

# FUTURE FOCUS

SHARING CANCER CENTER NEWS AS WE CHAMPION HEALTH TOGETHER.

**NEWSLETTER 3.12.20** 

#### Dear faculty, staff, students, residents and fellows:

Out of consideration for the health and safety of our employees, students, trainees, patients and our community related to concerns around the new coronavirus (COVID-19) and upon the recommendation of infectious disease experts and UT System leadership,



UT Health San Antonio is establishing **immediate restrictions on international travel** and is implementing continuing guidelines to protect our community.

We are closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and are working with federal, state and local partners. We are aware of new cases of COVID-19 emerging in Texas and thus any/all policies will require timely updating.

Please see this <u>weblink</u> for the timeliest details regarding travel and other important updates. Since this is a developing situation, I would ask for your patience as we work out the many details and processes that are required.

In addition, I have cancelled two large University events for which my office is directly responsible, and I encourage those who are responsible for the scheduling of large events to carefully consider the necessity of hosting these gatherings during the next several weeks.

Please continue to monitor the information contained in the link above and take every precaution (frequent hand washing, limited close physical contact, cough in your sleeve, avoid large gatherings, etc.) to stay healthy.

With appreciation and respect,

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP President and Professor of Medicine The following measures are effective immediately for all UT Health San Antonio faculty, staff, students, residents and fellows:

All **international business travel** is suspended until further notice with a review scheduled every 30 days. Any exceptions to this suspension must be reviewed through my office.

All incoming (visiting) international travel for learners and visitors is suspended until further notice.

We are quickly working to establish protocols for self-isolation for those visitors coming to UT Health San Antonio who are currently in transit from international destinations and for those employees, students, residents and fellows returning from international destinations.

**Domestic business travel** is highly discouraged currently and is likely to be restricted in the future as circumstances warrant.

We also encourage you to seriously scrutinize your personal travel plans, whether international or domestic, and it is strongly discouraged to travel to locations where there is identified risk. With rapidly changing travel alerts and increasing restricted regions, changes could occur while you are away that affect your risk and your return plans. Areas that currently are not considered high risk may quickly become high risk.

Stay up to date on the latest regarding the COVID-19 at www.cdc.gov

Steps to take at home and in public to avoid coronavirus

### **EVENT CANCELATIONS**

Out of consideration for the health and safety of our patients and our community related to concerns around the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Mays Cancer Center has decided to cancel and reschedule for the fall the following upcoming events:

## INNOVATIONS In Cancer Prevention and Research Conference

### **CPRIT Innovations VI Conference July 30-31**

CPRIT announces the launch of the 2020 Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference VI website. Featured speakers at the conference include Dr. James Allison, 2018 Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology, who will discuss the history of and future prospects for cures from his discovery of the immune checkpoint blockade in cancer therapy; Dr. Nancy Chang, a founder of Tanox, who will share her experiences with drug development and perspective on the future; and Dr. Robert Croyle from the National Cancer Institute who will talk about his perspectives on national and local rural cancer control challenges and needs.

With 12% of CPRIT's total investment in cancer prevention and research projects focused on childhood and adolescent cancers, the conference will feature discussions on survivor care and on the development of therapeutic targets and drugs for Ewing Sarcoma. Other sessions will highlight several CPRIT-funded initiatives around hepatocellular carcinoma, HPV vaccination, and increasing drug discovery resources in Texas. There will also be opportunities to hear from scientists who have received CPRIT's prestigious scholar recruitment awards and from start-up and established companies who have received CPRIT's equally prestigious product development research awards.

Please visit the <u>conference website</u> to read more about the speakers and to see the schedule. Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference VI will take place on July 30-31, 2020 at the Austin Convention Center in downtown Austin, Texas. Abstract submission and conference registration will open later this month.



James P. Allison, PhD
The University of Texas
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center



Nancy T. Chang, PhD Ansun Biopharma



Robert T. Croyle, PhD National Cancer Institute

### Don't miss this opportunity to share your experience about working at UT Health San Antonio!

All faculty and staff are invited to participate in a short survey to help identify and define the common values that guide UT Health San Antonio. All who complete the survey are eligible to be included in a drawing.

The survey is offered through the Office of Human Resources Learning and Organizational Development team and the Leadership Excellence for Administrative Professionals (LEAP) Program.

LEAP is an 11-month program designed to expand leadership knowledge and skills among university leaders. As part of the LEAP program, participants initiate a capstone project that supports the strategic priorities of the UT Health San Antonio community. This survey is part of a LEAP capstone project.

Your participation will help define a collective identity and what the "UT Health Way" is. Survey responses will be anonymous. Honest opinions and insights are welcome.



The survey can be accessed here.