

Healthy Aging Council

Seniors deserve medical care that is compassionate, effective and meets their unique needs. The Healthy Aging Council works with faculty at the UNT Health Science Center to improve the quality of geriatric education, to ensure the best possible care for our elderly, and to conduct cutting edge research on curing diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Over this past year, we have engaged Fort Worth in learning more about the outstanding work of our researchers and physicians who diligently strive to advance medical knowledge and practice in this area.

This report summarizes our progress for the year. If you have not yet had a chance to attend one of our presentations or tours, we hope you will join us in the coming year. We also thank all who have contributed to making these critical health programs grow. There are few things more important than helping our seniors and their families enjoy a rich quality of life.



Thelma Swindell, SAGE mentor, shares lifetime memories with TCOM student Kara Stoudt.

GERIATRIC EDUCATION

The UNT Health Science Center's Geriatric Program is ranked 16th in the nation and recently won a \$2 million grant to innovate geriatric education. Over this past year, we have created a program unlike any other.

- ❖ **We are the first institution** to infuse geriatric education into all 400 of our medical students' training. We believe that every doctor must be trained for treating elderly patients.
- ❖ **We are the first institution** to engage community seniors in that education. We pair every medical school student with a senior for nine visits over two years. This program, called SAGE (Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education) has transformed the learning experience as well as benefited the seniors who participate.
- ❖ **We introduced newly designed curriculum** to ensure that geriatric education is broadening the scope of medical education.

Through leading edge patient care and education, the UNT Health Science Center is making a difference for the future of us all. Students who began the program with little interest, and some fear, of serving elderly patients have since expressed how rewarding the experience was. They now look forward to specializing or welcoming elderly patients into their future practices.

"SAGE has provided students with a rare and meaningful opportunity. Through this experience I have had the occasion to meet a wonderful mentor, Ms. Swindell who has been enriching to both my medical education and my personal life. I count myself extremely lucky to be given this amazing opportunity, and I look forward to the remainder of the program for it is truly one of the most rewarding experiences a budding medical student could receive."

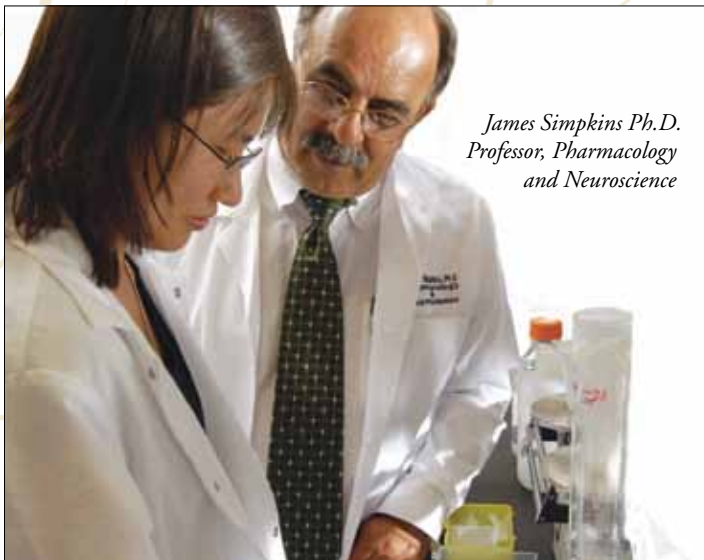
— Kara Stoudt, 2nd Year Student Doctor
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)

RESEARCH

The Healthy Aging Council was delighted and amazed this year to meet the research team at the UNT Health Science Center, finding one of the top laboratories in the nation fighting Alzheimer's and other brain diseases right here in Fort Worth at the UNT Health Science Center.

That team is led by Dr. James Simpkins and includes 30 faculty and doctoral students who work diligently every day as our part of the national effort to defeat Alzheimer's.

The impact of this disease on individuals, families and the health care system makes it one of America's greatest medical, social and economic challenges. Our scientists in the Institute for Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research are doing something about it.



*James Simpkins Ph.D.
Professor, Pharmacology
and Neuroscience*

This past year we have:

- ❖ Implemented studies to test whether estrogen treatment given after a head injury can minimize brain damage.
- ❖ Introduced several drugs into clinical trials for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and stroke. We are working nationally and internationally to change the course of these diseases both before and after diagnosis.

This year the Healthy Aging council had a telephone conference with leaders in Washington D.C. to discuss the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which was recently passed by Congress. We are proud to play a leadership role in this important initiative.



Janince Knebl, D.O., M.B.A., chief of the Division of Geriatrics, director of the Gerontology Assessment and Planning Program and Professor of Internal Medicine for the UNT Health Science Center, with one of her patients

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

2012 holds the promise for real progress. We will continue making Fort Worth aware of the critical fight against tragic neurological diseases – and that we are educating the best physicians and promoting the best possible quality of life for seniors.

PLEASE PLAY A PART BY:

- ❖ Supporting our programs so we can continue to grow the university's efforts to achieve these goals.
- ❖ Joining the Healthy Aging Council and attending meetings, events and tours conducted throughout the year.
- ❖ Volunteering for SAGE or other programs so you can be a part of our success.
- ❖ Providing input so we can make sure the Health Science Center hears your voice.
- ❖ Continuing to receive our reports and staying apprised of progress. Our team is grateful to the community for standing with us, and it is driven to meet its needs.

**For more information, please contact us.
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www.healthyagingcouncil.org**