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**Committee Meeting: 2/26/2018**

**Board Meeting: 2/27/2018**  
Austin, Texas

*Paul L. Foster, Chairman*  
*Ernest Aliseda*  
*David J. Beck*  
*R. Steven Hicks*  
*Jeffery D. Hildebrand*  
*Janiece Longoria*

	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Convene</b>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i> <i>Chairman Foster</i>		
1. <b>U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration</b>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>279</b>
2. <b>U. T. System: Panel discussion of progress by the Health Quality Council, a U. T. Systemwide patient safety and health care quality collaboration</b>	<i>10:05 a.m.</i> <b>Report/Discussion</b> <i>Ms. Leslie Carruth</i>	Not on Agenda	<b>280</b>
3. <b>U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Health Sciences</b>	<i>10:25 a.m.</i> <b>Action</b> <i>President Henrich</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>294</b>
4. <b>U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding health institution degree programs identified as low-producing and recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</b>	<i>10:30 a.m.</i> <b>Action</b> <i>Dr. Greenberg</i>	<b>Action</b>	<b>296</b>
5. <b>U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Report on collaborations between U. T. Health Science Center - Houston and Memorial Hermann Health System, a Texas nonprofit corporation</b>	<i>10:35 a.m.</i> <b>Report/Discussion</b> <i>Dr. Greenberg</i> <i>President Colasurdo</i> <i>Mr. Charles Stokes and</i> <i>Ms. Deborah Cannon,</i> <i>Memorial Hermann</i>	Not on Agenda	<b>309</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>		

1. **U. T. System Board of Regents: Discussion and appropriate action regarding Consent Agenda items, if any, assigned for Committee consideration**

RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Consent Agenda items assigned to this Committee are [Items 33 - 56](#).

2. **U. T. System: Panel discussion of progress by the Health Quality Council, a U. T. Systemwide patient safety and health care quality collaboration**

DISCUSSION

Ms. Leslie A. Carruth, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, will introduce the panel of distinguished clinicians for a discussion of progress by the Health Quality Council, a U. T. Systemwide patient safety and health care quality collaboration. A PowerPoint presentation is set forth on the following pages.

The panelists will provide context of past patient safety and quality efforts and current and future Systemwide initiatives to advance the U. T. System. The panel will be comprised of:

- **Carol Croft, M.D.**, Assistant Vice President and University Hospital Quality Officer, Professor of Internal Medicine, Baldrige Family Professorship in Internal Medicine and Preventive Care, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center;
- **William Daniel, M.D.**, Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, Professor of Internal Medicine, William T. Solomon Professorship in Clinical Quality Improvement, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center;
- **Jason Fish, M.D.**, Assistant Vice President for Ambulatory Quality, Outcomes, and Performance Improvement, Deputy Chief Medical Informatics Officer (Ambulatory), Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, U. T. Southwestern Medical Center;
- **Deborah A. McGrew**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, UTMB Health System, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston;
- **Gulshan Sharma, M.D.**, Vice President and Chief Medical and Clinical Innovation Officer, Director, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Sealy and Smith Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston;
- **Bela Patel, M.D.**, Vice Dean for Healthcare Quality and Professor, Division Director, Critical Care Medicine, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston;
- **Eric Thomas, M.D.**, Associate Dean for Healthcare Quality, Professor, Internal Medicine, Griff T. Ross Professor in Humanities and Technology in Health Care, U. T. Health Science Center - Houston;
- **Timothy Barker, M.D.**, Chief Medical Information Officer, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio;
- **Kenyatta Lee, M.D.**, Chief Quality Officer, U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio;
- **Thomas Aloia, M.D.**, Director of Quality and Outcomes, Division of Surgery, Head, Institute, Institute for Cancer Care Innovation, Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology, U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center;

- **Charles Levenback, M.D.**, Chief Quality Officer, Professor, Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center; and
- **Michele Bosworth, M.D.**, Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer, Co-Chief Medical Information Officer, U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 2008, the Board of Regents has supported patient safety and health care quality initiatives with funding from the actuarially determined excess balances of the U. T. System Professional Medical Liability Benefit Plan. The presenters and panelists will review those initiatives and highlight current collaborations that build on those initiatives.

# U. T. Health Quality Council

Bela Patel, M.D., Vice Dean for Healthcare Quality, Professor and Division Director, Critical Care Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

William Daniel, M.D., Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, Professor of Internal Medicine, William T. Solomon Professorship in Clinical Quality Improvement, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

U. T. System Board of Regents' Meeting  
Health Affairs Committee  
February 2018



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
FOURTEEN INSTITUTIONS. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

[WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU](http://WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU)

# Patient Safety and Quality Initiatives

## Clinical Safety and Effectiveness Course

- Initiated in 2008
- Plan-Do-Study-Act, Lean, Six Sigma
- Statistical process control to reduce variation
- 2,500 graduates
- 850 quality improvement projects



## Patient Safety and Quality Initiatives (cont.)

### **Patient Safety Grants Program**

- Initiated in 2008; 32 grants over eight years

### **Patient Safety in Health Information Technology**

- Initiated in 2009; 3 grants, 6 financial supplements

### **Systems Engineering Initiative**

- Initiated in 2011; 6 grants over four years



# Recognition for U. T. Hospital Care Quality

## The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

- *U.S. News & World Report* 2017-18 Listings  
#1 Best Hospital in Dallas/Fort Worth; #2 Best Hospital in Texas
- Magnet Recognized by American Nurses Credentialing Center



## The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

- 2017 Vizient Bernard A. Birnbaum, M.D., Quality Leadership Award
- Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade of A
- Magnet Recognized by American Nurses Credentialing Center



## The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

- *U.S. News & World Report* 2017-18 Listings  
#1 Best Hospital for Cancer Care in U.S.



## The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

- The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval



## Quality Council Charter, January 2017

The Systemwide working group on patient safety and quality comprised of the responsible officers at your institutions will move the excellent work at the institutional level into a more coordinated strategy systemwide to operate more as a learning health system. The group will select several in-patient and several out-patient performance goals and then develop strategies to reach these goals, perhaps building upon work already underway at one or more of the institutions.

-- Raymond S. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D.



# U. T. Quality Council Members

## U. T. Southwestern Medical Center

- Carol Croft, M.D., University Hospital Quality Officer
- William Daniel, M.D., Chief Quality Officer
- Jason Fish, M.D., Assistant Vice President for Ambulatory Quality, Outcomes, and Performance Improvement

## U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston

- Deborah McGrew, Chief Operating Officer, UTMB Health System
- Gulshan Sharma, M.D., Chief Medical and Clinical Innovation Officer

## U. T. Health Science Center - Houston

- Bela Patel, M.D., Vice Dean for Healthcare Quality
- Eric Thomas, M.D., Associate Dean for Healthcare Quality



## U. T. Quality Council Members (cont.)

### U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio

- Timothy Barker, M.D., Chief Medical Information Officer
- Kenyatta Lee, M.D., Chief Quality Officer

### U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

- Thomas Aloia, M.D., Director of Quality and Outcomes, Division of Surgery
- Charles Levenback, M.D., Chief Quality Officer

### U. T. Health Science Center - Tyler

- Michele Bosworth, M.D., Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer



# The University of Texas Learning Health System

## **Building on investments in training and infrastructure**

- Clinical Safety and Effectiveness Course
- Other Patient Safety Grants Programs
- U. T. Health Intelligence Platform

## **Increasing multi-institutional collaboration and communication for improved sharing and spread of best practices**



# U. T. System Rapid Cycle Quality Improvement

Thirty-minute webinars every two weeks

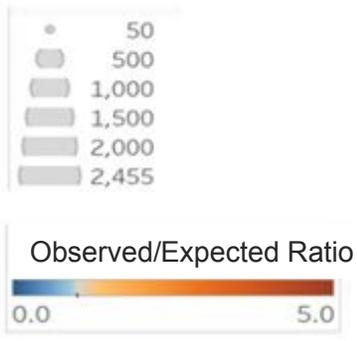
Topic	2017 Calendar		2018 Calendar	
Perioperative Pulmonary Embolism	Jul 13 - Sep 28		Monitor	
Mortality	Data prep	Oct 12 - Nov 30	Monitor	
Readmissions	Data prep		Jan 11 - Mar 22	Monitor
Cycle 4			Data prep	May 3 - Jun 28
Cycle 5			Data prep	Aug 23 - Nov 1



# Patient Safety Indicator 12

Excludes service lines with less than 50 cases

Bubble size represents denominator size



Observed/Expected Ratio

0.0 5.0

Vizient Service Line	Non U. T. 1	U. T. X	U. T. Y	Non U. T. 2	U. T. Z	Non U. T. 3
Burns	3.0			2.6		
Cardiac Surgery			0.7	0.4		4.2
Cardiology	0.6			0.6		
Complications of Prior Care	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.5		0.5
General Surgery	0.9	0.4	1.6	2.6	0.7	2.1
Gynecologic Oncology	3.3			1.7		1.7
Gynecology		3.5		2.4		3.0
Medical Oncology					0.7	
Neurology						
Neurosurgery	2.1		5.3	1.1	1.4	0.7
Orthopedics	2.1	0.8	2.1	0.5	1.3	0.7
Otolaryngology				5.9	0.4	
Plastic Surgery					4.6	
Pulmonary/ Critical Care	3.1		1.5	2.3	6.4	2.7
Spinal Surgery	3.2	5.5		1.6		5.8
Surgical Oncology	3.3				1.5	
Thoracic Surgery	2.3		1.2			
Transplant Services			4.5	2.5		
Trauma	1.0	2.1		2.0		1.2
Urology	1.6		0.2		0.3	1.7
Vascular Surgery		0.7	0.6	0.7		



# Perioperative Pulmonary Embolism Rapid Cycle

## Process:

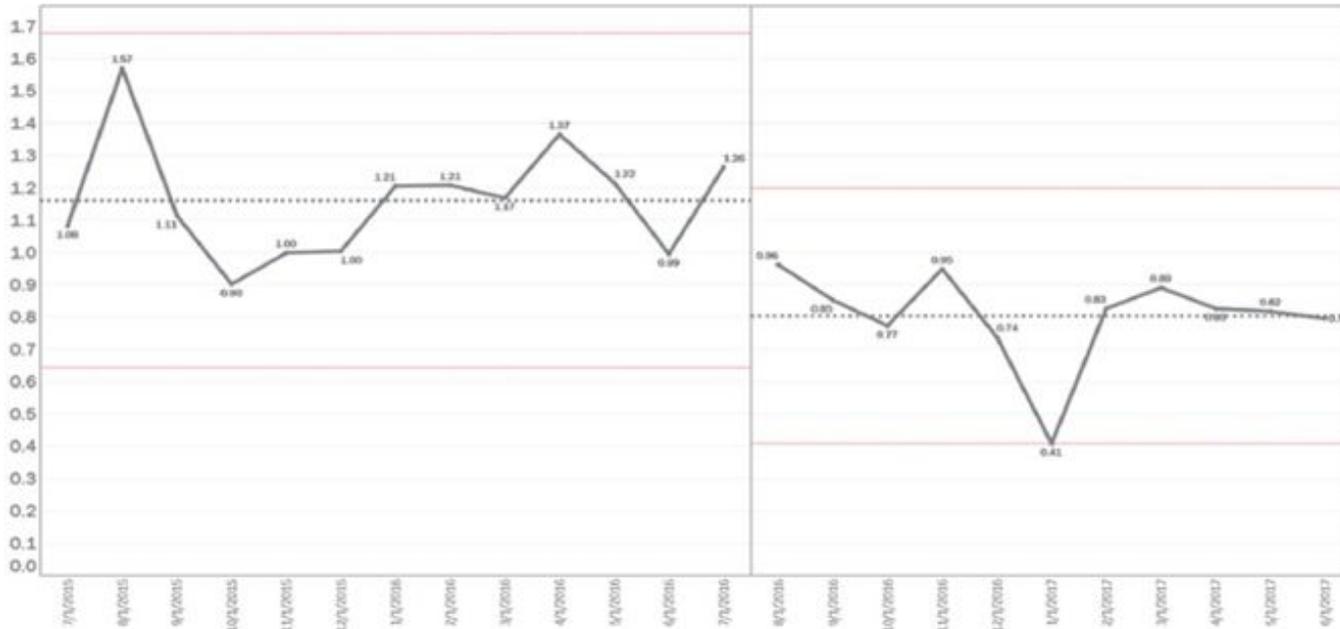
- Observed variation across U. T. hospitals in surgical procedures
- Drilled down to specific diagnosis code
- Analyzed rate of anticoagulant use
- 75% of cases were emergency admissions

## Lessons learned:

- Embed prophylaxis into admission order set
- Embed prophylaxis administration reminders
- Special attention to emergent admissions



# U. T. Medical Branch Best Care Impact on Mortality Index



**3. U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio: Approval of preliminary authority for a Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Health Sciences**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the institutional president that the U. T. System Board of Regents approve:

- a. preliminary authority for U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio to plan to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Health Sciences; and
- b. notification of the proposal to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences offers different doctoral degree programs across a variety of interdisciplinary and disciplinary foci, including Ph.D.s in Integrated Biomedical Sciences, Nursing Science, and Radiological Sciences. Two of U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio's doctoral programs are jointly offered with U. T. institutions: a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Translational Science.

The Graduate School, in collaboration with the School of Health Professions, proposes to offer a Ph.D. in Health Sciences. The proposed program is designed to prepare allied health professionals to assume major leadership, research and educational positions within their professions, as well as to provide career advancement opportunities. The Ph.D. in Health Sciences is intended to be a broad-based, interdisciplinary and interprofessional degree that will allow graduates to place individual health fields in the context of the allied health disciplines, the health care delivery system, as a whole, and the larger issues of health and wellness across the continuum of the health care system. The goal of the program is to prepare graduates to assume essential roles as faculty and researchers at colleges and universities, as well as leadership roles in clinical agencies, governmental and health care organizations, and industry.

The Ph.D. in Health Sciences will offer specialization tracks in diverse allied health disciplines, such as Emergency Medical Sciences, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, and Respiratory Care, along with a generalist concentration in Health Sciences. The program of study will include formal courses and electives in research design, statistical methods, health systems management, communications (publications and grant writing), education, leadership, and advanced coursework in a health science professional track. Courses will be offered online and in face-to-face/blended formats integrating distance technology, where appropriate.

The goals of the program are to: (1) prepare competent Health Science professionals at the doctorate level to assume leadership roles as educators, researchers, and leaders; (2) provide leadership training in specific clinical-related specialty areas; and (3) develop individuals who can formulate appropriate questions, organize and test hypotheses, and apply research results to improve health care.

Currently, there are only two programs awarding a Ph.D. in Health Sciences in Texas designed to prepare future faculty and researchers in allied health and only a small number of such programs in the U.S. Not only is there demand for doctorally-prepared faculty to succeed the current generation of allied health faculty, there is also a significant need for researchers prepared to conduct outcomes research in the allied health disciplines to ensure care provided continues to be cost-effective and appropriate and to evaluate new forms of care, as they emerge.

The Ph.D. in Health Sciences proposed to be offered at U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio would not duplicate existing or comparable programs in Texas. Its program, grounded within an academic health center campus, will actively promote and foster interdisciplinary and interprofessional experiences in medicine, nursing, biomedical sciences, dentistry, and the allied health professions. Additionally, there will be potential opportunities to partner with U. T. Health Science Center - Houston's School of Public Health, San Antonio Regional Campus, and U. T. Austin's College of Pharmacy, which has a San Antonio collaborative program. The program design will allow students to gain an increased understanding of other health disciplines and allow collaboration and work within interprofessional teams to solve health care problems.

**4. U. T. System: Discussion and appropriate action regarding health institution degree programs identified as low-producing and recommended for consolidation or elimination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chancellor concurs in the recommendation of the Deputy Chancellor, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the institutional presidents that the following low-producing degree programs be retained:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Biomedical Engineering	Ph.D.	Retain
The University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston	Human Pathophysiology and Translational Medicine	Ph.D.	Retain
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston	Medical Science Research	M.M.S.	Retain
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Environmental Science	Ph.D.	Retain
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	Immunology and Infection	M.S.	Retain

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*Texas Education Code* Section 61.0512(f) permits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) to recommend the consolidation or elimination of a degree program based on the number of degrees awarded by the program. *Texas Education Code* Section 61.0512(f) requires that the Coordinating Board recommend such action to an institution's governing board. The governing board may accept or reject the Coordinating Board's recommendation.

In August 2017, the Coordinating Board issued recommendations to close or consolidate five low-producing programs at four health institutions within the U. T. System. Coordinating Board Rule 4.287 defines low-producing programs as follows:

- (4) Low-Producing Degree Programs--Degree programs that do not meet the following minimum standards for degrees awarded in the program:
  - (A) For career technical certificates, associate and bachelor's programs, an average of five degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than twenty-five degrees awarded for any five-year period;
  - (B) For master's programs, an average of three degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than fifteen degrees awarded for any five-year period; and
  - (C) For doctoral and special professional degrees, an average of two degrees awarded per academic year, to total not fewer than ten degrees awarded for any five-year period.

Out of the five low-producing programs identified by the Coordinating Board, the institutions request to retain all five programs. In accordance with a process developed jointly by the Office of Health Affairs and the Office of Academic Affairs, when an institution requests to retain a low-producing program, it must submit a rationale and an action plan designed to recruit, retain, and graduate more students from the program. The institutions' responses to each program identified as low-producing are set forth on the following pages.

The Office of Health Affairs will notify the Coordinating Board of the Board of Regents' action.

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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs**

**The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Doctor of Biomedical Engineering**

**Program Description**

U. T. Southwestern Medical Center's Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. degree is jointly offered with The University of Texas at Arlington and The University of Texas at Dallas. Degrees are awarded by the respective academic institutions and neither has been identified as low performing. U. T. Southwestern Medical Center intends to continue to partner with these institutions to offer the degree program.

**Request**

U. T. Southwestern Medical Center asks for the continuation of this program and its retention in the UTSWMC authorized program inventory.

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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs**

**The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
Human Pathophysiology and Translational Medicine (CIP 26.0102)**

**Program Description**

The Human Pathophysiology and Translational Medicine (HPTM) program was created out of an older graduate program, Cellular Physiology and Molecular Biology, upon the recommendation of an external review panel. This coincided with The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's application for the Clinical Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). Upon receipt of the award, the new graduate program became the flagship program for UTMB's Institute for Translational Sciences (ITS).

**Program Features**

The HPTM graduate program is the flagship program of the ITS. The program is designed to train highly skilled biomedical translational researchers who possess an integrated understanding of the mechanistic pathophysiology of human diseases, and the methodological and teamwork skills necessary to translate basic scientific knowledge into improvements in health care. The objectives are achieved by engaging HPTM students in an innovative educational curriculum driven by the development and evaluation of defined competencies.

**Low-Producing Program Analysis**

The program is a doctoral program, which under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's low-producing program (LPP) rules is required to produce 10 graduates in a rolling five-year period measured annually. As the program transitioned from its older focus to the new structure of the ITS, it took some time to recruit candidates and have them complete their coursework and research. However, the program has now become well established, producing six doctoral graduates in 2017. An updated LPP analysis indicates that the program has now achieved the statutory goals of the LPP review.

**Request**

U. T. Medical Branch - Galveston asks for the continuation of this program and its retention in the UTMB authorized program inventory.

Medical Branch does not expect to see this program on the LPP listing again going forward.

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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs (cont.)**

**Updated LPP  
 Analysis**

	<b>AY15</b>	<b>AY16</b>	<b>AY17</b>	<b>AY18</b>
<b>HPTM (PHD)</b>	2	3	4	10

Note:

AY15 = sum of graduates from 2010-2014

AY16 = sum of graduates from 2011-2015

AY17 = sum of graduates from 2012-2016

AY18 = sum of graduates from 2013-2017

**The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
Master of Medical Science Research (CIP 30.0101)**

**Program Description**

The Masters of Medical Science (M.M.S.) Program is a flexible and cost-effective academic opportunity to validate, recognize, and enhance the research experience of clinicians wishing to perform biomedical research. The program is only open to applicants from within The University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston community. The program offers medical doctors an opportunity to employ their clinical and basic science training and engage in full-time research in an established UTMB laboratory.

**Program Feature**

The operating costs of the program are minimal: there is no required curriculum or program faculty, research opportunities are available in established UTMB laboratories, and the experience culminates in the publication of a peer reviewed scientific research paper. The program is managed by the Institute for Translational Research making the program ideal for training of clinician-scientists.

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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs (cont.)**

**Low Producing Program (LPP) Analysis**

This program is a master’s degree program, which under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s low-producing program rules is required to produce 15 graduates in a five-year rolling time period measured annually. It is doubtful this small, inexpensive, and highly focused program will ever be able to produce that level of degrees awarded. However, the rationale for its continued existence is powerful – the degree offers a unique pathway for physicians to engage in basic science research and further bridge the gap between the laboratory and the bedside, turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public — from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.

**Request**

U. T. Medical Branch asks for the continuation of this program and its retention in the UTMB authorized program inventory.

**Updated LPP  
 Analysis**

	<b>AY15</b>	<b>AY16</b>	<b>AY17</b>	<b>AY18</b>
<b>MMS (MS)</b>	11	9	10	9

Note:

AY15 = sum of graduates from 2010-2014

AY16 = sum of graduates from 2011-2015

AY17 = sum of graduates from 2012-2016

AY18 = sum of graduates from 2013-2017

The University of Texas System  
Board of Regents' Meeting  
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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs**

**The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Doctor of Environmental Science**

U. T. Health Science Center - Houston's response is set forth in the attached letter from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success dated September 27, 2017 (Exhibit A).

EXHIBIT A



**Office of the Vice President  
for Academic Affairs & Student Success**

**Eric Solberg**  
*Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs*

September 27, 2017

Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
The University of Texas System  
210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Dr. Greenberg;

The University of Texas School of Public at Houston (UTSPH), in response to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's low producing program identification of the PhD in Environmental Science, is requesting the following two academic changes that will be implemented in Fall 2018.

Academic change #1:

Enhancement of the PhD in Environmental Science under CIP code 03.0104.00 by creating two new tracks, 1) Total Worker Health, and 2) Environmental Disease Prevention. Student applicants will be required to select one of the track concentrations. The tracks UTSPH is proposing offer degree planners with compelling combinations of coursework that address unique, specialized areas in demand, particularly in the areas of biosafety and emergency preparedness/response. This enhancement for the PhD in Environmental Science follows the new accreditation requirements by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Academic change #2:

Due to the fact that the current DrPH in Environmental Health under CIP code 51.2202.00 is similarly aligned with the PhD program in Environmental Sciences, UTSPH is requesting to close the DrPH program in Environmental Health effective Fall 2018. Students currently enrolled in the DrPH in Environmental Health will have the option to remain in the DrPH program under the requirements stated in the UTSPH Catalog in which they matriculated or switch to one of the two new tracks under the PhD in Environmental Science. All previous coursework will apply to the new PhD program track or be substituted as appropriate. No faculty or staff will be lost as a result of this program closure since current faculty will be utilized to teach under the two new PhD tracks. A teach-out plan has been attached for this program track closure.

Attached for Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) review and approval is a THECB Request for Consolidation of Programs showing the requested closure of the DrPH in Environmental Health under CIP code 51.2202.00, and the creation of the two new tracks under the current PhD in Environmental Science under CIP code 03.0104.00.

I join Dr. Michael Blackburn, Executive VP and Chief Academic Officer and UTSPH Dean Boerwinkle in approving these academic changes in response to the low producing program for the PhD in Environmental Science. With your approval, I respectfully ask that your office forward the THECB Consolidation of Program Request for required notification and/or approval and update to the THECB Inventory Program Report for UTHealth listing approved programs.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Solberg  
Vice President Academic and Research Affairs  
SACSCOC Liaison

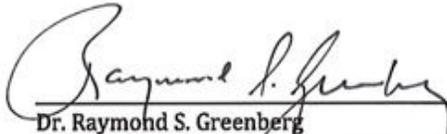
Attachment

xc: Dean Eric Boerwinkle, UTSPH

UTHealth School of Public Health  
Response to Low Producing Program  
PhD in Environmental Health (CIP 03.0104.00)

xc: Dr. Susan Tortolero-Emery  
Ms. Sylvia Salas

UT SYSTEM APPROVAL:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Raymond S. Greenberg  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
The University of Texas System

Date: 1-9-2018

713.500.3596 phone 713.790-3069 fax  
Eric.J.Solberg@uth.tmc.edu  
7000 Fannin, Suite 1565  
Houston, TX 77030



The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston

School of Public Health

September 6, 2017

Michael Blackburn, PhD  
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
7000 Fannin  
Houston, TX 77030

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD  
Dean  
M. David Low Chair in Public Health  
Kozmetsky Family Chair in Human Genetics  
Professor, Human Genetics Center and Dept. of Epidemiology  
Associate Director, Human Genome Sequencing Center at BCM

RE: UTHealth School of Public Health Academic Change

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

In response to the Environmental Science PhD program being identified as a low-producing program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston (UTHealth SPH) wishes to phase out the DrPH in Environmental Health (CIP code 51.2202.00) and offer an enhanced PhD in Environmental Science (CIP code 03.0104.00), a degree that is already offered and approved. The PhD will have two specific tracks; 1) total worker health and 2) environmental disease prevention (both proposals attached). Applicants to the PhD will be required to select one of the tracks. Students currently enrolled in the DrPH will have the option to complete the DrPH they were admitted to or transfer to one of the tracks in the PhD. This is in response to the Environmental Science PhD program being identified as a low-producing program. The plan is to implement these changes for Fall 2018.

The San Antonio campus currently offers the DrPH that is phasing out. The San Antonio campus would like to offer the currently approved Environmental Science PhD degree at the campus with the new tracks. The Houston and El Paso campuses currently offer the PhD and will include both new track options for students. Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences faculty are already present at these campuses and will be ready to teach and advise students in this program.

The UTHealth SPH Academic Council reviewed and approved the new tracks and campus offering on July 17, 2017. The schools Executive Council also reviewed and approved the new tracks and campus offering on July 27, 2017.

This letter is to make your office aware of the academic changes we have implemented. Thank you for your attention, and please let us know if you need further information.

Regards,

Eric Boerwinkle, PhD

Enclosures

- cc: Susan Tortolero Emery, PhD
- Kristina Mena, PhD
- Melissa Valerio, PhD
- Sylvia Salas

Approved by:

Michael R. Blackburn, PhD  
Executive Vice President, Chief Academic Officer

9/21/17  
Date

713.500.9058  
Eric.Boerwinkle@uth.tmc.edu  
[www.sph.uth.edu](http://www.sph.uth.edu)

1200 Pressler Street, W114A  
Houston, Texas 77030

The University of Texas System  
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**Rationale for Continuation of Low-Producing Programs**

**The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Master of Immunology and Infection**

**Program Description**

U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio's Immunology and Infection M.S. degree was reconfigured in Academic Years 2014-2015, and on November 5, 2015 the Board of Regents approved the request by the institution to retain the program, which had been identified as low-producing. Between February 2017 and August 2017, 18 degrees have been awarded in this program, which exceeds the amount to be considered low-producing in the future. Additional information is outlined in the attached letter from the Office of the Vice President for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs dated January 4, 2018 (Exhibit A).

**Request**

U. T. Health Science Center - San Antonio asks for the continuation of this program and its retention in the UTHSC-SA authorized program inventory.



**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY ONLY**

January 3, 2018

Raymond S. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D.  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
Office of Health Affairs  
The University of Texas System  
210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701-2903

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor Greenberg:

On behalf of President Henrich, I am responding to your request of September 11, 2017, to provide an explanation regarding our Master of Science degree in Immunology and Infection (CIP 26.0508).

In November 2015, The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved the request by UT Health San Antonio to retain the M.S. in Immunology and Infection program, which had been identified as a low-producing degree program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

At that time, UT Health San Antonio enacted a significant curricular restructuring to redesign the previous exit-master's degree (tied then to a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology) and developed a stand-alone M.S. program that would be responsive to student demand and employer interest and need.

Since the reconfiguration of the program in 2014-15, we have had consistent enrollment, with at least fifteen students entering in each new cohort year AY 2015, 2016, and 2017. Because students complete the program in approximately two years, we anticipated we would see rebounding graduation numbers starting in AY 2017. That has proven to be the case.

We are pleased to share the following data for AY 2017, which were reported to the Coordinating Board in our FY 2017 CMB 009 report (graduation report):

One degree was conferred on February 24, 2017  
Five degrees were conferred on May 19, 2017  
Nine degrees were conferred on June 30, 2017  
Three degrees were conferred on August 25, 2017

Altogether, we conferred eighteen degrees in AY 2017.

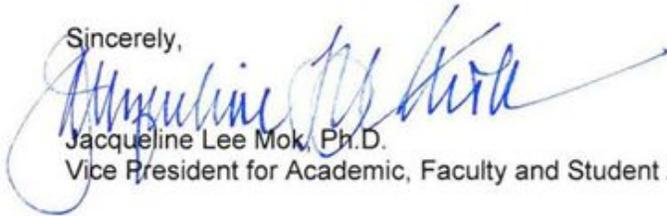
The Coordinating Board report sent to the Regents on September 1, 2017 only included data from AY 2010 through 2016, perhaps not recognizing that the Regents had granted us approval to retain our M.S. program in 2015.

Letter to Dr. Greenberg  
January 4, 2018  
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With our most recent graduation numbers now in THECB's databases, UT Health San Antonio will meet the threshold of fifteen graduates in five years for master's programs, once the accounting period includes AY 2017.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Lee Mok, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs

c: William L. Henrich, M.D. MACP  
President, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
and Professor of Medicine

David S. Weiss, Ph.D.  
Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Patrick Francis, Associate Vice Chancellor, The University of Texas System,  
Office of Health Affairs

5. **U. T. Health Science Center - Houston: Report on collaborations between U. T. Health Science Center - Houston and Memorial Hermann Health System, a Texas nonprofit corporation**

REPORT

Executive Vice Chancellor Greenberg will report on collaborations between U. T. Health Science Center - Houston and Memorial Hermann Health System, a Texas nonprofit corporation. President Colasurdo will introduce Charles (Chuck) D. Stokes, President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Memorial Hermann Health System, and Deborah M. Cannon, Chairman, Memorial Hermann Health Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Memorial Hermann Health System owns and operates 15 hospitals, including Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center, the primary teaching hospital for U. T. Health Science Center - Houston. With a century of community service dating back to its founding, Memorial Hermann's decades-long relationship with U. T. Health Science Center - Houston has been key to the success of both parties. In building a platform for future growth and development, Memorial Hermann and U. T. Health Science Center - Houston are exploring a long-term extension of their academic affiliation agreement. Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Chuck Stokes, and Chairman of the Memorial Hermann Health Board, Deborah Cannon, were invited to share their vision with the U. T. System Board of Regents for future evolution of this critical relationship.