As you know, COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been announced by the World Health Organization as a pandemic. UTHSC’s first mission is to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and faculty. As a result, our College moved to remote delivery of classes normally taught in person, in response to the COVID-19 threat and many personnel are working from home or coming sporadically to the College, to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Nevertheless, the work in the College of Health Professions marches forward. While this has been a challenge for everyone, I am confident that our College is very resilient, and with all of your help, we will look back at the COVID-19 outbreak as a blip in the history of our college, state, country and world rather than an event that defined our history or future.

On a much more positive note, our College rankings by the US News and World Reports shows that we now have 4 programs that are ranked in the top 50 in the country. This is awesome!! Audiology is ranked 26th, Speech and Language Pathology is ranked 38th, Occupational Therapy is ranked 42nd (down from 88) and Physical Therapy is now ranked 49th (down from 64th). This demonstrates outstanding progress of our faculty towards achieving the goals of our College Strategic Plan for having all programs ranked in the top 20 nationally by 2025. This success in national prominence further confirms that we are on the right path for success by following our faculty approved Strategic Plan. Congratulations to everyone! I am confident that we will even exceed this goal for our college as we grow our national visibility and scholarship. While not all of the college programs are ranked through US News and World reports, we are just as proud of them. The programs continue to grow and as research, grant submission, and peer reviewed publications have also grown quickly, the high caliber of our faculty and programs will become evident to everyone.

UTHSC ANNIVERSARY

Linda Pifer, PhD, SM(ASCP), GS(ABB), Professor of Diagnostic and Health Sciences, celebrated her 43rd employment anniversary at UTHSC on February 1, 2020. Thank you Dr. Pifer for your contributions to the College of Health Professions.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

• All in person classes taught in the College of Health Professions and across UTHSC have been moved to teaching remotely. We do not know how long this will be the case, but we need to be prepared to teach in this modified manner throughout the rest of the semester.

• All faculty recruitments, seminars and other meetings on campus have been suspended. Small on campus laboratory classes may be considered in the future if the COVID-19 problem lessens. Even so, all personnel will have to go through proper screening and hand cleaning before entering the classroom. Larger classes will be split into sections and could meet in other classrooms on campus for simultaneous instruction.

• Dr. Matlock-Brown has been selected to be a co-leader in the CTSA Informatics Core at UTHSC. Dr. James Carson has been selected to Co-Direct the CTSA KL-2 Core. These cores and others that are being developed will be included in a planned Clinical Translational Science Institute Grant submission (Drs. K. Johnson and M. Piffer, Co-PI’s) to the National Institutes of Health later this summer.

• Dr. Kumar was appointed as a Faculty Associate in the Division of Rehabilitation Science (DRS). Eight college faculty now participate in the DRS.

• Dr. Jacen Moore was invited to speak at the American Society for Microbiology Regional meeting in April in Cookeville, TN, but his has been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three Open House recruitment sessions were scheduled to be held on campus for the MLS & MCP programs. The COVID may impact planned open houses on April 3 and May 12. In the past, the sessions have proven to be successful in getting applicants to the programs. Each Open House will be from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm and they will be conducted remotely.

The program in HIIM in the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences hosted a Virtual open house on March 12 for prospective students.

The Spring term has kept our calendar full of exciting events. We welcomed the Occupational Therapy Class of 2022 with Orientation in January. Student recruitment visits to several schools including University of Southern Mississippi and Alcorn State in Mississippi and Arkansas Tech in Russellville, Arkansas have been completed. Occupational Therapy and Diagnostic and Health Sciences hosted Open Houses in March. Physical Therapy is tentatively planning an Open House for the end of May, but this will be done remotely unless the COVID-19 pandemic changes and permits on campus visits.

Please remind your students to stay up to date with their Verified Credentials accounts. Documentation uploaded to Verified Credentials must be shared with the University for the students to be in compliance. Common reasons for documents to be rejected include missing medical provider information and the dates on the documents do not match the dates entered by the student. Please remind the students to be diligent and check the dates before they submit their documentation. If students have questions about their documents or status on immunizations, please refer them to Terri Fought at tfought@uthsc.edu or Verified Credentials at 800.938.6090.
SAVE THE DATE

• CLS – Annual General Faculty Meeting will be held from noon until 1:00 pm in GEB A204 on April 30, but may be done remotely, pending COVID-19 decisions.

CHANGE THE DATE

Tea with Tamika

hosted by
UTHSC Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
9:00 – 11:00 AM
Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame

Tea with Tamika Catchings Saturday, August 8, 2020, when Audiology and Speech Pathology, the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, and UT Foundation will host a tea with Tamika Catchings. The breakfast fundraising event will be held from 9:00 to 11:00am at the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame located in Knoxville. Proceeds from the event will go toward ASP’s Tamika Catchings Scholarship Fund and the Tamika Catchings Amplification Assistance Fund, which provides much needed assistance to some ASP patients with hearing loss who need replacement or new amplification. Later that afternoon, ASP will partner with Catchings to host a free basketball clinic for youth ages 8 to 14 at the Boys & Girls Club Regal Teen Center in Knoxville from 1:00 to 3:00pm. This is the third year for Catchings’ basketball clinic and clients from ASP often attend with other youth from the community.

Catchings was recently nominated into the 2020 class of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and is currently the Vice President of Basketball Operations for the Indiana Fever. A Lady Vol who played under Coach Pat Summit, Catchings went on to be a highly decorated all-star player for the Indiana Fever as well as an Olympiad. While playing for Coach Summit, Catchings was referred for clinical services related to her own significant hearing loss. At the tea, she will share her inspiring message of overcoming obstacles related to her hearing and the value of goal setting and hard work. Come meet a one-of-a-kind Vol for Life and show your UTHSC support! Registration for the event will begin Spring 2020. Table sponsorships are available. Contact mjagnow1@uthsc.edu. Additional details can be found at uthsc.edu/asp.

• PT Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony was scheduled for Sunday, April 26th at the Memphis Botanic Garden (currently suspended as a result of COVID-19 decisions)

• May Commencement Ceremonies. The Commencement Ceremony for May 2020 will be held online. We will have one ceremony for all graduates from Knoxville and Memphis. We will produce a program that will be distributed to the graduates. A digital copy of the program will be sent to faculty and staff. Information for viewing the ceremony will be sent when details are finalized. A decision will be made at a later date for awards presentations.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

FOR NEWSLETTER:

We’re excited to announce that we have launched several new social media pages for UTHSC College of Health Professions! We hope this will bring exposure to our college programs and potential new students. We would appreciate your support in this effort. Please give us a follow on the pages provided below and share with family, friends, students, and alumni!

If you manage a social media page, please use the hashtag #uthsccohp so we can share posts from additional college pages. If you would like anything posted on these pages, please email Terri Fought at tfought@uthsc.edu.

Facebook: UTHSC College of Health Professions
Instagram: @uthsc_cohp
Twitter: @UthscP

FACEBOOK:
UTHSC COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED SEVERAL PLANNED PRESENTATIONS:

• Dr. Mohamed was invited to speak at the Experimental Biology 2020 Meeting in San Diego, CA., April 4-7. His title was to be “Molecular Mechanisms of Skeletal Muscle Atrophy in Cerebral Ischemic Stroke”. Authors: Junaith Mohamed, PhD, Mohammad Khan, PhD, Peter Ferrandiz, Hector Paez, Christopher Pitzer and Stephen Alway, PhD Unfortunately, the meeting has just been canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Walt Wolfram, PhD, who is the William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor at North Carolina State University, where he also directs the Language & Life Project was scheduled to present: “Social Justice in Speech-Language Pathology The Role of the SLP in Addressing Linguistic Subordination” at UT Conference Center, Knoxville

The talk was canceled as a result of COVID-19. More information: uthsc.edu/asp/about/ce.php

• Although eight UTHSC OT faculty presentations had been planned for the 2020 AOTA Annual National Conference in Boston this March, the meeting has been canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESENTATIONS THAT WERE NOT AFFECTED BY COVID-19:

• OT students had a poster presentation accepted for the Southern Regional Burn Conference in December of 2019: Psychological Treatments of Pain for Adults with Burn Injuries: Emily Lawson, MOT/S, Martha McAlister, MOT/S, Courtney Pinkard, MOT/S, Juli Stolpmann, MOT/S, Kayla Wright, MOT/S (presented by Courtney and Kayla)

• Dr. Aziz and Dr. Kenwright from the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences presented The use of Admissions Management Solutions in Medical Laboratory Science Programs at the Clinical Lab Educators Conference in Orlando February 28. Wes Williamson from the Department also attended the meeting.

• Linda Pifer, PhD, SM(ASCP), GS(ABB), Professor of Diagnostic and Health Sciences presented “U.S. Declares 2019 Novel Coronavirus Public Health Crisis: What You Should Know” at American Esoteric Laboratories, Century Cove, Memphis, TN, on Feb. 6, 2020 for the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences February meeting.

• Linda Pifer, PhD, SM(ASCP), GS(ABB), Professor of Diagnostic and Health Sciences presented “Papilloma Virus” as part of a course entitled “Cancer, the Emperor of All Maladies” by Stan Eisen, PhD, at Christian Brothers University on February 18, 2020.

• Students in the MLS program presented “Toxicology Case Studies” to the members of the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science organization on March 6 at 6 pm in the UTHSC Hamilton Eye Institute Auditorium, 3rd floor, 930 Madison Avenue, Memphis.

• Sajeesh Kumar PhD presented at COHP Share-IT meeting 02-20-2020. Title “Clinical Research and Training: Health Informatics Perspectives”

• Dr. Jeff Taylor presented at the APTA CSM 2020.

• MHIIM Graduate’s research work peer reviewed and accepted for presentation at AMIA 2020 Clinical Informatics Conference, May 19-21 Seattle, WA. Title “Sepsis Screening Tool and the Usage of Sepsis Order Set”. Liengsawangwong R, Kumar S, Ortiz RA, Hill J.
Faculty are working hard and submitting grants for funding and papers for peer review.

**DEPARTMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC AND HEALTH SCIENCES:**

- **Role of Sirtuin 2 (SirT2) protein in the regulation of skeletal muscle regeneration.** ($50,000), National Institutes of Health. J.S. Mohamed, (PI).
- **SirT1 Gain-of-Function Prevents Cerebral Ischemic Stroke-induced Muscle Wasting** ($50,000 each): National Institutes of Health. J.S. Mohamed, (PI).
- **Molecular Mechanisms of Skeletal Muscle Atrophy** ($2,009,181) J.S. Mohamed, (PI).
- **Laboratory Information Software in Teaching (LIST)** ($50,000), One UT Collaboration and Innovation Grant. J. Moore, (PI).
- **VIRAL (Virtual Reality for Application in the Laboratory)**, One UT Collaboration and Innovation Grant Proposal application ($50,000). J. Moore, (PI).
- **Graduate Student Research Supplies to supplement MCP student histology research projects** ($7,000), Sheila Criswell, (PI).
- **Detecting glaucoma using portable fundus photography cameras** The Collaborative Research Network (CORNET), Sajeesh Kumar (PI) ($50,000).
- **High Risk Infant Telehealth and Developmental Follow up Program** The Collaborative Research Network (CORNET) Sajeesh Kumar (PI) ($50,000).
- **TN Remote Community-Based Dental Education.** One UT Collaboration and Innovation Grant Proposal application. ($50,000). (PI) Sajeesh Kumar & College of Dentistry, Rural Health Association of Tennessee
- Drs. Kenwright, Moore and Pifer submitted an AWP grant.

**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY:**

- **Microgravity regulation of mitochondrially-enhanced muscle stem cell repair following injury.** ($750,000) Funding agency-NASA, S.E. Alway, PhD, (PI). Co-I’s: Junaith S. Mohamed, PhD, James A. Carson, PhD, Michael Deschenes Funding agency - NASA.
- **Development of a pre-clinical model to study mitochondrial regulation of Sarcopenia** ($508,000) S.E. Alway, PhD, (PI). Co-I’s: Junaith S. Mohamed, PhD, James A. Carson, PhD Funding agency - NIH.
- **Mitochondria therapy to improve restoration of neuromuscular function following injury.** ($573,328) S.E. Alway, PhD, (PI). Co-I’s: James A. Carson, PhD, Junaith S. Mohamed, PhD, Michael Deschenes, PhD Funding agency - DOD - Department of Defense
- **Mitochondrially mediated acceleration of neuromuscular regeneration and improving muscle function following traumatic injury.** ($300,000) S.E. Alway, PhD, (PI). Co-I’s: James A. Carson, PhD, Junaith S. Mohamed, PhD, Michael Deschenes, PhD Funding agency - DOD - Department of Defense

**AWARDS**

**AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY (ASP)**

- Drs. Ilsa Schwarz and Jillian McCarthy from Audiology and Speech Pathology were awarded a 5-year, US Department of Education grant titled “Interdisciplinary Preparation of Speech-Language Pathologists and Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to Improve Early Language and Pre-Literacy Outcomes for Young Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing” for $1,060,000. This project will train graduate students in speech-language pathology and education of the deaf/hard of hearing to work with children who are deaf/hard of hearing on improving the early language and code-based pre-literacy skills. Drs. Dave Smith and Kimberly Wolbers of UTK’s Center on Deafness are also co-directing the project, with the assistance of ASP’s Julie Beeler. In addition, a host of departmental faculty will serve as campus-based supervisors, as well several community-based speech-language pathologists and teachers of the deaf/hard-of-hearing.

**DIAGNOSTIC AND HEALTH SCIENCES (DHHS)**

- Sajeesh Kumar, PhD received NIH-NNLM Professional Development Award. The grant is to strengthen the professional knowledge and experience of faculty to improve access to health information for healthcare providers and consumers and to build professional capacity in support of the goals of the NIH-NLM. (PI) Sajeesh Kumar ($2,500).
CONGRATULATIONS

RETIREMENTS

• Linda Ross September 2020
• Linda Pifer December 2020

PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

• Carson Newman University recently signed an MOU with the MLS program (DDHS) and they are working another MOU with Arkansas Tech University.

• Leigh McCormack, a PhD Health Outcomes and Policy Research program student in the Health Informatics and Information Management program (DDHS) just became CEO of Base Camp Health, a social determinant of health analytics company in Chattanooga, TN in November 2019.

• Two ASP Faculty Become Board Certified in their Specialty Area. Associate Professor Tricia Hedinger is now a Board-Certified Specialist in Fluency and Fluency Disorders, and Assistant Professor Jennifer Wilson is now a Board-Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. Becoming board-certified in each of these areas is an extremely difficult task that requires extensive documentation of excellence, and the status is only awarded to the upper stratum in the field.

• Ms. Hedinger (ASP) was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Stuttering Association, another honor in the discipline.

• We are very proud of third year DPT student Liz Sueing (PT) for her accomplishments by winning the UTHSC Black Student Association award for the College of Health Professions. The award was presented by Dean Alway and Dr. Rick Kasser. Liz is also the president of the BSA and is a wonderful representative for our college. It was a great night for the Department of PT and the College of Health Professions.

• Dr. Likens (PT) was appointed by APTA to the Special Committee to Review APTA Bylaws and Prepare Amendments, August 1, 2019 – October 1, 2021. She was also appointed to Program Advisory Council for the DPT Program at Anderson University, Greenville, SC.

• Jacen Moore and Kathy Kenwright volunteered in February to perform finger sticks on elementary school children at Macon Hall school as part of an ongoing program through the Shelby County Health Department to test Shelby County students for lead exposure.

• At the 2019 APTA Education and Leadership Conference, Shannon Hughes, Myra Meekins and Kim Carter (PT) received the Education Innovator Award: Outstanding Poster Presentation for their poster, Non-Cognitive Measures: Can They Increase Diversity in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. This award was sponsored by the Physical Therapy Learning Institute.

• Dr. Sharp (DHHS) has been featured in UTHSC’s Teaching and Learning Center segment on Who’s Using It, Spotlight on Teaching with Technology. Her use of the multimedia tool, Flipgrid, was highlighted. View the link for more information utd.edu/tlc/whos-using-it.php; utd.edu/tlc/ecosystem-multimedia-tools.php

• Dr. Sharp (DHHS) was selected to become an accreditation site reviewer for the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM) education. CAHIIM is an independent accrediting agency which provides accreditation for over 345 health informatics and information management programs in the U.S.

• Taking the Classroom out into the Community- Although COVID-19 has changed things, the students in the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) had planned on taking the classroom out into the community this spring. While learning about therapeutic group interventions, the MOT students had planned to host groups within the TigerLIFE program at the University of Memphis as well as a Vision Loss Self-Management group through Church Health Center at the Crosstown Complex. Giving back to the surrounding community through service-learning opportunities is a win-win for these future professionals and this will be up and working once the COVID-19 scare has passed.

• Faculty and students from the Department of Occupational Therapy organized a free Vision Loss Self-Management Program for adults in the Memphis area. Church Health hosted the sessions which began in January at Crosstown Concourse, while Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired provided transportation to participants. Transportation costs were covered by MidSouth Lions Club. Eight participants ranging in age from 43 to 88 years old participated in a 5-week program. Topics covered self-management, communication with healthcare providers, exercise, emotional wellbeing, and community resources. Students also learned about group management and facilitation and were responsible for contacting participants on a weekly basis and coordinating for their transportation. The Department of Occupational Therapy is planning to continue providing this free program on an annual basis.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Linda Pifer ............................................. January 1
Desha Bolden ......................................... January 8
Elaine Robinson ..................................... January 10
Velvet Buehler .................................. January 12
Stephanie Henry ..................................... January 14
Rebekah Leanne Widmer .................. January 29
Jillian McCarthy ....................................... February 8
Tammy Lackey ........................................ February 22
Julie Beeler ........................................ February 23
Pamela Williams ...................................... February 25
Allison Wegmen ...................................... February 27
Cheryl Brown ........................................ March 1
Marquette Beecham .................................. March 6
Emily Noss ........................................ March 8
Autumn Sanderson .................................. March 10
Phillip Spurlin ..................................... March 20
Anita Mitchell ......................................... March 25
Sheila Criswell ........................................ April 1
Kathy Kenwright ...................................... May 5
Orli Weisser-Pike ................................... July 16
Linda Johnson ........................................ August 19
Twanna Young-Moore ....................... September 4
Wes Williamson ......................................... September 10
Jami Flick ........................................ September 15
Terrice Watson ..................................... September 23
Linda Ross ........................................ September 24
Lee Williams .......................................... September 30
Stephanie Lancaster ......................... October 2
Jacen Moore ........................................ October 6
Anne Zachry .......................................... October 31
Chelsea Peeler ..................................... November 21
Keisha Burnett .................................. November 22
Bobbie Scott ........................................ December 20
Kendal Booker ................................... December 31

DECEMBER 2019
GRADUATION PICTURES

For more information, please contact:
College of Health Professions | 6th Floor | Memphis, TN 38163
t 901.448.5581
uthsc.edu/health-professions

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