

Greetings Team,

We hope this email finds you well and staying cool during this summer season.

As you know, we are about to embark on a search for the next Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President of Clinical Affairs. Our School of Medicine is a source of pride for TTUHSC and a model for medical education nationally. Given our success, we have no doubt that we will attract great candidates from across the country. Under the leadership of Dr. Steven Berk, our school has thrived over the past 17 years. The school's strong and rich foundation is a wonderful place to start the next chapter, and we are very excited to see how it will evolve from our past and current successes.

Two weeks ago, with leadership from Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences Dean Brandt Schneider, Ph.D., we formed an official search committee that includes representation from all of our schools. This team will work hand in hand with SP&A Executive Search, a firm Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has worked with for past leadership searches.

We are grateful to the search committee members for their commitment and efforts:

**Teresa Baker, M.D.**, department chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at TTUHSC School of Medicine in Amarillo, co-director of the InfantRisk Center

**Tim Benton, M.D., Ph.D., FCCP**, dean of TTUHSC School of Medicine, Permian Basin campus

**Martin Clay, J.D.**, executive associate dean, executive director of Central Operating Departments for TTUHSC Medical Practice Income Plan

**Leslie Collins, J.D.**, TTUHSC Title IX coordinator, QEP co-director

**Vince Fell**, vice president of Information Technology, chief information officer at TTUHSC

**Lisa Gittner, Ph.D.**, associate professor at TTUHSC Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health

**Ebtesam Islam, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate dean of Clinical Education, associate professor at TTUHSC School of Medicine

**Cole Johnson, J.D.**, TTUHSC executive chief of staff

**Jongyeol Kim, M.D.**, assistant dean of TTUHSC School of Medicine, Covenant Health System Endowed Chair in Cerebrovascular Disease, medical director of the F. Marie Hall SimLifeCenter

**Tim Lancaster**, former regent, TTU System Board Regents

**Brenna Leising**, associate vice president of Human Resources at TTUHSC

**Bryce McGregor**, interim executive vice president of Clinical Affairs, executive associate dean for Administration, chief of staff at TTUHSC School of Medicine

**Eric MacLaughlin, Pharm.D.**, department chair at TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy

**Lance McMahon, Ph.D.**, senior vice president of TTUHSC Office of Research and Innovation

**Felix Morales, M.D.**, associate dean for Admissions at TTUHSC School of Medicine

**Laura Opton, D.H.Sc.**, associate dean of TTUHSC School of Nursing, department chair of Non-Traditional Undergraduate Studies

**Alberto Pimentel**, managing partner at SP&A Executive Search

**Kevin Pruitt, Ph.D.**, associate professor at TTUHSC School of Medicine

**Jody Randall, Ph.D.**, vice president of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at TTUHSC

**Brandt Schneider, Ph.D.**, dean of TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

**Dawndra Sechrist, OTR, Ph.D.**, dean of TTUHSC School of Health Professions

**Steve Sosland**, vice chancellor for leader and culture development, Texas Tech University System

**Russell Tippin**, president and CEO of Medical Center Health System

**Surendra Varma, M.D.**, executive associate dean of TTUHSC Graduate Medical Education and Resident Affairs, Ted Hartman Endowed Chair in Medical Education

**Sal Venegas**, partner at SP&A Executive Search

**Simon Williams, Ph.D.**, senior associate dean for Academic Affairs at TTUHSC School of Medicine

The search committee is working on the development of a Leadership Profile in collaboration with our TTUHSC Communications and Marketing team. In order to create a profile that tells the story of the School of Medicine and TTUHSC, we need your input. **We invite you to attend one of the two town hall meetings we are hosting on the following dates.**

**Monday, July 10 from noon to 1 p.m. CST**

<https://ttuhscgsbs.zoom.us/j/99643193201?pwd=Ry95TUw3aWplRENSbjlBbGVKY3RzZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 996 4319 3201

**Passcode:** 439165

**Wednesday, July 19 from noon to 1 p.m. CST**

<https://ttuhscgsbs.zoom.us/j/96881211393?pwd=YThhM25WR01FeXVmT0l3eFo1WEJtdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 968 8121 1393

**Passcode:** 674055

These town hall meetings will help identify those attributes of the School of Medicine and its clinical practice that are key to highlight for the candidates who apply.

Candidate evaluations will begin at the end of July, following the same phased approach used for the dean searches for the Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy and Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health. The search committee for the School of Nursing dean is also utilizing this approach.

Throughout the search, we will ensure continuous communication with the Faculty Senate through monthly meetings and through emails to the School of Medicine faculty, staff, and stakeholders. We understand transitions such as this may be hard for some. Please know that we are available to answer any questions that may arise.

We are immensely proud of you and our school. Thank you for your contributions to the school's past and future success.

Kind regards,



**Lori Rice-Spearman, Ph.D.**

President



**Darrin D'Agostino, D.O., MPH, MBA**

Provost and Chief Academic Officer