HAM–TMC Library Board of Directors

The HAM–TMC Library was founded in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) in 1949 when the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) combined their collections to better serve the physicians in Harris County and the teaching/research programs of BCM. In 1970, the University of Texas Medical School was established in Houston, and the unique joint governance structure was created, making the HAM–TMC Library the primary information resource for both medical schools and other institutions of the TMC. Over the years, other institutions have joined the cooperative and today there are seven Participating and fifteen Supporting Institutions, whose annual assessments make up the majority of the Library’s budget. The largest part of the budget is still provided by BCM and the University of Texas Houston–Health Sciences Center (UTHHSC).

The Library is governed by a Board of Directors of eleven members, appointed by the presidents of the seven Participating Institutions, which meets bi-monthly. The Library Board approves all policies, budgets, audits and strategic plans for the Library. The Executive Director of the Library reports directly to the Board. According to the bylaws, a majority of the Board always comes from BCM and UTHHSC. The Chair, appointed for a one-year term, rotates among five institutions which include: BCM, UTHHSC, TMC, HAM, and Texas Woman’s University (TWU). The Board Chair this year is Dr. Kathryn Stream, Vice Provost for Health Affairs and Chief Operations Officer, Institute of Health Sciences Houston of TWU. The Board Chair this year is Dr. Kathryn Stream, Vice Provost for Health Affairs and Chief Operations Officer, Institute of Health Sciences Houston of TWU. Representatives from these five institutions also comprise an Executive Committee of the Board, which meets on the alternate months from the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The Chair of the Library Board serves as a liaison to the Friends of the Texas

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Medical Center Library, a group of Houstonians interested in raising funds to develop new services in the Library. The Chair of the Friends of the Texas Medical Center Library serves as a liaison to the Library Board and is invited to attend bi-monthly meetings. J. Robert Beck, MD, Vice President for Information Research and Planning at BCM and former Library Board Chair, has been serving as the Interim Executive Director of the Library since July 1999. The Board of Directors has engaged a search firm to help recruit a new Executive Director. Interviews of potential candidates should begin in late spring or early summer 2001. The Board sees this as a very important position and looks forward to the interview process.

During his tenure, Dr. Beck has worked with the Library staff and the Board on the creation and implementation of a three-year Strategic Plan. This plan includes these seven goals: Individual Customer; Institutional Customer; Excellence; Internal Culture; Marketing; Information Technology; and Finance.

In addition to the ongoing projects to daily serve the constituents of the HAM–TMC Library, the following projects are being pursued:

Communication with physicians in the TMC to donate their personal papers to the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center to help preserve the history of the TMC.

Concentration of efforts on consumer health information to patients and families. The amount of information that is available online has grown considerably and the Board views the Library as the appropriate place for consumers to obtain objective information.

Retention of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, South Central Region contract with the National Library of Medicine.

Members of the Library Board communicate with the CEO’s of the Participating and Supporting Institutions, but are also open to receiving comments and suggestions about the Library’s services and programs from anyone in the TMC. To contact the Board, please send an email to Library_Board@library.tmc.edu

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES 2000–2001

Baylor College of Medicine
  Members: William R. Brinkley, Ph.D.; C. Michael Fordis, Jr., M.D.; James W. Patrick, Ph.D.
  Alternates: William T. Butler, M.D.; Ralph D. Feigin, M.D.; Mr. Kevin J. Necas

The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center
  Members: Thomas F. Burks, Ph.D., Vice-Chairman; George M. Stancel, Ph.D.
  Alternates: Doris L. Ross, Ph.D., Paul E. Darlington, Ph.D.

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
  Member: Stephen P. Tomasovic, Ph.D.
  Alternate: Robin R. Sandefur, Ph.D.

Houston Academy of Medicine
  Members: Mr. Greg Bernica; Carlos Hamilton, Jr., M.D.
  Alternates: Albert E. Gunn, M.D.; Michael E. Speer, M.D.

Texas A&M University – IBT
  Member: Fuller Bazer, Ph.D.
  Alternate: Magnus Höök, Ph.D.

Texas Medical Center
  Member: Richard E. Wainerdi, Ph.D., Secretary
  Alternate: Ms. Joyce Camp

Texas Woman’s University
  Member: Kathryn S. Stream, Ph.D., Chairman
  Alternate: Mrs. Elizabeth Snapp
Last year, the Friends of the Texas Medical Center Library made a major donation to the Library for the Houston Medical History Project. This gift provides funds to process the papers of R. Lee Clark, M.D., to catalog and maintain the Library’s extensive collection of newsletters from Texas Medical Center institutions, and to scan historical documents and photographs for the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center’s website http://mcgovern.library.tmc.edu

The two people hired for this project, Pam Cornell, Project Archivist, and Lisa C. James, Archives Technician, have already made great progress in arranging the newsletters (well over 150 titles) and tackling the more than 240 boxes of records in the R. Lee Clark Collection. Other projects include sorting early donation records for the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, research files from Dr. Clark’s military service years, and processing the smaller collection of William Bates. As groups of records are processed, information about the various collections will be placed on the McGovern Center’s website. The Library’s clients will also soon see much more complete records in the online catalog for all the local newsletters, annual reports, and directories. If you have questions about the R. Lee Clark Collection or this project, please contact Pam Cornell (713) 799-7145 or email pcornell@library.tmc.edu.

Effective February 14, 2001, Power Point, Reference Manager, EndNote, Basic HTML, Biomedical Desktop Publishing, and Creating Tables and Graphs classes will be offered free of charge. To register for a class go to: http://library.tmc.edu/classform.html

The Library’s class schedule from January - June 2001 is available at: http://library.tmc.edu/seminars.html

If you have any questions contact Felicia Little flittle@library.tmc.edu or (713) 799-7803.

Five new Gateway Profile computers with Internet access using Netscape or Internet Explorer have been installed in the Library basement. The computers are connected to the Network using wireless technology, which allows clients to use their own laptops/notebooks to connect to the network using a PCMCIA wireless adapter. The adapters will be available at the circulation desk for checkout in March 2001. In the near future, CISCO Access Points on other floors will be installed to allow this same type of wireless access throughout the Library. Computers in both areas will be for Internet access only and they will not be connected to printers.

While checking the latest information on the Internet, stop by Sophie’s Agora the Library’s recently inaugurated cafe. This international cafe is open six days a week on the lower level of the Library. Take a minute to look at the menu and choose from a variety of sandwiches, coffee, pastries, bagels, salads, desserts and beverages. You can also purchase gifts and jewelry.

Sophie’s hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 7:00 pm, and Saturdays from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Phone (713) 796-9212 or (281) 989-7275, FAX: (713) 790-9009.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) will be phasing out Internet Grateful Med (IGM). The system will not be upgraded with 2001 MeSH vocabulary and new citations will not be added.

On April 2, 2001 the search screens for MEDLINE, AIDSDRUGS, AIDSLINE,AIDSTRIALS,ChemID, DIRLINE, HealthSTAR, OLDMEDLINE and TOXLINE will be deactivated.

BIOETHICSLINE, HISTLINE, POPLINE and SPACELINE will remain in the system until the completion of data conversion possibly by June 2001.

NLM expects that IGM will be officially retired by June 2001. For questions or comments please contact custserv@nlm.nih.gov (888) FIND-NLM.
Pam Cornell is the new Project Archivist in the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center and will be working in processing the research files from the R. Lee Clark Collection. Prior to this position Pam worked at the TIRR Hospital.

Pam first worked for HAM-TMC Library in 1990 in the Rare Book Room, during inventory. After that, she worked in the Archives, processing the papers of Philip Hench, a Nobel Prize winner.

Lisa C. James, a native Houstonian, joined the library in November as an Archives Technician in the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. A graduate of the High School for Health Professions, she holds a BA in Print Journalism and Psychology from the University of Bangalore in India. Previously, she worked at Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research here in Houston. Her scholarly interests include communication, culture, and health. In her spare time she enjoys listening to music and writing.

Please join us in welcoming Gretchen Schweiger, the Consumer Health Coordinator in the NN/LM SCR office. Gretchen comes to us from the Corpus Christi Public Library, Janet F. Harte Branch, where she was the Branch Manager. Prior to this position, she worked at Houston Public Library in various positions from Reference Librarian to Acting Branch Manager, Meyer Branch. You can contact Gretchen at 713-799-7198 or at gschweiger@library.tmc.edu.

The Fifth Annual Houston Conference on Health Informatics, Beyond Wired: Wireless Technology and Health Information, will be held on June 7th, 2001 at the Kleberg Auditorium from 8:30 - 3:30. For more information log on to: http://lib200.library.tmc.edu/hchi2001/