



Mays Cancer Center

UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center

FUTURE FOCUS

SHARING CANCER CENTER NEWS AS WE CHAMPION HEALTH TOGETHER.

LIVING BEYOND CANCER A-Z

A UT Health San Antonio
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Symposium

We are excited to announce the first Living Beyond Cancer A-Z: A UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center Symposium, set for Jan. 12, 2019.

The symposium will feature world-renowned cancer experts, including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons and other supportive care team members. These experts will lead disease-specific breakout sessions, share insights on several different types of cancer, including the latest treatment options, and be available to answer questions.

In addition, attendees will be able to participate in breakout sessions to identify resources, tools and support mechanisms to stay physically, emotionally and mentally strong throughout their cancer journey. Topics include: Mindfulness and Spirituality, Family of Caregivers – Wonder and Worries, Meditative Movement and more.



Cancer survivors, cancer patients, friends, family, caregivers and faculty and staff are invited to attend.

SYMPOSIUM DETAILS

Jan. 12, 2019 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Holly Auditorium on the Long campus, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, UT Health San Antonio

There is no cost to attend this conference.

Enrollment will close once registration exceeds the reserved meeting space.
RSVP by Dec. 20, 2018

Register online to reserve your spot today!

UTHhealthsaMDAnderson.org/LivingBeyondCancer

NEWSLETTER 11.21.2018

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center practices will be **closed on the following dates:**

Thursday, Nov. 22

Friday, Nov. 23

Saturday, Nov. 24

Monday, Dec. 24

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Saturday, Dec. 29

Tuesday, Jan. 1

UT Health's phone operators at **210-450-1000** will still be available to answer calls on these days.

ANNUAL TB SCREENING CLINIC AT UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

Mabee Conference Room #G406
Monday, November 26, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

TB READING

Mabee Conference Room #G406
Thursday, November 29, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

- You must present your ID Badge at the time of TB testing.
- Be prepared with **Department ID and PID** for billing purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Employee Health & Wellness Clinic at 210-567-2788 or ehwc@uthscsa.edu.

UT Health San Antonio's Annual Gifts for Children program is in full swing!



You may have noticed there are several boxes placed throughout UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center for our annual Gifts for Children project. UT Health San Antonio began this program 29 years ago to spread joy and cheer to children in our local hospitals and to give back to our community during the holidays. Last year we were able to deliver over 5,000+ toys, clothes and books to the children. The gifts we collect go to children in the following university-related hospitals and clinics, and...

- Children with AIDS
- UT PREMIere Program
- University Child Life mentoring program (books)
- Haven for Hope
- UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center
- AVANCE, Inc. Parent –Child Education Program
- Methodist Children's Hospital
- University Hospital



Please donate a **NEW** toy (do not gift wrap), or simply make a monetary donation. Gifts and monetary donations will be collected and brought to:

UT Health San Antonio's Holiday Tree

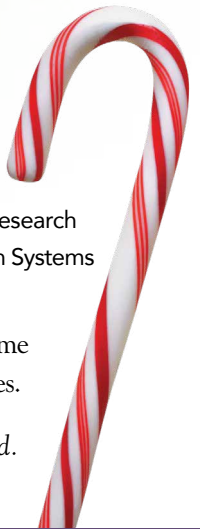
on Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the AAB Building–Main Lobby

We have several boxes located throughout the building:

- 6th floor, Urschel, Londa Bridges
- 6th floor, Urschel, Janet Goebel
- 5th floor, Zeller, Anabel Rivas
- 5th floor, Urschel Division of Clinical Informatics Research
- 5th floor, Urschel, U5.520 & Division of Information Systems
- 5th floor, Urschel, U5.525, Margie Guevara

Let's join together to make the holidays a special time for the children in our community and their families.

Gift suggestion list attached.



NEW APPAREL WEBSITE!

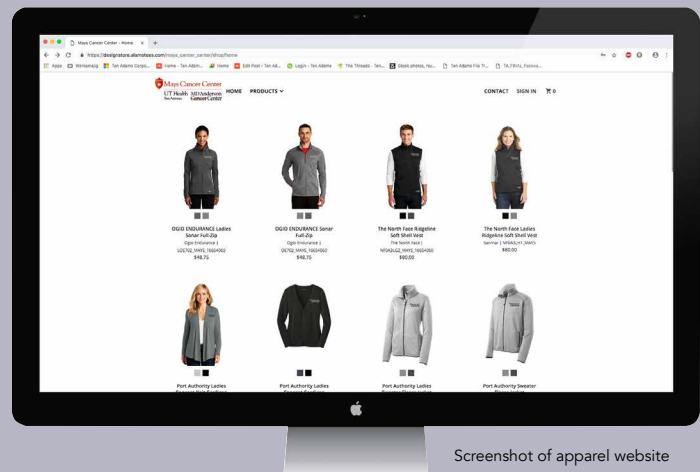
We are excited to announce the UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center apparel website. Now you have the ability to purchase approved clothing with the new logo!

To start, apparel that is ordered will be gathered and drop shipped to the cancer center every three weeks. We will set up a location for pick up and send out a message.

The dress code still applies.

Check out the apparel here!

Password: **mayscancer**



Screenshot of apparel website

TINY MOLECULE HAS **BIG EFFECT** IN CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOR STUDIES

Published On: November 6, 2018
Shared by [Will Sansom](#)



Sometimes small things make the biggest differences. A new study by UT Health San Antonio researchers found that a molecule thousands of times smaller than a gene is able to kill medulloblastoma, the most common childhood brain cancer.

“This tiny molecule, named MiR-584-5p, is quite efficient in its action. MiR-584-5p sensitizes the cancer to chemotherapy and radiation, making it plausible to treat the tumors with one-tenth the dose that is currently required,” said study senior author Manjeet Rao, Ph.D., associate professor of cell systems and anatomy at UT Health San Antonio and a member of the university’s Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute.

“Currently we barrage the brain with radiation and chemo, and patients have poor quality of life,” Dr. Rao said. “Using this molecule, we could dial down those therapies considerably, by 90 percent. That’s exciting.”

MiR-584-5p is at very low levels or absent altogether in medulloblastoma. Increasing it to the amount found in healthy cells robs the cancer of mechanisms it uses to survive, studies show. “This can serve as a potent therapeutic for treating cancer,” Dr. Rao said.

The journal *Nature Communications* published the findings Oct. 31.

“The other excitement about MiR-584-5p is that it is normally present at high levels in brain cells and not so in other tissues,” Dr. Rao said. Therefore, when it is used in the brain as therapy to kill tumors, it will have negligible effects on the healthy cells because those cells have seen it before. “They may not treat the molecule as something foreign. A future therapy based on the molecule should be well-tolerated,” Dr. Rao said.

MiR-584-5p sensitizes cancer to chemotherapy and radiation, making it plausible to treat tumors with one-tenth the dose that is currently required.

MANJEET RAO, PH.D.

A big challenge for treating brain cancer patients is the inability of cancer drugs to cross the blood-brain barrier, a protective mechanism that holds up brain cancer therapies. Because it is so petite, MiR-584-5p

may be able to cross this barrier, which is leaky in some medulloblastoma patients. “In the future,” Dr. Rao said, “the molecule may be delivered using a nanoparticle carrier.”

“Aside from medulloblastoma, the properties of MiR-584-5p make it an excellent drug candidate for treatment of glioblastoma, an aggressive and lethal adult brain cancer,” Dr. Rao said.

A patent on the MiR-584-5p technology has been filed with Dr. Rao and Nourhan Abdelfattah, Ph.D., first author on the paper, listed as inventors. Dr. Abdelfattah completed her doctoral work in the Rao laboratory and is a postdoctoral fellow at the Houston Methodist Research Institute.

A second patent with Dr. Rao as inventor was issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Multiple commercialization business models are under review, including a possible start-up company, according to the Office of Technology Commercialization at UT Health San Antonio.

Dr. Rao’s research has been supported by the National Cancer Institute, the William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation of San Antonio, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund.



Grand Rounds



Luis Carvajal-Carmona, Ph.D., has no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.

The Cancer Grand Rounds Planning Committee (Ruben Mesa, MD) has no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.

The Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine designates this live activity up to a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Luis Carvajal-Carmona, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Genome Center &
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine
Co-Leader, Population Sciences and Health
Disparities Program
Dean's Fellow in Precision Medicine
University of California, Davis

TOPIC

“Opportunities for basic and translation cancer research in Latino populations”

WHEN & WHERE

Monday, December 10, 2018

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

UT Health San Antonio

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Mabee Conference Room G406



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Cancer Center