



Area Health Education Center

# Capital Connection

FALL 2008

## Message From the Director



As many of you know The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (UTMB) recently sustained a direct hit by Hurricane Ike. UTMB suffered over \$700 million in damages with only \$100 million covered by insurance. Hurricane Ike proved to be a huge storm system, 900 miles across at its largest. It remained a hurricane hours after crashing ashore over Galveston at 2:10 a.m. the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup>.

What you may not know is that Capital AHEC is a department of UTMB. As one of 8 centers in the East Texas AHEC system, Capital AHEC is the only center that remains directly affiliated with the university. The other centers are either hosted by community entities or are stand alone 501 C3s. Hurricane Ike directly affected many of the Galveston based AHEC Program Office employees and employees in the Coastal AHEC office located in La Marque and the Greater Houston AHEC.



All East Texas AHEC Centers have responded to the call for additional community clerkship slots for displaced medical students. Capital AHEC would like to personally thank the Central Texas physicians who accepted students over the past 6 weeks. We hope we can continue to count on your generosity while the students are displaced.

For more information on the impact on the AHEC program please visit their new website at <http://www.easttexasahec.org/>



This is the memorial on Seawall Blvd. in memory of the thousands killed during the 1900 hurricane in Galveston. The concrete walks were damaged and the blocks of granite you see were thrown around by the water force; however, the statue was unharmed.

# Program Updates

## Health Career Promotions

One of the goals of the HCP program is to encourage middle and high school students to consider a career in healthcare. Now that school is back in session Capital AHEC turns our focus to classroom presentations.

These presentations are available to all schools within our service area at no cost. There are a variety of topics to choose from or we can customize a presentation to meet your needs. All presentations educate students on the number of careers in healthcare that are available and why health careers are important.

One of the tools we use to educate students are HOT

Jobs booklets. This is a resource provided to teachers that lists 80 different health careers and gives a job description, educational requirements, and salary ranges. The fourth edition of the booklet is scheduled to be released early next year. However, all the information in the booklet and more is located online at [www.texas-hotjobs.org](http://www.texas-hotjobs.org).

If you are interested in having a classroom presentation on careers in healthcare at your school please contact Lynn Heimerl at [lheimerl@capitalahec.org](mailto:lheimerl@capitalahec.org) for more information.

## Community Based Education

Capital AHEC and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) thank all Austin area physicians who have accepted displaced UTMB medical students into their clinics and hospitals for training purposes. As you know, Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston Island and caused a lot of damage to the University's main teaching campus. UTMB will not return to the island in the same capacity that it was before the storm. The main hospital will downsize from 500 beds to 200+ beds initially, and will consider expansion as needs and resources are better defined. Therefore, the need for clinical teaching sites in other parts of Texas have changed dramatically for UTMB.

Preceptors from across the state have responded to UTMB's call for help. The Austin area doubled its capacity for UTMB medical students during the months of October – December 2008. Capital AHEC has been informed that the increase in student placements in the Austin area may be permanent. Currently, UTMB and Seton faculty are working to determine if this increase in UTMB student placements can be maintained indefinitely.

For that reason, we are asking all physicians who are interested in teaching to contact us so that we may report this information back to the administrators who are making decisions for UTMB and Seton. Though all volunteers are welcomed, the AHEC is specifically looking for these outpatient specialties: Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology (Pain Management), Dermatology, Family Medicine, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Otolaryngology, Psychiatry and Surgery.

If you or your colleagues are interested in accepting 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year UTMB medical students now or in the future, please contact Brian Sullivan (Capital AHEC) at 512-472-8921, Ext. 302. He will be glad to come to your office to speak with you and your staff to answer questions you may have about precepting medical students at your location.

# Program Updates

## Practice Entry and Support

Recently, Texas Health Match (THM) received a new look on their website. This online employment database allows healthcare professionals the opportunity to search for available positions in Texas. This free resource is both state funded and state supported.

THM was created three years ago and to date has matched approximately 200 healthcare professionals with jobs. The number has increased each year and with the success has come a redesigned website. The goal of the redesign is to make the site more user friendly for both employers and job seekers. With AHEC support, you'll find the career and the community that's perfect for you.

Log on to Texas Health Match if you are looking for a career in healthcare or if you are an employer looking for a free way to post open positions. The site is easy-to-use and offers search capability. It only takes a minute to register online before jumpstarting your career in the healthcare industry.

Visit Texas Health Match at [www.texashealthmatch.com](http://www.texashealthmatch.com).

## Health Literacy

### The 2008 Binational Health Conference

On Friday, October 10 eighty people participated in the third annual Binational Health Conference at the Norris Center in Austin. Lynn Heimerl, Senior Program Coordinator, Capital AHEC and Annie Crawford, Coordinator of the Ventanilla de Salud in Austin served on the planning committee of this conference. The Conference generally addressed health challenges facing immigrant and Hispanic populations. It highlighted innovative perspectives and approaches to promoting healthy communities while addressing health issues both bi-nationally and locally.

Specifically, the Austin conference focused on engaging both Central Texas and Mexican leaders in addressing immigrant health issues as an approach to improve the health and well-being of all Central Texans. These issues include:

- Growing concerns and repercussions of childhood obesity
- Importance of cross border infectious disease control
- Connections between HIV/AIDS and mental health concerns
- Challenges of emergency preparedness facing the Hispanic community

Attendees explored these health issues facing the immigrant and Hispanic populations as well as investigating collaborative strategies to enhance the health and conditions of this population.

Immediately following the Binational Health Conference, the third Binational Health Week celebration took place at the Fiesta grocery store in central east Austin. Three vendors participated in a health fair with more than 20 people seeking resources.

# Expanding Our Reach

Capital AHEC is proud to announce that we have recently expanded our service area. Due to the re-alignment of counties in the East Texas region we will now provide resources to Burnet County. Previously Burnet County was part of the Brazos AHEC family.

With this change comes new opportunities to make an impact in central Texas healthcare. Even though our service area has increased our goals have remained the same and that is to connect students to health careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health.

Burnet County will join Williamson, Lee, Travis, Bastrop, Blanco, Caldwell, and Hays Counties in the Capital AHEC service region. We look forward to providing resources to Burnet County residents and welcome them to call upon our services for any of their healthcare needs.

For more information on any of our services, please visit our website or contact the Capital AHEC staff directly.



## Upcoming Events

**Capital AHEC Advisory Board Meeting**  
Nov. 19

**Preceptor Training**  
Dell Children's Hospital  
Dec. 3

**"Women's Health Update"**  
(CE) for Texas Nurses  
Dec. 6

## Capital AHEC Staff

**Becky Conditt**

Director  
bconditt@capitalahec.org

**Lynn Heimerl**

Senior Program Coordinator Health Literacy  
lheimerl@capitalahec.org

**Brian Sullivan**

Senior Program Coordinator CBE & PE&S  
bsullivan@capitalahec.org

**Ashley King**

Senior Program Coordinator HCP & CBE  
aking@capitalahec.org

**Annie Crawford**

Community Outreach Coordinator  
acrawford@capitalahec.org

**Sherry Niven**

Administrative Manager  
sniven@capitalahec.org

**Capital AHEC**  
2520 South IH 35 Ste. 205  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-472-8921  
[www.capitalahec.org](http://www.capitalahec.org)