In the summer of 2002, a friend of mine and I were on our way to go fishing in his boat. By the time we got to the end of the Texas City Dike, I noticed the left wheel of the trailer was very loose. I pulled over to the side of the road to check things out and discovered the bearings were going out. We jacked up the boat and trailer to try to remove them. At some point, I crawled under the trailer and tried to tap the bearing off. Just as I did, the boat fell, crushing me.

After what seemed like hours, an ambulance showed up and lifted the boat up. I felt so much better, and thought I was fine. I started to move from under the boat, but the paramedics told me to be still. They slid a plastic board under me and slowly moved me out from under the boat. In the ambulance, my blood pressure began dropping rapidly. I heard the paramedics say they didn't have enough time to get me to the hospital. Call it luck if you want, but guardian angels in the form of a Hermann Life Flight helicopter just happened to be flying over Galveston Bay. They were dispatched to my location, and I was placed in the helicopter. I remember the paramedics saying they didn't have enough time to fly me to Memorial Hermann—they would needed to get me to a hospital immediately. I was flown to UTMB.

I remember being taken out of the helicopter and rolled through a door. As I was going down the hallway, I started to feel lightheaded—I was receiving anesthesia. When I woke up, I learned my spleen had been damaged beyond repair and was removed. I had also lost nearly 5 units of blood. Luckily, that is all that I lost. It could have been much worse had it not been for the quick-thinking paramedics, UTMB doctors, nurses and God's miracle.

Then, about two months ago, I came to UTMB for a problem with heartburn and headaches. Dr. Elizabeth Jaramillo did an EKG and performed a blood draw. This was around 3:00 p.m. While they ran tests, I went about my business. Around 8:30 p.m., I received a phone call from Dr. Jaramillo. It really surprised me that a doctor would be calling at that hour with blood test results. She informed me that my creatine kinase (CK) enzyme level was highly elevated and I should go to the nearest emergency room.

I asked her if I could just come to UTMB, but she insisted it would be best if I went to Mainland Center, which was closer. She said she would call ahead and let them know I was coming. I really felt as though this was above and beyond the call of duty, as I later learned elevated CK enzyme levels can lead to muscle fiber breakdown and cause severe damage to the kidneys—and I only had the use of a single kidney.

Once I arrived at the ER, I was quickly admitted. The enzyme count continued to rise dangerously high, even though they were steadily running IV fluid through my system the entire time. Finally, on day seven, the count subsided to normal levels, and I was released from the hospital.

Dr. Jaramillo’s instructions saved my life. During the follow up, I had to opportunity to tell her how grateful I was for her vigilance. I was truly amazed and thankful for the excellent treatment and professionalism.
Health System Holds the First Annual Connaughtie Awards

The stars were out at the First Annual Connaughtie Awards, the official name of the much anticipated 2011 Budget Awards, held September 28. Named after David “Flava Dave” Connaughton, vice president of finance for the Clinical Enterprise, the event was hosted by Donna Sollenberger, executive vice president and chief executive officer for the UTMB Health System. Emily Blomberg, director of Health System operations, and Dr. Steve Quach, chief medical officer, graciously emceed the ceremony. It was a morning full of fun and entertainment.

The 2011 Connaughtie Awards

**Marketing Award**
Best advertising for the budget presentation
Bonnie Benkula, Casey Peterson and Marjorie Kovacevich – Ambulatory Operations

**Whoomp, There it Is! Award**
Finding a significant variance after the budget presentation
Bert Nash – Lab Services

**Penn & Teller Award**
Supporting presenter with the fewest lines
Ruben Escamilla – Hospital Financial Counseling

**Ben Hur Award – Largest Cast of Extras**
Filling all the seats in the room…and the nosebleed section
Owen Murray and the CMC Crew

**The Mini-Me Award**
Shortest budget presentation
Ben Dzialo, Volunteer Services

**Dragnet Award**
“Just the facts, ma’am, and no fluff.”
Danny Allen – Transportation Services

**Groundhog Day Award**
Waking up to a new budget calculation everyday!
James Kitchens and the budget staff - Hospital Financial Management

**Lucy & Ethel Award**
Best job of keeping up with the presentation and materials
Beverly Wiley – Hospital Administration

**Blazing Saddles Award**
Beating a Dead Horse
Wayne Baudy – Transplant Services

**Dwight Schrute Award**
Presentation by a Model Employee
Dr. Eric Nolen – Med Staff Services

**Let’s Make a Deal Award**
Most creative “ask” during the budget presentation
Suzanne Rogers – Clinical Data Management

**The Flair Award**
Most visual aids in a presentation
Cheryl Day – Labor & Delivery

**Daniel Webster Award**
Most obscure word, “stanilization”
Kim Sergeant – Pharmacy

**Freddie Krueger Award**
Scariest sounding equipment
Louisa Anderson – Cath Lab

**Edward Scissorhands Award**
Best job of trimming the budget
Donna Graves – Patient Care Services

See more photos in UTMB’s Flickr Gallery.
UTMB Health celebrated the grand opening of the Multispecialty Center and Stark Diabetes Clinic at Victory Lakes Town Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 22. Community leaders and area physicians joined UTMB leadership and staff in the celebration.

All UTMB staff and the public are invited to attend an Open House and Community Health Fair at the center on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Free health screenings including blood pressure, blood glucose and more will be offered. Visit utmbhealth.com for more information.

The 2011–2012 flu season is approaching and UTMB Health is ready. The Employee Health Clinic has ample supplies of the vaccine again this year and will be offering free flu shots for all employees, retirees and volunteers. Flu vaccines are currently being offered at off-campus clinic locations and will be available on campus starting October 5.

It is recommended that all individuals six months of age and older receive an annual influenza vaccine, unless they have a specific medical reason for not getting vaccinated. In addition, all health care workers are recommended to receive an annual vaccination as a way to protect themselves, their families and their patients.

This year’s vaccine protects against three seasonal flu strains, including H1N1. Any of these strains can cause severe complications, particularly in older people, young children and people with certain health conditions. The best way to keep yourself and those around you healthy is by getting vaccinated each year and taking everyday preventive actions — such as frequent hand-washing — to stop the spread of germs.

Last year 89 percent of UTMB’s health care workers were vaccinated. This high vaccination rate shows our strong commitment to protecting patients and staff from the flu. Again this year, we strongly encourage all health care workers to get the vaccine. By getting vaccinated, you play a critical role in preventing the spread of flu and its related complications.

This year all health care workers will again be required to participate in the flu vaccination campaign by either receiving the vaccine or formally declining it. Health care workers are considered those who provide direct patient care, enter a patient’s room, or meet patients face to face within six feet in the course of their duties.

Beginning on or around December 9, Health System leadership may require all health care workers who are not vaccinated to wear a mask while providing care, based on influenza activity in the region. Click here for details of this year’s vaccination campaign, and for a schedule of upcoming vaccine clinics.

Thank you for all you do for UTMB Health and for all your efforts to keep the flu at bay this year.
More than 9,000 UTMB Patients Now Enrolled in MyChart

MyChart, UTMB’s new electronic patient portal, was implemented at UTMB in response to national research that indicates that patients who are more actively involved in their healthcare have been shown to be more satisfied with their health care experiences and are more compliant with care plans, leading to better health outcomes.

By the time Information Services completed the rollout of MyChart June 6, approximately 5,000 patients had enrolled. Today, the number of participants has increased to more than 9,000 patients!

With MyChart, patients are able to:

- Access portions of their medical record online (ideal during hurricane season)
- View their lab results (the top feature patients access through MyChart)
- Request refills of current medications
- Send a non-urgent secure message to the clinic team and provider
- Request to schedule a clinic appointment
- Look at past appointment information, and the After Visit Summary (AVS)
- Print out health information when a paper copy is needed:
  - Immunization list
  - Medication list
  - Health History and Problem list
  - “Wallet Card” of health information

Patients may easily request to activate a cost-free MyChart account from the MyChart website, www.utmb.edu/mychart, or they may be assisted with the activation process by clinic staff during their visit. A free MyChart application is also available to iPhone users from the Apple App Store.

Look for sign-up locations soon throughout the campus for employees who are patients.

UTMB Rolls Out E-Prescribe Program

An electronic tool that enhances patient safety and improves service efficiency is UTMB’s E-Prescribe program, introduced this year, and is a government incentive program that provides financial incentives to physicians, practitioners and therapists who meet certain criteria for the use of qualified e-prescribing systems.

The tool minimizes errors by eliminating hand-written prescriptions. Patients do not have to take a prescription to the local pharmacy; prescription orders or refills are handled electronically directly with the pharmacy, so patients can simply pick up their medicines. Because E-Prescribing is linked to a patient’s medical record, health care providers and pharmacists can detect potential drug interactions, allergy concerns and also determine the most effective ways to administer medications for individual patients.

Approximately 193,000 new or refilled prescriptions have been provided to UTMB patients since the E-Prescribing tool was implemented about a year ago. A total of 711 UTMB providers are now using E-Prescribing to serve their patients.

Thanks to all who are actively electronically prescribing now. If you have not yet started E-Prescribing, please do so! Before you begin, you must have access to the system. For refresher training, see the following instructions:

**Access to E-Prescribing-Payer E-Learning:**

Login in to Blackboard: https://eclass.utmb.edu/.

Select, UTMB EMR E-Learning from My Courses section

Select, E-Learning

Select, E-Prescribing-Payer

Meaningful Use refers to the use of health information technology to improve health care and further information exchange among health care professionals. To become “Meaningful Users,” providers need to demonstrate use of certified EHR technology in ways that can be measured significantly in quantity and in quality. Meeting Meaningful Use requirements, such as E-prescribe, qualifies UTMB for federal funding incentives.

In general, meeting Meaningful Use means that UTMB Faculty Group Practice could be eligible for up to $8.8M for Medicare and $3.8M for Medicaid, and the UTMB Hospital could be eligible for up to $1.35M in Medicare and $7.2M for Medicaid for hospital incentive pay.
The move of occupants from the old Jennie Sealy Hospital was a success, and the building is now evacuated. Thank you to everyone who helped ensure this smooth transition—it was no small feat! Congratulations on a job well done!

“Gail Olson (Post Partum), my Patient Care Tech was the nicest…she was extremely nice, comprehensive and loving. If she ever reads this I want her to know just how much I appreciated her time & attention. With all my heart, Thank You!”

“Susan Nilsen (Midwifery) was heaven sent. I could not have asked for nicer, patient and wonderful people to be with me - in such a vulnerable time.”

“Rosa Perry (5D Medicine) was very special kind, sweet & caring to me; she was always willing to help me.”

“Thanks to Lisa Pesak (Women’s Specialty Care – Galveston) for helping me clear up a prescription issue with my pharmacy. She was very kind and went above and beyond to help me.”

“Dr. Robert Beach (Internal Medicine/Nephrology) is the best doctor your hospital has. If it wasn’t for him, I would not make the 200 mile drive for hospital stays and visit to him.”

Congratulations to the Department of Radiology at the Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes on receiving accreditation from the American College of Radiology (ACR) for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The ACR accreditation strengthens UTMB’s relationship with our Victory Lakes patients, by helping assure them they’ll receive the highest level of patient care at our facilities.

It also supports a culture of quality and service, by presenting exceptional training and continuing education opportunities to our faculty and staff. Helping ensure that UTMB Health meets important governmental and third-party payer criteria is a special bonus.

Special thanks to the following for their time and effort in this endeavor:

Catalina Zurenko (OPIC - Victory Lakes)
Keith King (OPIC - Victory Lakes)
Dr. Raleigh Johnson (Radiology / General Radiology)
Dr. Gregory Chaljub (Radiology / Neurology)
Dennis Dornfest (Magnetic Resonance Imaging MRI)

“Being alone in the hospital for my hip replacement surgery was nothing to fret over, thanks to my nurses. They were very professional, caring, and prompt. They made me feel that I was in the best of care, and I could see the caring, thoughtfulness and concern of all who I encountered. I honestly could have stayed another week (smile)—after all who wouldn’t want to be pampered and cared by such a finer group of people! May the good Lord bless them all.”

Edith Ngamga, Danielle Marquise and Ann Lade (5D – Medicine); Russell Vanarsdale and Dr. Fred Speck (9A – Surgery); Keisha Scurry (Morrison Management); Gloria Decker (Environmental Services); Dr. Ronald Lindsey (CT/Vascular Surgery)

Would you like to submit an article, photo or make a suggestion? Contact us at friday.focus@utmb.edu

Blocker Burn Unit officially returns to J2D

On September 15, The Blocker Burn Unit officially moved back to J2D. The unit phone number remains the same, x22023. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and patience throughout the renovation and move back to the unit.