UTMB Health Optical Center provides the best optical care, using leading edge technology—with a smile. The Optical Center is conveniently located in the UTMB Health Eye Center, 700 University Boulevard in Galveston. It is one of the nation’s leading centers for research and treatment of eye diseases.

Dr. Praveena Gupta, PhD, OD, board-certified optometrist, licensed optometric glaucoma specialist and experienced researcher, specializes in fitting both soft and hard contact lenses. Dr. Gupta also is a faculty member of the UTMB Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. She and her staff help patients select from hundreds of fashionable frames to find just the right fit, style and prescription to meet their individual needs.

Hours are 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday-Friday (holiday hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday-Friday). For optometry eye exam and contact lens fitting appointments with Dr. Gupta, call (409) 747-5800. The direct number for the Optical Center is (409) 747-5823. Medicare and Superior Vision health plans are accepted.
A Visit to the Pathology-Immunology Department, Blood Bank and Microbiology Division

Donna Sollenberger, executive vice president and chief executive officer for the Health System, visited the Pathology-Immunology Department, Blood Bank and Microbiology Division on December 12. It was an exciting opportunity to meet the department members and learn about some of the important behind-the-scenes work that takes place at UTMB Health!

Pathology-Immunology: Archie De Clouet (Data Entry Operator III), Sheryl Bell (Data Entry Operator III), Donna Sollenberger (EVP & CEO) and Dr. Smita Vaidya

Pathology-Immunology: Dr. Smita Vaidya, Terance J. Martinez (Histocompatibility Technologist I), Donna Sollenberger (EVP & CEO), and Guadalupe Salcedo (Histocompatibility Technologist II)

Blood Bank: Leroy Ellis (Blood Bank Donor Tech III), Donna Sollenberger (EVP & CEO), Otis Brown (Phlebotomist I) and Alexandra Wilson (Blood Bank Donor Tech I)

Microbiology: Bhavani Vishwanath (Medical Technologist III) and Kimberly Bufton (Medical Technologist IV) with “Bob,” the BD Viper™ specimen processor

Theresa Friloux (Chief Technologist), Donna Sollenberger (EVP & CEO), Kerrie Highley (Medical Technologist II) and Sara Wilson (Medical Technologist II)

Moody Medical Library Receives Award

The Moody Medical Library has been awarded the highly competitive Electronic Consumer Health Outreach Award in the amount of $22,124 from the regional office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. The award will fund a joint project between the Galveston Shriners Hospital for Children and the Library to provide internet access to pediatric burn patients, their caregivers and family members through a dedicated server, secure wireless system and multiple workstations.

“We’re eager to expand our outreach efforts in partnership with the Shriners Hospital to offer their patients and their families a means of easing the difficult period of treatment and rehabilitation by providing computer equipment to access health information resources while also staying in touch with loved ones and activities at home,” said Reference Librarian Anne Howard, who is the Principal Investigator.

The aim of the project is to familiarize patients and their families with currently available electronic health information from the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) while also providing diversion therapy and a link to families at home. As part of the project, Reference Librarians at the Moody Medical Library will train Shriners’ staff in the use of relevant digital patient education databases and NIH resources. This project has been funded in whole or part with federal funds from the National Library of Medicine-NIH, under contract with the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library.

The program will provide a beneficial service to pediatric burn patients and their families. Please join me in congratulating the Moody Medical Library and Shriners Hospital for Children on this collaborative endeavor.
The Health System celebrated the holiday season December 16. Donna Sollenberger and the Health System Executive Leadership Team loaded up their sleighs early in the day with turkey dinner and delivered the goodies to all of the clinic locations. Later on, at 2:30 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m., everyone on-campus was invited to gather in Café on the Court for fun, food and festivities. More images can be seen on UTMB’s Flickr web site. Healthy Holidays to all!

New Year’s Baby Shower

The Newborn Nursery staff would like your help with their sixth annual New Year’s Baby Shower. They are seeking donations of baby clothes, lotion, blankets, rattles, teethers, diapers, wipes, monitors, baby bathtubs, car seats, bobby pillows or even gift cards for stores that carry baby items. Donation boxes are located in the main hospital lobby and J3B Newborn Nursery. Donations will be collected through December 28. The Newborn Nursery staff will make gift bags for all of the babies born on January 1, 2012. UTMB is usually honored with delivering the first baby for Galveston County for the New Year. Let’s make it special for all of our families who choose UTMB Health!

For more information, contact Debbie Barrera 772-0314, debarrer@utmb.edu, or Jaime Hart 772-3350, jdhart@utmb.edu.
St. Vincent’s Annual Benefit Concert Auditions

Calling on all musicians, dancers, singers and other talented UTMB members! Audition time for the St. Vincent’s Annual Benefit Concert to be held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at the Grand Opera House is finally here!

Auditions will be held as follows:

• Wednesday, January 11, Levin Hall Main, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday, January 14, Joe’s Cafeteria, 10:00 a.m. - noon
• Wednesday, January 18, Levin Hall Main, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Send an email to stvconcert2012@gmail.com with your contact information and excerpt of your planned performance.

Please let them know if you will need a piano or if you are a large group so they can schedule you to audition in the appropriate place. Please bring music and a music playing device if you will need this for your audition.

UTMB Abstract Selected By AACN for NTI Conference

Odette Comeau, Josette Armendariz, Scott Woodby and Donna Graves submitted an abstract, “Utilizing Best Evidence to Validate and Refine a Checklist for the Safe Intrafacility Transport of Adult ICU Patients”, to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). The abstract was approved for a poster presentation for the National Teaching Institute (NTI) and Critical Care Exposition 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

UTMB Police Department Achieves National Recognition

On November 19, 2011, the UTMB Police Department was awarded “Law Enforcement Recognition” by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Of the 18,500 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., only 1,000 are CALEA accredited or recognized. More information can be found in the most recent Business & Finance Quarterly Newsletter.

Health System Leadership Holiday Celebration

The Health System Leadership Team Holiday Party was held December 10 at the Multispecialty Center and Stark Diabetes Clinic in League City. It is a beautiful facility, and if you haven’t stopped by yet, you should! It is located at 2660 Gulf Freeway South in League City The patient-centered facility offers a wide range of primary and specialty medical care, a strong focus on disease prevention and management and the services of the highly regarded Stark Diabetes Clinic.

Representatives from Physicians’ Billing Service completed their EPIC Administrator Training in Verona, Wisconsin in November. The group pictured above was known as the “Texas Girls” by the EPIC staff and other EPIC customers. Front Row: Mary Smith, Diane Doyle, Marianne Getschman and Sonya Garza; Back Row: Cindy Smith, Michelle Hopkins, Nina Sinibaldi and Robin Linton

Bob Skaggs (Manager, Market Research) and his wife, Rosemary
On September 12th I arrived at the UTMB Transplant Center in Galveston. The next day I received a kidney from a friend, after enduring four years on dialysis. It could not have come at a better time.

While at UTMB, I met the most awesome group of men and women. Every person I came in contact with asked if there was anything they could do for me, any way they could help me, or anything they could get for me to make my stay better. When the people came in to clean the bathroom, they asked me how I was doing and if they could do something to help me.

The transplant team at UTMB is all about saving lives. Nothing brings them greater pleasure than to watch a patient walk out of there with a new organ in working condition. During outpatient care at the new location in League City, the staff bent over backwards to make my visit as pleasant as possible. In the last five years, I have visited several hospitals due to my illness. I have never been treated as well as I was at all of the UTMB facilities. This place is fantastic.

There are several people I would like to thank. My surgeon, Dr. Kristene K. Gugliuzza and her transplant team, all of the other surgeons that I saw during outpatient, my coordinators, nurses and lab techs who made my stay very comfortable. I would like to thank my better half, for taking care of me after at home following the surgery. She never complained while she was up night and day caring for me for two months. Next, and very important, is my donor; without her none of this was possible. I don’t know how I can ever repay her for her unselfish kindness. Most of all, I would like to thank God for watching over this whole process and giving this old man a second chance at life.

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My nurses - Jacqueline Stout and Sonja Neal (Gyn/Onc) were the best—very friendly and caring nurses. They took excellent care of me and my needs. It was the best part of my stay.

“The NICU nurses were wonderful. They were very informative & always welcomed us. Tracy Santiago (Ante-Partum) was especially nice and knowledgeable.”

Dr. Saleh Elsaid (Medicine/FMC) is a very good doctor. I was very impressed with his skills.

“Patricia “Patti” James in Day Surgery on 8th Floor went above & beyond, thank her for me. Also Sinju Aliyas on 9th Floor was excellent. Thank her as well.” (CT/Vascular)

“I was impressed by my nurses, especially Leon McGrew & Fannie Mae Eaglin (ACE Unit). I saw them often; they were very good.”

“A special thank you to Dr. Gokhan Kilic and his team for providing the best care to my baby and me. Also, all of the residents were very friendly and caring during the process.”

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“I have been really impressed with Gloria Decker, she does a great job. She is a hard worker and is very friendly.”

The care was absolutely impressive from Bessy Martinez (Housekeeping). She was so helpful, Phyllis Tinsley, the “aid” was wonderful, Christine O’Connell and Lillian McGrew were stars, and Leon McGrew was always ready to help. Lisa Moore, the social worker, was a jewel.

OTHER POSITIVE MENTIONS:

Dr. Taylor Riall, Dr. Gwyn Richardson (Gyn/Onc); Dr. Aakash Gajjar (Neu/Surg), Rachel Murphy (CT/Vascular); Dr. Michael B. Silva, Jr.; Dr. Sidney Worsham; Dr. Daniel Ballow

Gloria Decker, Environmental Services, is one of our most frequent Shout Out! recipients. Thank you for the wonderful work you do, Gloria!