Editor’s Corner

The Primary Care Research Institute is growing! In January 2010 we welcome two researchers to the PCRI. Dr. Susan Franks transfers from the Department of Psychiatry with her new appointment in Family Medicine with 70% protected time to advance her research in the areas of obesity and health disparities. She is one of the recipients of this year’s UNTHSC intramural grant program that will investigate stress eating and its contribution to physiologic changes. We also welcome Dr. Bandana Chakraborty from the University of Cincinnati whose background is in environmental health and epidemiology with an interest in gene-environment interactions and the impact on health. She is also interested in the modifying effects of spirituality on chronic health outcomes, especially how they contribute to health disparities.

Starting on February 1st 2010, we welcome Dr. Mark DeHaven as the Director of Research of the PCRI! Dr. DeHaven is a nationally recognized expert in community-based participatory research and primary care research education. He is a R01 NIH funded researcher and works with the South Dallas communities with his GoodNEWS program. He recently presented his program and research during the Health Disparities Grand Rounds at UNTHSC and brings a passion for sustained community changes that translates into improved health and well-being. He has a keen understanding of the continuum that exists between community and primary care health care. Dr. DeHaven will be a leader in the PCRI and bring national recognition in our efforts. Please join us in welcoming Dr. DeHaven as we embark on a new era for the PCRI.

We have initiated a new study assessing clinician knowledge and attitude related to fibromyalgia with tailored CME education activities developed by the UNTHSC’s PACE office. This project is another collaboration with PACE that is centered on increasing knowledge among clinicians and delivering better health care to their patients. We also congratulate Dr. Kimberly Fulda, Associate Director of the PCRI, who also received a grant from the UNTHSC intramural grant program. Her study will assess the association between stress age, measured by hormone ratios and cortisol serum levels. These results will be a strong foundation for pilot data for her NIH grants to be submitted later this year.

There are dramatic changes in the PCRI, and we are excited what the future holds. We continue to bridge collaborative efforts with partners within and outside UNTHSC with the ultimate goal to bring better health to the communities we serve!