In August 2014, the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Angleton Danbury Hospital District officially joined forces to create the UTMB Health Angleton Danbury Campus. The partnership was the first of its kind for UTMB Health. Acquiring the community hospital created the academic medical center’s second campus and merged two rich legacies of patient care. It also contributed to UTMB’s role as a statewide leader in training the future’s physicians, nurses and health professionals. Over the past five years, UTMB has worked steadily to add health care providers throughout Brazoria County. Today, UTMB proudly offers a vast network of primary, specialty and chronic care services close to home for patients throughout the region. Expanded specialty services include pulmonary services, sleep medicine, neurology, cardiology and surgical specialties. As part of our joint effort with the hospital district to continue enhancing outpatient services in the area, UTMB Health is currently planning a future clinic complex which will be located on a 177-acre parcel of land on the south side of Highway 35, just west of Highway 288. The campus hospital has also been enhanced over the past

Continued on page 2
five years. In addition to multiple infrastructure improvements, the hospital has been equipped with new medical equipment, including a new CT scanner and other imaging equipment upgrades.

From volunteerism to an ongoing investment in the medical center, its expansion, pursuit of grants and involvement in the community, the commitment of the Auxiliary of Angleton Danbury has been palpable every step of the way. Established in 1969, the Auxiliary recently celebrated 50 years of service by establishing the UTMB Health Angleton Danbury Campus Enrichment Fund, as well as an endowed scholarship for a student from Brazoria County attending one of UTMB’s four schools. Since the Auxiliary’s inception, the group has donated more than a million dollars to the hospital, and last year alone, contributed nearly 16,000 hours of their time by volunteering for everything from staffing the reception desk to providing wheelchair assistance and more.

Another exciting addition in the community was the launch of the UTMB Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Angleton this summer. OLLI offers those aged 55 and older collaborative, college-level courses designed by learners to meet specialized interests. The OLLI program in Angleton Danbury was made possible thanks to Michelle Sierpina, OLLI founding director, and Michael Washburn, program manager for Community Resources, Wellness and Volunteer Services at the Angleton Danbury Campus, who secured a UTMB President’s Cabinet Award to fund the expansion of the program into Brazoria County. The summer sessions were well attended, and several courses are already lined up for this fall.

In honor of five years of incredible achievements and a continued commitment to the community UTMB Health hosted a Fifth Anniversary Celebration in Angleton on August 26. It was an exciting opportunity to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to health care excellence in the communities we serve. Faculty, staff and members of the community enjoyed festivities and refreshments as they commemorated five years of partnership and success with UTMB.

Happy Anniversary to all UTMB Health colleagues in Angleton Danbury and throughout Brazoria County!

**EMPLOYEE ACCESS 2-CARE**

**Need quick access to care?**

Access 2-CARE provides employees and their dependents access to appointments for immediate care needs.

Access 2-Care appointments do not apply to routine care appointments, annual well checks, prescription refill appointments or any condition that does not require immediate attention.

When calling for an Access 2-Care appointment, let the representative know you are a UTMB Health employee to receive the 7-day specialty care or 24-hour primary care guarantee.

For more information, please visit [http://intranet.utmb.edu/2-care](http://intranet.utmb.edu/2-care)

Call Access 2-CARE (409) 772-2273 for an appointment with a specialist within seven days or a primary care provider within 24 hours for your immediate-care needs.
FOCUSED ON HIGH VALUE CARE

In fiscal year 2020, UTMB Health will hone its focus on becoming a High Value Practicing Organization by implementing two specific goals for each of our five pillars of stewardship—antimicrobial stewardship, blood management, lab stewardship, imaging stewardship and opioids stewardship.

UTMB’s initiative to become a High Value Practicing Organization began in 2017 as part of Best Care and coincided with the launch of the High Value Practicing Academic Alliance (HVPAA), a national consortium of medical institutions devoted to high value in health care and leading broad scale value-based quality improvement work. Today, more than 200 faculty leaders from 90 medical centers and 30 medical specialties and subspecialties participate in the organization.

As a HVPAA member, our goal at UTMB Health is to efficiently and effectively advance value throughout the organization and share the results of our efforts on a national scale. Each of the five high value pillars is focused on advancing best practices, such as those identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the ABIM Foundation’s Choosing Wisely campaign. These guidelines are intended to assure that patients receive only the tests and treatments that are necessary and appropriate based on their preferences and that result in the best possible outcome for a given clinical situation; in turn, this helps reduce the overall cost of health care.

In fiscal year 2020, the Antimicrobial Stewardship Team will focus on reducing days of therapy (standardized by 1,000 patient days) and increasing acceptance of interventions.

The Laboratory Stewardship Team will focus on ensuring complete blood count (CBC) and basic metabolic panel (BMP) tests are not repeated in a 24-hour timeframe unless clinically necessary. This intervention helps prevent unnecessary blood draws which may contribute to changes in hemoglobin and hematocrit levels for patients and can lead to anemia.

The Imaging Stewardship Team will work to reduce imaging studies for syncope. According to Choosing Wisely, in patients with witnessed syncope that do not present with a suggestion of seizure and do not exhibit other neurologic symptoms, the likelihood of a central nervous system cause of the event is extremely low; therefore, patient outcomes are not improved with brain imaging studies.

The Imaging Stewardship Team will also work to prepare UTMB for an upcoming mandate under the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, effective Jan. 1, 2020. The mandate will require providers to consult appropriate use criteria (AUC) prior to ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services. To aid in this endeavor, UTMB implemented the ACR Select clinical decision support tool in the Epic electronic medical record earlier this year. However, the team has observed that currently, approximately 40 percent of orders at UTMB cannot yet be scored for appropriateness because

Continued on page 4
they are entered using only the free-text field and without a pre-selectable structured indication. In 2021, claims will be denied that fail to include proper AUC consultation information.

The Blood Management Team will work to promote the Choosing Wisely recommendation that states asymptomatic hospitalized patients with a hemoglobin level greater than 7 to 8 grams should not be transfused. Multiple factors need to be considered in transfusion decisions, including the patient’s clinical status and oxygen delivery ability. The team will also monitor administration of four-factor prothrombin complex concentrate for appropriate use (this is a medication used to treat and prevent bleeding in patients).

Finally, UTMB’s Opioids Stewardship Team will promote appropriate prescribing of opiates immediately following surgery and ensure patients on chronic opioid therapy receive annual urine drug screens.

Each stewardship team will strive to not only make a difference in creating high value care at UTMB, they also plan to share the outcomes of their improvement efforts with other academic medical centers at the HVPAA’s Architecture of High Value Healthcare National Conference.

Please reach out to Dr. Stephen Williams, medical director, High Value Care, or any or the physician leads for each pillar if you have any questions or want to partner with them: Antimicrobial Stewardship – Dr. Philip Keiser; Laboratory Stewardship – Dr. Todd Masel; Blood Management – Dr. Abe DeAnda; Imaging Stewardship – Dr. John Heymann; and Opioid Stewardship – Drs. Edythe Harvey and Dwight Wolf.

Details on each of the High Value Practicing Organization pillars are available at http://intranet.utmb.edu/best-care.

---

CAREGIVER TIME OUT SESSIONS: SEPTEMBER
FREE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS FOR CAREGIVERS AND FAMILIES

**Every Wednesday** at 2 p.m. in Jennie Sealy Hospital Conference Room 2.506A, UTMB’s Health Resource Center offers 30-minute Caregiver “Time Out” sessions focused on caregiver support, self-care and other topics. Sessions are free and open to all. For more information, contact Patient Resource Specialist Savannah Parks at (409) 266-7542 or sjparks@utmb.edu

**SEPT. 4 – ZEN HOUR WITH PET THERAPY**
Caregivers take on many responsibilities, and often their emotional and self-care needs go unmet. “Caregiver Zen Hour” offers relaxing activities to decrease stress. Activities include aromatherapy, adult coloring, conversations with Pastoral Care, inspirational reading and a massage chair.

**SEPT. 11 – MEDICAID FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS**
*Presented by Sandra Ard, attorney at law, Ard Law Firm, PLLC*
Attorney Sandra Ard will provide information and tips during this session on the process of applying for long-term care assistance and Medicaid. She will also discuss what to do if you or your loved one is denied coverage.

**SEPT. 18 – MEDICARE 101**
*Presented by Mallory Freitag, lead benefits counselor, Houston-Galveston Area Council*
Learn about the basics of Medicare including different coverage options, important deadlines and how to avoid common pitfalls. Open enrollment is coming soon!

**SEPT. 25 – IS MALNUTRITION ON YOUR RADAR?**
*Presented by Janna Lehe MS, RD, LD, regional clinical nutrition manager, Morrison Healthcare at UTMB Health*
Malnutrition occurs over time if someone does not meet their nutritional needs. It can threaten your health and your ability to recover from injuries or illnesses. Join us at this session to learn about the signs of malnutrition, the impact of malnutrition on quality of life and what can be done for your loved one with malnutrition. Ms. Lehe will also provide information on helpful community resources that address preventing and addressing malnutrition.
Working together to work wonders, teams at UTMB Health successfully opened the Clear Lake Campus on March 30, 2019—just five short months after formally agreeing to lease the facility. In addition to providing acute care and emergency care, the campus benefits patients in the Bay Area by offering an array of primary and specialty care services.

When the campus opened, it immediately increased bed capacity on the mainland as we await the completion of League City Hospital’s new five-story South Tower, which will bring the hospital to a total of 97 beds in 2020.

Clear Lake Hospital opened with approximately 80 beds, and our teams are now working to ramp up operations on the campus. To date, we have credentialed more than 180 providers. We are also working to add additional patient beds. This fall, the hospital will open approximately 19 more medical-surgical beds and 12 intensive care beds. Later, an estimated 15 pediatric beds will be added. Over the long-term, we will continue adding beds and services to ultimately bring approximately 190 inpatient beds back into the community.

Clinical services currently offered at the hospital include cardiology and cardiovascular care, neurosciences and spine care, obstetrics and comprehensive women’s services, urology, orthopedics, general surgery and inpatient pediatric services. Achieving primary stroke designation, building a robust heart program, achieving Level II trauma center status from the American College of Surgeons and continuing to build relationships in the community to ensure continuity of care are goals for the campus.

By the end of July 2019, more than 450 patients had been discharged from our care on the campus, more than 73 babies had been delivered and the emergency room had recorded nearly 1,260 visits.

It has been exciting to watch the partnership of UTMB faculty and community providers grow. It has also been an opportunity to welcome new patients into our health system. Looking back over a four years of data, 78 percent of discharged patients had never been hospitalized at a UTMB hospital and 29 percent of those individuals had never received care at any UTMB location. Of those patients who visited our emergency room, 78 percent had never before visited us for emergency care and 45 percent of those individuals had never received care at any UTMB location, including clinics and hospitals.

Continued on page 6
Our ambulatory teams on the campus have also been busy caring for patients and enhancing services. By July’s end, more than 1,890 patients in need of outpatient care had arrived in the Medical Office Building on campus. Specialty services offered in the clinic complex align with the inpatient services delivered in the hospital. Additionally, the pediatric and adult primary care services that were initially located in the Medical Office Building have been moved into an adjacent facility on Highway 3 to help increase access to those services in the community. Having a regular primary care physician is important because they provide patients preventive care, teach healthy lifestyle choices, identify and treat common medical conditions, manage chronic conditions and make referrals to medical specialists, when needed.

It’s all about bringing needed clinical services and partnerships to the communities we serve. Working together with trusted community physicians, the Clear Lake Campus proudly provides the latest treatment options and advanced procedures proven to deliver better results—all conveniently close to patients’ homes.

I took my husband to [UTMB Health Urgent Care - Texas City]. He needed stitches immediately. The medical staff was highly professional, and we were seen immediately and with superb care.

I was very impressed by everyone at UTMB. The nursing staff made me feel like a real person. Dr. Bradley Henrie and Dr. Quratulanne Jan were exemplary (Family Medicine, Island East).

An elderly Spanish speaking patient was scheduled for a colonoscopy. She was very anxious and tearful during her entire visit, concerned that she wouldn’t be able to complete the prep needed for the procedure. She was also distraught that she didn’t have anyone to drive her to and from the procedure. Due to her insurance guidelines, the Gastroenterology Clinic was unable to admit her overnight for preparation. Patient Affairs Specialist M. Vicky Cervantes was able to contact the home health agency that the patient uses and arrange for the provider to go to the patient’s home the day before the procedure to assure that the prep was done correctly. She also arranged for the provider to return the following morning to drive the patient to and from the procedure. Vicky did an excellent job researching all possibilities available to assist this patient in getting the care that she needed (UTMB Health Clinics – Gastroenterology).

Our nurse, Edwina Brown, was the best. She explained everything to us. She is truly wonderful. The whole nursing staff that took care of my dad were the best! (Angleton Danbury Campus – Intensive Care Unit).

Every nurse was PHENOMENAL! They were genuine in their care for me as a patient and my baby...I never felt like “just a number.” (Clear Lake Campus – Labor & Delivery).

I want to personally thank the nurses that went above and beyond to make my time at the hospital much better. I felt like Nurse Alyssa Cantu was a trusted family member or friend that was doing everything she could for the best treatment. Francesca Brady was so very nice, compassionate and eager to help. Brandon Ellender was helpful and calm and gave a feeling we were in good hands. I must say the nurses are what made this stay the best (Jennie Sealy Hospital – CT Surgery and Medicine Cardiology).

I emailed my concerns about test results via MyChart and Dr. Alexander Duarte called me to discuss. He is kind, patient and answered all my questions. I was so relieved after speaking to him. At my follow up appointment, he was not rushed and addressed all my concerns. I am grateful and honored to have him as a provider (Multispecialty Center – Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine Clinic).

I was really impressed with this hospital stay. The staff was truly incredible. Every single one of my nurses and techs made me feel so comfortable. My 3-year-old daughter came to visit, and they were so welcoming. Nobody ever made me feel like she was a nuisance. The antepartum unit nurses and techs really made my stay as good as it could have been. Thank you! The doctors were also great! Dr. Nadia Megahed had such a comforting bedside manner which I really appreciated at one of the scariest times in my life (John Sealy Hospital – Mother/Baby Unit).