

## BAYLOR MAKES US ALL BETTER Campaign 2015

### Family loss fuels passion for breast cancer vaccine



Bruce, Amy, Ben and Elizabeth Selkirk

**A**T THE 14TH ANNUAL *Celebrating Women* luncheon, **Bruce Selkirk** will be honored with the **Circle of Care Award** which recognizes the contributions of advocates, volunteers, educators or philanthropists who have made a difference in the campaign against breast cancer. The event will be held on October 23 at the Hilton Anatole hotel.

His inspiration comes from his late wife, **Amy**. In January 2011, just a few short weeks after a clean mammography report, Amy found a lump in her breast. She was quickly diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC), an aggressive form of the disease. A neonatal nurse practitioner, Amy had temporarily retired to raise her two young children, now four and nine years old. Her close friend, **Katy Oliver**, remembered her as “an amazing mother who took great pride in raising her two children and enjoying the simple joys that came along with their presence.”

After Amy’s diagnosis, the Selkirks leaped into action and began researching options for treatment. They were determined to fight, and Bruce’s experience during his father’s battle with colon cancer had taught him that “not all cancers were alike and that it was important to find the right person for treatment.”

*continued on page 4*

### Accomplished new class brings a broad range of talents to Foundation board

**B**AYLOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOUNDATION is proud to welcome a new class of distinguished community and business leaders to its board.

“This is a remarkable group of men and women who bring a wealth of experience to our board. They are dedicated to and believe in Baylor’s mission. We’re fortunate that they have volunteered their time and skills in support of our patients and our community,” said Rowland K. Robinson, president of the Foundation.

Board members provide support, guidance and expertise to the Foundation as it seeks to

fulfill Baylor’s mission to serve all people through exemplary health care, innovative education programs, groundbreaking research and community service.

**Erle Nye**, Foundation board chairman, echoed the sentiment, “It’s an exciting time at Baylor and at the Foundation as we move forward with *Campaign 2015: Baylor Makes Us All Better*. This new class of members brings great talent and leadership to our board, which will only serve to support our shared goals. I am delighted to welcome them and work beside them.” ☺

#### New board members

**Leigh C. Bailey**, Junior League of Dallas (ex-officio)

**Roy W. Bailey**, chief executive officer, Giuliani Deason Capital Interests, LLC

**Kalita B. Blessing**, principal and wealth advisor, Quest Capital Management, Inc.

**Michele Bobadilla**, senior associate vice president for outreach services & community, The University of Texas at Arlington

**Jeanne Whitman Bobbitt**, education consultant

**William E. Bradford**, retired, chief executive officer, Dresser Inc./Halliburton

**Helen B. Davis**, president, Firefall Incorporated

**Jan Beecherl Davis**, community volunteer

**L. Keenan Delaney**, president, The Rockridge Group

**Sharon M. Ellis**, financial executive

**Alan D. Feld**, partner, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP

**Alan D. Friedman**, president, Trisept, Inc.

**Larry L. Helm**, executive vice president, Halcón Resources Corporation

**Richard W. Holt**, Dallas market president, Bank of America

**David S. Huntley**, senior vice president & assistant general counsel, AT&T

**Michael S. Lewis**, principal, Velocis

**Schuyler B. Marshall IV**, chairman of the board, The Rosewood Corporation

**Robert J. Merkle Jr.**, executive vice president, regional president, SWS Group, Inc.

**Debbie Oates**, community volunteer (ex-officio)

**Javier E. Olguin**, executive director, Eastfield Community College

**Victor F. Ornelas**, chief executive officer and executive coach, Ornelas and Associates, Inc.

**John F. Oudt**, retired, chief executive officer, Texas Restaurant Group, Inc.

**Gregory D. Potter**, Potter Concrete, Ltd.

**Alyson G. Richter**, Junior League of Dallas (ex-officio)

**Peggy Sewell**, Sewell Automotive Companies

**Robert E. Sulentic**, global chief executive officer and president, CBRE, Inc.

**William A. Tindell III**, chairman and chief executive officer, The Container Store® Inc.

**Patrick M. Walsh, Ph.D.**, president, Strategic Programs, Academic Partnership, LLC (retired four-star Admiral, U.S. Navy)

**Lawrence M. Wolfish**, attorney, Wolfish & Newman, P.C.

#### DEPARTMENTS

President’s Letter	5
Focus on Research	6
Chairman’s Letter	7

#### PROFILES

Alan Menter, M.D.	2
Jamie Malcolm	3
Lawrence B. Dale	6
Manik Aggarwal, M.P.H.	8

#### EVENTS

Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament	8
-------------------------------	---

#### NEWS, PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

New Class Brings Talents to Foundation Board	1
Family Loss Fuels Passion for Breast Cancer Vaccine	1
Recognition Paves the Way for Center of Excellence	2
U.S. News Ranks Baylor Dallas No. 1 in DFW	3
Foundation Wishes Fond Farewell to Clare Graca	3
Medicine, Ministry and the Military	4
Diagnosis of Rare Cancer Inspires Gift to Baylor	5
‘All Clear’ For Cancer Patient Four Years After Diagnosis	5
Surgeon Who Treated Kennedy Shares Story	7
Exercise is Precious to Baylor’s Lung Patients	7

# PHYSICIAN PROFILE

ALAN MENTER, M.D.

**A**LAN MENTER, M.D., is chief of dermatology for Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. He specializes in the causes and treatment of psoriasis, a chronic autoimmune disease affecting more than 120 million people worldwide. Dr. Menter is also committed to medical education, serving as the director of the dermatology residency program, director of the fellowship program for the Psoriasis Center at Baylor Dallas and as a clinical professor of dermatology for The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Menter was born in England, raised in South Africa and earned his medical degree from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. He completed his residency in dermatology at the University of Pretoria General Hospital and went on to complete separate fellowships at Guy's Hospital and St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London before coming to Dallas in the mid-1970s for a fellowship at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He began his career at Baylor Dallas in 1979, serving as medical director of the Psoriasis Center and building a program over the past 34 years that has developed a world-class reputation for clinical and investigative research and innovative patient care.

Dr. Menter has published more than 300 articles in peer-reviewed medical journals. He frequently lectures at medical conferences both in the U.S. and internationally. He founded the

International Psoriasis Council, which is dedicated to raising awareness and understanding of psoriasis, serving as president from 2004 to 2010.

## How has Baylor changed over the years?

Baylor's clinical base has grown beyond the regional population and is now attracting patients nationally and internationally in part due to our expertise and ability to create relationships in the U.S. and abroad. What is important to me is that even as we've expanded, Baylor has maintained the

personalized, quality patient care focus for which it has always been known.

## What are your goals for graduate medical education in the field of dermatology?

Baylor's research fellowships in psoriasis began in 1983 with support from the Foundation, and we currently have both residency and fellowship positions funded by philanthropy and pharmaceutical companies. My goal in the next three to five years is to help develop funding for a named professorship in dermatology to further Baylor's work in the field nationally and internationally.

## What research initiatives are you involved in?

Baylor fortunately offers a lot of opportunities for collaboration across related areas. I am currently working with **Yong-Jun Liu, M.D., Ph.D.**, and the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research on pharmacogenomics. We want to understand how an individual's genetic make-up affects how they respond to a specific drug. The goal is to assist our patients in avoiding a process of "trial



Dr. Alan Menter

and error" before they receive a drug that is effective and doesn't produce adverse side effects. It's really exciting technology and has potential to significantly reduce health care costs long term.

## What is the highlight of your career?

There are two that come to mind: first, the National Psoriasis Gene Bank we established in 1991 was the first of its kind. Two years later it led to the discovery of the first gene linked to the disease. Our findings were published in *Science* in 1994.

The second is being the national lead researcher on two of the four clinical trials that brought new biologic drug treatments to the market for patients with more moderate to severe psoriasis.

## Will you describe your family?

My wife, **Pamela**, and I have been married for 47 years and we have three children. Our son, **Keith**, lives in Dallas; our son, **Colin**, lives in South Africa; and our daughter, **Kerith**, lives in California. We also have two grandchildren.

## What are your hobbies or interests?

I'm interested in politics and history – so I do a lot of reading on those subjects. I also played for South Africa's national rugby team, the Springboks, and I continue to follow international sports. I'm also an avid fan of Premier League soccer – Arsenal F.C. is my favorite team. I travel with my jersey and my colleagues internationally know not to schedule any meetings when an Arsenal match is on!

For more information on Baylor's dermatology initiatives, please contact Melissa Dalton at 214.820.2705 or [Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Melissa.Dalton@BaylorHealth.edu). ☕

## Top ranking paves the way for Heart & Vascular Center of Excellence

**T**HE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS (STS) has recently bestowed both of Baylor Health Care System's cardiovascular specialty hospitals with its highest honor. Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital and THE HEART HOSPITAL Baylor Plano have earned the coveted three-star rating from STS for both valve replacement surgery and heart bypass surgery. Less than 3 percent of the nation's hospitals have earned three-star ratings in both procedures.

For Baylor patients, this is evidence of the firm commitment these hospitals have to training future cardiologists, providing high-quality patient care and developing innovative approaches and procedures for cardiovascular care. Dedication to these areas drives progress and leads to a better understanding and management of heart disease.

*"Our vision for the future is to be one of the Top 5 cardiovascular programs in the United States."*

— DR. KEVIN WHEELAN

With philanthropic support, Baylor's ongoing goal is to build the pre-eminent cardiovascular health care system in the Southwest, based on exemplary service, extraordinary skill and compassionate care. For this to happen, the best and brightest talent must be at Baylor. **Kevin Wheelan, M.D.**, chief of cardiology, summarized the department's ambition as follows, "Our vision for the future is to be

one of the Top 5 cardiovascular programs in the United States." With this latest ranking, Baylor is well on its way to drawing the best talent in heart and vascular from across the nation. Of Baylor's 11 cardiology and vascular surgery fellowships, six positions are fully funded by philanthropy at an annual cost of more than \$450,000.

"The STS is widely considered the most respected quality rating organization for heart surgery in the country, so to receive three stars in both valve replacement and bypass is really a testament to the quality of our program and the people who work here," said **Baron Hamman, M.D.**, chairman of the department of cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

STS is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research and advocacy.

"Only 24 hospitals in the U.S. are STS three-star hospitals in both procedures. Baylor is home to two of them," said **Michael Mack, M.D., F.A.C.S.**, medical director of cardiovascular disease for Baylor. "I think that's an exclamation point on our long-standing commitment to improving the quality of care for patients with heart disease and striving to offer a level of medical excellence that just isn't available everywhere."

For more information on Baylor's cardiovascular initiatives and how you can help support Baylor's vision of building a heart and vascular center of excellence, please contact Elizabeth Denton at 214.820.4070 or [Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu). ☕

THE BEST  
and the  
BRIGHTEST  
must be at Baylor



*another person dies of heart disease in the US.*

PHILANTHROPY  
FUNDS 6 HEART  
AND VASCULAR  
FELLOWSHIPS  
at an annual cost  
of more than

**\$450,000**





## Foundation wishes fond farewell to Clare Graca

**I**N JULY, the Baylor Health Care System Foundation team said goodbye to **Clare Graca**, who accepted a new role as managing director of development for Harvard Business School. Clare began her career at Baylor in 2006, serving as vice president of development.

Clare highlighted **Rowland K. Robinson**, Foundation president, for his extraordinary leadership and encouragement along the way. “Robin has been a mentor to me, personally and professionally, for more than 17 years. I can’t thank him enough, or give him enough credit for everything he has taught me,” she said. “He is a phenomenal leader who thoughtfully challenges his staff and pushes them to new heights. It is because of his leadership that I am positioned to accept this new challenge.”

Throughout her tenure at the Foundation, Clare focused on building a strong infrastructure

and a dedicated team. She points to the Foundation’s success as an indicator of a highly motivated and engaged staff. “Even in the face of tough economic and industry factors, the

Foundation consistently meets and exceeds goals year after year,” she said. She also reflected with pride on the Foundation’s commitment to “professionalism, self-evaluation and continuous improvement.” Clare noted, “We always celebrate our successes, but we then quickly turn our attention to raising the bar. That is what sets us apart.”

Looking to the future, Clare expressed her enthusiasm for

the new professional challenge and the deep appreciation for the relationships she has built over the years. “The Foundation is a family – it’s unique to find that in your work – and I will miss the people. It’s the hardest part of leaving,” she said. ☺



Clare and Tom Graca

**J**AMIE MALCOLM leads the fundraising team as interim manager of development. She has more than seven years of development experience as the manager of prospect research. In her role she oversees the major gift process and performance objectives in addition to identifying new donors and maintaining donor data. Jamie was recruited to join Baylor Health Care System Foundation in 2006.

Jamie is a native of Michigan and earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Michigan-Flint, where she majored in history focusing on the World War II era. She went on to earn a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Texas and credits her knowledge of database systems in the effective management of donor information at Baylor Health Care System.

She loves working for Baylor and describes her belief in Baylor’s mission as the primary reason she was excited to start a career in fundraising.

**What is the most important characteristic of Baylor?**

Baylor is patient-centered and fosters a culture of caring among the doctors and staff – it’s a warm environment where it’s clear that the patients and their families come first.

**What Foundation project are you passionate about?**

I’m passionate about our donors and what they’re excited about – I love that the Foundation takes a donor-centered approach and focuses on helping our supporters achieve their philanthropic goals.

**Are there any areas of health care that you are particularly interested in?**

My step-mother is a breast cancer survivor, so the **Celebrating Women** event is close to my heart. As I have been exposed to different areas of Baylor through my work, I’m excited to see the ways that innovation in patient care and research are helping our patients.

**If you were to describe Baylor in three words, what would they be?**

Quality, compassion and innovation.

**What are your hobbies or interests?**

I grew up reading a lot as a kid, and it continues to be one of my primary hobbies. In my spare time, I read a lot of history and mystery/thrillers.

### MEET THE STAFF



Jamie Malcolm

I also took up knitting again about a year ago and just finished a baby blanket for my new nephew! I love to travel and hope to visit several countries in Europe in the future. I’d love to go to Hawai’i some day.

**To what do you attribute your success?**

I think the key to success is seeing new challenges as an opportunity to learn, approaching them with a positive attitude and not being afraid to work hard.

**Describe your leadership style.**

I trust people to deliver on their goals. When it comes to decision-making, I respect others’ input, listen carefully and keep an open mind to other opinions. I’ll accommodate their preferences if I can, but in the end I do what’s best for the organization.

**What’s the best reward for a job well done?**

For me, a simple, “Thank you, great job,” from my colleagues shows me that they appreciate my contributions.

**What is the highlight of your career?**

Every time one of our donors decides to support the hospital is a highlight for me. I know that I played a role in something that will help other people.

**Who are your heroes?**

My paternal grandfather was a high school principal and loved history. I remember a trip to Gettysburg, Pa., to see the Civil War battlefields – we stopped at every historical marker along the way! He really inspired my love of learning and stands out to me as a good person. ☺

## U.S. News & World Report ranks Baylor Dallas No. 1 in Dallas-Fort Worth, No. 2 in Texas

**B**AYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS ranked No. 1 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and No. 2 in Texas in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* list of Best Hospitals.

Baylor Dallas, which has been included in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for more than 20 years, was ranked nationally in seven medical specialties: gastroenterology & GI surgery; nephrology; pulmonology; orthopedics; gynecology; neurology & neurosurgery; and diabetes & endocrinology. The hospital is also high-performing in cancer; cardiology & heart surgery; geriatrics; urology; and ear, nose & throat.

“Being first in Dallas-Fort Worth affirms the engagement of the talented physicians on our medical staff as well as the recognition of our caregivers who work hard to provide a Christian ministry of healing to every patient,” said **John McWhorter**, president of Baylor Dallas.

In its Metro Area Rankings, *U.S. News* gives consumers information about high-performing hospitals in their own backyard. This year, *U.S. News* ranked three Baylor hospitals: Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano, Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth and Baylor Dallas.

“Dallas-Fort Worth is an extremely competitive health care environment with some of the most recognized health care organizations in the country,” said **Joel Allison**, president and CEO of Baylor Health Care System. “So we are certainly honored and humbled for Baylor Dallas to be ranked No. 1 in the Metroplex. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our talented, compassionate caregivers.”

*U.S. News* evaluates hospitals in 16 adult specialties. In most specialties, it ranks the nation’s top 50 hospitals and recognizes other high-performing hospitals that provide care at nearly the level of their nationally ranked peers.

“It is a great honor to be acknowledged statewide and nationally for the excellent care that the physicians on our medical staff, along with our nurses and treatment teams deliver,” said **Irving Prengler, M.D.**, chief medical officer at Baylor. “We are honored to be recognized in these seven specialties and are thankful for the dedication of all of our caregivers to patient care.”

*U.S. News* publishes Best Hospitals to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health problems or age.

“A hospital that emerges from our analysis as one of the best has much to be proud of,” said **Avery Comarow**, *U.S. News* health rankings editor. “Only about 15 percent of hospitals are recognized for their high performance as among their region’s best. Just 3 percent of all hospitals earn a national ranking in any specialty. ☺



## Selkirk's passion supports vaccine development

*continued from page 1*

The Selkirks' search led them to oncologists at the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center. "We would have done anything to save her life. We would have gone to the ends of the earth, but all paths seemed to lead to the physicians at Baylor Sammons Cancer Center," said Bruce.

Amy's physician was honest about her prognosis. Due to TNBC's aggressive nature, it often metastasizes quickly. With few therapies to effectively treat the disease, a patient's survival after diagnosis is typically a year or less. In spite of chemotherapy, chest wall radiation and multiple surgeries, Amy's cancer eventually spread to her lymph nodes, lungs and spine. "The outlook wasn't good, but we weren't willing to give up and we always had hope," said Bruce.

Baylor's willingness and determination to explore novel treatments when traditional therapies were unsuccessful inspired their faith in a potential breakthrough. Bruce described Baylor's efforts as "tireless." Analysis of Amy's tumor revealed genetic modifications that may have

led to its aggressive behavior. This yielded the opportunity to use an existing treatment for another type of cancer to target Amy's specific gene mutation.

The treatment regimen, which included a combination of both traditional and investigational

drugs, slowed the growth of the disease and extended Amy's life for several months, allowing her to celebrate Christmas and the New Year with her family and friends. Sadly, Amy's battle with breast cancer ended in January 2012, a year after her initial diagnosis. Katy credited Baylor as "the reason we had her as long as we did. They never gave up. They did everything they could."

The loss spurred Bruce to work on behalf of other patients and families facing the same difficult road. He has focused on raising money to fund a unique collaboration between **Joyce O'Shaughnessy, M.D.**, the Celebrating Women Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Research at Baylor, and **Karolina Palucka, M.D., Ph.D.**, a researcher in the Baylor Institute

for Immunology Research (BIIR).

Drs. O'Shaughnessy and Palucka are currently awaiting regulatory approval to proceed with a pilot clinical trial that will test the efficacy of a vaccine on TNBC. The study is designed to enroll 20 patients diagnosed with TNBC and will provide each participant with a personalized vaccine created from their own immune cells. The goal is to determine whether the vaccines, in combination with standard therapies, will improve patients' responsiveness to treatment and result in longer disease-free survival time frames. BIIR's previous successes with a similar approach to treating melanoma suggest that there is hope.

Although humble about his efforts, Bruce is passionate about the cause. For him, as for so many who have been touched by breast cancer, it's a way to transform a painful personal experience into a mission that seeks to bring hope to others. He described the purpose simply, "It's not in my nature to give up, and I'm blessed with the opportunity to do something. We couldn't save Amy, but maybe we can save someone else."

For more information on Baylor's cancer initiatives, contact Sarah Burdi at 214.820.4721 or [Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺



Amy Selkirk

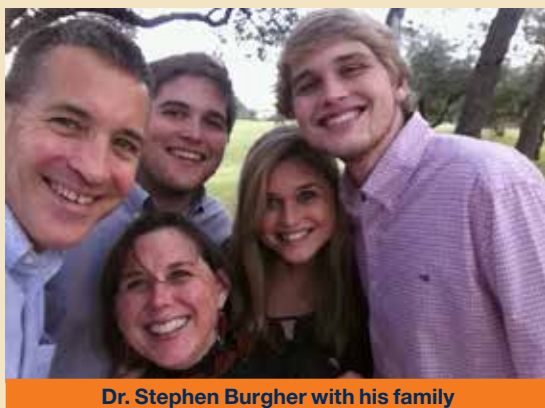
## Medicine, ministry and the military: Dr. Stephen Burgher volunteers time and gifts to serve his country

**I**MAGINE FOR A MOMENT someone who has such a passion to save lives and a calling to serve his country and God that he is willing to leave behind family, friends and an esteemed medical career to serve as a physician in the United States Navy in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

**Stephen W. Burgher Sr., M.D., CDR**, is one of the lead physicians on the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas' Riggs Emergency Department, which is one of only three adult Level I trauma centers in Dallas-Fort Worth. A graduate of Highland Park High School, Southern Methodist University and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Dr. Burgher completed his residency at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital and served in active duty for 10 years from 1989 to 1999, including four years as a flight surgeon. This training equipped him for the rigorous situations he will encounter while deployed, providing life-saving care to injured military personnel.

Dr. Burgher felt such a calling to serve his country during war time that he decided to join the U.S. Navy Reserves two years ago in preparation for his current deployment. Dr. Burgher is currently serving as the Emergency Medicine Trauma Team Leader at the NATO, Role 3, Military Medical Unit at Kandahar Airfield at Kandahar, Afghanistan. In the past, Dr. Burgher has also used his trauma expertise as a representative of Baylor's Faith in Action Mission and Ministry program, helping in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Since leaving for Kandahar in July, Dr. Burgher has been updating family and friends from abroad, journaling his experiences via email. Dr. Burgher's parents, **David and Nancy Burgher**, have shared some of these updates with countless friends, many of whom David has met during his 23 years with Baylor Health Care System Foundation. Clearly, selfless service is prevalent



Dr. Stephen Burgher with his family

in the Burgher family. When asked about his son's deployment, David said, "I love the statement my son made to me when we were together talking about his eminent deployment. I asked him a question, and he said, 'Dad, this is my calling,' and I was not about to question what the Lord was doing."

Dr. Burgher and his wife, **Amy**, share a deep faith that has given them confidence to trust God

in this decision.

"To be honest, it took me awhile to get on board with the idea of my husband being away for nine months with two kids in college and one still in high school. It just didn't make sense," said Amy. "Through much prayer, I have come to a place of peace and am excited to see how God will provide for us while Steve is away. His faith is a great example to our children. We are all very proud of him."

While we cannot accompany Dr. Burgher during his service abroad, we can follow his journey as he shares updates of his preparation, trials and triumphs as he prepares for deployment and the unknowns that lie ahead. Following are excerpts from Dr. Burgher's first set of communications to his family and friends shortly after departing.

For more information about Baylor's Faith in Action initiatives, contact Elizabeth Denton at 214.820.4070 or [Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Denton@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺

*From: Burgher, Stephen W.*

*Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2013*

*Subject: First Report on the Road to Kandahar*

Hello Family and Friends,

Right now we're still in the requisite training phase of the deployment. Had a week of in-processing in San Diego. We accomplished things like uniform issue, medical review and exam, immunizations, various briefings, etc. Then we bused up to Camp Pendleton where we just completed a week at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI) in the field. Stayed in open bay, open air sea huts. Pretty high-speed training. Great medical team-building and running through protocols, developing "muscle memory." Concluded with a final mass casualty exercise (best I've ever participated in).

Arrived yesterday at Camp McCrady in Fort Jackson, S.C., for 2 1/2 weeks of tactical and weapons training. Ooh-Rah! This includes weapons proficiency with the M9 (9 mm pistol I'll carry at all times in theater), going to the Range to shoot more than 3000 [practice] rounds, convoy ops, etc.

All the physicians mobilized for this deployment are active duty with the exception of me and the only other EM physician. We're both Reservists.

Anyway, I miss you all. God bless,

*Steve*

*continued on page 8*



## Rare fallopian tube cancer diagnosis inspires gift to Baylor Sammons Cancer Center

**K**AREN SHUTTEE praises her doctor, an obstetrician-gynecologist on the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, for her successful diagnosis of fallopian tube cancer, citing her attention to detail and persistence. “I have to give credit to my doctor – she was aggressive and determined,” said Karen. “Even though the initial tests didn’t immediately point to cancer, she was convinced that there was something more serious going on. She made sure that we were thorough and acted decisively.”

The early symptoms of fallopian tube cancer are subtle and easily misattributed to other medical conditions. These symptoms include a combination of abdominal discomfort, irregular menstruation and/or unusual weight loss. As a result, the cancer is often advanced at the time of diagnosis.

During what was expected to be a minor surgical procedure, Karen’s physician discovered a tumor in a fallopian tube. She immediately asked a gynecological oncologist on the medical staff at Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, to participate in what became a seven-and-a-half hour surgery.

Because Karen was diagnosed before the cancer had spread, her prognosis indicated a high likelihood of successful treatment. She participated in a chemotherapy class at the Virginia R. Cvetko

Center in preparation for her post-surgical treatment and then worked with Dr. Koon and his staff for six months of treatment.

“The doctors and staff at Baylor couldn’t have done more,” Karen said. “As a cancer patient, it might sound surprising to say this, but it was truly one of the most positive experiences I’ve ever had – from beginning to end.” Small moments throughout Karen’s visits to Baylor stood out – the friendly greeting at the front door, a warm blanket during chemotherapy treatments and through it all the ‘Baylor Difference’ was evident.



Karen and David Shuttee

“Everyone smiles and is happy to see you – it makes such a difference when you’re sick,” she said.

Inspired by gratitude for her care at Baylor, Karen and her husband, **David**, decided to make a significant gift to help fund ongoing operations and research at Baylor Sammons Cancer Center. In recognition of their generosity, a support group room in the Cvetko Center has been named in the Shuttees’ honor.

Karen explained the simple reason for their decision to give, “It was important to David and me that we support the Baylor cancer program – we wanted to help other people.”

For more information about Baylor’s cancer initiatives, contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu. ☺

## Sammons Cancer Center gives ‘all clear’ for Baylor patient four years after cancer diagnosis

**F**OUR YEARS AGO at the celebration of the newly announced Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, **Larry Hawkins** represented cancer patients at Baylor Health Care System. He had recently been diagnosed with Stage IV mantle cell lymphoma and his words came from the heart. In his remarks, Larry spoke about his gratitude for the historic gift from **the men and women of Sammons Enterprises** and the estate of **Charles A. Sammons**. To all those present, it was evident that Larry felt strongly that this significant support would enhance care for patients and engender optimism for the future.

Mantle cell lymphoma is a rare type of cancer accounting for only about 5 percent of all non-Hodgkins lymphoma diagnoses annually. By the time mantle cell lymphoma is identified, it is usually widespread in the lymph nodes, bone marrow and often the spleen. Larry was told that his best hope was chemotherapy, radiation treatments and a stem cell transplant.

After years of CT scans and biannual blood tests to monitor Larry’s condition his doctor, a medical oncologist and hematologist in the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, said Larry can reduce his visits to annual screenings. “It happens every time. As the date approaches for my next check-up I start to get a little nervous. While

I’m waiting for the results I have to just keep busy with work. It makes the stock market seem restful,” Larry joked.

Now he is focused on family, business, and living life to the fullest. He is thankful that the recent tests show that his prognosis is ‘all clear.’ “I feel well and I’m able to live a totally normal life. The doctors never say ‘cured,’ but at this point my cancer shows no signs of returning,” said Larry.



Larry and Kris Hawkins with Rowland K. Robinson

Of his experience at Baylor, Larry commented, “I had a fabulous experience. I was always treated with respect and the doctors and staff were encouraging and positive. It’s amazing to see the progress over the past few years.”

Cancer patients and their families have reason for optimism as Baylor continues to make progress and expand oncology services. The launch of the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center Network provides patients with access to quality cancer care in the local community through Baylor hospitals that have met Baylor’s stringent criteria and independent accreditation standards. It allows more people to benefit from the expert opinions, specialized equipment, emerging treatment options and research protocols available across the Baylor system.

For more information on Baylor’s cancer initiatives, please contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu. ☺



## From the President

**M**any of our summers have taken us to the wilderness. Wilderness equalizes us; it sets us on flat, even ground. The sight of mountains, swelling seas, limitless skies reminds us that we are all small. Wilderness reminds us that we don’t have to go to church/synagogue to contemplate the idea of something greater; we can simply stand under the stars and feel it.

Being outside also makes you feel big. We are reminded that we are *not* defined by our social security number. We are defined by the oceans, the mountains and the stars *within* us! We are not numbers and statistics, but hearts and souls.

During my brief time off, I also thought about the many scenes that happened in our hospitals:

Visiting mom for the last time. ■ Just found out we’re going to be parents. ■ Determined to be at my son’s graduation on Saturday. ■ Nearing the end of an overnight shift. ■ 100 miles from home. ■ Too scared to understand what the doctor said. ■ Daughter is terminally ill. ■ They saw “something” on my images. ■ How in the world will we pay for this? ■ Day 30 – waiting on a new heart. ■ Niece; just taken off of life support. ■ I hope I can make it to our anniversary. ■ Tumor is malignant. ■ Tumor is benign.

Being away reinforced how grateful I am for thoughtful, empathetic donors (defined by the oceans, the mountains and the stars *within* them) that want to make life better for our patients. This edition of *the torch* reveals wonderful examples of generosity that reflect the beautiful hearts and souls of our patrons. Welcome home!

This summer, I had the opportunity to, once again, watch *Casablanca*. Among countless memorable scenes, one stayed with me. Many of you may remember when Captain Renault introduces Rick to the Laszlos. To the Captain’s great surprise, Ilsa admits that she already knows Rick from Paris. Renault then introduces Rick to Victor Laszlo.

Laszlo, the confident, idealistic and impassioned freedom fighter congratulates Rick on his restaurant. Rick briefly comes out from behind his façade of cynicism and returns the compliment:

Rick: I congratulate you.

Victor: What for?

Rick: Your work.

Victor: I try.

Rick: We all try; you succeed!

This dialogue reminded me of **Clare Graca**, our friend and colleague who is leaving us to direct the development efforts at the Harvard Business School.

Goodbye, good friend. Thank you for succeeding. Baylor is a better place because of you. ☺

Rowland K. Robinson  
President

Baylor Health Care System Foundation  
Robinson@BaylorHealth.edu

# ON THE BOARD

LAWRENCE B. DALE

**L**AURENCE “LARRY” B. DALE is president and chief executive officer of Dale Resources and has been a member of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation board since 2009. After an introduction to the oil and gas industry as an attorney in West Texas, Larry established his own company and has been an independent oil and gas producer for more than 30 years. Today, Dale Resources employs more than 100 people and has drilled hundreds of wells in both Texas and Louisiana.

A Dallas native, Larry is active in the community, currently serving as an advisory board member for Teach for America – Dallas- Fort Worth region. He previously served as chairman of the board of St. Philip’s School and Community Center and chairman of the Tartan Board at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Additionally, Larry is a past president of the Dallas Petroleum Club.

He earned his B.B.A. degree from The University of Texas at Austin and his J.D. degree from St. Mary’s Law School in San Antonio.

## What brought you to Baylor?

My family and I have received care at Baylor for several years, but **Leonard Riggs, M.D.**,

introduced me to the Baylor Foundation and encouraged me to join the board.

## What is the most important thing you can share about Baylor?



Larry Dale

Baylor’s leadership and their continual drive toward excellence impress me. I’m particularly interested in the system’s approach to health care reform and the proactive way that Baylor is addressing these changes, specifically the proposed merger with **Scott & White Healthcare**. Having an experienced president and chief executive officer like **Joel Allison** gives me great confidence in the future of the organization.

## Will you describe your family?

My wife, **Beverley**, and I have been married for 31 years, and we have four wonderful children. Our eldest son, **Jack**, 29, just graduated from medical school and joined the Baylor residency program in July 2013. **Peter**, 27, is an attorney in Dallas, and our youngest son and daughter are part of my team at Dale Resources – **Edward**, 25, is a geologist and **Janey**, 23, works in the land department.

## How would you describe your leadership style?

I like to set the goals for my team and after some open discussion, give people free reign to accomplish the objective. I get a lot of personal satisfaction

out of seeing people grow in their area of expertise and become leaders in their own right.

## What is the highlight of your career?

I’ve always been intrigued by the energy business and I’m excited by the way technology is allowing for a resurgence of oil and gas production in the United States. It’s been really rewarding to build a business that provides a low-cost energy supply and employment opportunities in challenging roles to people.

## What are your hobbies or interests?

I play golf on the weekends, and, whenever I can, I like to go fly fishing near Ennis, Mont. My family has spent time there each summer for many years. It’s one of my favorite places. I also read quite a bit – mainly history and biographies.

## Who are your heroes?

I have a lot of respect for our current mayor, **Mike Rawlings**. The work he is doing to improve education in the Dallas Independent School District and bring our city together is inspiring.

I also look up to my father-in-law, **Bobby Brown, M.D.** [A former third baseman for the New York Yankees, he was a member of the team that won four World Series. After he retired from baseball, he practiced medicine as a cardiologist in Fort Worth.] His commitment to reaching the high standards he sets is admirable. ☺

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH

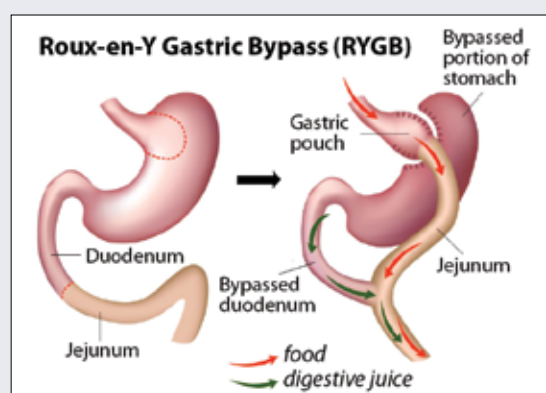
### Baylor Dallas study seeks to change lives through gastric bypass

**O**NE YEAR after receiving gastric bypass surgery as a participant in a clinical study at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, **Luanna Washington** is starting a new chapter. She lost more than 120 pounds, is no longer pre-diabetic, and both her arthritis and hypertension have improved. She described her experience as “the best thing I could ever have done for myself.”

**John Fordtran, M.D.**, a gastroenterologist, and **Joseph Kuhn, M.D.**, a bariatric surgeon, both on the medical staff at Baylor Dallas, led the study, which is funded by a three-year grant from **The Discovery Foundation**. “It means a lot to me to have the opportunity to do research that expands medical knowledge of gastrointestinal physiology and improves patient care decisions,” said Dr. Fordtran.

Gastric bypass surgery is typically prescribed to treat morbid obesity, a condition defined by the inability of patients to achieve satisfactory, sustained weight loss by dietary efforts. Patients may also experience co-morbid conditions that are either life-threatening or seriously impair quality of life.

Several surgical procedures are available to correct obesity, but for morbidly obese patients Roux en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB) is the most common. RYGB simultaneously reduces the volume of the stomach and creates an alternate pathway for ingested food. The operation causes weight loss in two ways: patients typically eat less food and the food they eat is exposed to a shorter digestive process, lowering the calories absorbed (an effect called malabsorption). The goal, according to Dr. Fordtran is “to establish whether a variation in the surgical



procedure will affect malabsorption of fat, protein, carbohydrates and calories. The holy grail would be if we could induce malabsorption of fat and carbohydrates without affecting absorption of protein.”

The normal process of digestion occurs when food in the stomach passes into the duodenum, where it mixes with bile and digestive enzymes, then through the jejunum and into the upper small intestine. During RYGB surgery, a small pouch is created from the upper stomach and a portion of the digestive tract, the jejunum, forms a new passage, called the Roux limb.

Although food no longer enters it, the larger section of the stomach remains functional. The stomach, liver and pancreas continue to secrete the acid, bile acids and enzymes necessary for digestion through the duodenum into the small intestine through the biliopancreatic limb (BP limb). The Roux limb and the BP limb are surgically joined to the upper small intestine, creating a Y shape. At this point, ingested food now meets the bile and enzymes and the digestive path continues as normal.

The original RYGB procedure was typically

effective for mild to moderate obesity, but not for severely obese patients. To further reduce fat absorption, the Roux limb was lengthened from 30 centimeters to 150 centimeters, and the “long-limb RYGB” became the operation of choice for severely obese people. However, in 2010 Dr. Fordtran and Dr. Kuhn published results, based on research by **Elizabeth A. Odstrcil, M.D.**, in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, which revealed that the length of the 150-cm Roux limb did not induce malabsorption of fat as expected. Significantly, the earlier study, funded by **The Southwest Digestive Disease Foundation**, also identified two patients whose BP limbs were 70 to 75 centimeters, instead of the standard 40 centimeters. These patients’ fat absorption was substantially decreased to a level that would cause and sustain weight loss.

The current study compares the standard “long-limb RYGB” procedure (150-cm Roux limb and 40-cm BP limb) with the experimental RYGB procedure (115-cm Roux limb and 75-cm BP limb). Dr. Kuhn performs the procedures and, without knowing which procedure a patient has undergone, Dr. Fordtran and his team collect data from each individual to measure pre-operative absorption rates and conduct one-year follow-up visits to measure post-procedure absorption. “We hope to learn what will or will not cause malabsorption,” explained Dr. Fordtran, “and that our findings will teach us how to design a procedure that has the optimum outcome for our patients.”

For more information on Baylor’s research initiatives, contact Sarah Burdi at 214.820.4721 or [Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Sarah.Burdi@BaylorHealth.edu). ☺



## Surgeon who treated both Kennedy and Oswald shares his story on 50th anniversary

**I**N NOVEMBER 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited Dallas during a pre-campaign tour of Texas. The emotional events in Dealey Plaza that day shook the United States to its core and shocked people across the globe. Those living during that dramatic time remember where they were when the news hit the airways. **Ronald Jones, M.D.**, was on the scene at Parkland Memorial Hospital. As the 50th anniversary approaches, Baylor Health Care System reflects on the role one of its eminent physicians played in efforts to revive President Kennedy and just days later his alleged assassin, **Lee Harvey Oswald**.

The 80-year-old surgeon still serves on the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas and was chairman of the Department of Surgery at Baylor Dallas for 26 years. His list of accolades and achievements is outstanding. But it's his front-row seat to two of the biggest stories in American history that makes his experience as a physician particularly unique.

Dr. Jones was a 30-year-old chief resident at Parkland Memorial Hospital when President Kennedy was assassinated. The precision and clarity of his memory from those days is, well, surgical. He can describe where all the physicians' hands were positioned, the look on the president's face, and where everyone was standing in Trauma Room 1.

Amazingly, Dr. Jones was also there when **Lee Harvey Oswald** was shot and was part of the team that operated on him for more than an hour. One day he was trying to save the president's life.



Governor John Connally and wife Nellie with President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy on November 22, 1963

Just two days later, he was charged with trying to save the life of the man who had allegedly assassinated him. Displaying a physician's dedication to putting patient care above other concerns, Dr. Jones said "I didn't think about that at the time. He [Oswald] was just another patient."

Today, when tragedy strikes, a skilled team of physicians, surgeons and nurses equipped with advanced technology are at the ready in the Riggs Emergency Department at Baylor Dallas, one of only two adult Level I trauma units in North Texas. Research suggests that patients cared for in a Level I trauma unit have improved outcomes and the Riggs ED treats more than 112,000 patients annually. Level I trauma centers are critical for a community's health, and Baylor is committed to providing care for North Texans in times of urgent need.

For more information on trauma and emergency department initiatives, contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or [Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu).

## Exercise is precious to Baylor's lung patients

**M**ARK MILLARD, M.D., medical director of the Baylor Martha Foster Lung Care Center, described the effect of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, better known as COPD, on quality of life as "so limiting. If you're stuck at home because you can't breathe, nothing else matters."

COPD causes insufficient flow of air in and out of the lungs, which reduces oxygen to the body and forces the muscles to work harder. Symptoms include chronic shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing and excess mucus – a combination that makes it difficult for patients to perform even normal, everyday activities. According to the American Lung Association, COPD is the third-leading cause of death in the United States. More than 12 million people are currently diagnosed.

**Carletta Ramsey** knows firsthand the debilitating effects of COPD and expressed her sincere appreciation for the care she received at Baylor. "My physician has always been kind, respectful and honest with me. When I was down, he encouraged me, and when I was up, he complimented me. I can't say enough good things about the excellent care," she said.

Given the opportunity to support the Baylor Lung Care Center, Carletta and her husband, **Charles**, have generously provided funding for **Group Exercise Monitored Support (GEMS)**. "I wanted to do something and I knew that if I gave, Dr. Millard would find a way to help other people," Carletta explained.

At Baylor, after a patient completes a six-week

pulmonary rehabilitation program he or she is eligible to join GEMS – an ongoing program that offers patients facilities and supervision to help maintain their improved physical fitness in a setting that encourages dedication and perseverance. According to Dr. Millard, there is evidence of "tremendous benefit" of daily exercise, which improves a patient's functional capacity at work or at home and emphasized the importance of social motivation. "You can't underestimate the camaraderie of exercising together," he said.



Carletta and Charles Ramsey

GEMS was introduced in the mid-1980s and continues to have considerable relevance today as the landscape of health care changes and attention is focused on hospital re-admission rates. Dr. Millard explained that for patients with chronic lung conditions hospitalizations are common, but with consistent exercise, re-admissions can be avoided.

COPD and asthma patients are currently the primary participants in GEMS, but plans are in place to expand the program to serve pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis and lung transplant patients. Dr. Millard expressed his thanks and admiration for the Ramseys' generosity. "It's a remarkable experience for me to be involved with people like Carletta. She recognized the need and saw the importance of this program. I'm incredibly grateful to her."

For more information on the Baylor Martha Foster Lung Care Center, contact Tim Moore at 214.820.7877 or [Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:Timothy.Moore@BaylorHealth.edu).



### *From the Chairman*

**S**everal years ago, I attended a high school, all-star basketball game. As I watched the teams prepare for the game, it became apparent that one team had the majority share of athletic talent. However, when the game ended, the other team had won. The losing coach paid the winning team an insightful compliment when he said, "You know, we would have won if we had been playing with five basketballs." He was recognizing the importance of teamwork.

Over the years, Baylor Health Care System has achieved a reputation for the excellence of its enterprise, the skill of its staff, the quality of its facilities and the powerful impact of its operation as a system. Recently, the *U.S. News and World Report* annual survey ranked Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas as the best hospital in the DFW area. That recognition was simply another indication of Baylor's quality where teamwork is paramount.

Baylor is blessed to have incredibly talented physicians, highly-trained nursing staff, outstanding medical technicians, first-rate administrative personnel and exceptional leadership, all working as a team across the system.

Another element of this winning team that is sometimes overlooked is the broad category of volunteers who choose to contribute to Baylor in a variety of different ways. They bring their talent, their time, their resources and their influence to serve the system. There are those who regularly donate their services to support the administrative functions, make the facilities welcoming and relieve medical personnel from non-medical routine.

There are those who serve on the boards of our hospitals and clinics. They bring insights and experiences from diverse backgrounds in the various communities from which they are drawn, and their counsel and advice is invaluable. Baylor is served by more than 500 board members across the system. The newly elected Foundation board members are featured in the front cover story of this issue of *the torch*.

Finally, there are the donors, small and large, who provide an increasingly crucial source of funds that are critical in achieving the high quality that has come to exemplify Baylor. Featured in this issue are the stories of **Bruce Selkirk, David and Karen Shuttee and The Discovery Foundation**. They are wonderful examples of supporters that are an important element of the Baylor team.

Each of these individuals brings their unique talents to bear. They play an essential role in Baylor's successes year after year, and for that they have my warmest congratulations and gratitude. ☺

Erle Nye

Chairman, Board of Directors  
Baylor Health Care System Foundation



# MEDICAL PROFILE

MANIK AGGARWAL, M.P.H.

**M**ANIK AGGARWAL, M.P.H., is a fourth-year medical school student at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine with the class of 2014. He is currently completing his clinical rotation at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. Before medical school, he simultaneously earned a bachelor's degree in medical anthropology and a master's degree in public health from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2010.

Manik grew up in Plano and is excited to be advancing his medical training so close to home. He credits his father, **Moti**, and his mother, **Param**, with encouraging him to work hard and considers his parents his heroes for consistently demonstrating dedication to doing things the right way without taking shortcuts.

He plans to complete his residency in internal medicine and is considering a fellowship in hematology/oncology. He would like to combine clinical practice with his interest in education and public health. His ultimate goal is to be a teacher and advocate for his patients and future students.

## What differentiates Baylor from other health care organizations?

The culture at Baylor encourages open communication and a supportive learning environment. It is a place where all the members of the medical team, regardless of their level of experience, are valued and respected. The commitment to mentorship at Baylor is also unique. **Marvin Stone, M.D.**, and **Cristie Columbus, M.D.**, have gone out of their way to mold me into a better leader and student doctor.

## Why did you decide to pursue medicine?

I have had great role models: my cousin, **Raymon**

**Aggarwal, M.D.**, is the main reason I gravitated toward the medical field. I came to Baylor during high school and college to shadow him, and I respect the way he builds relationships and interacts with his patients. Through him, I realized what a rewarding career medicine could be.

## What accomplishments are you most proud of?

As the youngest student in my graduate program at Case Western, I was amazed when my thesis about addressing an increase in campus crime was recognized with the annual award for best thesis. Additionally, that same year, I was named Student of the Year in the program. This year I was also honored when my classmates and the faculty at Texas A&M selected me for

the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

## Describe your leadership style.

I think it is important to both show and earn trust on a team, so for me it is a fine line between guidance and autonomy. I prefer to guide someone through the learning process, mistakes and all, without intervening too much.

## What books have influenced you?

*Better* by Atul Gawande, M.D., M.P.H., taught me that it is important to continually challenge ourselves and the status quo – if we are content, we do not improve. I also learned a lot from *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell about how the small things matter and why people make the choices they do.

## What are your hobbies or interests?

I am a sports junkie and although difficult at times, I am an avid Cowboys fan. I also enjoy writing and have been contributing pieces to my own website called "Heartbreak City," a blog that focuses on local sports, and a column called "Storytellers" to an online medical student journal. ☺



Manik Aggarwal

## Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament to raise money for medical education

**D**A. WEIBRING will be the guest speaker at the VIP reception for the 12th annual **Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament**. Golfer, designer and businessman, D.A. is the founder and chairman of Weibring-Wolfard Golf Design and a full-time player on the PGA Champions Tour. In a career that spans 35 years, D.A. has won 13 victories worldwide, including several on the PGA Tour and Champions Tour.

The event, presented by **Bank of Texas** and held **Monday, October 7**, at Dallas' Northwood Club, raises funds to support medical education for undergraduate medical students, residents and fellows at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. Last year, more than 200 golfers and 50 sponsors raised a record \$305,000 for the medical education program at Baylor Dallas.

Education is an essential part of Baylor Health Care System's mission, and the medical education

program, which trains the next generation of physicians, is an investment in the future health of our community. Baylor Dallas training programs have been recognized for their excellence, and in 2013 Baylor Dallas was named to the Thompson Reuters Top 100 Hospitals list in the major teaching hospital category. Additionally, *Consumer Reports* singled out Baylor Dallas as having the highest patient satisfaction of any teaching hospital in the country.

Baylor Dallas trains nearly 220 residents and fellows in

30 specialty and subspecialty programs. With donor support, Baylor Health Care System Foundation plans to fund 30 residents and fellows at a cost of more than \$2.2 million this fiscal year. Playing spots and sponsorships for this year's tournament are now available.

For more information on the Grand Rounds® Golf Tournament, contact Lindsay Nahoum at 214.820.7734 or Lindsay.Nahoum@BaylorHealth.edu. ☺



D.A. Weibring

## Medicine, ministry

continued from page 4



Dr. Stephen Burgher (second from left) and team during training exercise at Camp Pendleton

From: Burgher, Stephen W.

Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2013

Subject: Second Report on the Road to Kandahar

Hello Family & Friends,

We're in our last week of requisite training before flying out later this week. We're finishing up NIACT (Navy Individual Augmentee Combat Training) at Fort Jackson, S.C. We did medical team-building and rehearsal of the various protocols, e.g., damage control, massive transfusion, amputation, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., prior to coming here.

God has been so good in His provision and protection. It's truly so good to rely and rest in Him on this adventure He has for our family. Thank you all for your prayers and support for us. Please keep it up!

God bless,

**Steve**

From: Burgher, Stephen W.

Sent: Saturday, August 24, 2013

Subject: Third Report on the Road to Kandahar

Today the new Rotation (our group) took over. By 13:30, the team had admitted a patient having an MI (heart attack), another with multiple seizures requiring intubation, another with a shoulder dislocation, then a double amputee from IED was flown in from point of injury. Unstable initially, [the patient] was stabilized in ER after tourniquets to control hemorrhage, 12 units blood transfused, intubation, etc., then to OR [operating room] for 5 hours... We all came in for it, available and observing, learning. This is why we're here, for these warriors.

Stephen Burgher, M.D., FACEP,  
CDR, MC, USN  
Emergency Medicine  
Trauma Team Leader



Dr. Stephen Burgher

To learn more about any Baylor Health Care System Foundation initiative, contact the Foundation at 214.820.3136 or email [thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:thetorch@BaylorHealth.edu). Write to us at 3600 Gaston Avenue, Barnett Tower Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75246-1800.