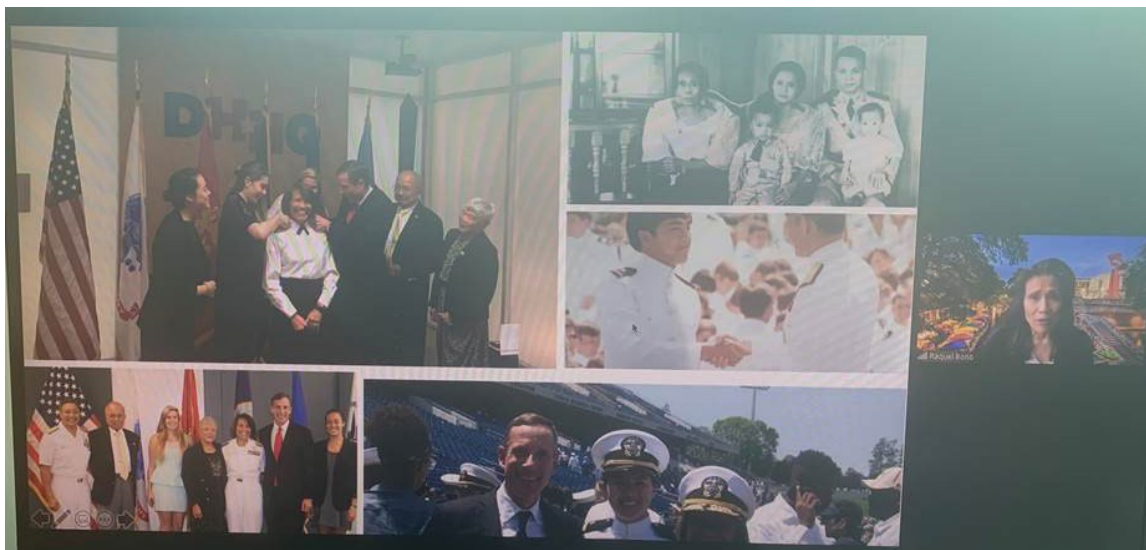
Dear COM All,

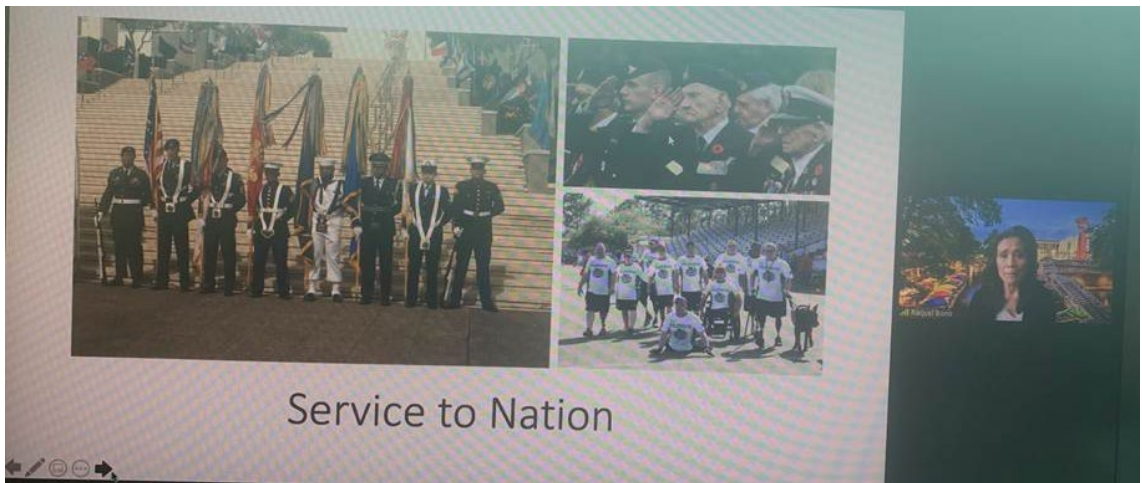
While a short week for most of us based on Monday being Martin Luther King Jr. day, it was a busy and productive week. I have the following updates for all of you:

- On Tuesday, Dr. Jeremy Gibson and myself met in person with the **Baylor Scott & White Health College Station** newly formed **Education Committee** members along with **Jason Jennings** (Regional President) and **Dr. Bill Rayburn** (Chief Medical Officer). We presented on the state of the college and look forward to next steps around growing our collaborative relationship.
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 31
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 48
  - Please note for those of you (along with your family and friends) in Brazos County, the Phase 1B vaccinations at Brazos Center should begin by Feb 1 (see attached)
  - We are reaching out daily to DSHS for additional Moderna vaccine doses and setting up for Pfizer vaccine request as well, but we are still weeks away.
    - You are encouraged to get the vaccine wherever you can if the opportunity arises.
    - The College of Pharmacy is offering the vaccine at the College Station Reynolds building for the 1A category this Friday and Saturday. You may start seeing emails to sign up online.
    - CHI St. Joseph is offering the vaccine for 1B patients. You can sign up here:  
<https://stjoseph.stlukeshealth.org/covidvaccine>
  - At our Bryan Maroon Line testing location, we should eclipse 200 tests for this week. This put us right around 1,300 tests performed in support of the Texas A&M BCS return to campus required testing for the Spring semester.
  - Thank you to **Dr. Doug Baxter** for being our newest faculty volunteer at the Bryan Maroon Line testing location this week.



- Thank you to **Dr. Raquel (Rocky) Bono**, retired Vice Admiral of the Navy, for her Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session on “Disruptions to Healthcare: COVID-19 and Clinical Leadership” presentation yesterday (flier attached). For those of you unable to attend, I will share the recording soon. For any of you who had additional questions, but we couldn’t get to within the allotted time, Dr. Bono welcomes you to email her at [raquelcbono@gmail.com](mailto:raquelcbono@gmail.com).
  - Please save the date for our upcoming **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session**.
    - Friday, February 19, 2021 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST
      - Lt Gen (USAF ret) Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH
      - **Law of Armed Conflict: Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment**
      - Hosted virtually via Zoom
      - This presentation is an interactive dialogue that challenges participants to explore ethical challenges facing military medics in armed conflict. The Dual Agency Role of a military medic, namely “are you a medic first or military first?” will be addressed. Scenarios describing medical ethical dilemmas will be reviewed to highlight the challenges facing medics in a deployed environment.





- At this time, the Academic Technology, Media & Communications Team is aware that several College of Medicine websites are failing to redirect. We are working to resolve the issue. In the meantime, if you have further questions or concerns regarding the situation, please email [OATHelp@tamu.edu](mailto:OATHelp@tamu.edu).
- Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Gloria Conover** (PI), **Dr. Steve Maxwell** (Co-PI), and **Ms. Sheila Green** (Co-PI) as they are recipients of one of this year's (January 2021 through December 2022) TAMU Transformational Teaching Grants entitled "Incorporation of Biomedical Science Teams into Management of Patient Care." This is a huge honor for them and our College.
- **Dr. Carol Vargas**, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, was one of 20 people invited to participate in the inaugural Texas A&M Internal Coach Training Program with the Hudson Institute of Coaching. The purpose of this training is to develop existing leaders into a coaching culture that focuses on growing and nurturing talent by actively coaching to deliver results, strengthen leadership capacities, increase retention, and deepen engagement. Congratulations, Dr. Vargas.
- **Drs. Meredith Williamson, Rob Carpenter, and Hector Chapa** recently served as experts on a national program on ReachMD: Clinician's Roundtable where high impact medical and social issues in medicine are discussed. So proud to have COM experts on ReachMD!
  - Mending Mental Health in Motherhood: <https://reachmd.com/programs/clinicians-roundtable/mending-mental-health-in-motherhood/12128/>
  - Battling Burnout: Advice for Healthcare Professionals: <https://reachmd.com/programs/clinicians-roundtable/battling-burnout-advice-for-healthcare-professionals/12136/>

Thanks and have a great weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs

College of Medicine | Texas A&M University

8447 Riverside Parkway #3078

1359 TAMU | Bryan, TX 77807

ph: 979.436.0223 | [waer@tamu.edu](mailto:waer@tamu.edu)

Strengths=Focus, Achiever, Responsibility, Relator, Discipline

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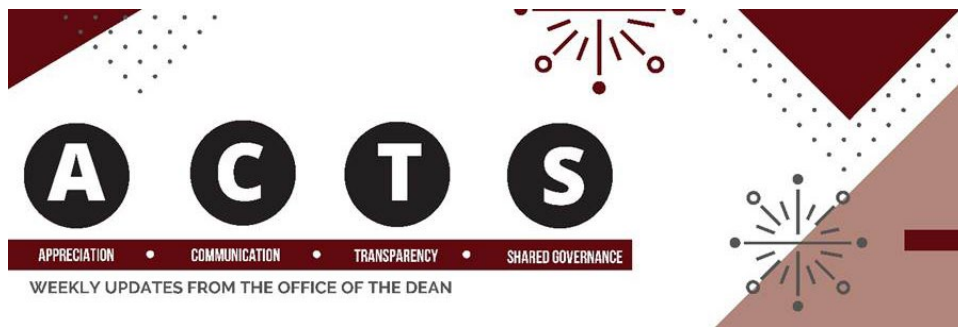
**MAKING WHAT IF POSSIBLE | [whatif.tamhsc.edu](http://whatif.tamhsc.edu)**

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**From:** [Texas A&M Health - COM-OME](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Dean ACTS  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 2:35:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.1.15 - St. Joseph parent company reaches agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.15 - LEEP.pdf](#)  
[2021.1.15 - EDHP program fiver.pdf](#)

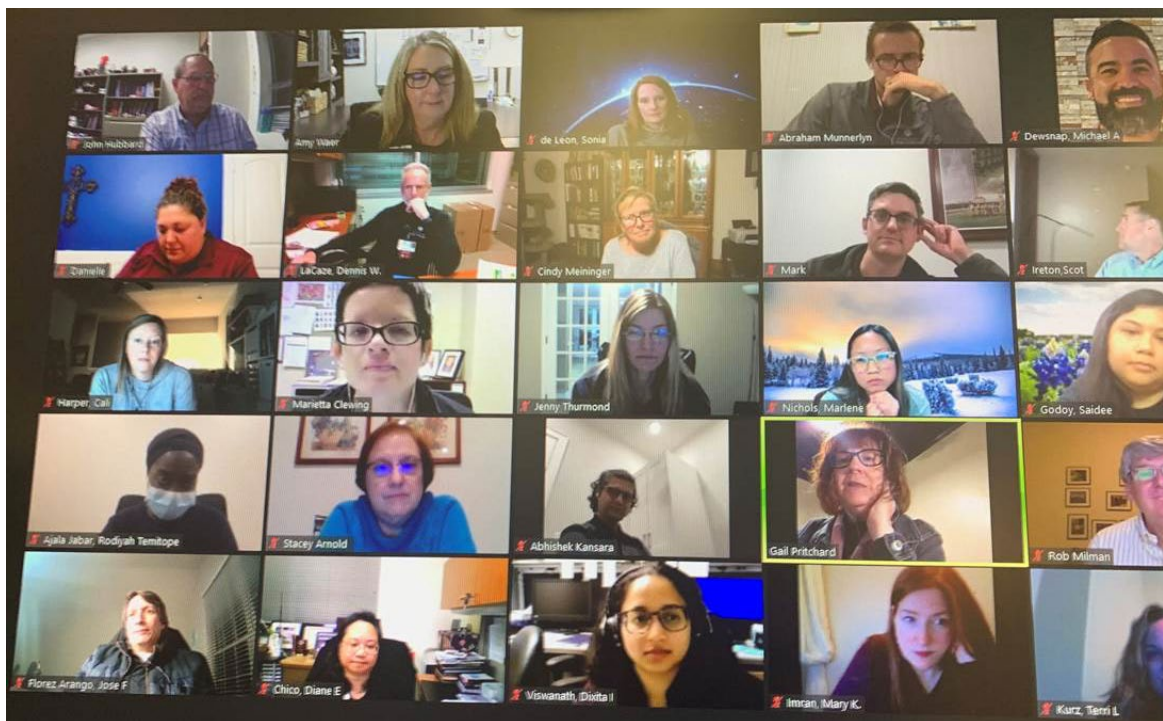
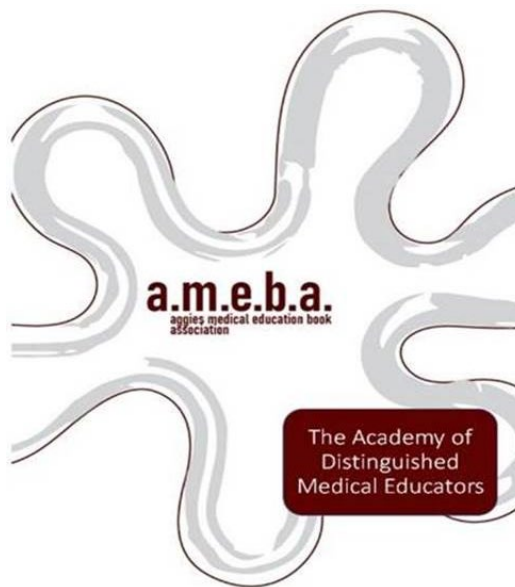
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Dear COM All,

I hope you are all doing well and that you had a great week. For this week, I have the following updates:

- Making sure you all saw that St. Joseph's parent company (St. Luke's) reached agreement with **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas** (see attached).
- **COVID-19 updates**
  - Positivity numbers
    - Employees (includes staff and sponsored residents) = 29
    - Students (includes graduate and medical students, as well as undergraduate students working in our labs) = 47
  - We received 100 Moderna vaccine doses, and by the end of today, we will have administered all of them. A system for more broad registration for individuals who are Texas A&M HSC employees and qualify for phase 1B per State of Texas DSHS guidelines (over 65 or over 18 having chronic health conditions placing them at risk for severe COVID-19 disease) will be rolled out soon based upon vaccine allocations to our center.
  - Please be aware the Texas A&M System Curative testing registration site now includes collection of insurance information as per their contract with Curative, Inc. This insurance registration system is in effect for all Curative testing sites across Texas A&M including the Maroon Line Testing site in Bryan and the HSC Testing site on the Round Rock campus. There remains an option for our Texas A&M members to register if they do not have medical insurance at this time.
- Thank you to **Drs. Diane Chico** and **Michael Dewsnap** for orchestrating our first **A.M.E.B.A.** (Aggie Medical Education Book Association) book club virtual session earlier this week. This is a collaborative effort between our Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators and our Learning Environment office. We had a great turn out, and I want to thank all who participated as well as our small group facilitators. We are reading Simon Sinek's *Start With Why*. Reminder that this book club is open to all of our COMMunity (employed and affiliated faculty, employed and affiliated staff, and all of our graduate and medical students). It is never too late to join us!



- Earlier this week, Dr. Kevin Brown and I had a productive in person meeting in Austin with the **St. David's Healthcare** leadership team around collaborative growth opportunities (potentially in addition to our Pediatric Clerkship full inpatient and outpatient experience) that we are starting officially with them next month.
- The Office of Graduate Studies is currently accepting applications for our **online Masters and Certificate in Education for Healthcare Professionals**. Partial scholarships are available to eligible faculty. See attached flyer and request more information from Mrs. Johna Wright ([johna@tamu.edu](mailto:johna@tamu.edu)).
- I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect and acknowledge how far our College of Medicine has come around our **learning environment** initiatives over the past three years. **Dr. Michael Dewsnap** and myself have been asked to give 18 presentations at 16 colleges and medical schools for Texas A&M as well as across the nation around what we have been able to accomplish here. We are truly leading by example! Please find attached the updated LEEP presentation with all of the detailed data. As a COMMunity, we should be proud of what we have been able to achieve and continue to strive for further excellence around this!
- Please save the date for our upcoming **Military Medicine Distinguished Speaker Session**.
  - Friday, February 19, 2021 from 12 pm – 1 pm CST



- Lt Gen (USAF ret) Douglas J. Robb, DO, MPH
  - **Law of Armed Conflict: Healthcare & Ethics in a Deployed Environment**
  - Hosted virtually via Zoom
  - This presentation is an interactive dialogue that challenges participants to explore ethical challenges facing military medics in armed conflict. The Dual Agency Role of a military medic, namely “are you a medic first or military first?” will be addressed. Scenarios describing medical ethical dilemmas will be reviewed to highlight the challenges facing medics in a deployed environment.
- For all of our College of Medicine constituents: As a reminder, if you have not already done so, please help guide me for my upcoming several months of **Dean’s listening tour sessions** by completing the anonymous short (8 question) **Qualtrics survey** (due date of January 19, 2021).
    - [https://tamuhsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2cxjdjCTXDCe5aB](https://tamuhsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2cxjdjCTXDCe5aB)

Thanks and have a good weekend,  
Amy Waer

**Amy L. Waer, MD, FACS**

**Dean**

**Jean and Tom McMullin Endowed Deanship**

Executive Dean of Education and Academic Programs

College of Medicine | Texas A&M University

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ph: 979.436.0223 | [waer@tamu.edu](mailto:waer@tamu.edu)

Strengths=Focus, Achiever, Responsibility, Relator, Discipline

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [COM-All+unsubscribe@lists.tamu.edu](mailto:COM-All+unsubscribe@lists.tamu.edu).

The image shows a large, multi-story brick building, likely a part of the Texas A&M Health Science Center. The building has a prominent entrance with a large 'A&M' logo on top. In the foreground, there is a sign that reads 'TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER'. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark red filter. The text 'Welcome to the Texas A&M College of Medicine Service Awards' is centered over the building in a white, serif font.

Welcome to the  
Texas A&M  
College of Medicine  
Service Awards

TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



*5 Years of Service*

# 5 Years of Service - Staff

Deborah S. Boyd	Associate Dean for Temple Campus	Christopher W. Diem	Office of Student Affairs
Chika Miyamoto	Molecular and Cellular Medicine	Jenny L. Siegert	Office of Student Affairs
Lori A. Ellison	COM Business Affairs	Amanda H. Mahnke	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics
Denise M. Joiner	COM Business Affairs	Xuehua Wang	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics
Jennifer D. Vivero	COM Business Affairs	Tori K. White	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
David Bertram	Office of Medical Education	Rebecca M. Martinez	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
Stacey G. Keller	Office of Medical Education	Kaitlyn A. Stafford	Medical Physiology
Mohamed S. Mlih	Molecular and Cellular Medicine	Samuel V. Padgham	Medical Physiology
Ji-Eun Ahn	Molecular and Cellular Medicine	Shu-Huai Tsai	Medical Physiology
Xiao Zhao	Ji-Eun Ahn	Valorie L. Chiasson	Medical Physiology
Sahithi Attaluri	Molecular and Cellular Medicine	Wankun Xie	Medical Physiology
Leeann M. Nichols	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology	Min Zhao	Medical Physiology
Samantha L. Bell	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology	Thea I. Mallini	Office of Medical Education
Fengguang Guo	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology	Sharon N. Alderete	Humanities in Medicine
Anthony E. Gregory	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology	Stephanie A. Staggs	Graduate Medical Education
		Anne D. Christian	BCS Campus Administration

# 5 Years of Service - Faculty

Patricia K. Watson	Humanities in Medicine	Robert O. Watson	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Michael A. Dewsnap	Humanities in Medicine	Kristin L. Patrick	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Mark S. Sicilio	Humanities in Medicine	Hongbin Wang	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Rania A. Cannaday	Humanities in Medicine	Paul J. Defigueiredo	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Karienn Montgomery	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics	Zhilei Chen	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Michelle Hook	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics	Carolyn L. Cannon	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Jun Wang	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics	Jack W. Smith Jr	Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology
Jason R. McKnight	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health	Jason S. Karpac	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Sidney C. Ontai	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health	Deborah S. Threadgill	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Irvin F. Sabrsula Jr	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health	David W. Threadgill	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Mark L. Stevens	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health	Zhigang Xie	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Chetan Jinadatha	COM Department of Medical Education	Stacey R. Arnold	Faculty Development

A photograph of a large, circular building with a prominent archway entrance. The building has multiple windows and is surrounded by a paved area with some landscaping. The entire image is overlaid with a dark red tint. The text "10 Years of Service" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the center of the image.

*10 Years of Service*

# 10 Years of Service - Staff

Dhwani D. Chauhan	Academic Technology	Suzanne Zeitouni	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Eva M. Rivera	Associate Dean Round Rock	Shinsuke Fujii	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Erin E. Stavinoha	Associate Dean Round Rock	Dong W. Lee	Molecular and Cellular Medicine
Sarah L. Sanders	Associate Dean Round Rock	Melissa A. Fisher	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
Christine K. Greer	Associate Dean Round Rock	Pierria L. Burrell	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
Jeremy N. Delgado	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics	Rebecca D. Borges	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
Debbra K. Muntean	Office of Student Affairs	Lesley R. Siegert Fuller	Primary Care Medicine & Population Health
Brenda R. Brown	College of Medicine Business Affairs	Ghamartaj Tavana	Ctr for Clinical/Translational Med
Loria D. Lynce	College of Medicine Business Affairs	James P. Moore Jr	Ctr for Clinical/Translational Med
Cynthia A. Garcia	College of Medicine Business Affairs	Tammy L. Kocurek	Ctr for Clinical/Translational Med
Dana D. Gerlock	BCS Campus Administration	Karol A. Hall	Ctr for Clinical/Translational Med
Sheri A. Pappas	Psychiatry Bryan College Station Campus	David P. Huston	Academic Affairs COM

# 10 Years of Service - Faculty

Tetsuya Miyamoto Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Raquel M. Sitcheran Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Fei Liu Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Sarah E. Bondos Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Carl A. Gregory Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Ryang H. Lee Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Jun-Yuan Ji Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Hubert O. Amrein Molecular and Cellular Medicine  
Travis W. Hein Medical Physiology  
Shannon S. Glaser Medical Physiology  
Shenyuan Zhang Medical Physiology  
Xu Peng Medical Physiology

Darlene W. McLaughlin Psychiatry Bryan College Station Campus  
Diane E. Chico Medical Education  
Robert A. Pope Primary Care Medicine & Population Health  
Andrew N. Avery Primary Care Medicine & Population Health  
Susan G. Roberman Primary Care Medicine & Population Health  
Kory L. Gill Primary Care Medicine & Population Health  
Anna Lichorad Primary Care Medicine & Population Health  
Gregg C. Allen Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics  
Samba Reddy Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics  
Dustin W. Dubois Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics  
Robert C. Alaniz Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology  
Erin J. Van Schaik Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology  
Karen Wakefield Humanities





*15 Years of Service*

# *15 Years of Service - Faculty*

Jeffrey D. Cirillo    Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology

Craig W. Borchardt    Humanities in Medicine

Warren E. Zimmer Jr    Medical Physiology

Carl W. Tong    Medical Physiology

# 15 Years of Service - Staff

Courtney R. Dodge	Associate Dean Round Rock
Bonnie L. Seaberg	Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics
Olga Y. Gasheva	Medical Physiology
Rachel K. Hohlt	Office of Student Affairs
Tami M. Seydler	College of Medicine Business Affairs
Haley S. Williams	College of Medicine Business Affairs
Yi Ren	Medical Physiology
Crystal G. Perkkio	Office of Admissions

A golden retriever dog is the central focus, sitting in a field of purple flowers. The dog is looking towards the camera with its mouth open, appearing happy. The background shows a wooden fence and trees. The entire image has a dark, reddish-brown overlay.

*20 + Years of Service*

# 20+ Years of Service

Rajesh Miranda: NExT – 25

Steven Maxwell – 25

Xin Wu: NExT – 25

Holly Sterling: Medical Physiology – 25

Kevin Foskett: Medical Physiology – 25

Rebecca Gay: Business Affairs – 25

Brian Stagner: Medical Education – 30

Gul Russell: Humanities – 30

Jerome Trzeciakowski: Medical Physiology – 40

Julian Leibowitz: Microbial Pathogenesis & Immunology – 25

Tina Mendoza: BA/Medical Physiology – 20

Amelia Rodriguez: Business Affairs – 20

Andreea Trache: Medical Physiology – 20

Anatoliy Gashev: Medical Physiology – 20

Alexandra Person: Molecular and Cellular Medicine – 20

Xiangyu Shi: Molecular and Cellular Medicine – 20

Teri Musia: Medical Education – 25

Farida Sohrabji: NExT – 25

# Learning Environment Enrichment Program

Quarterly Report: January 2021- March 2021

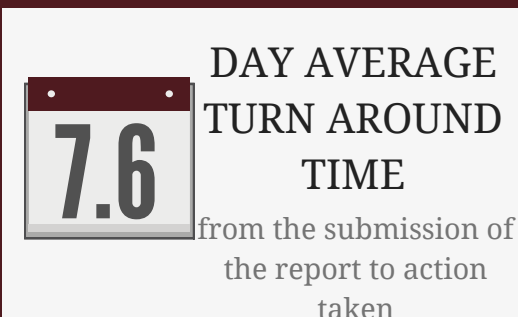
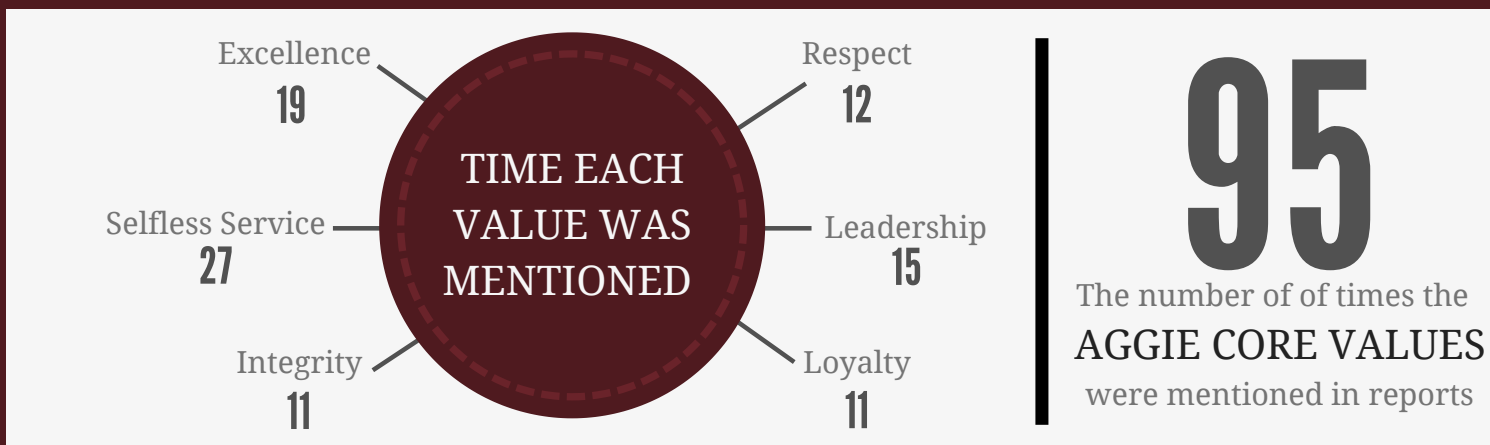
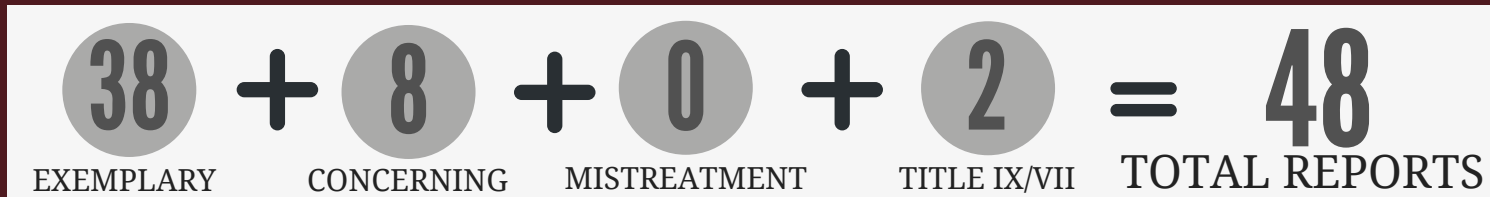
The mission of Learning Environment Enrichment Program (LEEP) is to foster a mutual commitment for cultivating a professional and dynamic learning environment dedicated to the Aggie Core Values. Our vision is to be an institution known for a robust learning environment that actively contributes to the development of our community members. Our goals are for our members to identify the importance of the learning environment, recognize their responsibility in positively contributing to the learning environment, and exhibit our Aggie Core Values.

## GENERAL UPDATES

- 3 Aggie core value coins awarded (see below)
- TAMUCOM Aggie core value coin (Excellence) recipient Chris Diem was recently selected for the Texas A&M University's President's Meritorious Service Award.
- THINKsmall: Effective, and lasting, change is carried forward by perceptively small gestures and daily effort by all members of an organization moving in the same direction. A kind word, having patience, and even taking the initiative to thank someone for their time. When it comes the learning environment, I/we encourage you to think small.
- In collaboration with Faculty Development, a training module for faculty is in process regarding professionalism and addressing microaggressions.
- LEEP is collaborating with Drs. Boone, Burt, Colton, and Echeverria for broad adoption of the Cup of Coffee as part of an initiative of the ACGME CLER Professionalism Task Force.

## REPORTING BREAKDOWN

The following reflects on the reports that were submitted January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021



\*For exemplary and concerning behaviors. Some reports are at the level are at the level 0 or kudos (exemplary or are concerning and elevated to a level that requires a heightened intervention. Communicated primarily via email by LEEP due to COVID-19.

## EXEMPLARY REMARKS

“On a day where [they] found out [they] matched into a residency spot, [redacted] spent [their] time on campus in Temple helping a classmate who had not matched. [They] spent an incredible amount of time researching programs and revising personal statements, but more importantly encouraging [their] friend and classmate and being there when they needed [them] most. It was a true act of selfless service and defines for me what an Aggie Doc looks like!”

.....

“Sharon (Alderete) shows her loyalty and dedication to Texas A&M and her department in countless way. This week, when a faculty member suddenly and unforeseeably needed a large, complicated, and detailed document on a 4 day deadline but did not have time to build the document themselves, Sharon worked gathering and recording the necessary information until 11 pm for two consecutive nights and was prepared to work all night the third night if necessary to make certain the document was delivered on time. While this was an unusual situation, it is a clear example of her loyalty. A Texas A&M graduate stepped in the Aggie core values, she constantly considers and executes ways to serve the department, the college, and the university.”

.....

“Dr. (Bhargavi) Patham, through no fault of her own, was required to do extra work when grading OSCE notes. She ensured all students impacted by an issue (again, that she didn't cause) had fair and accurate feedback. Dr. Patham did all this while she was supposed to be on vacation for Spring Break, working into the evening to get it done. She showed kindness and understanding in working with others to solve this problem. Her attitude and dedication surrounding this situation exemplify the core value of excellence.”

.....

“ She (Resident/Fellow Dr. Yi Ying Law) went through several oral board scenarios with me and helped me a lot in preparation for my surgical oral boards.”

.....

Thank you to each of these individuals for exhibiting characteristics that uphold our Aggie Core Values

# AGGIE CORE VALUE COIN AWARDEES



Loria Lynce  
Director of Operation  
Selfless Service



Dr. Michael Dewsnap  
Instructional Assistant Professor &  
Director, Learning Environment  
Loyalty