



UT Health MDAnderson
San Antonio ~~Cancer Center~~

FUTURE FOCUS

SHARING CANCER CENTER NEWS AS WE CHAMPION HEALTH TOGETHER.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope this message finds you and your family well and rejuvenated from a wonderful holiday season! I personally want to thank you for the crucial role you played in making 2019 a successful year at the Mays Cancer Center.

Because of your efforts, we saw significant progress in our mission to decrease the burden of cancer in San Antonio and South Texas. Throughout the year, we saw huge growth in new patients, opened exciting new clinical trials, expanded treatment options and had outstanding patient satisfaction.

In December, we received approval to expand our services with a new multispecialty research hospital that will include inpatient cancer care. The new hospital will be located directly across from our cancer center. This new venture will transform our cancer practice in so many ways that will benefit our patients.

Our efforts in cancer research involving genome repair, early phase therapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, breast and genitourinary cancers, prevention and screening, and lymphomas and leukemias expanded greatly with many very impactful discoveries. Because of this growth, we were able to recruit new investigators, receive new grants and opened new clinical trials that focused on the cancer issues of our community and region.

Our cancer education and cancer research career enhancement programs continue to grow through our deepening engagement with our new affiliate members, trainees and junior faculty. We hosted a record number of events for patients, physicians and scientists—from our globally leading San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium with 8,000 attendees

to our first Living Beyond Cancer Patient Symposium with 700 attendees.

As we pivot toward 2020, we enter the final phase of our long journey to renew our NCI-designation status with our Feb. 25 site visit. I'm very excited for us to share with the reviewers the tremendous energy, work and impact the Mays Cancer Center has had on our community and South Texas.

We have a big year ahead of us as we grow our world-class cancer care and clinical trials with the addition of our new chairs, Mark Bonnen, M.D., in radiation oncology, and Daruka Mahadevan, M.D., Ph.D., in hematology and medical oncology. Very soon, we will begin planning the next generation of inpatient cancer care for our new hospital, build new programs in stem cell transplant and cellular-based therapies, and add new forms of radiation therapies and immunotherapies.

Again, deepest thanks for the crucial role you play at the Mays Cancer Center and well wishes for a wonderful and exciting 2020!

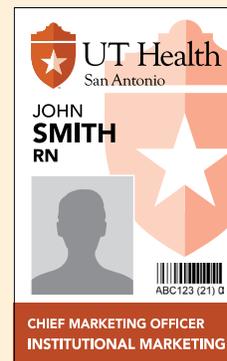
All my best,

Ruben Mesa, M.D., FACP
Director, Mays Cancer Center

NEWSLETTER

1.16.2020

NEW PARKING UPDATE



Beginning January 1, 2020, employees who park at the Mays Cancer Center who **forget their badge will get charged for parking**. We will no longer allow individuals to use the customer service representatives to exit at the pay stations.

Over the past few months, we have had nearly 100 UT Health San Antonio faculty, staff, and students pulling tickets or using the call service to get out of the parking lot. Each time this happens, the cancer center is charged a fee.

Going forward, individuals with permits and access to the Mays Cancer Center parking facilities will need to use their badge to enter and exit. If you do not have your badge, you will have to pay to exit.

Please share with all departments.

SAN ANTONIO MAGAZINE:

UT HEALTH PHYSICIANS MAKE LIST OF TOP DOCTORS IN SAN ANTONIO

UT Health San Antonio physicians make San Antonio Magazine's list of San Antonio's Top Doctors 2020. San Antonio Magazine's list features more than 300 of the city's best physicians and specialists. Get to know some of the UT Health physicians on the list:



PHOTO BY JOSH HUSKIN

DR. SYLVIA BOTROS-BREY

Associate professor of urology, program director of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, UT Health San Antonio

Dr. Sylvia Botros-Brey grew up around medicine in East Texas. Her father worked as a urologist and her uncle was a gynecologist. While she had a vague idea of what those specialties entailed, it wasn't until she was working with patients during her own medical training that she realized she

wanted to pursue a blend of the two fields.

"What really drew me to urogynecology fundamentally was the vulnerability and the need of the patients we see," she says. "It's an underserved area."

[..continue Dr. Botros-Brey's story](#)

DR. GAIL TOMLINSON

Professor of pediatrics, Greehey distinguished chair in genetics and cancer; division director, pediatric hematology-oncology; co-director, population science and prevention program, Mays Cancer Center/UT Health

When Dr. Gail Tomlinson decided to specialize in pediatric oncology and hematology, she saw it as a way to ensure she was always learning while still making a direct impact on patients.

"Cancer therapy is an area that is always

changing and always improving," says Tomlinson, professor of pediatrics and the Greehey distinguished chair in genetics and cancer at UT Health San Antonio. "I saw it as an opportunity to learn."

[..continue Dr. Tomlinson's story](#)



PHOTO COURTESY OF UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO



PHOTO BY JOSH HUSKIN

DR. RICHARD USATINE

Professor of family and community medicine and of dermatology and cutaneous surgery, UT Health San Antonio

Compassion is often what drives students to pursue medicine, but UT Health San Antonio professor Dr. Richard Usatine says amid the stress of long hours, tests and clinical rotations, that original motivation can sometimes get lost. That's where the school's community clinics come in.

Usatine and other professors work with medical students in free clinics serving

homeless people, refugees, LGBTQ individuals, women recovering from addiction and others in hopes of not only honing their students' diagnosis and treatment skills but also their humanity. "We want them to hold onto their compassion dearly and use it throughout their medical careers," Usatine says.

[..continue Dr. Usatine's story](#)

OTHER UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO PHYSICIANS ALSO MADE THE LIST OF TOP DOCTORS IN SAN ANTONIO. FIND THEM [HERE](#).



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BLOOD SUPPLY LOWEST IN MORE THAN A DECADE

The medical director of transfusion services at University Health System said this is the lowest their supply has been in the 14 years she's been there.

Dr. Robyn Scherber is reversing the roles. On Wednesday, she sat down to donate blood at University Hospital. She works there in the hematology and oncology department. Each day, she treats people with different blood cancers, like leukemia.

"I've been there, in the emergency department, when they tell me there's not enough blood for my patients to get transfused," Scherber said. "It's terrifying."

It's typical for donations to go down during the summer and holiday season. A spokesperson with the University Health System said a lot of people responded to their blood supply emergency before Christmas. They got a needed boost, but didn't climb out of the supply deficit.

Now they're in a tough place.

Dr. Leslie Greebon is the medical director of transfusion services at University Health System. She said this is the lowest their supply has been in the 14 years she's been there.

"We have less than half of what we should have," Greebon said. "If it gets to a critical level, we will have to start canceling elective surgeries in order to conserve our blood for the patients we already have."

From the NICU to the emergency room, Greebon said units are used throughout the hospital.

As a Level 1 trauma center, they also receive patients who are in critical condition. Greebon said their supply could take a major hit from a single-car accident.

"One patient can use hundreds of units, which we don't have at this time," Greebon said.

Scherber gets it, we're all busy.

"I confess, my schedule doesn't usually let me come on a regular basis," Scherber said.

But when she heard about the shortage, she made time to come in. She's O-negative, which means her donation can go to anyone.

"Knowing my blood is pretty universal, it does definitely help with the motivation to go give blood," Scherber said.

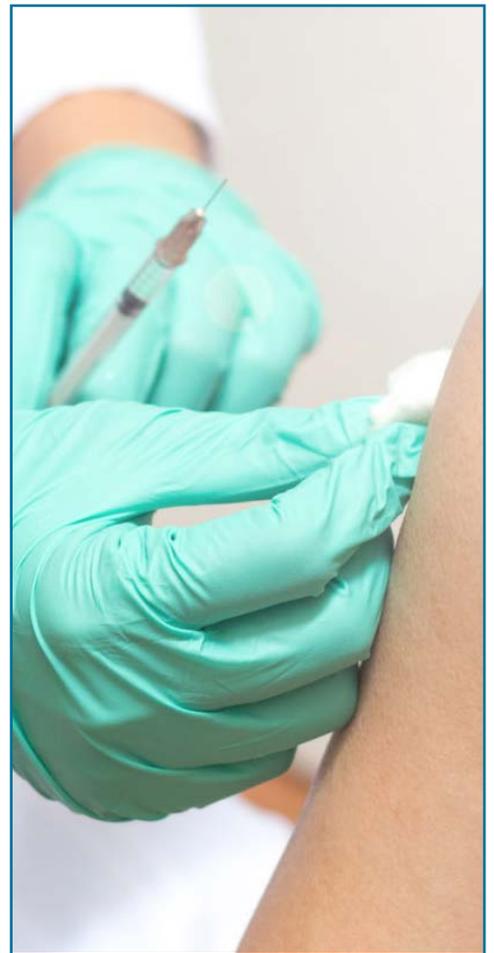
Scherber said this is another way she can be there for her patients.

"In some cases that blood, you never know, it might go to your loved one," Scherber said.

On a good month, the donation center at University Hospital usually brings in about 500 to 600 units, which covers less than half of what they need to treat patients. The rest comes from supplies the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center that's also experiencing a shortage.

To make an appointment to donate blood at University Hospital, call **210-358-2812**.

To make an appointment at South Texas Blood & Tissue Center, [click here](#).



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET THE FLU SHOT

**FLU CASES CONTINUE TO
BE ON THE RISE IN BEXAR
COUNTY AND IT'S NOT TOO
LATE TO GET YOUR FLU SHOT.**

UT Health San Antonio [Wellness 360](#) has flu vaccines available. The high-dose vaccine recommended for people 65 years and older is also available.

The Wellness 360 facility is located on the first floor of the School of Nursing, suite 1.422. You can walk-in or schedule an appointment for your flu shot by calling **210-567-2788**.