INNOVATION

Dear Friends,

In today’s world, we place a premium on innovation. Across virtually every aspect of human existence, innovation is the fuel for our progress. It’s the solution for our world’s most pressing challenges. It’s the crucial ingredient in a growing quality of life.

At UTMB, we live that value. Our mission is driven by innovation. And through your generous membership in the President’s Cabinet, you help make true health care innovation possible.

Every year, contributions from you and your fellow President’s Cabinet members are pooled. From these funds, UTMB is able to accomplish something that would otherwise be unattainable: to breathe life into new ideas about health and health care. Innovative ideas. In some cases, world-changing ideas.

The programs selected to receive President’s Cabinet grants this year are a reflection of UTMB at its most innovative. We are honored to have this opportunity to showcase them for you.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, these have certainly been challenging times. They’ve reinforced what makes UTMB the superlative institution it is today: dedication, resolve in the face of adversity and, most of all, a passion to innovate. Your generosity is a reminder that, behind every great academic health center, is a dedicated cadre of benefactors.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ben Raimer, MD, MA, FAAP
President ad interim
Message from the President’s Cabinet Chair...

As the Awards Committee met this summer to review the 26 applications submitted for consideration, we also planned our annual awards event.

Unfortunately, the challenges related to the COVID-19 surge in our region hampered our plans to convene and celebrate yet another group of outstanding awardees and their programs.

We were looking forward to welcoming you back to campus, enjoying lunch together, meeting the 2021 award winners and celebrating our fellow Cabinet members with special event emcee, V.J. Tramonte.

We realize it has been some time since we have been able to gather as a group. I know that staff have plans to resume our behind-the-scenes President’s Cabinet campus tours, host afternoon coffee and conversation sessions with UTMB President ad interim Dr. Ben Raimer, and celebrate all members at a special appreciation reception in 2022.

Unfortunately, these plans are on hold while UTMB is dedicated to protecting our health and we can safely convene.

Thank you, fellow President’s Cabinet members, for your unwavering support of UTMB and health care innovations in these challenging times. I look forward to seeing you in 2022.

The President’s Cabinet

Mr. Victor Pierson
Chair

Awards Committee

Ms. Barbara Slusher
Chair

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Ms. Lisa M. Cox
Lt. Col. John P. Elwell
Dr. Vicki S. Freeman
Ms. Ingrid Gonzalez
Mr. Jason M. Hardcastle
Mrs. Vivian D. Kardow
Mr. Robert D. Kline
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Mrs. Stephanie Southwell
Ms. Susan E. Syler
Mr. Vincent J. (VJ) Tramonte
Mr. Nick J. Viator
Dr. John F. White

Past Chairs

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Mrs. Patricia K. Coale, deceased
Ms. Susan S. Falgout
Dr. Harry B. Kelso, Jr.
Dr. Thomas D. Kimbrough
Mrs. Ann S. Masel
Mr. Dennis E. Miller
Mrs. Mary Ann Murphy
Mrs. Fredell Pollak Rosen
Mr. Rex C. Ross
Mr. Walter L. Syers
Mr. Vincent J. (VJ) Tramonte
2021 AWARDS

The annual contributions given by President’s Cabinet members are used to provide seed money for outstanding pilot programs at UTMB that will have a positive impact on the university, the surrounding community and beyond.

THE CHFC3 PROJECT:
DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE CARE CLINIC FOR HEART FAILURE

John W. Davis, MS2 Student
Loree Pryor, OTD, OTR

To better educate uninsured patients about heart failure, its complications and how best to manage the condition, this project will support the infrastructure of a comprehensive care clinic at St. Vincent’s House Clinic in Galveston. Post-discharge heart failure patients will be provided bi-weekly interprofessional services (medical, respiratory, nutrition, occupational therapy, etc.) by supervised UTMB students who will also monitor vitals, confirm medication adherence, discuss healthy diet options, and engage in supervised exercise. This project provides comprehensive care for heart failure patients as well as substantive practice experience for students across multiple education programs.

UTMB CARE CLOSET EXPANSION

Savannah Parks, MEd, LBSW
Rebecca Castro, LCSW

Building upon the success of a 2018 President’s Cabinet Award, this project seeks to establish similar Care Closets at UTMB’s Angleton-Danbury, League City and Clear Lake campuses. Patients and families experiencing unexpected and long hospital stays will have access to clean clothing, personal hygiene products and food. Dedicated spaces at each campus have been identified and will be sustained by clothing and food drives and partnerships with community agencies.
**ST. VINCENT’S CARE TRANSITION CLINIC**

Abhijit Rao, student MD/PhD Program  
Jacob Moran, student MD/PhD Program  
Miles Farr, MD

St. Vincent’s House Clinic will partner with UTMB Care Management to establish a Care Transition Clinic (CTC) to serve uninsured patients upon discharge from hospital. The CTC will see patients within one week after discharge to assist with obtaining follow up care via St. Vincent’s and UTMB. Additionally, a Hospital to Home team — led by a UTMB social worker and staffed by UTMB students — will be created to connect with patients prior to discharge to review care plans, identify barriers to adherence of plans and report findings directly to the CTC.

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**SAVING SIGHT: THE EXPANSION OF EYE CARE AT ST. VINCENT’S HOUSE**

Jed Assam, MD  
Karima Khimani, MD (Post Graduate, Year 4)  
Misha Syed, MD

A 2019 President’s Cabinet Award revitalized ophthalmology service at St. Vincent’s House Clinic and as a result patient volume has increased four-fold in the past year. To help manage growth and create a fully equipped glaucoma diagnostic service center, this expansion will allow for the purchase of a human field analyzer, a handheld fundus camera and a slit lamp. These additional diagnostic tools and screening equipment will open more exam access and provide quality ophthalmic services to Galveston’s underserved community.
**INCREASING VARICELLA VACCINATION RATES FOR POSTPARTUM MOTHERS**

Latha Joy, FNP  
Aurdria Berringer, RN, BSN

To improve the administration rates of the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for mothers before discharge, this project allows for the purchase of two special freezers to be installed in postpartum units at UTMB. Lack of adequate stock is a contributing factor to low Varicella vaccination rates and these freezers will provide readily available inventory that can be administered prior to patient discharge.

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**ST. VINCENT’S H.O.P.E. GARDEN (HELPING OTHERS PROSPER EQUITABLY)**

Blair H. Brown, MS, RD, LD, CNSC  
Chris Messenger, PhD, RD, LD, CNSC  
Crystal C. Douglas, PhD

Noting an increase in the volume of food distributed by the St. Vincent’s House Clinic food pantry throughout the pandemic, graduate students in the School of Health Professions Nutrition and Metabolism Program plan to restore and augment the clinic’s H.O.P.E. Garden to provide a source of fresh fruit and vegetables for clients. This project will reinforce and expand the ability of St. Vincent’s House to provide food and comprehensive nutrition education for Galveston’s vulnerable population.
To improve the safe discharge of babies cared for in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UTMB, this project supports the creation of bilingual educational materials, classes, and support groups to promote parental involvement and bonding. Parents will also be taught how to be active, confident participants in their baby's care throughout their hospital stay. Funds will also support training for the care of children who have special feeding needs or need specialized equipment.

Welcome to the Cabinet!

Since April 2021, we have welcomed these new members...

Mr. and Mrs. Keith S. Bassett  Drs. Philip and Unsil Keiser  Mr. G.A. Van Fleet and Ms. Ruth Goldberg
Ms. Vikki Carpenter  Mrs. Mary Lou Kelso  Mrs. Erin Moriarty Ward and
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Fiegel  Mr. Michael E. McNeely  Mr. Christopher Ward
Mr. Stewart A. Goff  Ms. Libby Nations  Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Stamoulis
Drs. Bernard and Julia Karnath

HOME SAFE: FAMILY CARE (COMMUNICATION, ACCESSIBILITY, RELATIONSHIPS, EDUCATION)

Jordan Burdine, PharmD, MBA, BCPPS
Tammy Bush, BSN, RN
Courtney DelBosque, BSN, RN
Maria Franco Fuenmayor, MD
Monica Huff, MD

Keleigh Warnke, DNP, NNP
Crystal Williams, LMSW
Karen Shattuck, MD
Teri Tullous, OTR, CNT
CODE ZEN:  
A STRESS REDUCTION INTERVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Charlene Nieten, MSN, RN, CCRN  
Aisen Chacin, PhD  
Jacqueline Meyer, PhD, CNE, RN-BC

Code Zen is a designated private space within the hospital for staff to retreat to when experiencing challenging, emotional, or stressful work-related situations. In response to staff burnout – especially in the wake of the COVID19 pandemic – President’s Cabinet funds will allow the creation of three additional spaces on the Galveston campus (TDCJ, Jennie Sealy and John Sealy). Each private area will be outfitted with mindfulness tools and calming resources (diffuser, essential oils, music, plants, chimes) to help staff reconnect and practice mindfulness which in turn will create a care environment that better supports patients.

Since 1993, the President’s Cabinet has funded more than 170 programs totaling more than $6 million. View a historical list of awards...
PRESIDENT’S CABINET MEMBERS

The following list includes current members of record as of August 31, 2021.
Thank you for helping to build a healthier community through your President’s Cabinet contributions.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS
Kempner Capital Management, Inc.*
The Galveston County Daily News
Moody Bank
Patty Cakes Bakery/Mosquito Cafe

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Mr. and Mrs. Murray K. Campbell
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Dr. and Mrs. Jerome L. Yaklic
Mr. and Mrs. A. Marshall Yost

*Founding Members  +Deceased
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this program.

If you notice any needed corrections or other changes,

Please contact

Marie Marczak at (409) 772-5151 or mmarczak@utmb.edu.

Thank you.